

# The Brickworks Newsletter



December 2021

Number 10

Welcome to our December newsletter. At the time of writing, there is considerable uncertainty about the new Covid variant and the effect it might have on our everyday lives. If you are thinking of coming along to Brickworks for a class, or to use the computers, it might be an idea to check with us that everything's running normally.

Christmas is a time of goodwill, and after a second year of the pandemic, stocks seem to be running low. Loss of lives and livelihoods have left strong marks on the community. And while many have stepped forward to help the elderly, lonely and others in need, there remain deep differences in our attitudes to the virus and the vaccination.

The more sceptical are angered by talk of vaccine passports, compulsory jabs and the wearing of masks, which they see as threats to our civil liberties. It's easy for those on the other side of the fence to condemn this as ignorant and foolhardy. Some refusers may be hotheaded and dogmatic. But what of those who are driven by genuine doubts and anxiety? What's needed is a measure of understanding on both sides – and, dare I say it, goodwill.

Talking of which, I'd like to thank all those at Brickworks who have worked so tirelessly over the past year to get us to where we are today. You know who you are!

Finally, hope to see you at the candle-lit vigil we're planning after the break to remember those who have died during the pandemic. In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas.

Colin Adams, Director



Members of the Friday Lunch Club enjoying a day on a London canal boat back in September



Brickworks Community Centre

42 Crouch Hill, N4 4BY

[www.hanleycrouch.org.uk](http://www.hanleycrouch.org.uk) | 020 7263 1067 | [admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk](mailto:admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk)

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Brickworks now has its very own knitting and crochet group, which meets on Saturdays from 11 am to 1pm. Knitworks was launched by local office workers Janet Carruthers and Susan Henesy. 'After the last lockdown, there was a thirst for social interaction,' Janet says – and the weekly sessions, which are notable for a large amount of friendly conversation, clearly meet this need.



On December 18, Knitworks will be holding a seasonal 'fuddle' – a dialect word for celebration – so feel free to bring savoury snacks and mince pies along with your needles, crochet hooks and whatever project you're working on. (Pictures by Kathryn McGeary)



Glenda Daniel will be getting us in the mood for Christmas with one of her brilliant Tranquil Workshops, on December 18 from 1-4.30pm. There'll be music, dance, poetry and refreshments. Admission free.



Brickworks will be helping elderly residents with care packages of cake, chocolate, mince pies and other goodies. If you know of anyone who'd like one, please get in touch. Donations, either of festive food or cash, would be very welcome. We're also looking for toys, preferably new, for Stay and Play, children with special needs and the food bank.



We're delighted to announce that Brickworks, along with other members of the Octopus community network, has been nominated for a Queen's Award for Volunteering. The results will be announced next June.

Talking of volunteering, why not come and join us? A number of our projects, including Stay and Play and the Rooftop Garden, would appreciate extra help – ditto the food bank which, thanks to Harold, Chris and members of Mutual Aid, delivers to around 40 local households. If you have spare time – and a vehicle - do get in touch. You could also set up a group yourself...



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For the past year, Brickworks has been distributing free lateral flow test kits, masks and sanitiser. If you need any of these essentials, do stop by.



Janelle Oswald has taught yoga in Florida, Jamaica – and now north Islington. Her Brickworks classes cover all age groups, from toddlers to senior citizens, with Afrikan yoga (Wednesdays, 12 to 1pm), Ital clubs (Thursdays, 10.45-11.30am) and chair yoga (Fridays, 10.45-11.45). Music is an important part of the sessions. We all need stretching, no matter how old we are, says Janelle – one of her favourite pupils was 96.



Over 55 and free on Fridays? Our weekly Lunch Club provides not only a get-together and meal (for £3), but also the chance to sign up for a range of trips. Last year, club members went to the Museum of London and Sadler's Wells to see Singin' in the Rain, and, as shown on page one, had a day out on Regent's Canal. Next year's plans include a trip to the West End to see the Bob Marley musical.



Choir leader Rona Topaz is launching a Brickworks choir for those living with dementia. The group, which will meet on Mondays, is open to people of all ages (and their carers), and will cover everything from jazz to country, music hall and Abba. Music of any kind remains a powerful way of communicating, often after people have lost the ability to speak, says Rona, who cared for her mother, and sang with her, after she was diagnosed with dementia. Check our website for further details.



A huge thank-you to all those who have donated via our Go Fund Me page, which has raised more than £4,000, and to the local author who has kindly donated some of the proceeds from her new novel. Go Fund Me link: [shorturl.at/azTY1](https://shorturl.at/azTY1)



If you're worried about safety in the area, come and meet local police officers at our Community Engagement sessions on December 17 at 4-5pm; December 23, 12-1pm. The next Tollington Ward panel meeting will be held at Brickworks on the 17th, from 6.30-8.30pm. This is a good chance to discuss local concerns with Islington's community safety officer and to set priorities for the neighbourhood police team.



