



THE ELEPHANT

MAGAZINE

Issue 4 / Autumn 2014



THIS ISSUE

ARTWORKS OPENS

The new venue for creative and start-up businesses on Elephant Road

ELEFEST 2014

Elefest returns: bigger bolder and more eclectic than ever before

A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE

Remembering the impact of WW1 on our neighbourhood

THIS IS THE ELEPHANT

This is the Elephant.
And this is the Elephant Magazine.

The Elephant Magazine is the publication dedicated to all things Elephant and Castle. We want to celebrate all that is fabulous about our neighbourhood and our community. We want to look back with fondness on the area's past and look forward with optimism to the future. The Elephant is changing and the Elephant Magazine will be following every step of the way.



The Elephant Magazine is published by Southwark Council. We welcome your ideas, comments and contributions, so please get in touch.
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Photography from left to right: Musician, Elefest; Katie Spragg, artist; The Strata; George Dyer, Walworth tailor; George Peabody statue; East Street; Station; George Hinchliffe; The old Heygate estate; Metropolitan Tabernacle; Difference engine (Carsten Ullrich CC-BY-SA-2.5); Elephant pendent, Carol Mather; Siobhan Davies (Rachel Cherry); Hotel Elephant; Frank Bowling OBE; East Street Market; Eugen Sandow; Elephant and Castle tube station 1918; Dancer at Azucar festival; Arments Pie and Mash; Southwark Playhouse; Cuming collection; The Coronet; Young performers at Azucar festival



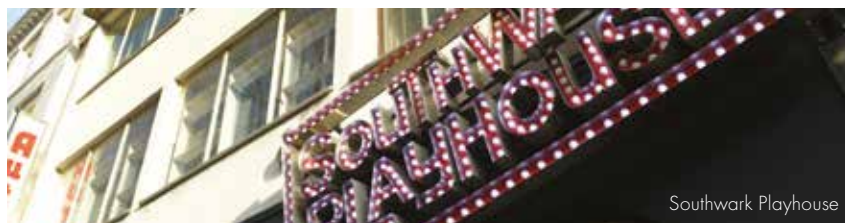
**THE ELEPHANT
WELCOMES
FRESHERS**

**TO SOUTH
LONDON'S
CREATIVE
HEART**

As new students arrive and settle in to life in and around the Elephant, Helen Carney from London College of Communication (LCC) explores the essential attractions for new students (or anyone else) passionate about design, media and the arts.



Hotel Elephant



Southwark Playhouse



Imperial War Museum

LCC is home to around 5,000 students on industry-focused courses ranging from graphic design, animation and illustration to photography, filmmaking and PR.

LCC's campus is in the centre of London's creative heartland, close to internationally renowned museums, galleries, studios and other arts venues.

Within a few minutes' walk from the college is Hotel Elephant, a versatile warehouse gallery space and studio (behind 40-42 Newington Causeway) regularly used for LCC student shows. Independent arts complex, Corsica Studios, is just behind the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre and focuses on supporting local creativity and culture. Also a stone's throw from the college is the Imperial War Museum, which recently reopened following a £40m transformation and includes collections of aircraft, photography, art, weapons, films, posters and much more besides. Just around the corner, on Dugard's Way, the Cinema Museum houses an impressive collection charting the history of cinema from the 1890s to the present day.

Southwark Playhouse, on Newington Causeway, promotes and stages work by the next generation of theatre-makers. And, within sight of each other, half a mile up the road, you'll find both The Old Vic and Young Vic theatres, which produce critical and commercial hits all year round. Not to mention the other small local theatres - the Blue Elephant, Union and Menier Chocolate Factory (now doing £10 tickets for 16 to 21 year olds).

LCC final-year students graduated in July at the Royal Festival Hall, just one part of the world famous Southbank Centre arts complex (20 minutes walk away) and the centre's Hayward Gallery has played host to exhibitions by LCC Research staff including Jananne Al-Ani's Excavations earlier this year. This stretch of the Thames is also home to the British Film Institute where this year's departing film and television students screened their graduation films. A short stroll further upriver brings you to the renowned Tate Modern, with which LCC regularly collaborates, most recently in a series of 'sonic trails' created by sound arts students.

