

The Brixton Society Newsletter

Summer Issue : July 2024 : No.254

EDITORIAL

ELECTION

Very few people will have woken up on Friday the 5th of July and been surprised to find that we had a new government in power. The polls had long predicted a Labour victory, and so it proved.

The Brixton Society, as a Registered Charity and in accordance with our constitution, is strictly non-party-political. However, most of our central concerns are profoundly affected by political decisions taken at all levels: government, the mayor of London, and Lambeth Council. We are perfectly entitled to lobby those polities on behalf of our members.

LAMBETH

We interact regularly with Lambeth at all levels. Our most frequent interactions are by submitting comments on planning applications and sometimes appearing before the planning committee to put our case. Less frequently, we do the same with licencing applications and that committee. We respond to many Lambeth consultations, get involved in local projects, and talk to individual officers and councillors.

THE MAYOR OF LONDON

With the mayor of London, we do have direct interactions, such as when we lobbied on his called-in planning application for the Hondo tower in Pope's Road. We were prepared to appear at his hearing when Hondo backed out. Some of our lobbying though is through the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies of which we are a member alongside over 100

other London societies. They do a tremendous job when, for example, there is a consultation on a new London Plan. Their very professional submissions of behalf of all their members have a real impact.

GOVERNMENT

What of the government? We have submitted responses to government consultations, but we must accept that in that arena we are a small voice. There is a national body representing civic societies: Civic Voice. This was founded following the collapse of the Civic Trust, of which we were a supporter. We did not join Civic Voice when it was first founded as it had no track record. However, having firmly establishing itself as a body listened to in government circles and in anticipation of the upcoming election, our AGM in June resolved to join Civic Voice, which we are in process of doing.

STOP PRESS

We hope this edition of our newsletter will be received by most of our readers in time for this event:



This Sunday, 14 July, we will have a stall at this event from 1 to 6 pm. Do come and see us.

Diary & Events

BRIXTON COMMITTEE DATES

Our Executive Committee meets monthly at 7:00pm on the second Thursday, to plan activities and agree our responses to current issues.

Meetings are at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2 1EP, facing Windrush Square.

These meetings are open to any of our members, but if you want to join in or raise a specific issue, please contact the Secretary at least a week before at:

secretary@brixtonsociety.org.uk

The next few dates are:

- 10 August
- There is no committee meeting in September because of the Lambeth Heritage Festival
- 10 October

LOCAL HISTORY WALKS

The society runs history walks throughout the year. The next ones are:

Brixton Market Heritage Walk

- Saturday 10 August

A Slice of Tulse Hill

- Sunday 18 August

Brixton Market Heritage Walk

- Saturday 14 September

West Brixton

- Sunday 15 September

Stockwell Green

- Sunday 22 September

Brixton Market Heritage Walk

- Saturday 12 October

Railton Road

- Sunday 13 October

Details and bookings for all walks:

brixtonsociety.org.uk/events

Dr BIKE on WINDRUSH SQUARE FREE CYCLE MAINTENANCE

At Dr Bike sessions experienced mechanics check everything on your bike from wheels, brakes, gears and tyre pressure to lights, racks, pedals, saddles and more.



On the following Tuesdays, from 4 to 7 pm

- 16 July
- 13 August
- 27 August
- 10 September
- 8 October

MYATT'S FIELDS PARK EVENTS

Bloomsbury Wind Ensemble Land

- Saturday 20 July

Justice Fair

- Sunday 21 July

Together with the Mulberries

- Saturday 27 July

Community Cohesion

- Sunday 18 August

Dog Show

- Sunday 01 September

Ekabo (Harvest Festival)

- Saturday 12 September

Further information at:

myattsfieldspark.info/whats-on.html

Diary & Events

BRIXTON WINDMILL

Events in Windmill gardens include:

Outdoor family theatre
Much Ado About Nothing

- Saturday 20 July 6:00pm



Children's free Cookery Course

- Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August, 10am to 1pm

Open Days

- Weekend 10-11 August
- Weekend 14-15 September
- Weekend 12-13 October

Annual Talk – The History of Blenheim Gardens Estate and Windmill Gardens with Jon Newman from Lambeth Archives

- Wednesday 11 September, 7.15pm (doors open 6.45pm)

For full details of the above, and much more:
brixtonwindmill.org/all-events/

LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

As usual, the festival will take place throughout September. We will distribute copies of the printed brochure to our members in Brixton and a pdf version will be available on our website.

