



# The Brickworks Newsletter

December 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 1



Brickworks Community Centre



Welcome to Hanley Crouch’s first newsletter since our move to Brickworks Community Centre.

As part of the council’s redevelopment plans for the area, we have moved to a new, purpose-built community centre. This includes 23 flats with priority for local residents.

We are keen to encourage local people to get involved in the development of our services and public events and to suggest activities they feel would be of benefit to the wider community. We would love to make this a place to meet friends and contribute to community life and inspire others. We are a multipurpose community centre aiming to provide more services for the community and increase the possibility for community engagement, support and development.

Brickworks and Islington council are arranging a local business event in January to help support the local community. To find out more, please pop in and talk to any of the staff or contact us via [admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk](mailto:admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk) or 020 7263 1067.

Sally Sturgeon, Chair of Trustees



Brickworks Community Centre launch in January, with Brian Heywood and daughter Jackie

### Inside this issue

- Brickworks in the Community .....2
- In the Neighbourhood: Brian Heywood.....3-5
- Regular Activities.....6
- Upcoming Events .....6



## Christmas is coming

Brickworks ' Christmas party takes place on December 14, from 1 to 4.30pm. Organised by Glenda Daniel, the party has something for everyone, from a jazz band to a performance by singer Scarlet Neville, poetry readings, games, a raffle and a buffet. Entry is free. See you there...

Other local events include:

Hillrise Christmas Fayre, with stalls, arts and crafts, line dancing, bingo— and Santa, on December 8, 1-4pm; Hazellville Road, N19.

Hornsey Land Estate Community Centre is also organising a Christmas party on December 20, and, on December 13, a candle-making workshop.

Christmas Make and Take, stalls and fun, takes place at St Andrews Church, Whitehall Park, N19 on December 1, 1.30-4pm. It is followed by carols by laserlight, 4.30-5.15pm.

There will be more winter songs and carols, this time at Caxton House Community Centre, 129 St John's Way, N19, on December 14, 5-6pm. Local groups and choirs will be taking part and there will be refreshments plus free glow sticks for the children.

# Brickworks in the Community

A message from Colin Adams MBE, centre manager

There are two Stroud Greens. There's the daytime economy: people without money or work, just scraping by. At night, you have people in the bars and restaurants. A different world.

Stroud Green faces an acute shortage of affordable housing and jobs – particularly for the young. There is a danger that London will become like Manhattan, as our children are forced out by high property prices. Only rich people will be able to live here.

A grim prospect, but there are some grounds for optimism, particularly in the number of voluntary groups supported by the local council.

Brickworks is one of them and we've also managed to obtain funding from central Government to support residents who want to make a difference and run community projects they feel are needed in the local area. The project is called Place Based Social Action; for more information, contact me via email ([colin.adams@hanleycrouch.org.uk](mailto:colin.adams@hanleycrouch.org.uk)) or ring 0207 263 1067.

The best way out of poverty and low attainment remains education. We're not just talking about exam results, but social education: the ability to talk, to communicate, to engage with others. We can help with that, but not on our own.

Volunteers are vital to our work, to help provide these skills.

If you would like to volunteer or help in any way, email:

[admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk](mailto:admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk) or just look at our website to find out more.



Jeremy Corbyn attending the Brickworks launch, with Councillor Richard Watts (left) and Islington mayor Una O'Halloran





*'After the explosion, our kitchen ceiling came down. We were having tea at the time and sat at the table covered in plaster and dust, like snowmen'*

## In the neighbourhood: Brian Heywood



Brian and his wife, Marie. At Brickworks, he has started a small garden in her memory. If you would like to plant a shrub in memory of a loved one, please get in touch as soon as possible: space is limited.



Brian was born in 1934 and has lived in this area all his life. After leaving school, he worked in the newspaper business for three years, before joining the RAF in 1952. He then joined John Menzies, and rose to the position of news manager. He retired in 1996.

**Earliest memories:** I lived in Ellingborough Road (now part of the Marlborough Road estate), then in Almington Street. My earliest memory was of being taken to hospital in an ambulance when I was two - I had a carbuncle on my arm. The nurse said: 'Crystal Palace is burning' [it was destroyed by fire in 1936].

Three years later, I was standing on the pavement outside our house. I was looking at my mother crying: it was the day war broke out.

At the end of Almington Street, there was a barrage balloon site – where the Islington School of Arts and Media now stands. The balloons, which were filled with gas, were sent up to stop German bombers from flying low. There were thousands of them across London, each attached to the ground by a thick cable. The one at the end of our road crashed into a chimney when it was being brought down, exploded and demolished two houses; our kitchen ceiling came down. We were having tea at the time and sat at the table covered in plaster and dust like snowmen.

The balloon site then became a Prisoner of War camp. It consisted of four or five huts and housed Italian prisoners for the early part of the war. I used to go and watch them cooking spaghetti. They'd roll it out like a Swiss Roll and chop it into strips. You could go in quite freely and wander around: I used it as a playground. After that, the German prisoners came in and they'd be walking up the road with shopping bags and a yellow circle in their middle of their backs, to show they were Prisoners of War.

I was evacuated three times, which was unusual – coming back each time when the worst seemed to be over, before being sent away again. The last family I went to lived in Blackpool. They were fantastic. One of the daughters was a cinema usherette and she used to get me in for nothing.

