

Windrush Square opens with a bang

Hundreds of people celebrated the opening of Brixton's new Windrush Square in winter sunshine on the 27 February, enjoying music, dancing and a spectacular display of pyrotechnics. A lantern-lit procession of local school children, a fire breathing mechanical Phoenix, and a human Catherine wheel rounded off a weekend of celebrations to mark

the regeneration of Brixton's famous Windrush Square and Tate Gardens. This has seen a completely new public space created in the heart of Brixton, providing a new focal point for the town centre and a much-needed venue for community events. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, was joined by Minister for London Tessa Jowell MP and Lambeth Council

leader Steve Reed in officially opening the new square. They were joined by veterans from the original Windrush Generation, the first wave of migrants from the West Indies from where the square gets its name, as well as local school children from Corpus Christi Primary School.

The scheme has linked Tate Gardens and Windrush Square as a pedestrianised open space which has been designed with safety in mind and includes improved lighting, better sightlines and CCTV coverage. The design includes a new water feature, 21 new trees, new lighting and a sculptural granite seat. The project has been led by Transport for London in partnership with Lambeth Council. It forms part of the Mayor of London's Great Outdoors Programme.



Makeover for Brixton's shutters

As part of the Future Brixton arts and lighting projects, businesses in Coldharbour Lane have the opportunity to spruce up their shutters. Brixton opticians Clearvision have already got involved by working with local artist Zineb Sedira to create an eye-design for their shutters which reflects their business. The Brixton Society has kindly offered some historical images of Brixton (see above) from the past for use on shutters but businesses may have their own ideas for designs.

If you are a business on Coldharbour Lane then please get in touch for a shutter makeover. To get involved in this project or to tell us about an idea you have for your shutters please contact Camilla Goddard on **079 8468 2417** or camillagoddard@hotmail.com

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, audio tape or another language please contact us on 020 7926 3026.

Brixton Business

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Welcome to the third edition of the Brixton Business Newsletter. In this edition you can read about support for businesses, how we are filling empty shops, the Lambeth Business Awards and the opening of Windrush Square. Windrush Square was opened to the public at the end of February with a lantern-lit procession by local children through the streets of Brixton. The procession ended in the new square where a spectacular finale concluded the first of many community events in the new space at the heart of Brixton.

Steph Butcher, Brixton Town Centre Director
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Photo: Sabine Hutchison



news

Loans available for Lambeth businesses

If you're a Lambeth business that has been turned down by a bank but needs access to some cash and business support, the Lambeth Business Loan Fund can help. Loans of up to £15,000 are available especially for small sized businesses facing challenges during these difficult times. For more details about the Business Loan Fund, contact the Lambeth Business Desk on **020 7926 3032** or email businessdesk@lambeth.gov.uk The Lambeth Business Loan Fund is administered by GLE oneLondon and funded by Lambeth First.



Empty shops initiative

Space Makers Agency and Lambeth Council have been working with the owners of Brixton Village (formerly the Granville Arcade) to reduce the number of vacant units at the indoor market. John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, visited Brixton in December to see the scheme and since then even more of the empty shops have come into use. For more information contact the Business Desk on **020 7926 3032**.

Business networking sessions

The latest business breakfast networking session was held on Tuesday 23 March upstairs at the Ritz from 8am – 10am. The session discussed how businesses can access up to £15,000 through the Business Loan Fund and tips on how to effectively communicate your businesses' products and services. Book your place at the next breakfast by contacting GLE oneLondon on **020 8678 5450** or email southcentral@gle.co.uk

How the Brixton Low Carbon Zone can save you money

Brixton is now one of 10 low carbon zones in London. The Low Carbon Zone is a great opportunity for you to save money. The Zone means that you can:

- Receive a free energy audit of your premises
- Take part in a free technology trial
- Get a free energy monitor
- Learn how to calculate your carbon footprint and energy usage
- Get money to create a travel plan and to encourage the use of sustainable travel by staff and visitors.

For more information on how your business could benefit contact Jeremy Keates on **020 7926 2702** or jkeates@lambeth.gov.uk



Local business wins Market Trader of the Year award

Joseph Stevenson (right) started Rosalind's Catering in 2008 because he wanted to produce healthy and nutritious food for the local Brixton community. Now in 2010 he has won market Trader of the Year at the Lambeth Business Awards. Congratulations to Joseph!



Final stage of roadworks

As part of Transport for London's (TfL) final stage of works to improve Brixton Road there will be resurfacing night-works taking place on the Acre Lane and Coldharbour Lane junction throughout April. Night-works will also be necessary on Effra Road and St Matthew's Road in May. For more details visit www.tfl.gov.uk/windrushsquare

Brixton businesses nominated for Lambeth Business Awards

Lambeth firms have been honoured at the glittering Lambeth Business Awards Gala Ceremony at the Brit Oval in February.

Hosted by BBC presenter Ronke Phillips, more than 300 people gathered to recognise the achievements and contributions of businesses to the Lambeth community.

Brixton had a very good year at the third annual Lambeth Business Awards 2010 with a new category called Market Trader of the Year being dominated by Brixton nominees.

Congratulations to Rosalind's Catering who won the Market Trader of the Year award and Stuart the Watchman who was commended

in this category. Brixton businesses were nominated across several categories (for the full list see website below).

The winners of all categories were awarded a certificate, trophy and share a £10,000 prize fund – as well as receiving valuable publicity. The awards process gives all the participants an added opportunity to network with other local firms.

The Lambeth Business Awards are organised by Lambeth Council and funded by both the council and Lambeth First.

Nominations for the Lambeth Business Awards 2011 open in the Autumn.



The full list of the short-listed businesses and winners can be found at www.lambethbusinessawards.co.uk