THE LOCAL HISTORY DAY

Saturday 7th September in St Leonard's Church, Streatham, where we will have a stall.

27 & 28 JULY SUMMER MARKET - FREE BOOK NOW

11:00am - 05:00pm
The Department Store,
248 Ferndale Road
Brixton, SW9 8FR
(Near Brixton Post Office)

BLACK CULTURE MARKET

Food • Fashion • Music • Stationery • Art • Books • Jewellery
Homeware • Skincare • Toys • Health • Beauty & more.
Come down to support & discover new black businesses.
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Free tickets from:

[eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-culture-market-summer-tickets-916297198587](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-culture-market-summer-tickets-916297198587)

ART 4 SPACE

Unit 1, 31 Jeffreys Road,
Stockwell SW4 6QU

07816 386270

art4space.co.uk

Art4Space

use arts and creativity as a catalyst for change in their Award-winning Community Arts Centre. For courses, workshops and events, go to:
art4space.co.uk/whats-on



COUNCIL SUPPORT

ENGAGEMENT

The extent to which Lambeth Council supports or engages with community organisations has varied over the years. In the 1970s, Lambeth felt themselves all powerful and voluntary groups just decorative or annoying, depending on the issue. Now, after years of austerity, there is a grudging acceptance that all those grassroots groups and charities can fill gaps in services and reach into places untouched by the Council. Of course, this is a generalisation – the Council remains a collection of silos which scarcely communicate with each other, so parts are co-operative, while others remain hostile.

LAMBETH'S VOLUNTARY ACTION COUNCIL

Lambeth's Voluntary Action Council (LVAC) imploded several years ago, so nobody has been advocating for the community and voluntary sector as a whole. In the past few years, Integrate has been contracted to offer a range of support services, and bids have just closed for a new support contract to start in October. This time, Lambeth has doubled the budget to allow a wider range of information, training and other events to be offered to local groups

HUBS AND NETWORKS

In addition, there are several networks in place, receiving varying degrees of support. The

Lambeth Forum Network includes neighbourhood forums active in most parts of the borough. There is a separate network of community hubs, such as Longfield Hall, and High Trees in the former St. Martin's Library.

USE OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS

The Council has long offered spare buildings for community use, as help in kind, but past allocation was random and the supply is shrinking. Since 2021 the aim has been to regularise the situation with formal leases, and so far 35 of 49 "headline" sites have been sorted. Some departments, such as youth services, go their own way with the sites they control.

A common issue is that several groups want to use the same premises, so does one group take the lead responsibility, or do they set up a collective body which gives all user groups a say? Charities may be limited in what they can take on by their original objectives and powers.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

This has been an almost accidental success story in providing a base for many charities and grassroots groups. From the outset it's been temporary pending full refurbishment of the office block, but it looks like that's been deferred again.

Alan Piper

MORE SCHOOLS CLOSING

CONSULTATIONS EXTENDED

Mergers and closures of several local primary schools are proposed, to adapt to declining numbers of children living around Brixton. Comments can be made up to **18 August** – see lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-primary-school-places

SCHOOLS

Schools mentioned in the consultation are:

Fenstanton; Holy Trinity; Christ Church SW9 (Brixton); St John the Divine; Glenbrook; Kings Avenue; St John's Angell Town; St. Saviour's;

CORMONT ROAD SCHOOL

BUILDING AT RISK

Cormont Road School has joined the national list of endangered buildings.

The Victorian Society launched its 2024 top ten most endangered buildings in May. Cormont Road School (the former Kennington Boys' School, then Charles Edward Brooke Girls' School) the only London building on the list. The school is Grade II listed and has been on the Historic England at Risk Register since 2016. In the 2023 Register, it was noted as being in a 'Very Bad' condition.

A survey commissioned by London Borough of Lambeth in March 2016 identified that water ingress had caused significant internal damage and urgent work was needed to make the building weathertight; but no action has been taken. Lambeth took full ownership of the building from the Department for Education in 2019.



Photograph: Tracey Gregory

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Cormont Road School has a significant history, not least as the place where thousands of local children have been educated. The school first opened in 1898. It has been a junior school, Kennington Boys and in 2012, the last pupils sat

in the classrooms and walked the corridors when the final occupants, St Gabriel's Girls School, relocated to a new site.

