



Lambeth's  
winning  
architecture

PAGE 3



Lambeth Libraries  
5th Readers and  
Writers Festival  
launches

PAGES 4 & 5



The Gaia  
Centre  
for women  
celebrates award  
win

PAGES 8 & 9

# lambeth life

Delivered free every fortnight to 136,000 homes and businesses in Lambeth

1 May 2008 • Issue 46

[www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)

London's most improved council 2008



Norwood's Xquisite Allstars celebrate after winning 3rd place in their first national cheerleading championship competition. Page 15

## Hi-tech war on benefit fraudsters

Scam busting technology piloted by Lambeth Council has prevented £450,000 in possible benefit fraud and helped those genuinely in need access an extra £210,000.

The project is run in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Capita. Voice Risk Analysis (VRA), the technology on which the scheme is based, is used during phone calls and picks up minute changes in the voice, which can indicate when people are lying. Benefits staff can then make further checks to see if claims need investigation.

"Lambeth has a clear and tough policy of zero-tolerance of fraud," said divisional director for revenues and benefits David Ashmore. "We have a strong and multi-faceted counter fraud strategy. This cutting edge technology is another weapon in our armoury."

But, he explained, the VRA also works in favour of claimants who are not aware of their full entitlement.

"Underclaiming is quite common, especially as people's circumstances change. We use the system to quickly help those

who are entitled to more. When their details have been verified, we can get assistance to them, often within a matter of days."

While operating VRA over the last five months, 2,000 residents were telephoned by benefits staff who explained how the initiative worked, stressing its voluntary nature.

Of these, 47 refused to take part. Another 275 were considered unsuitable, either because of language issues or because they were regarded as vulnerable. All of these were then checked in the traditional way.

A further 261 customers were helped to boost their benefits, while 377 had benefits stopped or decreased.

The benefits system is designed to help those people who are genuinely in need. People who claim benefits under false pretences are essentially stealing from the public purse, and the council estimates the cost in the region of £80 per household.

Residents who know a benefit cheat should call the Lambeth fraud hotline in confidence 020 7926 1111.

What's On: Celebrate 40 years of British blues with Mick Taylor at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, watch Jane Horrocks in Brecht's classic *The Good Soul of Szechuan* at the Young Vic and change your life in a day at Morley College. PAGES 12 & 13.





**The Lambeth life editor**  
on why she wants to hear from  
readers.

## Editor's note

by Ella Cope

WELCOME to the ninth edition of the new-look Lambeth life. Before the return of Lambeth Council's leader's column in the next issue, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to the latest issue and to ask you for your ideas as we develop the newspaper.

Inside this issue you'll find a host of literary events taking place throughout May in the ever popular Readers and Writers festival, plus an interview with esteemed local author Alex Wheatle. We also look at the hidden menace of domestic violence and share experiences of victims who have found support from the borough's award winning Gaia centre. It's a birthday and anniversary special too, with many happy returns going to Brixton Cycles Co-op who've been pedalling for the community after 25 years and the North Street Potters who reach the ripe age of 30 this month. I hope that you enjoy it.

In the new year, we refreshed the design and increased the frequency of the publication, so by now you should be familiar with the newspaper style and format. Over the coming months we will continue to refine and develop its contents to give you more local news insights, event listings, business, sport and letters as well as interviews with the great and the good in Lambeth.

None of this can be achieved without feedback from you – our readers, so if there is something specific that you would like to see, or if you have a view and opinion you'd like to share, you can write or call in. With your input we hope that we can make Lambeth life your must-read source of local information.

### Are you getting yours?

If you are not getting your regular copy of Lambeth life every two weeks then we also want to hear from you. If you, or somebody that you know does not receive Lambeth life, or you have experienced delivery problems please tell us. Email [distribution@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:distribution@lambeth.gov.uk) including your address and postcode, and we will do our best to investigate and resolve any complaints.

### Advertising in Lambeth life

Lambeth life is a vehicle for local business advertising too. Through these pages you can reach your customers at competitive rates. New Lambeth life advertisers can benefit from a 50 per cent off their first booking. Email [advertising@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:advertising@lambeth.gov.uk) or visit [www.lambeth.gov.uk/lambethlife](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/lambethlife) to download a rate card.

Because of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections and the laws around election publicity, there is no leader's column or comments from any councillor, candidate or government minister in this issue of Lambeth life.

## the lambeth picture



Brixton Windmill, Windmill Gardens.

PHOTO BY MATT AYRES

### Congratulations to Matt who gets £50 worth of high street vouchers.

Send your photos of Lambeth to [lambethlife@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambethlife@lambeth.gov.uk), for your chance to win £50 worth of high street shopping vouchers.

## Streatham sets sight on future

**MORE than 70 local residents and business owners took part in a packed public workshop on the future "masterplan" for Streatham High Road.**

The workshop, at Gracefield Gardens Customer Centre, is part of the on-going consultation process to get the ideas and aspirations of local residents on the future for Streatham.

Most of the workshop took place in small break out groups, where residents looked at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

and threats to the area.

Rod Pearson, chair of Shamed, the campaign group formed to oppose the Megabowl development in Streatham, attended the workshop. He said: "I thought this was a most encouraging start."

The masterplan will set out the type of development that people want to see in the area and help Streatham make the most of its development opportunities.

There will be more roadshows and workshop events on the



Residents debate Streatham "masterplan"

future of Streatham in June.

Check future issues of Lambeth life for details or go to [www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurestreatham](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/futurestreatham) or call freephone 0800 052 6336.

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Film piracy in the UK generates over £270m a year for criminals.

The redeveloped Young Vic



## Awards for iconic buildings

**TWO** of Lambeth's most famous cultural institutions, the Royal Festival Hall (RFH) and the Young Vic Theatre, have been hailed for making an "outstanding contribution" to the local environment at the annual Civic Trust architecture awards.

The grade I listed RFH, the jewel of Lambeth's South Bank Conservation Area, reopened last summer after a major refurbishment overseen by local architects Allies & Morrison.

It won the Civic Trust's NightVision award for its contribution to the capital's evening time economy. The judges said: "This scheme has made a fantastic contribution to the public realm, bringing life and activity to the South Bank area. Queen's

Walk has been transformed into a highly successful animated public promenade, which is now used during both day and night."

The redeveloped Young Vic Theatre in The Cut, designed by Haworth Tompkins, also picked up an award at the ceremony held in Newcastle. The citation reads: "The re-building of these facilities has acted as a local catalyst and has encouraged the community to use the facility as a venue and meeting place. Local people, theatre users, performers and staff were all consulted about the design, and their continuing involvement is evidence of the success of the scheme."

For further information on the Civic Trust awards please visit [www.civictrust.org.uk](http://www.civictrust.org.uk)

## Fake DVD seller jailed

**AN** illegal DVD seller who operated in Brixton was jailed last month, highlighting the seriousness of trafficking fake goods.

Hua Li, 21, an illegal immigrant, was sentenced to 28 days in prison after being caught by Lambeth Council trading standards officers attempting to sell fake DVDs to customers in cafes along Acre Lane.

More than 200 illegal counterfeit DVDs were seized from Li by Ray Bouch, senior trading standards officer with Lambeth Council. Li was subsequently arrested by police and admitted under caution that he was an illegal immigrant and that he knew the DVDs were counterfeit. He refused to provide details as to who supplied them to him or distribution centre locations.

The case was fast-tracked and Li appeared at Camberwell Magistrates' Court the following day. The magistrate pointed out to Li through an interpreter that the reason for jailing him was to send a message to all those engaged in the sale of illegal DVDs that the courts will not tolerate such behaviour, which causes major losses to the film industry.

The trade in illegal DVDs is also linked to organised crime and people smuggling.

Ray Bouch said: "Many people think buying dodgy DVDs is a victimless crime that doesn't do any harm. But this isn't



In a separate operation, Police and Trading Standards officers seized 35,000 illegal DVDs from an address in March.

the case, and by buying these fakes people should be aware that they could be helping to support serious organised crime. Also, many counterfeit DVDs are of terrible quality and there's no chance of getting your money back."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Choice in lettings

**A NEW** allocation system for Lambeth housing has just launched giving potential tenants a greater say in where they live.

