

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring issue, April 2023

No.249, Quarterly issue,
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies, Registered charity no. 1058103,
website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Walk this way...

Free with this issue!

If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you should find enclosed a copy of the Local History Walks leaflet from the Lambeth Local History Forum. Once again, we ask you to book in advance for all guided walks and tours, so we can manage numbers. Where there is no set charge for a walk, donations when booking, or on the day, are very welcome.

Sunday 21 May – Windrush Square

Recommended for those concerned that some of our walk routes are a bit long – this one will go no further than the Brixton Orchard, since there are several waypoints so close to each other!

Weekend 10 & 11 June Lambeth Country Show

12 noon to 7 pm, Brockwell Park, SE24
Some changes from previous years, notably the earlier date, in order to share the setting-up costs with a series of commercial events at the start of the month. This year we are taking a break from setting up our own stall, because the logistics and costs have become too demanding. We have been in contact with Lambeth Events about space inside one of the Council marquees, though it's not clear yet if that will be possible this year. We will alert you by e-mail if it does happen. If you have got used to renewing your membership in person, be assured there will be other opportunities within the following few months.



Carnival troupes gather on Windrush Square as part of the Olympic Torch Relay event in June 2012. Will we see similar scenes on Windrush Square on 22 June as part of Windrush Day? USB-K/C809-J12-017.jpg

Buildings of Brixton

Monday 5th June, Brixton Tate Library

An extra event in our programme as part of the London Festival of Architecture.

See page 2 for more details.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8th June, Vida Walsh Centre

Join us at 7 pm to review the past year and plan ahead for the following 12 months.

See page 5 for details and background.

75 years since Windrush

Procession, Thursday 22 June

Celebrating the first generation of migrants from the Caribbean, between 1948 and 1967, a parade will leave Brockwell Lido at 3 pm, and pass along Railton and Saltoun Roads to assemble in Windrush Square about 4-30 pm. A service led by Bishop Brown of NTA will be followed by music performances until 7 pm.

Other local Windrush-related events were still to be confirmed as we closed for press.

Diary of Events – Spring & Summer 2023

Guided Walks

With this Newsletter you will find the 2023/2024 Local History Walks leaflet produced by the Lambeth Local History Forum. It contains many walks by the Brixton Society, other local walks, and walks throughout the borough. We hope you will find something to interest you.

If your Newsletter arrived electronically, you will find a link to the on-line version.

Our Sunday afternoon walks are free to members (though donations are welcome) but please help our planning by booking places in advance.

London Festival of Architecture – Talk, Monday 5th June

6 pm at Tate Brixton Library Brixton is a destination for this year's festival, which runs through the month of June, so we are putting on this extra event as part of this. Bill Linskey and Alan Piper will show a selection of local buildings from the past 200 years. Free, but it helps if you tell us you are coming, via info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Committee Dates

Our Executive Committee meets monthly, at 7 pm on the second Thursday, to plan activities and agree our response to current issues. Meetings are at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2, facing Windrush Square.

These meetings are open to any of our members, but if

you want to join in or to raise a specific issue, please contact the Chair a week beforehand at chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk

The next few dates are:

- 11 May.
- 8th June (AGM)*
- 13 July

Events arranged by other groups

Please check directly with organisers for any queries over times or costs. For more events further afield, see page 10.

Sunday 16 April – Spring Plant Fair

10 am to 4 pm at the Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7LB. Normal museum admission charge £14 (+ concessions) Details at www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Saturday 22 April – Earth Day, Max Roach Park

To launch the new lavender maze, a morning of family-friendly planting led by Father Nature, 9 am to 12 noon, off Wiltshire Road. *Brixton BID.*

Sunday 23 April – Fermentation Workshop

Secrets of kimchi and kefir revealed at Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses. More details and other events on their website at <https://brockwellgreenhouse.s.org.uk/events>

Tuesday 25 April – What is Brixton Saying?