Another institution with which LCC has a great connection is the Design Museum in Shad Thames. OK, it's not exactly Elephant and Castle, but it's not far to go to for the world's leading museum of contemporary design. And, while you're there, make a side-trip to the less well known but nonetheless fascinating Fashion and Textile Museum founded by iconic designer, Zandra Rhodes, or even White Cube - the largest commercial art gallery in Europe. Both can be found ten minutes south of Shad Thames on Bermondsey Street.

Directly south of Elephant and Castle, you'll find a thriving art and design scene in Peckham, including the South London Gallery, which has a fantastic reputation for contemporary art exhibitions and events. Print fans and practitioners should explore Peckham Print Studio, an open access and commercial screen-printing enterprise that also hosts workshops and events. LCC students have regularly

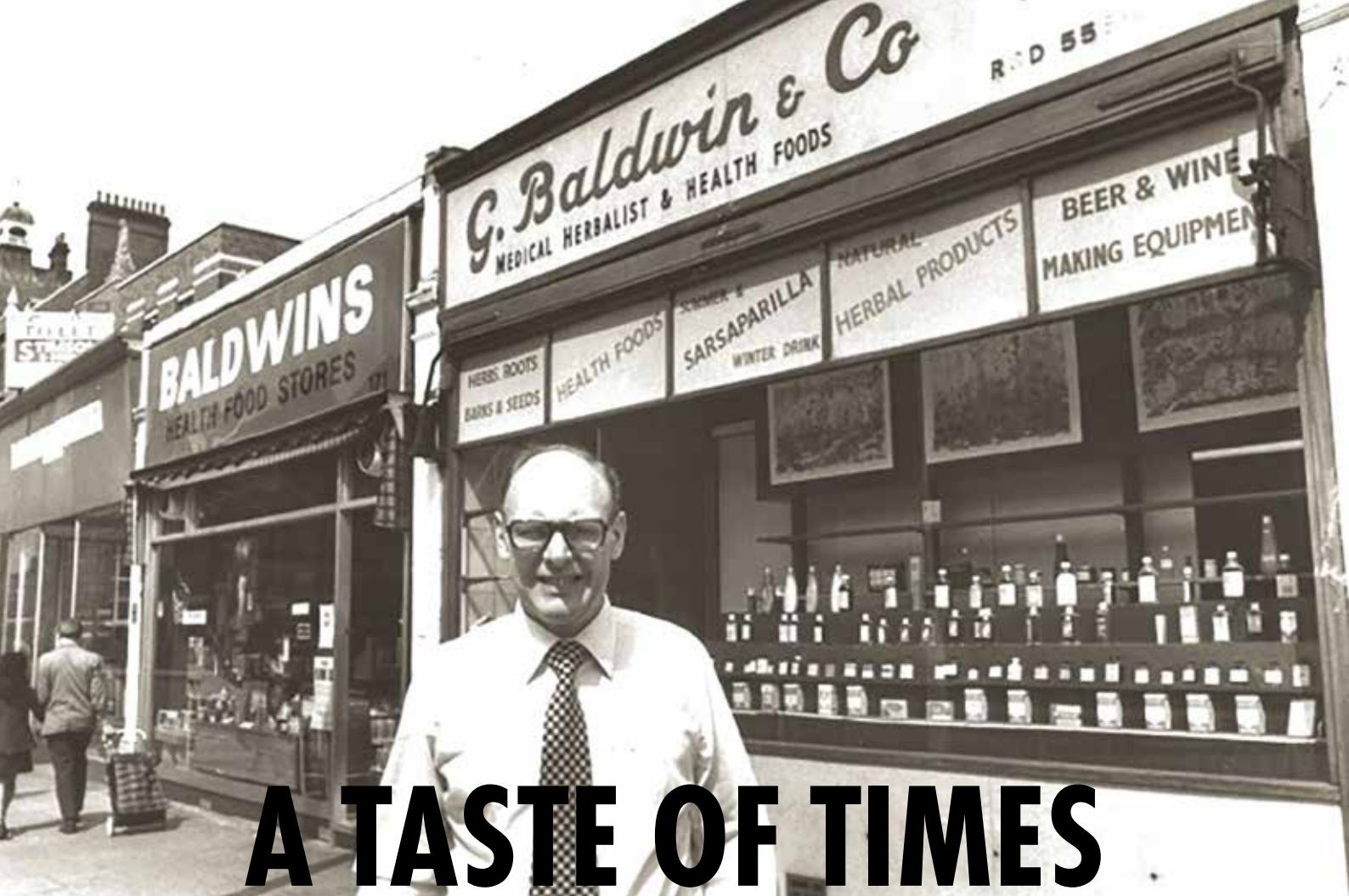
displayed their work at The CLF Art Café, (aka The Bussey Building) a 120 year old warehouse space and events venue, while Peckham Platform is a charity run art gallery that commissions and exhibits work by contemporary artists (usually in collaboration with local community groups).