The new system, called Choice Based Lettings, allows tenants to see what flats and houses are available for letting across the borough via posters in libraries and housing offices and on-line at [www.homeconnections.org.uk](http://www.homeconnections.org.uk)

Residents on the transfer or housing waiting list can register interest in an advertised property by phone, text message, or through the internet. This is called 'bidding' for a home – but no money is involved.

The council will invite the bidder with the highest priority to come and view the property. If after seeing the property they want to proceed, they will be made a formal offer of the tenancy. If not, the next highest priority person will be invited to view it.

People will only be able to bid for houses that are the right size for their household. There will be an age restriction on sheltered housing, and only disabled people will be able to bid for adapted housing.

Evidence from other councils already operating the system is that residents are happier with Choice Based Lettings than with the old system where all the decisions were made by council officers. For further information call 020 7926 4200.

### Troubled Fridge Bar loses licence

**A BRIXTON** bar that had become a magnet for crime and drugs has been stripped of its licence by Lambeth Council.

The decision follows a catalogue of problems involving guns, violence and drug dealing at the Fridge Bar.

Earlier this year, four men who were employed at the bar were convicted of the brutal attack of a reveller outside the bar in November 2006. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras.

Last month Lambeth Council's licensing committee heard evidence from the police of a number of incidents involving drugs and guns connected with the nightclub between November 2007 and March 2008.

The committee decided to permanently close the premises by stripping the bar of its licence. The bar has a three week window in which to appeal against the decision.

Simon Harding, assistant director, community safety at Lambeth Council, said: "It is quite clear that the Fridge Bar was a magnet for serious criminal activity. This sends out a clear message Lambeth Council and the police won't tolerate badly run bars and clubs that threaten the safety and well being of local people."

# The interview

A quarter of boys claim never to read stories or novels outside of school.



**AUTHOR Alex Wheatle** (pictured left) returns to the streets of Brixton for his latest novel, *The Dirty South*. Lambeth life chats to the writer who is one of the big names at the fifth Lambeth Libraries Readers and Writers Festival this month.

Set 20 years after the Brixton riots, *The Dirty South* tells the story of teenager Dennis, a small time drug dealer, and his relationships with friend and dealing partner Noel and girlfriend Akeisha.

The novel examines the tough and sometimes dangerous choices that face young black men in London and especially the rise in violent crime.

Alex said: "I was drawn to Brixton in the writing of *The Dirty South* because living in south London, I can't ignore the growing levels of gun violence and its effect on families within the black community."

The book is the story of a generation on from the characters in Alex's best known work, *East of Acre Lane*, which dealt with Brixton life in the 1980s and drew heavily on his own experiences.

"I think what has changed is the weapons that are available now," says Alex. "Also, it seems young people are getting caught up in the violence. That's not to say that violence didn't happen in my day. It did but in the main the victims managed to survive."

Despite its tough subject matter, *The Dirty South* is laced with humour and Alex has a gift for catching the street language of his young protagonists.

The book is aimed both at adults and teens,

an audience Alex says it is vital to reach.

"I think it's very important for young people to take an interest and active part in theatre and literature. It gives them a voice and an expression of themselves."

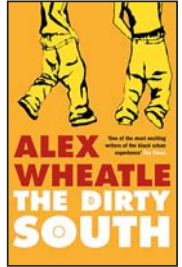
Alex, now with kids of his own, believes some things have improved in Lambeth.

"There are positive changes in the way that housing conditions have improved in the borough but the negative is that young people in Lambeth are demonised.

"I am optimistic for the future. I believe in the talents of our young. It's us adults who have to provide a decent society and environment to live in and to trust."

*Dirty South* is published by Serpent's Tail, priced £9.99. Alex will be reading from his new novel at Brixton Library on 28 May at 7pm.

For more information on the Lambeth Libraries Readers and Writers Festival see pages five and 13.



Stolen from every household

£80



- ?** Are you a Lambeth resident
- ?** Will you be claiming Housing Benefit
- ?** Do you rent private accommodation

If you answered 'yes' to all three you will want to know about Local Housing Allowance.

From 7 April 2008, Local Housing Allowance will be rolled out nationally.

This new way of working out Housing Benefit will only affect private tenants. LHA uses a flat rate based on the size of your household, where you live and your income and savings.

In most cases Housing Benefit will be paid to you, not your landlord.

To find out more about LHA, visit [www.lambeth.gov.uk/lha](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/lha)

Do **you** know someone who is a Benefit Cheat?

Call the Lambeth Fraud Hotline  
in confidence 020 7926 1111



Only 42 per cent of dads read to their children.

# Literary festival beckons



Kate Mosse

**A WEALTH of writing talent is coming to Lambeth this month for the fifth Lambeth Libraries Readers and Writers Festival.**

An array of creative events are taking place throughout May with libraries playing host to readings, performances, workshops and music events.

Top selling authors like Kate Mosse and Panos Karnezis will be discussing their work and there is also the chance to check out exciting new talent like Jacqueline Walker and Sean Longley.

This festival includes workshops from acclaimed poet Aoife Mannix and poetry in translation with Portugal's Jose Letria. Music is supplied with a very special appearance of Wreckless Eric and Amy Rigby.

Alex Wheatle will be discussing his latest novel set on the streets of Brixton, *The Dirty South*. Alex is interviewed on page 4.

Tim O'Dell, reader development officer at Lambeth Council, said: "This year's festival is bigger and better than ever. We have best selling authors, local writers and exciting new talents as well as competitions, music, film, theatre and workshops. There really is something for everyone."

There is a free showing of Anthony Minghella's Oscar winning *The English Patient* and there is a performance of Victor Richards' *Streets Paved with Gold* marking the 60th Anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush.

See page 13 for details of the Readers and Writers Festival events over the next two weeks and also check out the next issue of *Lambeth life*.

Alternatively pick up the full brochure at your local Lambeth library or from [www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries)



Panos Karnezis

## The Book of the Film quiz

Try your luck in the Lambeth Literary Quiz, which this year has a decidedly cinematic theme:

- The title of the book that became the film *Schindler's List*
- The collection of short stories that included *The Shawshank Redemption*
- The book that was freely adapted and updated to become *Apocalypse Now*
- The original title of the book filmed as *Kates*
- The collection of stories that included *Brokeback Mountain*
- The original title of the book that became *Bladerunner*
- Book by Susan Orlean that was used very freely in the Charlie Kaufman film *Adaptation*
- The Jane Austen novel that provided the inspiration for *Clueless*
- The children's book by Christiana Brand that became the film *Nanny McPhee*
- The first book of a trilogy, now known as *The Golden Compass*

Send your answers to [todell@Lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:todell@Lambeth.gov.uk) or send to Tim O'Dell, Reader Development Officer, Brixton Library, London SW2 1JQ. All correct answers will be entered into a prize draw to win book vouchers up to the value of £20. Closing date for entries 31 May 2008.

## Young writers' competition

Lambeth Libraries has teamed up with free short story magazine LITRO to hold the borough's first Young Writers' short story competition.

Entrants, aged 11 to 16 and attending school or living in Lambeth, must submit one original piece no more than 1000 words with the title 'Underground' – interpret this is the most creative way you can.

Email entries to [litra.fiction@gmail.com](mailto:litra.fiction@gmail.com) or with the subject line 'Lambeth competition entry' or post to Ocean Media 19 The Porticos, 384 Kings Road SW3 5UW.

Entries must be received by 16 May.

The winner and two runners up will receive prizes including ipod shuffles and book tokens and have their stories published in the magazine, which goes out to 50,000 Londoners, and online, every month.