The school is an integral part of the Minet Estate, comprehensively planned and developed by the Minet family to provide a mix of residential types and a range of community amenities. It sits alongside Grade II listed St Gabriel's College (formerly a teacher training college and now flats) and overlooks Grade II listed Myatt's Fields Park.

Professor Andrew Saint, Editor of the Survey of London, who has written extensively on Board Schools states:

"The twin pepper-potted towers of Cormont Road School, built to the designs of T. J. Bailey, architect to the School Board for London, enliven the repose of Myatts Fields and must at all costs be retained."

Cormont Road School also holds national significance. The building was requisitioned by the military wing of St Bart's Hospital in 1914, along with the adjacent St Gabriel's Teacher Training College. The two buildings became the 1st London General Hospital, treating thousands of wounded soldiers throughout World War 1. The need was so great, the hospital also took over Myatt's Fields Park opposite, as the demand for bed space for the wounded outstripped the space available in the school and college buildings.

VERA BRITAIN

Author, Vera Brittain, was one of the many nurses who cared for the wounded and dying at the hospital. Like many women, Vera felt compelled to volunteer as her brother and his friends headed to the front. Being at the 1st London General Hospital was Vera's first nursing experience. It was while at the Hospital that her fiancé was killed. Her poem A Military

Conservation

Hospital was written about the 1st London General Hospital in 1916.



Image: Bill Linskey postcard

Those early months of the war shaped Vera's life for ever. She went on to join military hospitals in France and after the war became a leading pacifist. Vera's book Testament of Youth, first published in 1933, was based on her experiences throughout the war. It has been read by millions of people around the world.

CAMPAIGN

A campaign has been launched calling on Lambeth Council to take urgent action to stop further decay and find a new use for this important building. Sign the petition to support the campaign at: chng.it/CpDm6RLfvM.

BROCKWELL PARK

Last month we received this *cri de coeur* from Brockwell Park Community Partners (BPCP). We are members of the BPCP, support them in their endeavours, and will keep our members in touch with progress.



Dear BPCP stakeholder,
Following the near catastrophic damage to Brockwell Park following Brockwell Live this year we believe that we should aim to hold the Council accountable for their management of the park and their rather reckless attitude to the results of big events.

There is enormous pressure from the Corporate section of the Council to generate income from open spaces and they are looking for ways to increase numbers of events.

Lambeth dishonoured its agreement with us last year having agreed that there would be no events after Brockwell Live and the Lambeth Country Show, so that the park would be free during the school holidays by permitting a major international event - Pokemon Go - to use the park. This event did damage that has never been repaired, partly and because of arguments about who was responsible and partly because of very difficult weather conditions which persisted until late this year. This has compounded the task of reinstating the park grounds.

We know that Lambeth Landscapes (aka Parks Dept) are producing a report about the extent of the damage. We are promised sight of it when it is complete but it is clear that the process of reinstatement will take a long time and the public will be excluded from sections of the park as the repairs take place. We will try to keep people up to date.

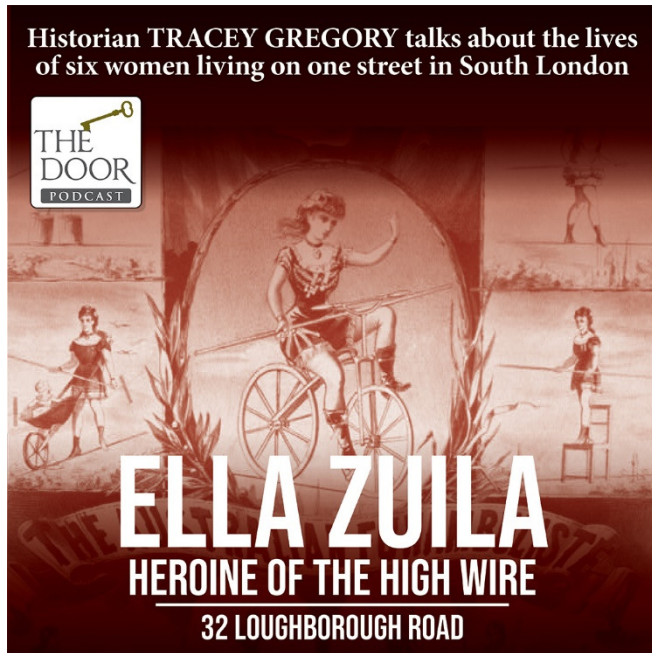
WOMEN OF LOUGHBOROUGH ROAD

PODCAST

A new podcast mini-series has launched, telling fascinating stories of six women who lived on Loughborough Road, SW9 in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Listen and hear about:

ELLA ZUILA

- Australian born, once world famous high wire walker Ella Zuila who lived at number 32. Her incredible feats included pushing her child across the high wire in a wheelbarrow, walking across the wire with baskets on her feet and stopping for a glass of wine mid wire.