And don't forget you're in one of the best connected neighbourhoods in the whole of London. Whether you're travelling by tube, bus or bike, you're less than 30 minutes from some of the world's leading museums and galleries. Head to South Kensington for both the Science Museum and the V&A, the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, who have commissioned an interactive installation for LCC's Mini Maker Faire this November.

Students at LCC also get access to resources, facilities and events at other UAL Colleges, all of which are easily accessible from Elephant and Castle. Chelsea and Camberwell are particularly close, with good transport links to London College of Fashion's multiple sites, Central St Martins' new Granary Building at King's Cross and Wimbledon's smaller campus in south-west London.

Here at LCC we hope that local residents, visitors and all the Elephant's new and returning students enjoy the best of what creative London has to offer. We've barely scratched the surface. The possibilities are endless, so get exploring!

www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/
www.southwark.gov.uk/whatson



A TASTE OF TIMES GONE BY

G Baldwin & Co, with its traditional wooden floors, high wooden counters and shelves stocked with herbs, oils and ointments, is London's oldest herbalist and they still serve sarsaparilla by the glass.

There's not much you can buy for 20p nowadays but visit Baldwins on the Walworth Road and it'll get you half a pint of authentic sarsaparilla.

The foamy dark red cordial made from the root of the sarsaparilla plant is still popular locally, especially with families. "Drinking sarsaparilla at Baldwins is something that many people around here remember from their childhoods so they love bringing their children and grandchildren to sample it too". "It's one of many unique things about us" explains Steve Dagnell, the third generation of Dagnell's to run the shop.

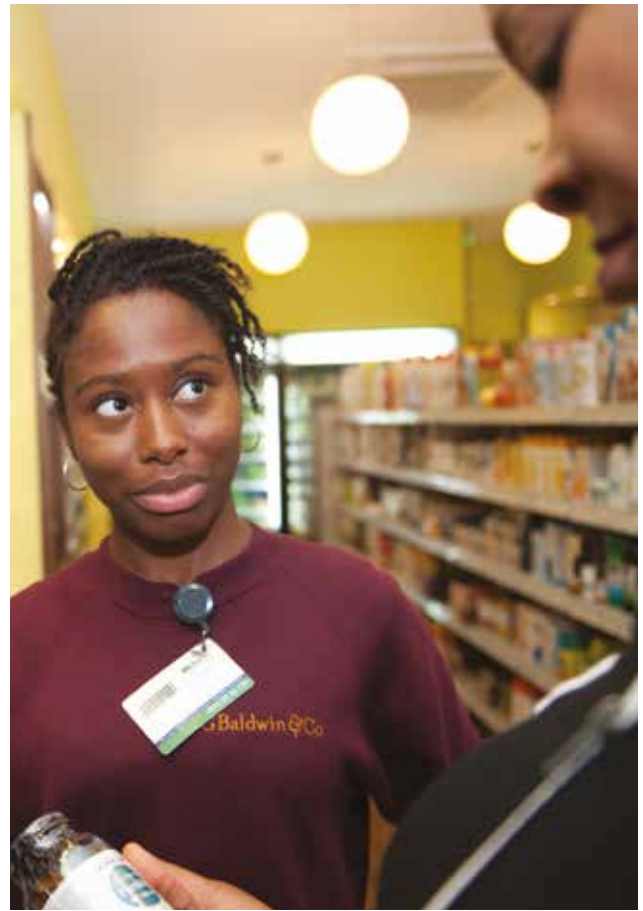
Steve started at Baldwins in the early 80s and eventually took over the business

in 1992 when his father retired. The company was originally started by George Baldwin, who opened his first apothecary at 77 Walworth Road in 1844. At the company's peak there were 12 shops across London. But when George died, in the early 1900s, his son wasn't interested in taking on the business, so Steve Dagnell's grandfather bought the original shop and kept the Baldwins name. Back then the sarsaparilla was made on the premises. "I remember my dad and I carrying in eight tons of sugar a week and in the summer there were queues around the block" says Steve.