Alabama 3 on stage

## Rock against racism

**A UNIQUE concert, held at the Brixton Academy this week, marks the 30th anniversary of the landmark Rock Against Racism Carnival.**

The Hope Not Hate concert on 30 April features local bands Alabama 3 and The Thirst as well as Misty in Roots and the Levellers. Tom Robinson, who headlined at the original gig in April 1978, will also be there and joined by surprise guests.

The original event, which saw 80,000 people march from Trafalgar Square to the concert in Victoria Park, north London, was organised in response to increasing support for the National Front in the seventies. The campaign was the start of a movement that helped galvanise a generation into rejecting racism.

The Hope Not Hate campaign is being supported by The Daily Mirror which has a bus touring the country with the anti-racist message and whose journey will culminate at the Brixton Academy gig.

Larry Love, lead singer of Alabama 3, said: "The anti-racist struggle is not about the anniversary of 30th anniversary of Rock Against Racism. Fighting racism is a lifetime commitment. We have lived in Brixton for many years and that vibrant, multi-cultural mix is what inspires us."

All proceeds from the gig will go to a project taking the history of Rock Against Racism into schools and colleges.

For more information on the concert and the campaign go to [www.hopenothate.org.uk](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk)

Badges from a Lambeth anti-racism carnival, 1980 (shown above).



# Eco matters

The Museum of Garden History was the world's first museum dedicated to gardens.

Young members of Friends of Kennington Park launch 'Play in the Park'



## Nature boost for Kennington Park

**LOCAL children will soon benefit from an exciting new playground and nature trail thanks to the successful fund raising efforts of the Friends of Kennington Park.**

The group raised £240,000 which is being used to fund the new specially designed playground and create a nature trail where everyone can learn more about their local environment.

Diane May, project and grant manager with the Friends, said: "It's a huge boost to play facilities in an area where many children have no garden of their own and their access to nature is limited.

"Parents and children told us they wanted a play area that was fun, challenging and inspiring. Now we can deliver a

playground and a nature project that will exercise both their minds and bodies."

Work has already started on the new playground, which will feature a sandpit and central lawn with equipment for toddlers and older children up to twelve years old. It is expected to open later in the summer.

The nature trail is designed to help locals identify wildlife. A programme of workshops, a nature activity pack, web resource and public events will back up the nature trail.

The 'Play in the Park' project has been funded by grants from the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities, Biffa award, London Marathon Trust and Lambeth Council.

## Permission to influence plans

**PLANNING officers at Lambeth Council are working with a host of partners and interest groups to create a new set of planning policies which will guide future development in the borough over the next 10-15 years.**

The plans and policies, known as the local development framework (LDF), must ensure that developments taking place, both now and in the future, will be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. The council is appealing to local people to have their say in developing the core strategy. Every area-specific plan will be consistent with the core strategy, so it's essential to get it right first time.

Details of how to get involved can be found at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning) Alternatively email [planningpolicy@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@lambeth.gov.uk) or call planning on 020 7926 1180.

## A walk on the wildlife side

**LAMBETH is a thriving hot spot for wild plants and animals according to a comprehensive study of Lambeth's green spaces.**

The Lambeth Habitat Survey, conducted by experts from the London Wildlife Trust, examined more than 200 sites around the borough ranging from parks and commons down to small school and community gardens.

Among the best places for different wild plants and animals are Brockwell Park, Streatham Common and The Rookery, West Norwood Cemetery and Peabody Hill as well as railway sidings.



The top spots were a trio of sites in the north of the borough; Lambeth Palace Gardens, the Museum of Garden History and St. Mary's Gardens, with over 220 different species found in what is a remarkably small area.

On the basis of the survey, the number of "Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation" in

Lambeth has increased from 35 in 1994 to 40 today. Iain Boulton, project officer, for parks and green spaces at Lambeth Council, said: "Credit must go to the hard work of residents, community groups, council staff and contractors, all working together to ensure everybody in Lambeth can experience and enjoy local wildlife."

## Beware of bogus charities

**HOUSEHOLDERS are warned about fake charity collections operating within the borough.**

Lambeth's Trading Standards service is warning householders not to assume charity leaflets posted through letter boxes are from recognised charities.

Leaflets typically ask for donations of clothing, shoes and household items claiming that they will be sent to third world countries to help the poor.

Many of the collections are not being made by charities, but by commercial operators, who may not make any donations to charitable causes.

Leaflets being distributed include statements such as 'third world clothing appeal' and 'clothing collection'. These can lead householders to believe the collectors to be acting on behalf of charities whereas in reality, it is very difficult to confirm

where the items are likely to end up and that any charitable causes will actually benefit.

Similar 'charitable' doorstep collections in the past have been linked to traders who have re-sold the items for profit.

Some companies either no longer trade legally or give incorrectly registered company numbers relating to companies, who have been criticised in the past by the Advertising Standards Authority for incorrectly implying they were 'charitable' organisations.

A Clapham resident, who did not want to be named, was concerned about the frequency and persistence of so-called charity collections in the area.

She said: "Most people don't realize that they are giving to bogus charities. I understand that people just want to clear out their cupboards and the doorstep collections make it easy. But to

stop items falling into the wrong hands you really need to give to charity shops like Oxfam."

Robert Gardner, chief trading standards officer at Lambeth Council, said: "We are aware that the majority of door to door collections are not made by genuine registered charities, but by businesses who simply sell the goods for profit.

"Whilst there are reputable charities that collect clothes and directly benefit good causes, it's always a good idea to check the credentials of the collectors before donating."

Anyone wishing to check on whether companies or their associates are registered charities, can telephone the Charity Commission on 0845 300 0218 or search their website at [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)

## Life in Japan

**TWO pupils from Lambeth will be travelling to Japan later this month to represent British youngsters at a major conference of young people examining the environment.**

Serian Carlyle and Jamie Angus from Dunraven Secondary School won a competition to attend the four day summit in Kobe.

They will represent Britain and present their ideas about how to improve the environment, alongside 20 children from other countries.

The pair were chosen for the trip after winning a competition organised by iEARN UK, a charity dedicated to encouraging young people to engage in global, educational projects.

Among the subjects under discussion will be reversing climate change and how to encourage people to think greener.

Ideas raised at the youth summit will then be considered for discussion at the main G8 Summit in July, attended by world leaders.

Since 2004 more than 23,000 young people have attended workshops at the Old Vic.

## Young storm Old Vic stage

**ASPIRING** theatre stars from Lambeth are showing off their talents at the Old Vic with the premiere of *Branded*.

The exciting new multi-media piece takes on the modern dilemmas of consumerism and the environment and is written by Simon Bent. It will be performed by a company of 50 young people selected from open auditions with five performances running from 1 to 3 May.

The project is part of the Old Vic New Voices programme. Lambeth young people will be on stage performing as well as taking on backstage roles.

Anniwaa Buachie, from Streatham, takes on the role of an eco-warrior in the play: "I never thought I would be given the opportunity to perform on the same stage that has seen Alex Guinness and Sir Laurence Olivier and Judi Dench and all these people."

The project included workshops in 30 schools in Lambeth and surrounding boroughs. An education pack on the project will be sent to every school in Lambeth.

Tickets are free but going fast. Get yours at [www.oldvictheatre.com](http://www.oldvictheatre.com) or ring the box office on 0871 297 5471.



## More money comes into play

**LAMBETH'S** adventure playgrounds are set to benefit from a £1 million pound cash boost.

The New Play Builder Funding, announced last month by the Department of Children, Schools and Families, will be used by Lambeth Council to improve play facilities on estates in play areas and in 15 adventure playgrounds across the borough.

Last year, Lambeth successfully bid for £840,000 from the Big Lottery fund to support play projects and the council is

also putting an extra £1.7 million in to young people's services over the next three years. The money will be used to increase the range of activities provided in youth centres, projects and through the council's summer programme.

Phyllis Dunipace, executive director of children and young people's service at Lambeth Council, said: "Young people are consistently telling us that they would like more things to do, so this money will be a great boost to the play facilities we already provide."