IRENE PYE

- Irene Pye, from music hall stage to fish shop owner and landlady. Irene was a business woman and matriarch running a network of south London fish shops and a number of large houses. One of her fish shops was at 66 Loughborough Road.

ALPHONSINE

- Alphonsine a spiral ascensionist and skirt dancer. German born, Augusta Rosa Wingfield had a long and successful career, in the early days standing atop a large ball that she navigated up and down a 12 metre high spiral

track. She lived at number 50 Loughborough Road.

EVA TEAR

- Eva Tear, a clerk and a woman prescribed alcohol for what seems to have been post natal depression. Eva was committed to an inebriate reformatory, but she came through her troubles outliving two husbands, dying at the age of 92. Eva's first husband Herbert Tear lived at 22 Loughborough Road.

JEANETTE TASSIE COWEN

- Jeanette Tassie Cowen, a teenage mother involved in a 'baby farming' scandal. The death of Jeanette's son John led to the conviction of baby farmer, Margaret Waters, who had been paid to care for the child of the unmarried Jeanette. Jeanette Lived at Langholme Villa Loughborough Road.

BELLA BURGE

- Bella Burge, the first woman boxing promoter. (B)Ella took to the music hall stage aged 11 and became a close friend of leading music hall star, Marie Lloyd, moving in with her in Glenwood House, Loughborough Road. Ella married boxer Dick Burge and together they founded The Ring boxing venue that Bella went on to run alone, bringing in many changes to boxing.



The series of 6-10 minute podcasts is a collaboration between Tracey Gregory of Loughborough Road Histories, Naomi Clifford and Lena Augustinson of The Door Podcast and Morley Radio. Listen to the podcasts on thedoormapodcast.com or on most major podcast platforms.

Tracey Gregory

BRIXTON BUILDINGS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

GUIDED WALK

Last month's guided walk on this topic was over-subscribed, mainly due to wider publicity as part of the London Festival of Architecture, but perhaps also a sign of returning interest in the architecture of the period. Here's some highlights from my walk notes, with the advantage that I can mention extra examples that were too far afield to include on our walking route.

Brixton's rapid transition from a quiet suburb to a busy commercial centre was very much a Victorian phenomenon but that growth continued into the first half of the 20th Century, with not only more shops but many other building types. The second half of the century was more dominated by housing, both new and refurbished. Our walk took in a selection of housing designs north-east of Brixton before returning to look at the Town Centre.

HOUSING

By the 1890s, housing around the centre was already in the form of apartment blocks (such as Rushcroft Road). This model was followed for the first Council housing, Renton Close on Brixton Hill, by the London County Council Architect's Department.

By the 1930s, the LCC had settled into a pattern of neo-Georgian flats, such as the earlier parts of the Loughborough and Tulse Hill Estates.

Around the same time, private flats were being built along the main roads in more varied styles, such as Tudor Close and Dumbarton Court on Brixton Hill, and Sandhurst Court on Acre Lane.

After 1945, Council housing increased with innovative designs of larger scale. In 1953-57 the LCC's Loughborough Estate was extended southwards with over 1000 new homes, 61% of

them in 9 11-storey blocks, a design also used for the Alton West Estate in Wandsworth.

Chartham Court, a 15-storey block in the centre of the Canterbury Gardens Estate, was the first residential tower built in Lambeth, completed in 1961. The red-brick blocks added on the Gresham Road frontage in 1976 were designed by Stillman Eastwick Field.

THE WHITE HEAT OF TECHNOLOGY

In the late 1960s, system-built tower blocks dominated Lambeth's output under borough architect Ted Hollamby until the partial collapse of Ronan Point (the Grenfell Tower of its day). Part of St. Matthew's Estate had been built by the GLC with the same method, so was hastily surrounded by concrete bollards to avoid collapse should a car collide with a block. Lambeth was then forced to adopt low-rise designs which would still deliver high densities, resulting in the Angell Town and Stockwell Park developments of linked blocks above semi-basement garages. Providing for the private car dominated designs 50+ years ago.