My Aunt Daisy was in Finsbury Park one day, saw a fighter plane flying over and waved at it, thinking it was a Spitfire. In fact it was a German plane. People ran for their lives when they realised, with bullets smashing into the lake. **School sports:** I went to Tollington Park Central (now Islington Arts and Media). The school was known locally as Tolly Park, and because its initials were TPC, we became the Tin Pot Cleaners. Later it was renamed Tollington Park School, so the pupils became Tin Pot Scrapers.

I was a keen athlete, winning the high jump at the London Schools championships in 1949, and then representing London in the All England Schools championships: I came level second. I was also a keen footballer and carried on playing for years after that. I played my last game in the North London Sunday League at the age of 39. I became an Arsenal fan early on and would wait outside the old stadium to collect autographs. I remember in 1948 a car pulling up and Denis Compton, who played cricket for England and football for Arsenal, getting out. There were stumps in the back: he'd just come from playing Australia at the Oval.

I got to know his brother, Les – Big Les – who opened a pub in the Hornsey Road: the Hanley Arms, now a mosque.

I had a seat at Arsenal until 1995 – right behind the TV cameras. I don't go any longer but I'm still a fan: once a Gooner...

**Crouch Hill:** Stroud Green wasn't a place I knew in my early days. We were nearer Hornsey Road. I didn't go to Crouch End until my teens.

I met my wife, Marie, in the 1950s. We got together on New Year's Eve, 1957, and married a year later. We lived in Almington Street. In the 1970s, we moved to Ilex House, where we lived for 40 years. Marie, who worked as a home help, used to pass the block every day. She said: 'I wouldn't like to live there. It looks horrible.' She didn't want to move. She knew everyone around Almington Street. She was a right London girl...

When we moved in, it was like a paradise. Our two girls rushed into the bathroom: it was the first time they'd had a bathroom or their own bedrooms. In Almington Street, we had two upstairs rooms, with water on the first floor landing. You'd go down with a carrier – and do all your cooking on the landing as well. We didn't have a sink, just a bowl with water.

**Community action:** I was chair of the Ilex House Tenants Residents' Association for six years. We had our own office and hall – Ivy Hall. But the association is now 'non-operative' because there's no-one left to run it. The Holly Park Estate has been de-recognised by the council. I find this very upsetting. We're trying to get the associations going again.

**Local life:** there've been lots of changes in the area, but they all wash over me.

My wife played a huge part in local life. She died last year. She'd talk to everyone. She got on so well with people. She'd be off to Tesco. An hour later, she'd still be at the bus stop, talking to people. If I got upset about anything in the area, Marie used to say: 'Calm down. Is it doing you any harm?'

I accept Stroud Green as it is, take people as they are and try to get on with everyone.

**Future plans:** I've got nothing on my bucket list. My wife always said I was a bit docile – but that wasn't the word she used!



## **Brickworks and beyond**

**Meeting place:** the Brickworks community café, open Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 2.30pm, has free wi-fi along with a range of drinks and snacks, from teas and coffees to full lunchtime menus, cakes and sandwiches.

**Start up a business:** we are planning a series of drop-ins starting in December, to teach basic business skills. Further details on the website.

If you want to learn computer skills, try Caxton House's IT drop-ins: Tuesdays, 1.30pm, 129 St John's Way.

**Food bank:** thanks to Tesco for providing free fruit and pastries. These are available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Looking for a venue? Brickworks is the place. Contact us for details of room hire and rates.

Meet local councillors and have your say at Tollington Ward Partnership community event, Brickworks, Feb 2, 12-5pm

More info on our website.



## Green spaces

One of Brickworks' hidden treasures is its rooftop garden, on the second floor. A large area, paved with brick, it has four raised beds, planted with flowers, shrubs, herbs and vegetables: this year was particularly good for runner beans, lettuce and sweet corn, while the sunflowers reached new heights.

The beds are looked after by four groups: Stay and Play; the After School Club; Palace for All; and Blythwood Nursery.

There is also a beautiful memorial plot, set up by Brian Heywood in memory of his wife, Marie, which is filled with colour even on the darkest winter day. If you would like to plant something in memory of a loved



one, please get in touch; don't leave it too late, though, as space is limited.

Brian does a lot of work on the garden. And every three weeks, Hilary from Urban Wild Places works with a small group of enthusiasts. Their next session is on Friday, November 23. If you would like to join them and start exercising your green fingers, do get in touch. The roof garden needs you.





## Regular activities and upcoming events

### Have your say

*Me and my partner have been coming to Stay & Play with our two-year-old son. He loves our activities, which have helped to improve his overall mobility and development: he now engages with other children and really loves the age-appropriate activities provided by the Stay & Play staff*

ANDREW



Stay & Play, London Zoo

Brickworks Community Centre,  
42 Crouch Hill N4 4BY.  
020 7263 1067  
admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk  
www.hanleycrouch.org.uk

### Fitness Activities

- Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm & Fridays 6:30pm–7:30pm
- Boxercise: Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7:30pm
- Zumba Gold: Fridays, 11:30am - 12:30pm
- Wiggle Beats: Thursdays, 11:30am - 12pm
- Feldenkrais Method: 9:30am –11am
- Pilates, starting January 23

### 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
- Arsenal Double Club: Saturdays 10am -11:30am

### Health & Wellbeing

- Tranquil Health & Wellbeing Workshops: Friday 14th December 2018 1– 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 January 5, 2019**