## Fire walk fundraiser

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed to take part in a daring fire walk challenge and help raise money for cot death research and support.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID) is looking for 30 fearless fundraisers to test their nerve by fire walking at the Windmill Pub in Clapham on 6 June.

The event will be supervised by fire walking experts Blaze and participants will get mind-over-matter training to enable them to walk over embers burning at over 1200°F without experiencing pain or injury.

Local resident Kirsty Mellish decided to volunteer after a friend lost a baby to cot death: "The support that FSID provides to bereaved parents is invaluable and, as a parent myself, I hope to raise lots of money to help fund further research into cot death."

Volunteers need to register by 16 May. Go to [www.fsid.org.uk/fire-walk-london.html](http://www.fsid.org.uk/fire-walk-london.html) or contact Holly Wilkinson on 020 7222 8003.



Anniwaa (left) in rehearsal

## Blue badge fraudsters in court

**THREE** people have learnt the hard way that fraudulent use of disabled badge parking system is a crime.

The three were successfully prosecuted at Camberwell Magistrates' Court last month for blue badge fraud, following covert surveillance operations by Lambeth Council.

Trevor Farley, 48, was caught by surveillance officers using his wife's disabled badge 12 times. The defendant, who failed to attend the hearing, was fined £1,425.

Rokibun Kahar, 29, entered a written guilty plea to nine offences after she was caught misusing her husband's disabled badge to park while at Kings College Hospital. She was fined £1,115.

Gillian Grant, 47, was fined £400 with costs of £300 after being caught misusing a deceased person's disabled badge to park while she went to work at St Thomas's Hospital.

Tim Jackson, assistant director of Street

Management at Lambeth Council, said: "People who abuse the system in this way deprive genuine blue badge users from the parking spaces that are reserved for them. These prosecutions send a clear message that the courts take these kinds of offences extremely seriously."

A thriving trade exists in stolen blue badges, which are usually obtained by breaking into disabled peoples' cars. There is also growing use of forged badges.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### School debates

A RECORD number of schoolchildren showed their debating skills at the seventh annual Lambeth Schools Debating Competition.

Seven local schools took part in the event, held in the Town Hall council chambers.

Ade Onibada and Sarah Weidemuller from St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls won the competition speaking against the motion that "this house believes that women should not be sent to prison".

Ade and Sarah also picked up the prizes for Best Speaker and Chairperson respectively. From Norwood School for Girls, Celine Shanu was awarded the prize for best questioner. The competition is aimed at year 10 and 11 pupils.

### Laptops on loan

A NEW programme ensuring young people have access to the internet for learning has just been launched at Archbishop Tenison's School in Kennington.

Project Connect loans laptop computers, complete with wireless connection, to year 9 students for three years. In exchange the students make pledges to increase their GCSE English result by one grade over that predicted by the school and agree to take part in a club, team or voluntary organisation.

The project, launched last week, is a collaboration between the school and Lambeth e-Learning Foundation (LeLF), a charity, part funded by Lambeth Council, which uses technology to support disadvantaged communities.

Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the scheme if they can. The internet connection is filtered to block access to undesirable sites.

Project Connect is likely to be rolled out to other schools in Lambeth.

### Elmgreen teaches the community

THE first community project at the new Elmgreen School has been launched offering free language classes for people whose mother tongue is not English. There will also be weekly advice sessions on issues like housing, education and immigration. Free childcare is available.

The classes and advice sessions take place every Wednesday between 10.30am and 12.30pm at the school in Gypsy Road, Norwood. For more information call 020 8766 5020 or e-mail [RLopetron@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk](mailto:RLopetron@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk)

feature

# Tackling dom

DOMESTIC violence affects one in four women in the UK during their lifetime. Lambeth life looks at an award winning centre which is helping women get their lives back on track.



## The Gaia Centre

A Lambeth centre that has helped more than 800 female victims of domestic violence since opening two years ago picked up a major award last week. The Gaia Centre, which provides advice and support to women affected by domestic violence, received a NHS Health and Social Care Award for London, in the 'Success in Partnership Working' category. It will now be entered in the national NHS awards.

The centre's success is clear through the positive outcomes achieved for 90 per cent of cases dealt with. It has also helped achieve a successful conviction rate for perpetrators of domestic violence that is 20 per cent above the national average.

Lambeth Gaia Centre offers easy access to all services under one roof, whereas national research shows that women may have to visit up to 11 different agencies to get the help they need.

Since opening in May 2006 the centre has helped more than 800 women, with 40 new cases every month. The centre has helped women get their lives back on track, often by assisting them to find new homes, linking them with other family members or continuing to support them in refuge or sanctuary schemes.

Domestic violence affects one in four women during their lifetime nationally, and is a major issue for many inner London boroughs including Lambeth, which is why the council and partners teamed up to open the multi-agency centre.

Jo Cleary, executive director for adult and community services at Lambeth Council, said: "There are many local agencies tackling the multitude of issues around domestic violence in the borough and we realised that by working together we could make sure that women got the help they needed.

"Many of the women we see feel isolated and have been through traumatic experiences. The Gaia Centre provides a welcoming, safe and supportive environment and of course all issues are treated with complete confidentiality. It's crucial that women suffering any form of domestic violence know that help is at hand."

Lambeth Gaia Centre is run by a consortium led by Lambeth Council with a management committee from the statutory and voluntary sectors. It includes staff from 12 different organisations, including the police, voluntary sector providers and local solicitors.

**Women experiencing domestic violence can call Lambeth Gaia Centre on 020 7733 8724 or email: [administrator@lambeth-gaia.com](mailto:administrator@lambeth-gaia.com).**

## How Gaia centre helped me

Suzanna\*, a Columbian woman living in Britain, suffered years of psychological abuse from her partner. "Physical abuse might just last for one day," says Suzanna, "but psychological abuse takes years to get over."

Suzanna felt trapped in the relationship which left her constantly humiliated and hurt. Her partner moved to the UK and she reluctantly agreed to follow him. "I started to

think I could have a better life and learn English which is something I always wanted to do."

But in London she felt even more isolated and depressed. Then she was referred to Gaia. "My case worker at Gaia has been really helpful," says Suzanne. "She has given me lots of practical advice which means I have been able to make changes from day one. I was referred to a GP for

my anxiety and I have just started counselling sessions."

Suzanna now has much more confidence in herself, a wide circle of friends and is studying to be a health trainer with the NHS. "My partner dismisses my achievements but I am proud. Through my own experiences could help other people and I would really like to become a volunteer for Gaia."

\* Names have been changed

# estic violence

## Finding Sanctuary at home

Kia\* was in a long abusive relationship with a violent drug addict. She eventually got away and established a new home for herself. She applied to take part in the Lambeth Sanctuary Scheme, launched at the beginning of the year, which helps men and women affected by domestic violence remain in their own home in safety.

"Once you've experienced domestic violence you are always looking over your shoulder," says Kia. The scheme, a partnership between Victim Support and Lambeth Council, provides increased home security and support.

For Kia this included fitting additional locks on her front door, a spyhole with speaker so she could talk to anyone who calls without opening the door and collapsible gates for the back windows.

"I also have a sanctuary room," says Kia. "If a perpetrator ever tries to get in I can lock myself in there and call for help."

All the work is carried out by approved and specially trained carpenters. Kia said: "The workmen were brilliant and really understood about people dealing with domestic violence issues."

The Sanctuary Scheme will not work for everyone affected by domestic violence. The Sanctuary Scheme caseworker, said: "We look at the level of risk that a person faces. If it is too high we wouldn't use the Sanctuary scheme and would instead look at other options."

Individuals eligible for the scheme could include people re-housed by Lambeth Council as a result of domestic violence or those wanting reassurance where a perpetrator is due for release from prison.