Thus pedestrians were expected to cross the rebuilt area via high-level footbridges. Cressingham Gardens was more successful because its density was lower, with more greenery and less need for walkways.

Building designs also had to cope with the threat of motorways slicing through the district. This resulted in the "barrier block" on Coldharbour Lane, intended to screen the Moorland Estate from the noise of an elevated motorway. On the other hand, Loughborough Park's northern half was allowed to survive with limited refurbishment pending an intersection with the extended M23 arriving at Loughborough Junction.

Despite architects' claims that they were looking forward, there were occasional examples that aped earlier buildings. Thus

Local History

Sisulu Place in Wiltshire Road, designed by Abe Hayeem of Lambeth Technical Services, owes a lot to German examples of c.1930. And in Somerleyton Road, a series of light industrial buildings imitated the early 1950s Hunstanton School designed by Alison and Peter Smithson.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

1906 saw the addition of a fire station (to replace 2 smaller stations) followed by the opening of Lambeth Town Hall in 1908, effectively making Brixton the civic centre of the borough. In 1938 the Town Hall was extended in a plainer style to include an assembly hall and another floor of offices. A reserved neo-Georgian style was usual in the 1930s for official buildings, such as the Labour Exchange and telephone exchange (both since replaced).

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Returning to Brixton's Town Centre, it was commercial development that dominated until the outbreak of the Second World War. Cinemas were a new use, with the Ritzy opening as the Electric Pavilion in 1911, followed in 1913 by the Palladium next to the Town Hall (re-fronted as the Regal in 1956). The arrival of the "talkies" brought a new generation of larger cinemas, represented here by the Astoria (now the O2 Academy) which has survived because it was also designed to host live stage shows.

A distinctive theme is provided by the three covered market arcades. The first of these was Reliance Arcade, opened in 1926 on the site of one original house within Brixton Place. This was followed in 1928 by Market Row, extended into Coldharbour Lane in 1931. Finally, Granville Arcade (now Brixton Village) was opened in 1937. Between them, they offered a step up for market traders who might not be ready to take on a full-size shop.

In this period, there was much building on Brixton Road itself. On the west side, Quin & Axtens replaced Victorian shops between

Ferndale and Stockwell Roads with a grand store in 1927, while in 1931 Marks & Spenser replaced an earlier business. Beyond Stockwell Road, a new parade of shops was added to the designs of T.P. Bennett.



Reliance Arcade (1926)

The greatest change was on the east side, where the whole frontage between Coldharbour Lane and the high-level railway bridge was rebuilt between 1935 and 1939, in a variety of styles. This was a result of an agreement between the LCC and the owners, who gave up half the old front gardens for road widening, in return for permission to build over the rest. This meant the whole frontage moved forward, but

Local History

what was then Williamsons' Bonanza Stores satisfied themselves with just a single-storey extension, leaving the upper part above today's Iceland with its 1888 façade.

Wartime bombing created a few gaps in the Town Centre, quickly filled in the 1950s. However, Brixton struggled to cope with increasing traffic and parking demand.



*Stockwell Park Estate in 1974
The high-level footbridges were intended to join with similar in the Town Centre.*

Lambeth Council began drawing up radical plans for remodelling the Town Centre in 1963, with draft plans first emerging in 1967. Sadly, the effect was to discourage private investment, as owners waited to see if their property would be swallowed up by large-scale developments like the 50-storey tower blocks or up to 9 multi-storey car parks. The main element completed is the Recreation Centre, for which designs by George Finch of Lambeth Council were unveiled in July 1971, a month after the opening of Brixton's Underground Station. The Rec suffered many delays, so it was not completed until 1985. International House had been built alongside in the hope that rents from its office space would offset the costs of the Rec. The missing third part of the group was a multi-storey car park, with footbridge links to the Rec.

This set-piece seemed like a good place to finish our walk, but of course there are more examples across our area, which we will point out on other walks in the next few months.

Alan Piper

Lambeth Tour Guides

Need reasons to join Lambeth Accredited Tour Guide Course this Autumn ?

COME - for the people and places of Brixton, performers past and present, including Eddy Grant and David Bowie, the markets and shopping heritage plus the only tube Terminus in Lambeth.

