



Zumba Gold at our Great Get Together Tea Party



THE SEASON OF GOODWILL

Brickworks will be starting its celebrations with an afternoon party on December 14. It's organised by Glenda Daniel and will feature music, poetry, dance and much more besides.

December 18 sees the unveiling of our very own Christmas window. This is part of the Living Advent Calendar project which encourages people to decorate one of their windows: these are then 'opened', day by day, on the dot of 6.30pm, just like a traditional paper calendar, while people gather round, socialising.

A number of local households will be taking part, along with schools, churches, delis, bars and community hubs. A list of the window locations can be found on flyers being posted around the neighbourhood, and on Facebook. To take part (there are three dates left) email Julia, the organiser, on juliakirbysmith@gmail.com. And do come and visit ours...

The New Year is traditionally the time to shake things up. And what better way to shake them up than by dancing? Brickworks can help out with salsa classes run by Gabriela Montgomery-Solano and starting at the end of January.

In February, we'll be kicking off a new season of dance workshops in conjunction with Sadler's Wells dance company – and hosting a gig by the Papas and Mamas, a band made up of Ashmount School parents. Sean Gregory, one of the Papas, is leading an exciting new programme to increase the amount of music-making in Islington. More about these initiatives on page 3.

And don't forget the Brickworks AGM, which takes place in February.

WHAT'S ON

Winter songs, carols and a Christmas quiz at Caxton House Community Centre, St John's Way, from 6pm on December 13.

The Hillrise Christmas Fayre starts at 1pm on December 14 at Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association in Hazellville Road.

The Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association is hosting a Christmas lunch (£5 a head) on the 21st.

Pantomime: Dick Whittington and his Cat at the Hackney Empire stars the brilliant Clive Rowe. Ends Jan 5.

Inside

We talk to Patrick Green of the Ben Kinsella Trust; music and dance on our doorsteps; and My Brickworks

Useful contacts

The Ben Kinsella Trust,
www.benkinsella.org.uk;
Childline, 0800 1111
Crime stoppers, 0800
555 111
Knife-free
www.knifefree.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING AT CHRISTMAS

Here are some ways of helping out over the next few weeks:

Voluntary Action Islington: volunteering projects throughout the borough - and not just at Christmas. Contact: www.vai.org.uk

Crisis at Christmas is looking for people to help with cooking, sport, IT – and just listening. Contact: crisis.org.uk

Time Bank and Do-It: give details of volunteering opportunities in your area.

The Basket Brigade delivers Christmas hampers. www.basketbrigade.org.uk

Shelter from the Storm: needs volunteers for its free homeless shelter in Islington. sfts.org.uk/volunteer/

Team London: volunteering opportunities all the year round. www.london.gov.uk

KNIFE CRIME: a challenge to us all

‘I’m a single mother. We live locally. I worry every time my child goes out, even to the shops.’

This is one woman at Brickworks, talking about knife crime. But her concerns are shared by people across the country — and backed up by the statistics. The number of incidents recorded by police on Britain’s streets involving knives or sharp instruments reached 40,829 last year; this year, at least 40 people have been fatally stabbed in Britain: at least 10 were teenagers; the rest, mostly young men aged between 18 and 24.

The reasons for the increasing use of knives are many and complicated. High among them are the closure of youth centres and the number of children excluded by schools and left wandering the streets.

‘Poverty has always been here,’ James Gwilt, a former offender, told the Guardian. ‘But now it really feels like a generation are having upbringings without any love. When me and my friends were in that life we still had good upbringings. Nan was in the kitchen preparing a meal. Now she’s probably on Facebook.’

The Ben Kinsella Trust aims to educate young people about knife crime and to challenge their beliefs, using games, puzzles and questionnaires. Since its foundation in 2008, 16,000 children have taken part.

Patrick Green, the chief executive, says: ‘The main lesson that children leave with is: “I won’t carry a knife, and I won’t let you carry a knife – or be friends with you if you do carry one”.’

What are the politicians doing to improve matters? ‘In the election, nothing was mentioned about knife crime. If the voting age was lowered to 15 or 16, this would be one of the big questions. Knife crime is one of the top three issues for this age group, according to the UK Youth Parliament.’

A better place to look for answers may be Scotland, where the authorities have adopted a ‘public health’ approach - treating violent crime as an illness that needs early recognition and treatment. At the same time, prison sentences for those convicted have been increased. The results have been dramatic. In 2017, 49 teenagers were killed by knives in England and Wales; the figure in Scotland was zero.

London has adopted a similar approach with the setting up of the Violence Reduction Unit, which will co-ordinate the efforts of police, health care and local communities in tackling violent crime.

But what can we do individually? Patrick Green talks about providing positive role models and activities, from boxing to football and art. The shutting down of youth centres has been disastrous – depriving young people of contact with role models and mentors and making them easy recruits for local gangs.

‘One person who came through all this said: “It’s because someone somewhere believed in me and understood me.”

‘It’s a challenge to us all, to make sure young people are engaged, that we don’t end up alienating young people. We all have an important role to play in connecting with young people.