An open house event to report back on the recent

Listening Campaign run by the Advocacy Academy, free including food but please book via Eventbrite. From 7 pm at 5-7 Vining Street, SW9 8QA. *Advocacy Academy.*

Saturday 29 April - Tree Walk in Brockwell Park

Led by Greg Packman, for South London Botanical Institute – meet 11 am at Herne Hill gate, £10 but book in advance via www.slbi.org.uk

Monday 1st May – Beer and Bread Festival

Around Brixton Windmill with stalls including local bakers and artisan brewers, more details at <http://www.brixtonwindmill.org/>

12-21 May – 2023 Dulwich Festival

For its 30th year, the festival offers a range of events spanning two weekends, including the Dulwich Park Fair on Sunday 14th and the Goose Green Fair on Sunday 21st. Enquiries to info@dulwichfestival.co.uk

Antiques Roadshow

This BBC favourite is coming to Crystal Palace Park on Sunday 4th June. For more information visit: <https://bbc.in/3LOJrFF>

Saturday 1st July – Craft Fair at Art4Space

1 pm to 5 pm at 31 Jeffreys Road, SW4 6QU. More info at www.art4space.co.uk

Hondo Tower exposed

Most of you will know by now that the GLA's own planners had recommended to the Mayor that he refuse planning permission for Hondo's proposed 20-storey tower dominating the market. This was only brought to light after pressure from the Fight The Tower campaign.

Normally a developer would withdraw a proposal if objections might lead to it being refused, in the hope of coming back later with a new design (but no new application fee!). Instead, Hondo were allowed merely to postpone the hearing when they offered to "adjust" their plans. However, the defects in their plans are so fundamental that only a complete rethink and new application could possibly deal with the objections. In the meantime, the ongoing uncertainty is casting gloom over the Town Centre.

Developments around the Brixton Rec

Consultation on the plans for International House and the Pop Brixton site was originally scheduled to start in May last year, but only got underway last month in the form of an "Appreciative Enquiry" event. Naturally this attracted criticism from participants that consultation was only taking place long after the key decisions had been made. Moreover, despite the delay, information was lacking on transitional arrangements for existing tenants on both sites.

Nevertheless, a separate consultation exercise will run over 10 sessions from 20 April to 22 June, for a hand-picked panel of residents to consider how the developments could benefit Brixton's Town Centre.

Nothing has emerged yet about what the new development will look like, beyond a general intention to retain International House to meet the employment and training objectives set by Lambeth, while the Pop Brixton site will be mainly residential. A director from London Square suggested that fitting in the specified number of flats would require a tower of up to 16 storeys on the Pop Brixton site. A key issue will be what happens at ground level to keep the street corner active.

Work finally started last month on adapting disused space below the Rec into workshop space for small enterprises and for training projects. Within the Rec itself, work has been underway to create a children's "soft play" area at the lower level where the bowling green used to be. As from 1st April, Lambeth took over management of the Rec (and other sports sites) from GLL/ Better as "Active Lambeth".



The Pop Brixton site, seen from the 6th floor of International House in February. IMG.0602.jpg

How to keep Creative Business in Brixton

Although London Square intends to keep International House in office use, it is likely to be out of use for up to 2 years while the building's systems are upgraded.

This puts at risk the network of organisations, both charities and commercial, that has built up during its "meanwhile" use managed by 3Space. Despite the 9-month slippage in the original programme, Lambeth has been unwilling to extend the present use beyond September.

For many years, all kinds of business space around Brixton has been steadily replaced by housing uses, so it's hard for International House tenants to find other premises locally. Where Lambeth planners have insisted that developers provide some business space within their projects, too often it has proved to be of limited practical use. For example, cafes cannot be provided with extract ventilation ducts, while any processes which generate noise, traffic or excessive waste are sure to attract complaints from the residents above.

We need to find ways of keeping creative businesses and charity projects within the wider Brixton area, instead of allowing them to

Planning & Regeneration News

disperse into other London boroughs and beyond.

One suggestion from the Brixton Society committee is to use the former Sudbourne School buildings in Hayter Road, SW2. Falling school rolls mean these were mothballed after the school moved to new premises at the corner of Strathleven and Mandrell Roads. This site is still within the Brixton Creative Enterprise Zone, and could readily be used as another “meanwhile” space at least until International House is refurbished.