STAY - to discover more and experience the richness of stories and places:

- History from Wilberforce to Windrush
- Architecture from Austen Hall to Zaha Hadid
- Urban art and street furniture
- Wide open space from Clapham to Streatham Commons and green places from Archbishop's to Ruskin Park

- Rebellion from the Chartists to Brixton Uprisings
- Rivers - the Thames and the Effra
- Lupino Lane's Lambeth Walk; Adele's Hometown and now Taylor Swift's Black Dog : all inspired by the London Borough of Lambeth

September 2024 is the time to delve into South London's history and current culture on the one-year Become a Lambeth Tour Guide Course with Thursday evenings at Morley College and Saturday mornings doing - what else? - Walks!

We look forward to seeing you in the Autumn.

Go to lambethtourguides.org/lambeth-guiding-course and start your application today.

BRIXTON MUSIC MEMORIES



The Brixton Music Memories project is a volunteer run initiative, dedicated to documenting Brixton's post World War Two musical history. The project does not accept any sponsorship or advertising.

Brixton has a rich musical heritage, stretching back to the late 19th and early 20th century, when Brixton was home to many music hall, variety and cinema performers. That tradition has continued through the years up to the present day. However, surprisingly little has been documented, either in print or orally, about Brixton's post Second World War musical history.

The Brixton Music Memories project was set up to remedy this. We have set up a website which contains the first fruits of our research: <https://brixtonmusicmemories.com/>

The aims of the project are two-fold. Firstly, to collate information about Brixton's music history from archive material, such as the music press of the day. However, this is only a small part of the story. The music press, particularly in the 60s, provided very limited coverage of live events and didn't cover whole genres of music such as ska and reggae. So the second aim is to create an oral history of Brixton's music scene. We would love to hear people's memories, whether they want to speak on the record or off the record.

Anyone interested in sharing their memories, articles or memorabilia can get in touch via our e-mail: brixonmusicmemories@gmail.com

Our first research project about the legendary Ram Jam Club at 390-394 Brixton Road is published here: brixtonmusicmemories.com/venues/the-ram-jam-club/

Operating between 1966 and 1968, the venue was opened by promoter Rik Gunnell who already owned the famous Flamingo club in Soho. Day to day operations were carried out by his business partner Pat Robinson, who based his offices at 328 Coldharbour Lane. The club played host to the cream of RnB, soul, ska, rock and psychedelic acts. Legendary acts who played there included Otis Redding, Jimi Hendrix (who played his first British gig there), The Who, Nina Simone, Cream and many others.

For the project we interviewed soul singer Geno Washington, whose band the club was named after, as well as punters who attended. One of them recounts the tale of Prince Charles' valet being a regular attendee. It's a great story if it's true!

During our research we also found out that the venue had a long and rather chequered history as an entertainment venue, dating back to at least the 1930s. In the 1930s the venue was the Saville ballroom and billiards club, the Gresham ballroom and the Vincini academy of dancing before becoming the Brixton Palais de Dance in the 1940s and the Harlequin Irish club in the late 50s and early 60s.

After the Ram Jam closed in 1968, the venue was briefly given a new lease of life during the disco era as Clouds club, before becoming the first location of The Fridge Night club in 1981, before it moved to its final venue on Brixton Hill.

ANNUAL REPORT

An expanded version of the report presented at the AGM on 13 June.

AIMS & ORGANISATION

AIMS

We aim to encourage awareness and understanding of our surroundings, and to give local people a say in Brixton's future. Our area extends well beyond the Town Centre as far as Stockwell Tube Station, out to Myatt's Fields Park, and up Brixton Hill to the South Circular Road.

AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the London Forum of Amenity Societies and Archives for London. The AGM agreed to also join Civic Voice, now bedded-in as the national network for amenity societies.

We continue to participate in Lambeth Local History Forum, Lambeth Parks Forum, Brixton Neighbourhood Forum and Brockwell Park Community Partners (the park's Management Advisory Committee).

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was amended at the 2022 AGM to enable the Friends of Windrush Square and the Friends of Tate Library Brixton to organise as independent bodies, rather than sub-committees of the Society.

Since the 2023 AGM, the Executive Committee has met most months.

Bill Linskey stood down as Chair at the last AGM but continued as a committee member, and recently took on editing our quarterly newsletter. Other members were Nicholas

Weedon (Vice-Chair), Doye Akinlade, Ashleigh Gill, Tracey Gregory, Diana Linskey (Treasurer), Vivienne Lewis (Membership Secretary), Douglas Pineiro, Alan Piper (Secretary), David Warner and Pam Williams.



Sunday trading in Market Row

PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Our main live events have been our guided walks, with additional dates to meet interest from visiting groups.

