

# The Brickworks Newsletter



**April 2022**

**Number 13**

At Brickworks we talk a lot about community. Partly because - you guessed it – we are a community centre. But mostly because the idea of the community is so powerful. When the news is bad, which it certainly is at the moment, it's hard to find reasons to be inspired or cheerful. Our political leaders and other public figures are far from inspiring. The worst get all the attention while the good ones struggle to be heard.

So where do we find good people, someone we can look up to? My advice: forget the big picture, turn off the news and look around the neighbourhood. The amount of good work going on is extraordinary: food banks, local aid and mentoring schemes, church groups, people working with refugees, young people, senior citizens or those hit hardest by the today's difficult conditions.

One person who made an enormous impression locally was Sarah Roth, who died a couple of weeks ago. Sarah was known for her tireless work in the community, setting up local groups and creating the delightful garden off Grenville Road. We held a celebration of her life, at Brickworks on May 26 – and, as anyone who knew her would agree, it was a life well lived and well worth celebrating. *Colin Adams, Director*

We are currently drawing up plans for a Friends of Hanley Crouch scheme, to be launched in October, around the time of our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. The Friends will play an important part in helping to raise funds, organising events and working on various projects, such as the foodbank. We all need friends, and Hanley Crouch is no exception, so if you are interested, we'd like to hear from you.

Brickworks featured on BBC's News at Six at the end of the April, having been nominated for the corporation's Make a Difference Awards. The results will be announced in September. Fingers crossed...

June is a month of celebrations. Wednesday the 22nd is Windrush Day and Brickworks will be putting out the flags. We'll be serving lunch for some of the Windrush Elders and local schoolchildren. From 12 noon to 2pm, the celebrations will be open to all: refreshments will be served and there'll be a chance to meet our guests, including Emily Thornberry MP and Jay Blades, star of the BBC's Repair Shop.

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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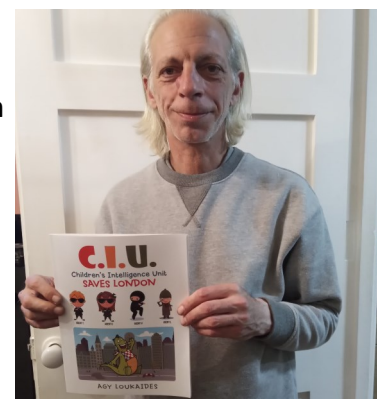
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Bunting will also be going up around the borough to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Octopus Community Plant Nursery has seed-sowing (June 4, 11am-1pm); on the same day there'll be local stories and the making of a community mosaic at Caxton House (12-6pm); and a Mad Hatter's tea party with live music at Mildmay Community Centre (2pm-6pm). At Brickworks, Glenda Daniel will be organising a jubilee parade along with music, poetry and a health and wellbeing session. The event takes place on June 25 from, 1-4pm. Entry free.

London faces a serious threat in a new children's book by Brickworks regular, Agy Loukaides. The danger comes from Monster Mike: 'Authorities advise all not to approach him as he is very big, very green, very bored and only slightly hungry as he is on a new diet.'

Agy, a postman at the Department for Education, started writing when a family member was briefly in prison. Agy sent him letters, supposedly written by the family cat, to cheer him up. In one letter, the cat organised an audacious prison escape. It was delivered without incident.

From there, Agy started on his book, basing the character of Monster Mike on his brother-in-law. 'He was quite chuffed,' he says.



A good read: Agy Loukaides with his new children's book

The CIU (Children's Investigation Unit) Saves London' is a lively adventure story with an important message. 'I wrote it for my grandchildren,' says Agy. 'I wanted to inspire them. If I can do something like this, then so can they.'

The book is available from [www.authorhouse](http://www.authorhouse).

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If you've been to our local station, Crouch Hill, lately, you'll have noticed a transformation on the northern platform where volunteers have been hard at work clearing and planting. The organisers, Energy Garden, are helping local communities set up renewable energy projects and gardens – so far they've transformed 34 London Overground platforms into thriving green spaces, using solar panels to fuel lighting and water pumps. If you're interested in volunteering, contact [anna@energygarden.org.uk](mailto:anna@energygarden.org.uk)

Energy Garden is also running a youth training programme in renewable energy: students will get a grounding in the green economy, through a mix of tutorials, meeting industry figures and instruction in green technology, including the setting up of solar panels. The course runs for 40 hours over the summer and is open to anyone aged between 16 and 19. Please send your CV to [sian@energygarden.org](mailto:sian@energygarden.org)



**The plant arriving at platform 1... volunteers at work with Energy Garden g.uk**

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After the two years of lock-down, it's good to see things returning to normal, or something like it. And what could be more normal than meeting up with people? As part of Islington Age UK's Let's Get Back Together Festival, Brickworks is hosting a chair-based yoga session followed by lunch, at 12.30pm on June 24. Elsewhere, there's a tour of the Arsenal stadium followed by afternoon tea (June 23) and a party at St Luke's Community Centre to celebrate Dame Esther Rantzen's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The organisers are promising food and a 'lively discussion'. For further information, ring 020 7281 6018 or go to [gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk](mailto:gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk)

Covid may be less in the news, but it's not gone away. If you have questions about the vaccine or are having trouble getting an injection go to [islington.gov.uk/covid-vaccinations](http://islington.gov.uk/covid-vaccinations) or ring 020 7527 8222.

Islington Carers' Hub is organising a week of social events designed to bring carers together and share information about the support that's available. The programme, which runs from June 6-11, includes yoga sessions, a picnic, informal get-togethers and line dancing. For details of dates and venues, go to [islingtoncarershub.org/carers-week-2002](http://islingtoncarershub.org/carers-week-2002) or ring 020 7281 6018/3319.

Need new specs? Style Opticians are offering free eye tests and glasses for children under 16 or students under 19; and free tests for the over-60s and diabetics. 135B Stroud Green Road; tel 020 7561 1300; email: [info@styleopticians.com](mailto:info@styleopticians.com)

The trees are in leaf, the blossoms are out. That can only mean one thing: it's time for Islington in Bloom. The competition is open to individuals and groups and the organisers are interested in a range of gardens, from edible and vegetable to ones that attract wildlife or are suited to dry conditions. To enter, send two photos of your garden plus name, telephone number and address, to [inbloom@islington.gov.uk](mailto:inbloom@islington.gov.uk) by Monday, July 4. Prizes include vouchers and bags of compost.

Want to hold a meeting, plan an event or run a class? We can help. Our main hall holds 120, seated; and we have smaller spaces for hire at reasonable rates.

One of the events coming up is a celebration of James Joyce's Ulysses, put together by Brickworks volunteer Chris Howe. The evening combines readings from the book, with the live music, and takes place on June 17. More information from [chrisxhowe@gmail.com](mailto:chrisxhowe@gmail.com)

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