On the South Circular Road



The Tulse Hill Hotel in quieter times, 150 years ago. Photo by William Strudwick, img004.jpg

The Tulse Hill Hotel marks the bottom-right-hand corner of our area of benefit. Nowadays, it sits on a busy gyratory system on the South Circular Road. For several years, there has been talk of some kind of improvement, and we heard recently from the Norwood Forum that Transport for London has revived the project as part of its Healthy Streets Initiative.

Should we worry about the Lambeth Borough Plan 2030?

There has been some confusion over how this relates to the Lambeth Local Plan with its town planning policies for use of buildings and acceptable types of development.

Instead, the Borough Plan is an attempt to pull together all the Council’s activities, from dustcarts to libraries, under an overall set of objectives. Certainly a worthy aim, though ingrained habits can be hard to shift.

The new version of the Borough Plan was adopted by Lambeth’s Cabinet on 27 March and looks ahead to 2030. The headline ambitions are to:

Make our neighbourhoods fit for the future.
Make Lambeth one of the safest boroughs in London.

Make Lambeth a place we can all call home.

These are buttressed by further tasks that show there is still room for improvement:

Strive to get the basics right.

Harness the abundance of local expertise, energy and passion in our design and decision-making.

Work together in partnership to ensure everybody in the borough is empowered to create Lambeth 2030.

Your Streets, Your Way competition – closes 28 April

There’s been limited publicity, but Lambeth Council is inviting ideas for street design improvements at selected sites around the borough. Within the Brixton area, those include:

Outside 85 Angell Road, SW9;
Loughborough Road/ Minet Road junction;
Outside Brixton Domino Club/ Soup Kitchen, 297-299 Coldharbour Lane SW9;
Telegraph Passage, between Brixton Hill and New Park Road, SW2.

The top prize offered is £750 plus runners-up prizes, and the competition is managed by architects We Made That. For full details, see <https://your-streets-your-way.squarespace.com>

Power Station successor

The power station described in this issue’s centre spread closed once the National Grid enabled electricity to be fed into London from power stations in coal-mining areas. Its new counterpart in Bengeworth Road will be an enlarged sub-station, supplied via an underground cable tunnel currently being excavated below Brixton from the corner of Acre Lane and Kings Avenue. We have been following these developments but have found nothing to object to so far.

Alan Piper.

Making it happen

Our annual general meeting and why it matters

As a registered charity, we are expected to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year, to present our annual accounts and to report on what we have done. This occasion also gives an opportunity to elect committee members and to invite suggestions for the next year's activities and priorities.

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 8th June from 7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2 1EP (facing onto Windrush Square).

Get Involved!

Since the Brixton Society was formed back in 1975, it has been run by a committee of about a dozen volunteers, meeting monthly. However, the key to our survival, and occasional successes, has been what the committee, and other volunteers, have been able to do in between meetings.

We need to regularly refresh our committee by bringing younger members on board. In recent years, office-holders have found themselves encumbered by extra duties that have accumulated, so if we can off-load some of those tasks to others, we can achieve so much more between us.

Ways to help

In addition to the traditional roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, if we can share other tasks, it spreads the workload and allows the Society to do more. For example, when other committee members can represent us at the numerous local bodies we are linked to, it allows us to network more widely and keep in touch with what's happening around our area.

We would like to recruit a co-ordinator for those events where we provide a display or book-stall, and especially, organising the volunteers to staff it. Another vital task is co-ordinating our response to planning applications, so we don't miss any important cases, while our website too may benefit from somebody able to give it more attention.

Alan Piper, Secretary.

From the Chair

Before the Covid pandemic struck, I let it be known that I wanted to stand down as Chair having served for over 10 years. However, the pandemic was not the time to hand over to someone else and so I stayed on.

Now is that time, and I will not be standing as Chair again at the AGM in June.