‘Our message is: “No interaction is wasted”. It may seem like you’re getting a hostile response. But never underestimate the effect of what you say or do.’

Brickworks & Me



Joan Edwards is a support worker for Centre 404

We meet at Brickworks, with our six service users, every day until 3pm.

My job involves setting up various activities, supporting people to help them feel part of society, encouraging them to take part in various activities – from cooking and shopping to zumba, pedal power and wheelchair ice-skating.

I've been doing this job for 11 years; five years with Centre 404. Before that, I was working in the same role, working with people with disabilities in their own homes.

High points: when the service users achieve their goals, whether big or small. I remember one young woman wasn't able to communicate effectively ►

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music Education Islington has three aims: to give every child in the borough access to a musical instrument; to encourage performance skills, in all age groups; and to give children one cultural experience a year, whether it's a trip to the ballet, a concert or a play.

The project, which starts in the new year, is run by the Barbican and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in conjunction with Islington Council. Local community centres will be scene of workshops, training sessions and performances — and Brickworks will be part of this.

The director of the programme is Sean Gregory, who lives in Stroud Green and will be playing with his band, the Papas and Mamas, at Brickworks in February. More details in our next newsletter.

ANYONE DANCING?

Last year the Sadler's Wells dance company came to Brickworks for a series of workshops. One of the highlights was the Bollywood show, which was later staged at the company's theatre in Rosebery Avenue, the Islington Assembly Halls and at our own St Patrick's Day celebrations. More workshops are planned between February and June.

If you'd like to see a Sadler's Wells show, the company is offering £3 tickets to people on low incomes as part of its Get into Dance scheme. And on January 31, it'll be offering free tickets to 'Sampled' – a fascinating display of ballet, hip-hop, Bollywood and other forms.

For further information about Get into Dance, or to go along to 'Sampled', please speak to Caroline Healy at Brickworks.

EVERYBODY SALSA

Gabriela Montgomery-Solano talks about bringing salsa to Brickworks.

What is the attraction of dance? Dance is a wonderful activity. It's good for fitness, posture and mobility. Salsa, in particular, is a beautiful music with beautiful rhythms.

What if I can't dance? Everyone can dance! Especially men. Although at first they find salsa off-putting: you need an extra wiggly-ness in your hips and shoulders, so men tend to see it as feminine. But there's a different way of dancing it in Cuba, which is very masculine, and I'll be teaching that. Men shouldn't shy away from it.

How will your classes work? We'll start off sitting down, doing the foot movements. Then people can stand up if they feel confident. Wheelchair users are welcome. Everyone is given cloths, which are an important part of Cuban dance (as well as being very colourful): the women use them to 'dust off' the men, to shoo them away.

What are the other attractions? There's an important social aspect, which makes it important for people with Downs syndrome or autism. I've also been getting referrals from GPs. Rather than prescribe drugs, they are now sending people along for dance classes as a healthier alternative. It makes perfect sense.

Gabriela's salsa classes start on January 20 and cost £5 a session.

Brickworks & Me

Joan Edwards, continued

- she had very limited speech: she used to get very frustrated and lash out. We had to find the reasons for that. Using flash cards, body language and sensories – slow music, bead shaking – we were able to calm her down and help her to communicate: ‘OK, I’ve been heard; this is what I like.’

Another example: a person knew nothing about cooking. We encouraged her to use the facilities, to cook, to learn about money – going to the shops, making choices. She can do all that now. And her cooking is getting there... The great thing is seeing what people have achieved at Centre 404.

The downside: you have to keep your eye on the ball, to let everyone know what is happening, so no one is in any doubt.

Spare time: I like leisure, meeting people, going to parties. I’m an Islingtonian, born and bred. I went to Montem Primary School then George Orwell. My two children were born at the Whittington, and went to the Laundry Club. I’m proper old school!

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02072630167
admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk
www.hanleycrouch.org.uk

Regular activities and upcoming events



Weekender's' outing

Fitness Activities

- Boxercise: Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7:30pm
- Zumba Gold: Fridays, 11:30am - 12:30pm
- Wiggle Beats: Thursdays, 11:30am - 12pm
- Post—Natal Pilates: Tuesdays 11am—12pm

Over 50s

- Lunch Group: Fridays, 1pm - 2:30pm
- Indoor Bowls: Fridays, 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Arts & Crafts: Mondays, 11am - 1pm

Children's Services

- Stay & Play: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10am – 12pm
- After School Club & Holiday Play Scheme 3pm– 6pm

Health & Wellbeing

- Christmas Party: Saturday 14th December 2019 1pm—4pm

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
- Palace for All: Mondays to Thursdays, 12.30pm-6pm. Drop-in, play and therapies for children with special needs. 020 7561 1689; www.palaceforall.org.uk
- Special People: working with adults and children with special needs. 020 7686 0253; www.specialpeople.org.uk

Brickworks Newsletter: please send us your contributions, ideas and suggestions. The deadline for the next issue is February 25. Email chrisxhowe@gmail.com.