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The Community Centre, 76 Parkhurst Road, N7, is offering free courses for the unemployed or low-waged aged over 19. Contact: 07734 777 466; [adultlearning.islington.gov.uk](http://adultlearning.islington.gov.uk). To speak to a member of the team, go along to the enrolment days on January 5, 6 and 7, 9.30am-4pm. And if you need computer time, or free wi-fi, you'll find them at Brickworks.



Our new year plans include further work on the roof garden, starting with herb beds in the spring, and a possible series of talks, subjects and format to be decided. If you have any ideas, please get in touch.

Why junk your Christmas jumper when it could be swapped or customised? December 10 is Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Jumpers to spare? Time for some creative thinking...



### Christmas at Brickworks: opening times

*Monday to Friday, December 20-24: open 9am to 5pm;*

*Sat, Sun, Dec 25-26: closed;*

*Mon-Tues, Dec 27-28: closed;*

*Wed-Fri, Dec 29 to 31: open 8am to 5pm;*

*Sat, Jan 1: closed;*

*Mon, Jan 3: closed;*

*Tues, Jan 4: open 8am to 10pm (normal services resume).*



### Emergency contacts



Call the We are Islington helpline on 020 7527 8222 or minicom on 020 7527 1900. Lines are open every day from 9am to 5pm.

For British Sign Language (BSL), use [Signvideo](#). Lines are open Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm, Saturday from 9am to 1pm, Sunday closed.



You can also email: [weareislington@islington.gov.uk](mailto:weareislington@islington.gov.uk)



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## Regular activities and upcoming events

### Over 50s

- Lunch Group: Fridays, 1pm - 2:30pm

### Children's Services

- Stay & Play: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10am –12pm
- After School Club Play Scheme: Mondays to Fridays, 3pm – 6pm
- Holiday Play Scheme, Mondays to Fridays 8:30am – 6pm, from 26th July – 20th August
- Guides/Brownies/Rainbows: Monday 6.45pm – 8pm & Wednesdays 5pm – 7:30pm. For more information contact Luisa on [islingtonguides@gmail.com](mailto:islingtonguides@gmail.com)

### Food Bank

Food Bank opening times Monday- Wednesday 12-3pm

To be eligible you must complete a registration form, provide proof of address and proof of low income; If you are entitled, we provide one food bank per week. If you are unable to collect at the centre, we will do our best to have your food bag delivered to you.

### Dance Adventures

Style: Adult Ballet Class, Monday, Time: 7pm – 8pm

Style: Modern(8+), Wednesday, Time: 5:15pm – 6pm

Style: Ballet Class, (ages 4 – 7) Friday, Time: 4pm – 4.45pm

Style: Ballet Class (8+) Friday, Time: 5pm – 6pm

Style: Family Creative Dance, Friday 6:30pm – 7:30pm

For more information and booking please visit the website below.

<https://dance-adventures.com/>

### City Academy

Beginners Dance: Tuesday, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Singing: Tuesday, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Salsa: Tuesday, 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Ballroom Dance: Thursday, 6:30pm – 8:40pm

Please use the code: BRICKWORKSCA20 to get 20% off our courses at the centre (this excludes foundation courses and ongoing groups).

For more information and booking please visit the website below.

<https://www.city-academy.com/>

### Knitworks at the Brickworks

Feel ready to reconnect over crafting after lockdown?

Knit, crochet needlework meet-up group. Beginners welcome!

Every Saturdays, unless stated 11am – 1pm.

For any questions, please email us at: [knitworksatthebrickworks@gmail.com](mailto:knitworksatthebrickworks@gmail.com)

### Post Natal Pilates

Pilates is one of the best ways for pregnant and post-natal women to work out right up until birth and beyond. Post Natal Pilates class is on every Tuesday at 11am. Babies (and their prams!) are welcome. £12 per Class.

For more information and booking please visit the website below.

<https://www.liv-pilates.com>

### Other services:

· Blythwood Community Nursery: Mondays to Fridays, 8am-6pm. Day-care for children aged 18 months to four years.

020 7263 5070; [info@blythwoodcommunitynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@blythwoodcommunitynursery.co.uk)

· Palace for All: Drop-in, play and therapies for children with special needs. 020 7561 1689; [www.palaceforall.org.uk](http://www.palaceforall.org.uk)

· Special People: working with adults and children with special needs. 020 7686 0253; [www.specialpeople.org.uk](http://www.specialpeople.org.uk)

· Centre 404: Mondays to Fridays, 10am-3pm, is a charity that offers friendly, reliable and personal support for people with learning disability and their families in north London. 020 7607 8762; [centre404.org.uk](http://centre404.org.uk)



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