I will be happy to stay on as an ordinary committee member and will still undertake various tasks for the society. I hope to find the time to complete and write up some local history research I have been working on in a disjointed fashion.

My enormous thanks go to everyone who has supported me in my role, not least our hard-working secretary, Alan Piper.

Bill Linskey

Newsletter Editor

Among the many tasks undertaken by our secretary for the society, Alan edits this Newsletter and has done so almost since its inception over 40 years ago.

It's time someone else took this on. At the minimum, all that is needed is a working knowledge of Word. However, there are specialist programmes out there which allow for more complex layouts to be achieved; perhaps someone knows how to use one of those?

This may be an ideal opportunity for one of our younger members to assist the society. It is only a once-a-quarter task but it is a very important one which needs completing by the scheduled deadlines. To find out more, email: secretary@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Call yourself an artist?

Entry is now open for the annual Brixton Blog & Bugle Art Show. This is open to anyone over 16 living in or around Brixton. You can submit up to 2 works provided each is no larger than 1 metre square. Initially send up to 3 digital photos of each work to arts@brixtonblog.com by Monday 15 May. See page 7 of the April Brixton Bugle or the website www.brixtonblog.com for fuller details.

Brixton's Power Station

Although Brixton was using electric light in Electric Avenue by 1895, much street lighting was originally by gas, as were domestic house lights in the 1880s and before.

From 1892 the Lambeth Vestry (council) was made responsible for the public electrical supply in Brixton, and in 1896 the South London Electric Supply Corporation Limited was registered and in 1897 took over future responsibility for supplying electricity to the majority of Lambeth borough.

The Corporation had an authorised capital of £325,000 comprising 65,000 shares of £5 each, with 594 shareholders in 1898. A power station was built in Bengeworth Road, Loughborough Junction together with a high voltage distribution cable network. Part of the agreement with the Vestry was that the Corporation would burn dustbin refuse receiving 11½d. per ton destroyed and would provide current for 25 street lights free of charge. Electricity supply started in November 1899.



This 1930 picture shows the power station (inside the black circle) which also contains the Hayes Laundry, on a separate site sandwiched between the power station and Kings College Hospital).

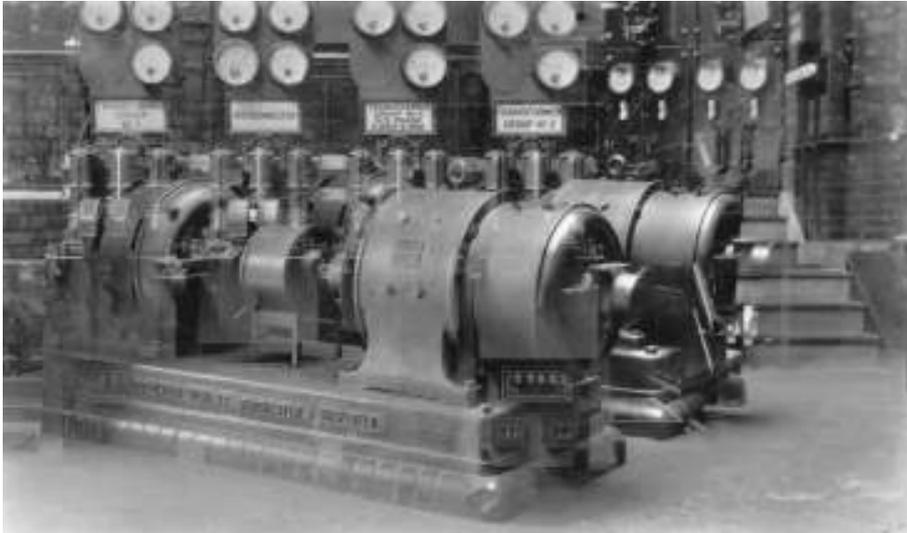
As at 1923 the boilers were capable of producing 16.4 kg/s of steam powering 7 generators with a total capacity of 7.35 MW. Customers could be supplied with single phase or 2-phase electricity at 220v. Sales of supply from Bengeworth Road started at 222 MWh in 1901, reaching 10,533 MWh in 1923.

