



Brickworks' Tranquil Workshop, held last month and organised by Glenda Daniel (at the back)

Welcome to the latest edition of Brickworks News. We'll be looking at community safety, with the help of two people closely involved in the problem, and asking how safe we are on our streets; highlighting a novel way to combat air pollution (and have fun at the same time); and suggesting ways of getting out and about in the coming months.

One of the best ways, of course, is to visit Brickworks, where we're launching a number of new programmes, among them salsa classes run by Gabi Solano and exercise sessions aimed at people with disabilities.

Black History Month is with us again, with events across Britain. Brickworks will be marking the occasion with a cultural evening on October 12 and a further event on October 22. Hope to see you there.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for outdoor types to help with the Brickworks rooftop garden. Please contact Caroline if you're interested.

Our community cafe also needs a volunteer. Training will be provided, so this will be a good chance not only to help in the community but also to gain useful experience in catering and food hygiene.

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IF YOU SEE A CRIME...

Make an anonymous report or pass on intelligence anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online via www.met.police.uk/report

If you are worried about a child or young person, please contact Islington's Children's Services Contact Team on 020 7527 7400 or email csc-treferrals@islington.gov.uk

Report antisocial behaviour (ASB) to the council's ASB line: call 020 7527 7272 or visit www.islington.gov.uk/reportASB

Criminal incidents should be reported to the police. Call 999 in an emergency. Call 101 in a non-emergency. Without reports from the community, it is much harder for the police to act.

If you see someone sleeping rough, call Streetlink on 0300 500 0914

Another way you can help is by attending your local neighbourhood police team's regular ward panel meeting to discuss your concerns and to find out more about what they are doing in your area.

HATE CRIME

This year's National Hate Crime Awareness Week kicks off with a service in St Paul's Cathedral on October 13. For up-to-date information on the week's activities, please go to the Brickworks website.

HOW SAFE IS OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

In June, representatives of the police, the local council and community groups met at Finsbury Park mosque to discuss community safety, crime in the borough and ways of reducing it.

Drugs and drug-related violence were high on the agenda – Finsbury Park is a particular hot-spot - along with new strategies for a police force that has suffered severe cuts in funding: Islington has lost 300 of its 900-strong force since 2010.

It's hard to overstate the effect that crime has on people's lives or the anxiety that it creates. But there are some glimmers of hope. Roger D'Elia, chair of the Islington Safer Neighbourhood Board, explains that over the past year, Islington has seen a drop in the number of notifiable crimes: down 11 per cent overall at a time when other boroughs' crime rates are rising.

He puts this down to 'the police getting their act together' under an experienced new chief-superintendent, Raj Kohli, after a period in which two policemen came and went (Islington had four in quick succession).

'There's a new management style; it's more about self-responsibility, more inclusive and less top-down,' he explains.

Recent successes include the closure of a number of crack houses and a 68 per cent reduction in moped crime over the past year, a result of 'clever new police tactics'.

Drugs are a key problem, with London gangs now running well established, highly profitable operations. There is no easy solution. Leading gang members towards legal business activities, or imposing economic sanctions are among the possible answers. But Roger sees little point in legalising drugs. 'It'll simply drive the problem underground,' he says.

One of the borough's main strengths is the close relationship that has been built up between the Safer Islington Partnership - mainly the police and local council - and local voluntary and community groups.

Matthew Bunce has been a member of the council's Community Safety Team for more than three years. The team respond to local problems by providing a better understanding of what's involved and then working out a joined-up response. They also help to support vulnerable people, work to create safer places in Islington and to reduce youth and hate crime.

Rates of knife crime have fallen slightly in Islington over the past year, but the problem persists: 'Broadly speaking, people carry knives for three reasons: for protection, to facilitate crime or to gain respect in their community or among peers.'

Matthew and Roger agree that a knife offers a false sense of security: a person carrying a knife is far more likely to have it used against them. 'It is also important to understand that it's not just young people who carry knives,' says Matthew. That is why the Safer Islington Partnership is working with voluntary and community organisations, the youth council, businesses and schools to find better ways of approaching the problem.

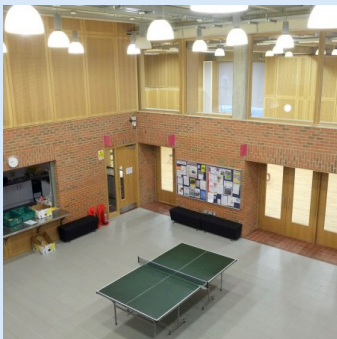
What part can we, the residents, play?

'If you suspect a crime, report it,' says Roger. 'If you see a child at risk, for goodness' sake, report it. If it was your kid, would you stand by and do nothing? The police alone can't stop crime. They need the community alongside.'

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

One group keen to keep the season going is Islington's Street Cricket Project, which meets weekly at the Sobell Leisure Centre. The award-winning project is run by Mikey Thompson, the 'godfather of inner-city cricket' who offers lessons to boys and girls of all levels of experience. He is now working to get government funding to take cricket into young offenders' institutions, as a way of keeping them away from a life of crime.