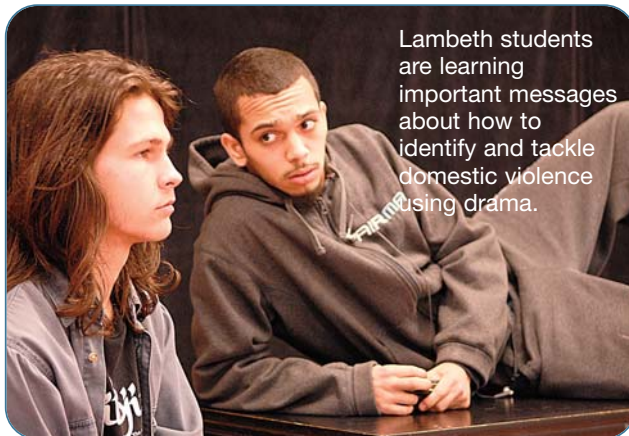
"The main thing Sanctuary does is give peace of mind and a greater level of security," says Kia. "I can go to sleep and know that nobody can kick the door in."

**The Lambeth Sanctuary Scheme is officially launched on 29 May at 2pm at Stockwell YMCA, Stockwell Road, SW9. To attend call Gurmeet Khurana on 020 7926 4207.**

**To talk to the Sanctuary Scheme caseworker about the scheme call on 020 7820 0007 or email [lambeth.sanctuary@vslondon.org](mailto:lambeth.sanctuary@vslondon.org)**

\* Names have been changed

The scheme launched earlier this year is helping men and women who suffered from domestic violence to stay safe in their own homes.



Lambeth students are learning important messages about how to identify and tackle domestic violence using drama.

## Acting on domestic violence

Pupils from Lilian Baylis Technology College recently took part in a drama based programme challenging the attitudes of tolerance that help conceal and condone violence against women and children. The Trust Project, created by the human rights charity Tender, uses drama and workshops to allow the young people, aged 14 and 15, to explore issues like domestic violence in a safe environment.

Neville Robinson, workshop leader, said: "All the students really enjoyed the project and learnt more about their rights in a relationship. One young woman realised that her boyfriend was displaying behaviour of trying to control her and identified the early warning signs."

The Trust Project will be running further workshops at Lilian Baylis over the summer.

## The truth about domestic and sexual violence

- Domestic violence is not just about physical abuse. It often involves other types of abuse; emotional, verbal, financial, sexual and psychological. These are all types of controlling behaviour.
- Domestic violence also includes abuse from ex-partners and family members and, despite the term 'domestic', it can happen anywhere – including the workplace of a woman stalked by her ex-partner.
- Domestic violence is one of the most under-reported types of crime.
- 16 per cent of all violent crime is domestic violence.
- 1 in 4 women will experience abuse from partners or ex-partners in their lifetime.
- 2 women are killed every week by a partner or ex-partner – nearly half of all murders of women in the UK.
- Young people, aged 16 to 25, are more likely to experience domestic violence in relationships than older people.
- 40 per cent of homeless women state that domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.
- Alcohol misuse among domestic violence perpetrators may be up to seven times higher than in the general population.
- Domestic violence can, of course, affect men as victims. Around 1 in 10 men experience physical force by a partner in their lifetimes. 80 per cent of victims of domestic violence are women.

The council and its partners have a range of services to help female and male victims of domestic violence. To get more information go to [www.lambeth.gov.uk/domesticviolence](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/domesticviolence) or call Lambeth Victim Support on 020 7820 0007.

A celebration of women's cycling in Lambeth through photography

# Bicycle Belles...



In order to promote cycling to ladies of Lambeth and show that cycling can be cool and chic, send us your photographs of women cycling in and around the borough. The competition is open to those who live, work or study in Lambeth of all ages. The best photographs will be a part of an exhibition to be held in September. Prizes will include a bicycle, accessories and of course seeing your work exhibited.

All entries to be sent to [cycling@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@lambeth.gov.uk) or on CD to Sustainable Travel, 1st floor Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP. The closing date for the competition is 15 August 2008. The judge's decision is final.

Copyright of the images will reside with the photographers, but Lambeth Transport retains the right to use the images for the duration of the campaign and for any future relevant campaigns. Always get the permission of the person you are photographing. Consent forms must be completed for the publication of photographs. For more information and terms and conditions please see [www.lambeth.gov.uk/bicyclebelles](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/bicyclebelles)



EC0609 (4.08)

Lambeth **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

Lambeth is a dynamic and vibrant borough, with a diverse local population. The PCT's vision is to improve health throughout our communities by promoting joined up working, investing in staff and delivering high quality healthcare services. To help us do this we are seeking nurses and health visitors who have patient care as their top priority and who are committed to partnership working.

In return we offer strong professional leadership and support, robust clinical and child protection supervision, excellent training and development opportunities, flexible working, opportunities to develop quality and evidence based practice with support from our innovative research and development programme, childcare voucher scheme, employee counselling programme, family friendly policies and lease car scheme.

Lambeth has a reputation for innovative practice and has been successful in our bid to be a phase 2 national pilot site for the Family Nurse Partnership Programme.

We are investing in our community nursing services. There will be opportunities to work alongside community matrons in the development of case management and support for long term conditions. A priority for the PCT is to develop excellent end of life care.

## Senior Practitioners

Band 6, £28,091-£37,558 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4372

You will possess a specialist practitioner district nursing qualification or portfolio of training around advanced assessment skills, leadership and non medical prescribing at degree or masters level. Leading a team of community nurses you will have excellent communication skills.

## Community Staff Nurses

Band 5, £23,619 - £30,508 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4373

Working as key members of the community nursing team you will have experience of a wide range of clinical skills and demonstrate an ability to take responsibility for caseload management.

For further information or an informal discussion about the community nursing posts please contact Anita Macro, Assistant Director of Nursing (adults and people with long term conditions) on 020 3049 4734.

## Health Visitors

Band 6, £28,091-£37,558 p.a. inc. • Ref: LAM 4361

As a member of our health visiting team you will be flexible, enthusiastic, have ability to manage change and be motivated to work as part of a team.

## Early Intervention Health Visitors

Band 7, £34,092 - £43,105 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM 4362  
(3 year fixed term contracts)

You will be expected to deliver specialist health visiting to a caseload of vulnerable families from antenatal to the child's first birthday. You will be an experienced health visitor, skilled at engaging hard to reach families.

It is an exciting time for school nursing in Lambeth. There are developments in public health and school age children with the introduction of the HPV vaccination programme and the child measurement programme. In addition there is an increase in the number of children with complex disabilities entering school. As a result the PCT is investing in the school nursing service.

## School Nurse Immunisation Team Leader

Band 6, £28,091-£37,558 p.a. inc. (all year round) • Ref: LAM4374

You will lead and manage a central school nurse immunisation team to take forward the various immunisation campaigns. We are looking for a highly motivated individual who is passionate about raising the profile of this important public health role. You will be skilled in delivering immunisation and health promotion campaigns in schools and possess strong leadership skills.

## School Nurse

### (Immunisation Team)

Band 5, £23,619 - £30,508 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4375

You will support the team leader in the organisation and delivery of immunisations to school age children. You will need to be organised, confident and skilled in working with children and young people.

## Support Worker (School Nurse Immunisation Team)

Band 3, £17,324 - £20,708 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4376

This is key role in ensuring that the systems are in place to facilitate the immunisation programmes. You will need to have good organisation and time management skills, be experienced in IT systems and be able to communicate clearly and effectively.

## Assistant Practitioners (School Nursing)

Band 4, £20,223 - £24,313 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4377

Joining the locality generic school nursing teams this is a new and exciting role that would suit a nursery nurse or someone with NVQ 3 or foundation degree. You will take a lead on the child measurement programme within the locality as well as being a key member of the team in delivering on other public health issues e.g. stop smoking interventions and assisting with PSHE sessions.

## Special Needs School Nurses

Band 5, £23,619 - £30,508 p.a. inc • Ref: LAM4378

You will be a member of the special needs school nursing team providing clinical care and support to children with disabilities/ special needs across two special needs schools (one primary and one secondary). The children in these schools have clinical needs including tracheostomies and unstable epilepsy therefore we are looking for paediatric nurses who are confident and skilled in assessment and care of children with complex physical disabilities. You will be supported by dedicated school staff who are passionate about their work with these vulnerable children.