The layout can more easily be seen on this 1913 Ordnance Survey map. Coal must have been brought in via rail sidings



Brixton's Power Station

From 1925 the South London Electric Supply Company started working jointly with two City of London generator companies and the South Metropolitan Electric Light and Power Company and two new power stations were built - Barking A (118.75 MW) which opened in 1925 and Barking B (303.5 MW) which opened in 1933. The Central Electricity Board was established in 1926, building the national grid (1927-33). In 1929 the small and less efficient Bengeworth Road power station in Brixton was therefore decommissioned and its customers supplied from Barking via the grid.



The inside and outside of the power station looked like this in the early 1930s before demolition.

Bengeworth Road continued to be used for administration and customer billing well into the 1990s, including deployment of meter readers. Now that this is all outsourced and virtual, the site has become a key part of the Power Tunnels project, which is constructing a new high voltage ring main round south London. Key disused sites have been turned into tunnelling access points - another nearby example is the corner of Acre Lane and Kings Avenue.



This photo from the London Power Tunnels website shows the Bengeworth Road site around 2020, this time with the railway to the south.

David Warner

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=South_London_Electric_Supply_Corporation&oldid=1039793939

1930s power station photos © Lambeth Archives; with thanks

The OS map extract and 1930 aerial pictures were posted on Urban75 by contributors

Local History

Stanley and Sons

Back in 2020, we published a first volume of research and stories about the businesses on Loughborough Road, SW9. New material continues to come to light, and Tracey Gregory has kindly contributed this account of one of those local firms.



Stanley's advertisement from the 1887 edition of Kelly's Postal Directory. The same advert appeared in these directories well into the 1890s. DL/W.S.jpg

W. Stanley & Sons was based at 14 Loughborough Road for over 40 years from 1880 to 1922. For a number of years, the Stanleys seem to have been running two businesses simultaneously - a builders and an undertakers, which they advertised in local directories.

William Stanley was originally from Alcester in Warwickshire. With his wife Elizabeth, he moved to Hay, South Wales, then Ledbury in Hertfordshire, before settling in Lambeth. In 1871 William, Elizabeth and three of their children, Herbert, Cyrus and Clara, were living at 18 **Robsart Street**, just over the Brixton Road from where they would set up shop on Loughborough Road. Their eldest son Edwin Henry was living two doors away from his parents and siblings, with his wife Eliza. Both Edwin and his father William were plumbers. They were probably quite busy with work at a time when there were lots of houses being built in the area. As well as being a plumber, William is noted in the 1871 census as also being a painter and glazier.

By 1880 William, his wife Elizabeth and their three youngest children, all by then in the 20s, had moved over the road and set up home and shop at 14 Loughborough Road. In the 1881 census, William is recorded as a builder and his two sons, Herbert and Cyrus, are decorators. William continued his building business at 14 Loughborough Road until his death in 1892. But by 1887 he had developed a sideline as an undertaker it seems. The advert for W. Stanley & Sons Undertakers and Cemetery Masons at 14 Loughborough Road and 2 Evandale Road, first appeared in the front of Kelly's Directories in 1887. It was son Edwin who was living at 2 Evandale Road but like his father, his occupation in 1891 census is builder's manager, not an undertaker or mason.

Following his father's death in 1892, Edwin moved into the flat above the shop at 14 Loughborough Road with his family and the main business became Edwin H Stanley Undertakers. You can imagine that William Stanley would have had the best carriage to take him to Lambeth Cemetery in October 1892, where he was buried alongside his wife Elizabeth in plot A1/99. Elizabeth had died in 1884.

So the Stanley family firmly based themselves on and around Loughborough Road, living in the neighbourhood for over 50 years. Edwin H Stanley continued to run the undertakers from 14 Loughborough Road until his death in September 1921, aged 73. He was also still in the building trade, registered as a builder in the 1901 and 1911 census, as well as an undertaker.

Edwin's son, William Stanley, was also working in the business, making three generations of Stanley's working as builders and undertakers from Loughborough Road. Following Edwin's death, his wife Eliza took over running the undertakers for a couple of years but she died not long after her husband in April 1924 and this marked the end of the Stanley undertaking business on Loughborough Road.