Table Tennis: Holly Park is holding regular sessions at the Methodist Church Hall, Crouch Hill, every Friday from 7-9pm. Further information from John on 07787879709.



Smokeless zone: if you're keen to give up smoking, contact the Hornsey Lane Estate Community Centre, which runs a free clinic on Fridays, from 10am to 12pm. Call: 0203 633 2609.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

London will be celebrating Black History Month with, among other things, a Black Girl Fest on October 12, showcasing live performance, talks and workshops, and, on September 15, a guided tour around African and Caribbean Islington, which spotlights such epic figures as Lenin (and his links with the Notting Hill Carnival); Paul Robeson; and Pablo Fanque, the black circus owner name-checked on the Beatles 'Sgt Pepper' album. Tickets £10/£5 via www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Brickworks will be joining the celebrations with a cultural event, including fashion and music, organised by Glenda Daniel on October 12. This is followed, on October 22, by The Black Curriculum: A Practice of Freedom, which looks at black history and the way it is taught (and should be taught). The event, which is organised by Every Voice, starts at 6pm.

CLEAN AND GREEN

The first official World Car Free Day (September 22) was launched in 2000, with the aim of taking traffic off the roads and cutting pollution. In Bogota and Jakarta, cars disappeared from central areas as the streets filled with walkers, runners and people enjoying a new-found freedom.

London is now firmly on board: this year 12 miles of road will be closed, mostly around London Bridge, Tower Bridge and the City. Islington residents have two options: close their streets for the day and host a get-together of some kind (applications must be in by September 9; www.islingtonlife.london/carfreeday) or join the party at someone else's: St John's Street, maybe, which promises a giant get-together. But do leave your car at home.

HOMELESS IN ISLINGTON

Our June issue looked at the steps being taken to combat homelessness in Islington. The project continues with Streets Fest, a major event for homeless people, which is taking place in Finsbury Park on September 10.

The festival offers advice on health and wellbeing, alongside housing, employment, education and training. The organisers (Streets Kitchen and Islington and Haringey Councils) promise a 'fun setting' with live music and food stalls.

Streets Fest runs from 2-8pm near the Manor House park entrance. If you'd like to help out, contact: Jon@StreetsKitchen.org

A WALK IN THE PARK

Islington suffers from a shortage of green space - apparently it has the least amount per person of any British borough - so all the more reason to make use of what we do have.

Finsbury Park is a good place to start, with Sunday morning runs via the Tigger London group (07720 849650 for details) plus the chance to get your dog into equally good shape at Alpha Dog training (0208 809 6762).

In Haringey, Alexandra Palace offers a range of outdoor activities: bug hunts, bird watching, bat walks, conservation - along with Walking for Health sessions and a 5km park run on Saturdays. There's also a chance to work on the butterfly garden: meet at the North View Road entrance 10am, September 27.

For further details, google Friends of Alexandra Park.



MY BRICKWORKS

Caroline Healy studied sociology, psychology and IT before joining Hanley Crouch as a volunteer in late 2013. For the past year and a half she has been a staff member at Brickworks, where she is responsible for administration and reception.

Brickworks suits me because I meet a diverse range of people, from all backgrounds and age groups - two year olds to people in their 60s. There's always something new going on; no two days are the same. And you get to meet a lot of characters.

We're important to the community because we offer a range of services, from Stay & Play to health and wellbeing activities and you always will be greeted with a friendly face.

Working with the over-50s is a high point for me. We've been on loads of outings: to see the Tina Turner musical, a trip to the V&A and Kenwood; and bowling. One of the group's favourites was a brunch at Jacksons Lane, where we were entertained by a drag queen called Topsy. We all loved it!

Looking forward, I think there needs to be more done for hard to reach people like those who are isolated in the community. In addition, for those who are having problems getting back into work, it can be a nightmare, particularly when they do not know what is expected of them. Also, there could be more services for young people - as a parent myself I know how difficult it is out there.

Regular activities and upcoming events

Fitness Activities

- Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm
- Boxercise: Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7:30pm
- Zumba Gold: Fridays, 12am - 1pm
- Wiggle Beats: Thursdays, 11:30am - 12pm
- Boot Camp: Contact Jazz 07752 385 307

Over 50s

- Lunch Group: Fridays, 1pm - 2:30pm
- Indoor Bowls: Fridays, 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Arts & Crafts: Mondays, 11am - 1pm
- Flower Arranging: Last Saturday at the month, 10am—1pm.

Children's Services

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

Health & Wellbeing

- Tranquil Health & Wellbeing Workshops: once a month (October)

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

Hall/Room Hire:

We are hire out our hall and rooms, for information regarding this please contact admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk/020 7263 0167.

Details of our services get updated regularly on our website: www.hanleycrouch.org.uk

Brickworks Newsletter: please send us your contributions, ideas and suggestions. The deadline for the next issue is November 15. Email chrisxhowe@gmail.com.