For further information or an informal discussion about the health visiting or school nursing posts please contact Amanda Williams, Assistant Director of Nursing (children and young people) on 020 3049 4267.

Meet some of our staff and learn more about working for Lambeth PCT at one of our open events at Gracefield Gardens, 3rd Floor, 2-8 Gracefield Gardens, Streatham, SW16 2ST on:

Saturday 10th May, 10am-1pm/Wednesday 14th May, 5pm-8pm.

To download an application form and job description, and for further information about Lambeth PCT, please visit [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)

Please quote the relevant reference number.

Closing date: Midday, 20th May 2008.

The Trust is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. All applicants who have a disability and meet the minimum criteria for the post will be invited to interview.



The term "pothole" possibly originates from Roman times when potters dug up hunks from clay roads.

Cable & Wireless staff hard at work



## From office to park life

**A DEDICATED team of office workers from Cable & Wireless spent a day away from their computers helping clean up Kennington Park.**

The team's efforts at the park were part of a London wide scheme to encourage businesses and their staff to spend one day in the year helping out the local environment.

The Cable & Wireless staff helped tidy up the Old English Walled Garden and the skate park at Kennington.

Patrick Cassidy, from Cable & Wireless, said: "We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and found the day to be very rewarding and fulfilling although there was a little stiffness this morning, something we don't often get from a day in the office."

Iain Boulton, project officer, Parks & Greenspaces at Lambeth Council who oversaw the day, said: "The work made a fantastic difference to the appearance and feel of Kennington Park."

To find out more about how businesses and staff can volunteer their services go to [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk) or call CSV on 020 7643 1427.

# Clapham goes pottery

**A LAMBETH pottery collective with a worldwide reputation is celebrating its 30th anniversary this week.**

The North Street Potters, founded 1 May, 1978, provide unique, handmade pottery and dinnerware to some of the finest restaurants in London and to clients from Dublin to Barbados.

But the workshop and store is equally popular with ordinary local people.

"I think we succeeded because we are down to earth," says Naine Woodrow, who founded the collective 30 years ago and still works there every day creating new designs. "Not many places like this exist anymore and people love it."

The pottery is so appreciated that when it faced closure after a rent increase a few years ago, some local friends and regular customers got together with the potters to create a consortium



Naine Woodrow in the Potters shop

and buy the pottery and maintain it as a cooperative.

Despite supplying bespoke tableware to the likes of Gordon Ramsey and Michel Roux, North Street Potters also sells unique pottery, dinner services and figurines at high street prices.

"One thing I always wanted to do is be able to make our work affordable for ordinary people," says Naine. "And the people who work here fit into that ethos. So you can come in and pick up a teapot for £7."

Last year the collective took over the running of adult and children pottery classes at the Clapham Pottery at Clapham Leisure Centre.

The potters are celebrating their anniversary with a special Mad Potter's Tea Party on Saturday 3 May. Everyone is welcome; "Bring cake," says Naine. To book pottery classes at the Clapham Pottery call 020 7926 4856. For information on the Potters go to [www.northstreetpotters.com](http://www.northstreetpotters.com)

## A2k THE EXPERTS

**Brixton Cycles Co-op, named best green business in the Lambeth Business Awards this year, holds a big party in May for all its customers to celebrate its 25th birthday. Lambeth life talks to Barnaby Stutter, member of the co-operative for the past 20 years, on why he wouldn't work anywhere else.**

**Q:** How does Brixton Cycles operate?

**A:** "Every one of us has our own area of speciality. It is a good system. It means you get to talk to someone who knows what they're talking about and is enthusiastic about their field and is not just trying to shift units. A lot of the time we advise people not to buy a new bike but get their old one fixed. We have the freedom to do that. My speciality is getting people onto their first bike. I love watching someone leave the shop excited about cycling."

**Q:** How is it different from other businesses?

**A:** "If you haven't had a boss for 20 years or experience of that traditional, inefficient pyramid management structure, it is difficult to return to it. We have a flat management

structure where everyone is a director and we meet every Thursday and discuss everything. It keeps everyone on their feet."

**Q:** Has the business changed over the 25 years?

**A:** "The bikes have changed dramatically and gotten cheaper. Our customers have changed. It used to be people who were very left field. We still get them but we are also getting the thrusting young bankers as well. Cycling is mainstream now.

"I think a lot of people live very compartmentalised lives and only mix with their own group of people. When they come to Brixton Cycles they have to mix with everybody. I think we have changed as well. The co-op members have matured and I think we are much more efficient and effective."



Barnaby Stutter with Lambeth Business Award

**Q:** How are you celebrating your jubilee year?

**A:** "We are having a party and inviting all our customers, suppliers and local bike shops. We are always sending customers to our local competitors if we can't help them. There is no dog eat dog mentality

here and the staff are really nice people. We are proud to be a community business and we treat people like customers. And we do really good parties."

For more information go to [www.brixtoncycles.co.uk](http://www.brixtoncycles.co.uk) or call 020 7733 6055.

# Listings

## What's happening in May

### EVENTS

4 May, 11am

#### Ancient Treasure Hunt

A fantastically fun challenge for all the family. Unravel the mysteries, decipher the ancient stone tablets and find the treasure (Maximum 5 people per team. All children to be accompanied by a adult). Adults £4, Children £2, Concessions £2. To book your place call 07958 028 275. *Brockwell Park.*



4 May, 7.30pm

#### Comedy night

Rob Deering, Inder Manocha and host Ivor Dembina head the bill. £6.50. [www.brixtoncomedy.co.uk](http://www.brixtoncomedy.co.uk)  
*Brixton Comedy Club, The Dogstar, 389 Coldharbour Lane, SW9.*



7 May, 8pm

#### Live Poetry

Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland engaged in a lifelong poetic dialogue encompassing love, war and radical politics. Claire Harman and Frances Bingham have edited new editions of their poems and discuss the work of these two exceptional women. Free. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*Poetry Library, Southbank, SE1.*

8 May, 7.45pm

#### China Now – Ma Jian

One of China's foremost dissident writers discusses his latest work, *Beijing Coma*, which addresses the Tiananmen Square massacre head-on. £7.50. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*Blue Room, Spirit Level, Southbank, SE1.*

10 May, 10.30am-5pm

#### NGS Yellow Book Open Day

Enjoy the museum's 17th century style knot garden and the late flowering spring bulbs and early perennials in bloom. Part of the entrance fee goes to the National Garden Scheme. £3.00/£2.50 concs. Call 020 7401 8865. [www.museumgardenhistory.org](http://www.museumgardenhistory.org)  
*Museum of Garden History, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB.*

11 May 9.30am-4.30pm

#### Aspire To Change Your Life workshop

A one day course focusing on motivating and inspiring oneself through building self-esteem that will get you thinking about how you live your life and how you may wish to change it. Fee: £49. [www.morleycollege.ac.uk](http://www.morleycollege.ac.uk)  
*Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.*

15 May, 6pm

#### Choral Club: Gospel with Ken Burton & Tina Brooks

Fancy turning your vocal skills to gospel. A free session, open to all, which guides you through a selection of Gospel work. Part of the Chorus festival. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*Front Room, Southbank, SE1.*



### MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

1 & 2 May, 7pm

#### The Kooks

The group promise to showcase brand spanking new material as well as old favourites such as 'Naïve' and 'She Moves In Her Own Way'. £20. [www.brixton-academy.co.uk](http://www.brixton-academy.co.uk)  
*Brixton Academy, Stockwell Road, SW9.*

5 May, 7.30pm

#### Mick Taylor's Blues Summit

A rare treat for blues lovers. The former guitarist with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers and The Rolling Stones is joined by friends from the UK and the USA including Mitch Mitchell and Terry Reid. The concert celebrates more than 40 years of British blues and rock innovation. £30 £25 £20. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank, SE1.*