Local History

The Stanleys must have arranged the funerals of many neighbours, taking them to Lambeth and West Norwood Cemeteries in horse drawn carriages. Edwin's brother and sister, Cyrus and Clara, joined their parents in Lambeth Cemetery, Cyrus in April 1911 and Clara in March 1935.

Edwin H Stanley and his wife Eliza are buried in plot 42/34364 in West Norwood Cemetery. Their daughter Clara (d. June 1916), her husband Herbert Bowker (d. January 1944) and their daughter, also Clara (d. November 1934) and son William (d. February 1936) are also buried alongside Edwin and Eliza in the plot in West Norwood.

Tracey Gregory.

The names have been changed

One of the hazards for anyone researching local history is that names of landmark buildings or streets may change from time to time. In modern times it has been pub names, but over the past century cinemas and schools were most affected. Last month, Martin Savage (Brixton resident 1946-66) picked up an error in our newsletter No.209 from 10 years ago. I had been describing what was originally **Sussex Road** School, a classic example of a 3-decker London Board School. He pointed out that by the time he attended (from 1950 onwards) it was known as Stuart Primary School, and despite the original separate entrances for boys, girls and mixed infants, it was by then co-educational. After a period of use as an annexe to the Brixton School of Building, the school buildings were refurbished and re-opened as Hillmead Primary School from c.1975 onwards, which continues to operate, although Sussex Road itself disappeared as the Moorland Estate was built around the school in 1974-77.

Stockwell Brewery and other longer items

We occasionally receive local history items which are too long for the newsletter but not substantial enough for a separate printed booklet. We have begun to place these on our website, so that the material is still accessible.

The latest addition is the story of Hammerton's Stockwell Brewery, which stood at the corner of Stockwell Green and Lingham Street. The account by John Sheridan would otherwise fill 15 newsletter pages, when we only have 12! John notes a claim that the brewery dated from 1730, though the earliest record he could find was from 1801. After it was acquired by Watneys in 1951, it continued mainly as a bottling plant. The last of the old brewery buildings was demolished in 1965, leaving a modern warehouse used for storing wines and spirits until 1973, when it passed to other uses and ended its long association with the licensed trade.

Other recent additions are the story of Brixton's name, and an account of Trams in Brixton, which both originated as short printed booklets. www.brixtonsociety.org.uk/local-history/articles/

Get Involved...

There's a bunch of requests for help with research in the editor's pending tray this month.

Their Finest Hour is a 2-year project based at the University of Oxford. They aim to collect and digitally archive everyday stories and objects from the Second World War. People with direct experience are fading away, but there may be stories or mementos surviving with family members. There will be a digital collection session during September's Local History Fair, or meanwhile see more details at www.theirfinesthour.org

Coram's Voices Through Time is a drive to transcribe and digitise the records of the Foundling Hospital, founded by Thomas Coram in 1739. Volunteers are being sought to help with this process. More details of the project are at <https://coramstory.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/become-a-transcriber>

The Wandsworth Museum has an Action Group working to re-open it, and help is sought with typing new catalogue entries for the collection. Enquiries to Philip Bradley at southlondoner23@gmail.com or to Sheila Allen at sheilamacallen@gmail.com

Beyond Brixton

Dulwich Picture Gallery

The Gallery's collection originated with mainly 17th century paintings, supplemented by later bequests of 18th century portraits, so the overall effect is an excess of dark brown backgrounds, though a fine landscape by Claude Lorraine can be found in a side room.

Over recent years, the curators have widened the range by a series of special exhibitions of pictures loaned from other collections. Their current exhibition shows the work of Berthe Morisot, a founding member of the French Impressionist school. 30 of her works are shown alongside another 15 pictures by others who influenced her. Hers are mainly domestic scenes but her lighter style is a welcome contrast to the overall gloom of the older pictures.