Baldwins relocated to 173 Walworth Road in 1969 and today their sarsaparilla

business is bigger than ever. To cope with the growing demand, they started licensed production around ten years ago and now sell half a million litres of the cordial every year. It's available across the country and you can even pick up a bottle of Baldwin's Sarsaparilla in some Tesco's and Sainsbury's.

However, sarsaparilla is still only a fraction of Baldwins' international business. "Our website is our window to the world" declares Steve who's kept the company moving with the times - producing their first mail order catalogue in the 80s and launching their website in the 90s. "We send our herbal products, and much more besides, to nearly every country you can



Top left: Photograph of Steve's grandad. Top right: Shop assistant helping a customer. Bottom left: Herbal jars. Middle: Original wooden drawers. Bottom right: Steve Baldwin.

think of. We've even got a Japanese language website" he adds. Although the Walworth Road shop, along with the health food store next door, is still very much the heart of Baldwins.

Steve is proud of the fact that the shop still has the original large wooden drawers, used for storing herbs in alphabetical order, dating back to 1844. When they carried out a refurbishment six years ago he went to great lengths to make sure it was in keeping with how the shop was in his father and grandfather's day. He employed specialist shopfitters to replicate the old round glass hanging lights and kept as many other traditional features as possible.

Like many places in the Elephant, Baldwins is very much a family business. Just like their father before them, Steve's children Andrew, 28, and Nicole, 21, have helped out on Saturdays and during holidays since they were teenagers and Steve's wife still does the window displays.

So what does the future hold for Baldwins?

Steve recently turned 60 and has been giving it some thought. "Will my kids follow me? I doubt it" he says candidly "but Baldwins will keep going whatever. I'm very lucky to have great staff, with many years of experience, and I'm building up a management structure so everything can carry on without me.

"Whatever happens, we'll continue to maintain the standards that were laid down by my grandfather and father, offering a personal service and good quality products at a competitive price". "Including the bargain sarsaparilla? " "Of course!"

Baldwins, 171-173 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1RW
020 7703 5550
www.baldwins.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
(till 7pm Thurs)

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**THERE'S JUST SO
MUCH GOING
ON HERE AND
SO MUCH TALENT**
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ARTWORKS AH-OY!

An innovative new business community is taking shape at Artworks on Elephant Road.

// If we were a stand alone store I don't think we could make it work. But there's just so much going on here and so much talent, I'm really optimistic about the future" explains Justin Beckett, proprietor of Swedish skateboard outlet, Urskog, the latest addition to the Elephant's diverse retail scene.

The energetic skateboard company is just one of dozens of new ventures starting to trade at Artworks, where forty recycled shipping containers have been converted



Sapelle, fashion and accessories



Daphne Kasambala

into low-cost units for creative and start-up businesses. The new business community here is an eclectic mix, featuring everyone from the skateboarders to software developers and to Sapelle, an ethical clothing company run by Daphne Kasambala. Along with a café, bar and brand new temporary library, it promises to be a bustling new hub for the Elephant.

After coming across their handmade birch longboards and smaller Frö boards in Stockholm, Justin struck a deal to bring them to the UK and is delighted to have found his new base in the Elephant. "We had a pop-up shop in Shoreditch for a while and I was looking for something else when I heard about Artworks. It's perfect for small companies who are trying to establish a showroom as it's a manageable amount of money".

The range of people at Artworks was also a big draw. "It's a really exciting mix. We're looking forward to collaborating with other tenants, maybe doing combined deals and offers and even some special edition boards."