6 & 13 May, 1pm

#### Lunchtime concerts

Free lunchtime classical concerts providing the perfect break in the hectic working day. [www.morleycollege.ac.uk](http://www.morleycollege.ac.uk)  
*The Holst Room, Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.*

11 May, 2pm

#### South London Concert Band

Open air free concert from the South London Concert Band. Clapham Common Bandstand. For more information call 020 7926 1017 or [bandstands@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:bandstands@lambeth.gov.uk)

11 May, 7.30pm

#### The Bach Choir

The Bach Choir perform music by Bernstein, Sousa, Vaughan Williams, Mahler, and Faure's Requiem. Baritone Roderick Williams and treble Ferdinand Rex, from Westminster Cathedral choir, guest. £9 to £38. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*Royal Festival Hall, Southbank, SE1.*



### EXHIBITIONS

1 May - 1 June

#### May 68: Street Posters from the Paris Rebellion

Posters of the Paris uprising of May 1968 are among the most revolutionary graphic works ever associated with a movement for social and political change. Free. 10am-6pm (daily), Late night Fridays until 10pm. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)  
*The Hayward Project Space, Southbank, SE1.*



9-22 May

#### Feeling: paintings by Adam Dabrowski

The latest exhibition from this self taught artist whose evocative images have been hailed by critics and fellow artists. Monday-Wednesday: 2.30pm-6.30pm. [www.redgategallery.co.uk](http://www.redgategallery.co.uk)  
*Red Gate Gallery, 209a Coldharbour Lane, SW9.*

### FILM

1-29 May

#### Sinatra! The Voice on Screen

A celebration of the celluloid life of one of America's great icons. From the gritty drama of From Here to Eternity and The Man With The Golden Arm to light hearted musical High Society. The season kicks off with a talk on 1 May from Adrian Wootton, CEO of Film London. [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk) High\_Society NFT. BFI Southbank.

### ARTS & THEATRE

6-10 May,

#### The Beguiled

A wounded union soldier is discovered by a young student from a nearby girl's school, during the American civil war. Gothic horror from the novel by Thomas Cullinan. Box Office: 020 8670 3474. [www.southlondontheatre.co.uk](http://www.southlondontheatre.co.uk) Bell Theatre, South London Theatre, 2a Norwood High Street, SE27.

Until 19 May

#### The Year of Magical Thinking

Vanessa Redgrave repeats her acclaimed Broadway performance in this play by Joan Didion chronicling the aftermath of her husband's sudden death. Directed by David Hare. £16.50 to £39.50. [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk) Lyttleton Theatre, South Bank, SE1.



8 May-28 June

#### The Good Soul of Szechuan

Jane Horrocks stars as the prostitute with a heart of gold in Bertolt Brecht's masterpiece. Richard Jones directs. Box office 020 7922 2922 or [boxoffice@youngvic.org](mailto:boxoffice@youngvic.org) [www.youngvic.org](http://www.youngvic.org) Young Vic, The Cut, SE1.

7 May, 7.45pm

#### Rage and Breathe

A challenging multi-media performance art work on the rise and fall of a modern gay relationship. Live dance, song, poetry, spoken-word and projected film. Part of the theatre's First Bites season. £4. [www.ovalhouse.co.uk](http://www.ovalhouse.co.uk) Downstairs theatre, Oval House Theatre, 52-54 Kennington Oval, SE11.

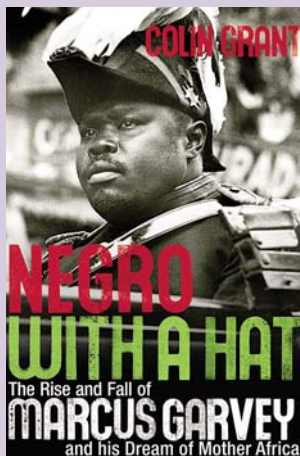


## THE FIFTH LAMBETH LIBRARIES READERS AND WRITERS FESTIVAL IS A MONTH LONG CELEBRATION OF THE JOY IN READING AND WRITING.

3 May, 11am-3pm.

#### Grand opening: 'Carnegie Library Reading Garden'

Join The Friends of Carnegie Library and Lambeth Libraries at the opening of this innovative new open space which will be used for storytelling, reading and quiet contemplation. Carnegie Library, 188 Herne Hill Road SE24.



7 May, 7pm

#### Colin Grant - Negro with a Hat:

#### The rise and fall of Marcus Garvey

Colin Grant's study of Marcus Mosiah Garvey has gained critical acclaim. Garvey was a man of contradictions: a self-educated, poetry-writer and propagandist, an admirer of Lenin and an ascetic dandy. Colin discusses the man and his legacy. Brixton Library, Brixton Oval SW2.

8 May, 7pm.

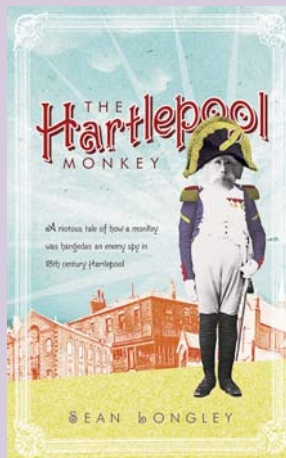
#### Anthony Minghella's The English Patient

Following the tragic death of Anthony Minghella in March this year, Lambeth Libraries and Lambeth Age Concern present a free showing of his Oscar winning film of Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient. Nettlefold Hall, West Norwood Library, 1 Norwood High Street SE27.

12 May, 5pm

#### Rukhsana Ahmad

Prolific playwright and author Rukhsana Ahmad talks to the Streamtham Teenage Reading Group about her work, particularly for the stage and radio. Join Streamtham Teenage Reading group for an event not to be missed. Streamtham Library, 63 Streamtham High Road SW16.



12 May, 6.45pm

#### Sean Longley - Hartlepool Monkey

During the Napoleonic wars, a monkey dressed in French naval uniform was found in the wreckage of a ship off the shores of Hartlepool and hanged as a French spy. South London author Sean Longley tells how the story inspired his entertaining debut novel. Durning Library, 167 Kennington Lane SE11.

14 May, 7pm

#### Jose Jorge Letria and Maurice Riordan

Two poets read from their unique Anglo Portuguese collaboration. 'The moon has written you a poem' is a book of young people's poetry and was the first Portuguese picture book ever to be published in the UK. South Lambeth Library, 180 South Lambeth Road SW8.

14 May, 7pm

#### Lyrics in Libraries present Wreckless Eric & Amy Rigby

Wreckless Eric, a mainstay of British pub band culture since the punk days of the 1970s, unites with Pittsburgh-born singer-songwriter Amy Rigby for what is promised as 'A night of lo-fi songs and grainy soundscapes'. Support from Steve Lake, of punk legends Zounds, and music-beat-poets Project Adorno. Brixton Library.

15 & 29 May, 6.30pm

#### 'Meet your Waterloo' poetry workshop with Aoife Mannix

Irish writer and poet Aoife Mannix holds two workshops guiding participants through a creative and poetic response to Waterloo, past, present and future. Free but places are limited. Waterloo Library, 114-118 Lower Marsh SE1.



For more information go to [www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries)

To avoid disappointment book for events on 020 7926 0752 or [readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:readersandwriters@lambeth.gov.uk)

# Puzzles and letters

Write to us at: Lambeth life, Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW or email: [lambethlife@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambethlife@lambeth.gov.uk)

## Corrections

In the feature on the Lambeth Centenary 1908-2008 (Lambeth life issue 45) we incorrectly stated that in 1966 the London Borough of Lambeth incorporating Clapham and Streatham was created. The timeline should read "1964/1965 – London Borough of Lambeth formed with addition of Streatham and Clapham town centres".

The article on the recent "cabinet reshuffle" incorrectly stated that Cllr Lorna Campbell is the first black woman in a senior political position at Lambeth Council. The statement was misleading as there have been several others including Linda Bellos, former council leader and Janet Boateng among others.