Portrait by Berthe Morisot of her niece at work on a painting. IMG.0644.jpg

By the time you read this, the gallery will have added an exhibit on the work and technique of another woman painter, Mary Beale (1633-99). *Mary Beale – Experimental Secrets continues until 3rd September, while Berthe Morisot – Shaping Impressionism runs until 10 September.*

Archbishop Tenison's School

Lambeth Council announced last week that this secondary school near the Oval cricket ground will close in July, at the end of this academic year. The decision has been made by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education with the Government's Department of Education. However, Lambeth will need to help find alternative schools for existing pupils. The closure reflects an overall decline in school rolls, due perhaps to smaller flats and adult house-shares displacing family housing.

Walk along the River Wandle

The Wandle Industrial Museum offers a series of walks along sections of the river, which was long a focus for water-powered industries. Walks are free but please book by e-mail to john.sheridan08@gmail.com

Saturday 15 April at 2pm, Mitcham Tram Stop to Morden Hall Park.

Thursday 1 June at 2 pm, Earlsfield Station to the mouth of the Wandle.

Sunday 16 July at 2 pm, Colliers Wood tube station to Merton Priory Chapter House Museum.

Saturday 19 August at 2 pm, Merton Civic Centre to Morden Hall Park (and back).

Sunday 17 September at 2 pm, Morden Hall Park to Merton Priory Chapter House Museum.

Commemorating Black Heroes

In recent years, the Brixton-based Nubian Jak Community Trust has placed several plaques on local buildings to mark their association with Black personalities and pioneers. Yet this is only part of a much wider programme, with almost 80 of their blue plaques now installed across Greater London.

The 77th was unveiled in October last year, not far beyond our borough boundary in Peckham SE15. This one is dedicated to George Bridgetower (1778-1860) the leading violinist of his time. His father was from Barbados and his mother from Germany, both of them in the service of Prince Esterhazy of Hungary. When George showed promise as a violinist, he was toured around Europe by his father, ending up in London where the Prince Regent paid for his musical education.

George then spent a decade performing around Europe. In Vienna in 1803, he performed with Beethoven, who wrote his Violin Sonata No.9 to suit his talents. After an argument, the notoriously prickly composer dedicated the piece instead to Rudolphe Kreutzer, who however never dared to play it. George eventually settled in London, buying a house at 8 Victory Cottages in Peckham. That house was demolished in 1970, and sheltered housing was built on the site a few years later, now Jack Jones House at 12 Reedham Street, SE15 4 PH.

Miscellany

Newsletter Postage

The cost of postage has increased again this year. It now costs 75p to post a newsletter (that's without the cost of the envelope) which is about three times the cost of printing it!

Many are delivered locally for free by our volunteers but if your envelope was posted, please consider switching to receiving an electronic copy instead. The on-line version is in colour and each quarter you will receive an email with a link.

To switch, email:

membership@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Editorial Notice

Space permitting, we try to feature local events, issues and reminiscences in our newsletter. We welcome news and comments from all who are interested in the Brixton area, so opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Brixton Society.

All material should be sent (before 25 June) to the Secretary, Alan Piper, 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Write on Art Competition

Art UK and the Paul Mellon Centre are again running this competition for students aged between 15 and 18. To enter, students in years 10-13 are asked to select an artwork from the Art UK website that captures their interest and share that with the reader. Younger students are asked to write

400 words, while those in years 12 and 13 are asked for 600 words. The closing date for applications is **30 June**. Full details can be found at

<https://artuk.org/learn/write-on-art>

Statues Returned – with interest



IMG0579.jpg



IMG0591.jpg

Top picture: Bill Linskey with Dawn Bunce, Lambeth Arts Officer. Lower picture: after the unveiling of a new statue of Joy Battick, sited across the tracks from the original of 1986. The sculptor, Kevin Atherton is on the right.

Back in January, four of our committee members turned out for the unveiling of the restored statues on the platforms of Brixton's rail station. Our involvement started months earlier when we noticed that the original 3 statues had disappeared. We alerted the Council

planners because they were listed, and we feared that they were the victims of scrap metal thieves.