Along with the retail outlets, Artworks promises to be a destination for food lovers from across the capital. Mother and son outfit, Balham Kitchen, will be serving up top quality street food with a twist, including their famous English breakfast chapatti wraps. Meanwhile, just a few doors down, Marcel & Sons, the Mauritian tearoom, brings the unique taste of the tropical islands to the heart of south London.

Fashion and design is also a big part of the Artworks project, with outlets including Croft Vintage, high end classic clothing from Something About Elizabeth and ethical African-European fashion from Sapelle.

Sapelle started as an online shop offering fashion and accessories from a range of artisans and designers. "We ran a series of pop-up shops around London last year and, having received an enthusiastic response, knew it was time to find a more permanent home where people could touch, feel and try what's on offer" explains founder Daphne Kasambala.

While Something About Elizabeth, pride themselves on their British heritage, Sapelle is all about African fusion, merging fabulous textiles and decorative designs with modern Western styling and so it's no coincidence that Daphne chose Artworks as the ideal place to do business. "Artworks ticks so many boxes: its diverse local population, its proximity to the centre of London, the mixture of innovative new retail, food and well-being tenants, and the opportunity to be involved in an exciting new project. We're really pleased to be part of all this."

To complete the development, Southwark Council has built a brand new community library on site. This new, temporary library, which opens on 30 September, will provide a much needed replacement for Newington library while its original Walworth Road site is out of action (read more on page 15). The library will include up to 10,000 books for loan, daily newspapers and magazines; free access to internet and wifi, public computers, study spaces and a children's area with books for the under 5s.

To learn more about Artworks visit theartworks-uk.com or to find out more about the businesses mentioned above, visit: marcelandsons.flavors.me / www.urskog.com / www.sapelle.com

To find out more about the new library visit www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

LOCAL GROUPS SHARE £75K COMMUNITY FUND

Local arts, cultural and gardening groups received a boost last month when the third round of funding from the annual Elephant and Castle Community Fund was awarded.

So far, more than £75,000 has been awarded to deserving local community groups. The latest recipients include an organisation which supports Latin American people with disabilities, a community gardens project and dance and music workshops.

Started in May 2012 by Lend Lease and Southwark Council, the fund is managed by The London Community Foundation. Its main aim is to support groups or projects from the Elephant which address local issues such as education, training, entrepreneurship, arts and culture, health and wellbeing and the environment.

Lend Lease, the council's regeneration partner, is at the forefront of investment and development in the Elephant. Project Director for Elephant and Castle, Pascal Mittermaier, told The Elephant Magazine "The fund has supported a wide range of groups and activities over the past two years. With each new round of funding, we're seeing ever more innovative approaches to helping the

local community and this round was no exception. We're looking forward to continuing our support for those groups who have a positive impact on the neighbourhood."

For more information on how to apply for future rounds, please visit The London Community Foundation's website at: www.londoncf.org.uk



THE 8 LOCAL GROUPS BENEFITTING FROM FUNDING



- **Walworth Garden Farm –**
Creating a new sensory garden for people with learning difficulties, mental health issues and physical disabilities.
- **Walworth Golden Oldies Community Care Project –**
Running an intergenerational project where children can capture the memories of older people.
- **Afro-Brazilian Arts and Cultural Exchange Institute –**
Establishing a weekly family arts and culture project involving capoeira, music, dance and visual art.
- **Latin American Disabled People's Project –**
Supporting people from the Latin American and Spanish speaking community through their Pathways to Employment Project.
- **Mobile Gardeners Community Interest Company –**
Creating a new community garden near the New Kent Road for the benefit of local residents.
- **Pembroke College Mission –**
Running three music workshops for children aged 0-6 years and their families, where participants create and play instruments made from recycled materials.
- **Siobhan Davies Dance –**
Community engagement and creative movement project for isolated elderly and those with mental health and / or learning difficulties.
- **Walworth Society –**
Producing a Historic Area Assessment of Walworth Road and celebrating local heritage in a one-day festival.



LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS NEED YOU TOO

Local people and businesses can also undertake a charity effort of their own and contribute the donations to the community fund to help give local projects a helping hand. For example Anna Leask from Walworth swam in a relay across Lake Zurich and raised £2,000 which she generously provided to the fund.

For more info email naomi@londoncf.org.uk.