Just one talk was given, on Brixton's Music Hall Heritage, in September as part of Lambeth's Heritage Festival. We also organised visits to the Van Gogh House in Hackford Road (November) and to the Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society (February). We ran stalls at the Local History Fair at West Norwood Library, and at Windmill Gardens in December.

PLANNING & REGENERATION

We share oversight of a high volume of local planning applications amongst our "virtual" planning sub-committee, but have aimed to bring the more prominent proposals to the Executive Committee for comment.

Annual Report 2023-24

The most challenging plans have been the Hondo tower in Popes Road and Council ambitions for the Tesco site in Acre Lane.

We have also commented on some wider policy issues, where we have benefitted from information from the London Forum, Lambeth Eco-Housing Group, the Centre for London and Global Action Plan.

NETWORKING

We keep in touch with a wide range of local groups, and we exchange newsletters with most nearby amenity societies.

We have continued to respond to e-mail enquiries from students, academics, media and family historians.

PUBLICATIONS:

We continue to add material to our website, which also acts as a gateway to all our publications. *(An analysis of sales forms a footnote to the accounts.)* Financial resources are sufficient for us to publish new titles, it is only time for the research which is in short supply.

After some uncertainty, our Newsletter has returned to regular quarterly issues with a new editor.

RESOURCES

MEMBERSHIP

Subscribing members are down a little at c.150, reflecting limited opportunities to attract or renew members in the past year.

As ever, we are grateful for “in kind” support from individual members including delivering most of our newsletters, staffing stalls, reporting back from a variety of meetings, and

other tasks which all help maintain the Society’s level of activity.

FINANCE

The annual accounts cover the year ended 31 March 2024: *(Figures appear on a separate page.)*

Subscriptions had been unchanged since the 2016 AGM, and the proposed modest changes were agreed.

LOOKING FORWARD

Here are some of the suggestions from the AGM:

Increase the number of talks or other open events to four a year, to encourage more members to take part in person. This should include a return to having a guest speaker or topic for annual general meetings.

Continue to offer local guided walks and occasional visits.

Set up a WhatsApp group to support wider discussions between meetings. Build up links with local campaign groups such as Action on ASB and Transition Town Brixton.

Continue to run stalls at local events, to make new contacts and recruit extra members. Work with local estate agents to reach people moving into the area.

Deal with most of the Town Planning casework outside the main committee meetings.

Alan Piper, Secretary

secretary@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Annual Report 2023-24

ACCOUNTS 2023-24

The Brixton Society - Accounts for year ending 31 March 2024

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Receipts		
Members' Subscriptions	1,038.00	1,125.00
Sale of Publications, etc	1,639.65	1,708.29
Donations	390.41	276.81
Postage	109.25	69.75
Bank Interest	82.16	8.96
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Nelly Roberts Plaques	0.00	752.13
London Festival of Architecture (LFA) via BID	250.00	0.00
Sub-Total	3,509.47	3,940.94
Refunds	-23.85	5.60
Discounts	-5.66	0.00
Zettle/Ebay/Paypal/Eventbrite fees	-107.91	-93.39
Receipts less discounts/refunds	<u>3,372.05</u>	<u>3,853.15</u>

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Expenditure		
Nelly Roberts Plaques	0.00	846.01
Donations +	302.00	0.00
Newsletter Production	325.00	420.00
Postage	209.95	205.92
Stationery	191.25	221.15
Publications - purchase	0.00	139.00
Publications - printing	280.00	0.00
Posters/Leaflets	9.83	15.36
Insurance Cost (general)	96.00	96.00
Subscriptions	68.00	68.00
Cost of Meetings	400.00	415.00
Website support	0.00	280.00
Equipment/Stall	0.00	0.00
Events	70.00	180.00
Catering/Refreshments	42.39	58.89
Website hosting	178.76	137.98
London Festival of Architecture (LFA)	250.85	0.00
Repayment to Archives*	273.80	262.60
Total Payment	<u>2,697.83</u>	<u>3,345.91</u>