Fortunately it turned out they had only been removed for repair but SouthEastern, the station operators, had not notified the Council first.

Eventually we met with the sculptor, Kevin Atherton, and railway managers to advise them on the Listed Building process and approvals were duly granted. These provided for re-siting one statue and adding a new one, to make two facing pairs.

Eileen Walkin MBE

News arrived of the death of one of our veteran members just as we were completing this edition. Eileen was born in Barbados in September 1931 and came to Britain in 1965 to study law and then worked in the Civil Service. She was one of the local people whose brief biographies appeared in our book "Black British – A Celebration" in 2007. She was a regular attendee at events of the Brixton and Streatham Societies but in recent years was resident in Croydon, where she was active in several voluntary organisations.

We aim to include a fuller account in our next edition.

Windrush Procession

Addendum: we omitted to mention that the parade is being co-ordinated by the Brixton Project, enquiries to serena@thebrixtonproject.com

Green Spaces, Green Issues

Brockwell Park update

We keep in touch with developments through Brockwell Park Community Partners, where a wide range of stakeholder groups take part. BPCP meets 4 times a year, and feeds into the Park Management Committee and Strategic Partnership Board. Here is a summary of recent news from them.

The big project is the refurbishment and enhancement of Brockwell Hall in the centre of the park. Ideas originated with major fire damage back in 1990. Limited repairs were carried out, but the new works will make full use of the basement while an extension will be built into the stable yard to allow hire for private functions. Due to rising building costs, renovation of the old stable block has been shelved. Otherwise, work should be complete by the end of 2024.

Elsewhere in the park, grounds maintenance is moving from the stable yard to a new prefab depot at the south end of the Norwood Road boundary. As part of the biodiversity plan, volunteers are repairing and replanting the boundary hedge between the Brixton Water Lane and Cressingham Gardens gates. The GLA is helping fund “rewilding” of the North Meadow, between the BMX track and the Brixton Water Lane gate. The cricket nets near the tennis courts will be restored shortly.

Summer Events programme

For the first time, an integrated events timetable has been agreed, to minimise the impact of setting up and taking down.

Friday 26 May – Project 6 (ticketed event);
Saturday 27 May – Wide Awake
(ticketed music festival);
Sunday 28 May – Cross the Tracks
(ticketed music festival);
Monday 29 May (bank holiday) – City Splash
(ticketed music festival);
Wednesday 31 May – Brockwell Bounce
(free family festival);
Saturday 3 June) – Mighty Hoopla
Sunday 4 June) (ticketed music event);
Saturday 10 June) Lambeth Country Show
Sunday 11 June) (free event).

Gardens open for Charity

Each summer our near-neighbours at the Dulwich Society publish details of (mostly) private gardens opening for charity, and often there are examples extending into our area. This year, **60 & 62 Brixton Water Lane** will combine to open on Sunday 18 June between 2 pm and 5-30 pm.

Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses will be open with free entry on Thursdays to Sundays, but it's worth checking their website for special events, mainly at weekends: www.brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk

The South London Botanical Institute is absent this year due to current building works at their premises in Norwood Road.

Plant a Tree in '23

Last month, pupils from Elm Green secondary school joined with Lambeth Council staff to plant a dozen disease-resistant elm trees in Brockwell Park. Further north, 21 new trees were recently planted on the **Cowley Estate**, on neighbouring roads and two of them within Myatt's Fields Park, as part of a wider Council tree-planting programme.

We encourage you to contribute to urban greening with your own planting, individually or jointly with neighbours. Just remember that most trees need to be planted or moved in the winter months, while they are relatively dormant, so you have plenty of time before the next planting season to investigate possible locations and suitable species.

Keep Saving Energy!

Don't relax just because you need less heating at this time of year! It's a good time to boost your home insulation and explore other energy efficiencies. We will continue to share ideas and advice in these pages.

The scale of the problem was revealed by recent research showing that only 41% of UK homes reach an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or above. London scores a little better at 46% but there is lots to do to meet the Government's target of all rented properties reaching a C EPC rating by December 2025.