## Dear Lambeth life,

**Lambeth Council talks about keeping the streets clear but where is the evidence? Why does the council allow restaurant tables and chairs to spill over onto the pavement?**

This is happening on Streatham High Road from Woolworths near Pendennis Road all the way to Streatham Hill Station. I do not think it is fair that pedestrians cannot walk on the pavement, yet restaurants can let their customers take up the space to drink coffee.

Mrs Marsh, SW16

## Dear Lambeth life,

**Having been educated before the computer age, pensioner Ms Coombes' letter (Lambeth life issue 45) struck a cord with me.**

A few years ago I would have said exactly the same but I decided to have a go at learning about computers, the World Wide Web and all that. I won't say it was easy to begin with but if anyone has some basic typing experience and the determination, even pensioners can learn how it's done. Lambeth is not the most wealthy local authority but it does provide free courses for the 50s plus with one to one tuition and some of the people are in their eighties.

Before computers people had to use their brains and common sense and computers will never change that. Though they do need some mental effort but this can be to your advantage because a growing body of evidence is showing that mental exercise is a powerful prevention for the onset of dementia. A new course for 50s plus absolute beginners will be starting soon at West Norwood Library so Ms Coombes would be welcome to join.

Terry Pike, SE27

**Thank you Terry. Anyone interested in taking up a free computer training course should contact the Lambeth library service.**

**Call Marcia Bogle-Mayne on 020 7926 8031 for more information.**

## Dear Lambeth life,

**The Women's Land Army played a crucial role in providing the nation with food during the Second World War. Now the members of this unsung band of heroes are finally getting honoured for their contribution to the war effort by the Government.**

Lambeth Archives would like to pay its own tribute to the Lambeth women who were part of the Women's Land Army, with a display of photos and personal histories at its website, [www.lambethlandmark.com](http://www.lambethlandmark.com)

We would like to hear from Lambeth women who either lived in the borough when they joined up or are now living in Lambeth. If you are interested in taking part in this project or have a relative who you would like remembered, please contact me at the below address.

Anne Ward  
[award@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:award@lambeth.gov.uk)  
Lambeth Archives,  
52 Knatchbull Road  
London SE5 9QY

**Solve the crossword, then re-arrange the nine letters in yellow squares to form a famous former Lambeth councillor.**

1		2		3		4		5		6
7						8				
					9					
10								11		
12					13					
				14				15		16
				17				18		
19		20						21		
22					23					
24								25		

## Across

- Piece of jewellery thought to be a magical protection against evil (6)
- Musical featuring the song 'You're The One That I Want' (6)
- Carnivorous South American fish (7)
- Hospital photographs (1-4)
- And 18 Across. 2008 is the 100th anniversary of Lambeth \_\_\_\_ (4,4)
- Ice-house (5)
- Fabled king who turned everything he touched into gold (5)
- See 12 Across
- He was the Lone Ranger's sidekick (5)
- Particular level within an organisation (7)
- Equine chess piece (6)
- Kevin Spacey is this theatre's artistic director (3,3)

## Down

- Floor-coverings (7)
- Holes made by rabbits (7)
- Falconer, the TV presenter (5)
- The \_\_\_\_ Victoria Line station opened in 1971 (7)
- Tokyo is this country's capital city (5)
- Witherspoon, the actress who won an Academy Award for her performance in 'Walk The Line' (5)
- More than 150 of these are spoken in Lambeth schools (9)
- Dalton, the actor who played James Bond (7)
- Meringue filled with fruit and whipped cream (7)
- Hospital facilities (7)
- Pointed piece of wood used to kill a vampire (5)
- Blacksmith's block (5)
- Lee, the thriller writer whose main character is called Jack Reacher (5)

## Last issue's crossword solution

**Across:** 6. Charles 7. Mouse 9. Keane 10. Fajitas 12. Me And My Girl 14. War Memorial 18. Balcony 19. Brown 21. Aches 22. Clapham

**Down:** 1. Three 2. Prince 3. Jet 4. Boxing 5. Astaire 8. Hammers 11. Anemone 13. Jamaica 15. Mickey 16. Abrupt 17. Sweat 20. Elk

Lambeth landmark – Brockwell Lido

Famous people who were once cheerleaders include Madonna, Halle Berry and George W Bush.

## Trophy success for Allstars

**THE Xquisite Allstars, Lambeth's only cheerleading squad, were among the winners in their first competitive British Cheerleading Association (BCA) competition.**



Allstars with their trophy

A nine strong team took part in the senior novice division at the BCA Midlands Classic Telford and finished in third place.

Kerrie Downer, head coach, said: "The team performed extremely well. They were really confident and really looked like they enjoyed themselves and the crowd reaction was amazing."

Their success came despite being pitched against highly experienced university teams with larger troupes of cheerleaders.

"We were all a bit nervous at first, but we just had to remind ourselves that it's not the size of the squad but the quality of the routine," says Kerrie. "It made us nervous watching army sized teams take to the floor but more determined to show the judge how good our small team is."

The Allstars, based in Upper Norwood, are now training hard to compete in more competitions by the end of the year. You can catch the troupe performing at the Lambeth Country Show in July.

To find out more about the Allstars go to [www.xquisiteallstars.piczo.com](http://www.xquisiteallstars.piczo.com)

## The netball sessions

AGE is nothing but a number when it comes to netball in Lambeth. Women and girls aged 14 to 60 can take part in community netball sessions held every Wednesday evening at Crown Lane Primary School, Streatham, SW16. The new season of sessions, organised by Lambeth Sports, start on 7 May, between 5.30pm and 7.00pm. For details contact Community Sport Coach Bisi Alao on 07982 705 395.



## Gloves are off for Olympics

**LAMBETH'S new Mayor, Cllr Angie Meader (above left), sparred with Judy Oakes OBE, Commonwealth medalist and Olympic athlete, at the Get Set London Roadshow when it visited Lambeth.**

An estimated 500 people turned up at the event which is touring the capital giving a taste of what the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will mean to Londoners. Lambeth table tennis player Dzaier Neil, one of Britain's Paralympic hopefuls in Beijing this year, and Lambeth youth mayor Satya Panigrahi also attended.



Team Trinity at the ASICS British 10k London Run in 2007

## Trinity hospice seeks team to run London

**RUNNERS in Lambeth are invited to join Clapham's Trinity Hospice in a race for charity.**

Trinity Hospice has a limited number of guaranteed entries for the 2008 ASICS British 10k London Run (Sunday, 6 July) available for people aged 15 and over, who are willing to join Team Trinity and raise a minimum sponsorship of £150.

The race, which is usually sold out well in advance, runs through the heart of historic London, past many of the city's world-famous and iconic landmarks, along a route dressed with Union Jacks.

In return for joining Team Trinity, runners will receive a running vest, a training planner, sponsorship and fundraising advice, as well as the help of a professional physiotherapist if needed.

They will also receive money-off vouchers, a race medal, and a post race goodie bag from the organisers of the British 10K race on the day.

Laura Williams, Trinity Hospice fundraiser, who managed the 19-strong Team Trinity that has just completed the Flora London Marathon, said: "I would recommend anybody to join the team. As well as getting into shape and raising money for a good cause, it is a fantastic opportunity to meet new, like-minded people."

Every year Trinity helps over 2,000 patients with advanced non-curable illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease, severe heart failure or chest disease. For information call Laura on 020 7787 1054.

## Marathon effort

**CONGRATULATIONS to all the Lambeth people among the 32,000 runners who successfully completed this year's London Marathon.**

Fiona and Jerry Williams, members of the Clapham branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), ran together and raised £6000 for the charity.



Fiona and Jerry Williams relax after the marathon

Fiona said: "We had a fantastic day and received lots of encouragement along the way from family and friends. What really kept us going was the thought that the money we raise will go to a worthwhile cause and make a real difference to people. £2,000 pays for a local community group, such as a playgroup, or goes towards the cost of training two postnatal leaders who will reach an average of 200 expectant or new parents per year. For me that's worth running 26.2 miles!"