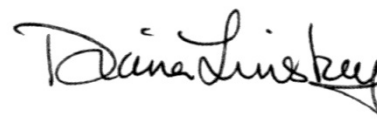
SUPLUS 674.22 507.24

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Details of Publications Sold		
Town Trails	16.50	13.50
Memories	20.97	29.94
Windrush Square	6.00	9.00
Effra - Lambeth's Underground River	13.50	27.00
Maps	21.00	48.00
Loughborough Road Stories	84.00	189.00
Postcards	106.50	234.00
History of Brixton	159.84	239.76
Brixton Boy WWII	22.41	9.96
Black British Celebration	9.00	20.00
Synagogue	17.43	17.43
Market Walk Tickets	308.00	303.00
Market Walk Books	240.00	222.00
Brixton & Stockwell in The Mirror	4.80	2.40
Henry Tate book	20.00	50.00
Brixton MPs	12.50	12.50
Archives Books*	278.70	267.30
Printed Xmas Cards 2023 stock	285.00	0.00
Xmas Cards (trial stock 2022)	13.50	13.50
	1,639.65	1,708.29
Less Discount	-5.66	0.00
	<u>1,633.99</u>	<u>1,708.29</u>

Balance Sheet	2023/24	2022/23
Opening	9028.09	8520.85
Surplus for year	674.22	507.24
Closing Balance	9702.31	9028.09
Represented By		
Current A/C	2476.36	1957.92
Deposit A/C	7136.95	7054.79
PayPal	89.00	15.38
	9702.31	9028.09

Notes to the accounts:
+ £300 Donation to Friends of Tate Library
*use of Zettle to assist Archives sales at History Fair.
(£278.70 minus £4.90 zettle fees.

A one off walk for Lancaster University bought in £110 (included in donations)
Grant in of £250 from London Festival of Architecture to hold an open meeting/talk.
Xmas cards sold covered the cost of printing and stock remains for sales in 2024.



Accounts prepared by Diana Linskey, Treasurer

2nd April 2024

Report of Independent examiner

I report on the accounts of the Brixton Society for the year ending 31/3/2024. My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met.

Name



Anthony Sullivan

Date

12th May 2024

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BRIXTON WINDMILL



Brixton Windmill is a unique historical mill in the heart of our community. Built in 1816, it is still milling flour, and runs tours for up to 160 visitors at its regular monthly open weekends. We are looking for volunteers with a strong interest in local history to take on the role of tour guide, interpreting the mill and its contents and ensuring the safety of visitors of all ages and abilities. Training is provided by our friendly team of experienced volunteer guides.



For further information contact: volunteers@brixtonwindmill.org

LAMBETH TOGETHER

Do you live in or use health and care service in Lambeth? Are you interested in improving health and wellbeing in our borough? Are you active in your local community? The Lambeth Together partnership is looking for two new Patient and Public Voice members to join the Board from September 2024.



For more information about the roles, how to apply and an invitation to an online information session visit: lambethtogether.net/public-voice

Closing date for applications is 24 July

BRIXTON SOCIETY

PLANNING

Interested in planning? Join the planning sub-committee and help manage discussions and submissions to planning applications.

ORGANISING

Could you organise rotas, ensure we have helpers available, organise stock and displays at events we attend?

Could you take on organising and publicising the occasional meeting with a speaker?

LOCAL HISTORY

Are you researching some aspect of Brixton? Would it make an article or a small booklet we could publish?

Contact: newsletter@brixtonsociety.org.uk

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Reading Volunteer roles at Doorstep Library



What does Doorstep Library do?

We are a community-focused charity dedicated to bringing the magic of books and the joy of reading directly into the homes of children, either in person or online, across London and beyond who need our support.

1 in 4 children are now going to secondary school unable to read properly and because we know that reading for pleasure helps broaden children's opportunities in life, we use books to fuel children's natural love of stories, fire their imaginations, and encourage their appreciation of reading.

We are a small yet connected charity who really care about making a difference in the world by narrowing the gap between those who can and can't read.

Watch our video to see what being a volunteer involves

We currently visit and support families on the Tulse Hill estate and St Martins estate with their reading and are looking for volunteers to join the teams there so together we can support more families!



Registered charity: 1158197

www.doorsteplibrary.org.uk



@doorsteplib



@doorstep-library



@doorsteplibrary



@doorsteplibrarynetwork

About the Brixton Society

Understanding the past, looking to the future
Member of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

Registered Charity No. 1059103
www.brixtonsociety.org.uk
✂ @BrixtonSociety

Contacts:

General Correspondence: secretary@brixtonsociety.org.uk
About the newsletter: newsletter@brixtonsociety.org.uk
Planning issues: planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk
Membership: membership@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Joining the society on-line: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk/join-us
Ordinary membership £10.00 per annum
Unwaged / over 60s £5.00 per annum
Corporate £25.00 per annum