Moji Coker

Project Manager, Walworth Golden Oldies Community Care Project

"Golden Oldies is a project designed to bring the elderly and young people together to share stories and life experiences. The members of Golden Oldies were extremely pleased to know their application had been successful and look forward to being able to share their interesting tales with the world thanks to the £4,000 we received."

REGENERATION GETS LOCAL PEOPLE BACK INTO WORK

This year, more than 100 unemployed residents of Southwark have found full-time work on the Elephant and Castle regeneration project.

These 100 jobs, created between July 2013 and July 2014, bring the total number of new jobs filled by local residents to 238. Over the next 15 years, the regeneration of the Elephant is expected to create more than 5,000 new jobs in the area.

Jobs created so far range from office based roles with the Lend Lease development team, to site based construction roles in concreting, demolition, dry lining, mechanical, electrical and painting and decorating. Those who've found work on the various projects include a number of former residents of the Heygate estate, now being redeveloped as Elephant Park.

Many of the new workers have found employment thanks to local partnerships set up with the council's regeneration partner, Lend Lease and their charity BeOnsite. Current BeOnsite partners, who help to find and prepare

candidates for the new jobs, include Southwark Works, Construction Youth Trust (CYT) and the new Southwark charity 2nd Chance.

If you live in the borough and are looking for work, then contact Southwark Works on 0800 052 0540 or email info@southwarkworks.org.uk to learn about the opportunities available.





COLIN, FROM BERMONDSEY...

contacted Southwark Works who put him in touch with Be Onsite, who were able to find him work as a dry-lining apprentice on Lend Lease's Trafalgar Place site. This is a great opportunity for him to be trained in a number of trades and increase his future career prospects.

2ND CHANCE GRADUATES HELPING TO BUILD ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Southwark charity 2nd Chance has had recent success in helping local young people gain employment on the Lend Lease Elephant and Castle construction projects. Their first graduate started last month working on the Trafalgar Place construction site as a painter and decorator.

Set up in 2013, 2nd Chance is a specialist 'education to employment' training course created to support young people who were previously not in education, employment or training into sustained employment by equipping them with the skills and qualifications that they need to create successful careers.

David Mensah, Employment Director at 2nd Chance said: "We're delighted to be partnering with Lend Lease to tackle youth unemployment. The work experience that Lend Lease is offering our trainees will enable them to benefit from the many jobs that the exciting new development projects in Elephant and Castle will offer."

For more information on 2nd Chance, visit www.2ndchanceuk.org

TRUMPETING Elefest 2014



Incredible Elephant Feast



Rob Wray

When organiser and London College of Communication alumnus, Rob Wray, began Elefest in 2002 he never imagined it would still be going strong 12 years later. But Elefest is back for 2014 and this year it promises to be bigger, bolder and more eclectic than ever.

Elefest is now a much-loved local institution, a festival celebrating the past, present and future of Elephant and Castle. Incorporating live music, film, sensational street food and a whole host of quirky entertainment, this year's festival will run from 2 to 5 October at venues throughout the area.

Opening night at the Coronet includes live music from Escapists, Movie and Lois and the Love. It promises to be an explosive start to a weekend dedicated to the cultural diversity and creative energy of the neighbourhood.

On Friday, as part of the BFI's Sci-Fi Blockbuster season, the Cinema Museum will be screening classic sci-fi films (including a very special guest appearance). Local warehouse venue, Hotel Elephant plays host to south London artist and Camberwell College of Arts graduate, Harry Pye, who has curated an exhibition of sculpture, photography and prints celebrating the best of local arts. For the late night session, head back

to Hotel Elephant to experience the Latin phenomenon Wara with Movimentos DJs who'll be playing a high-energy fusion of traditional Latin and Cuban styles anchored in London subculture.

Saturday and Sunday promises to be a feast of nature, arts, crafts, food and Charlie Chaplin. For the green fingered there will be a plenty of nature loving springing up from the Mobile Gardeners' Plant Station, a new pop-up park on the site of a former petrol station, hosting DJs, a bar, and the Incredible Edible home grown feast. Come and get your hands dirty with free seeds and challenge the urban landscape with a Guerrilla Gardening mission on Sunday afternoon led by local cheerleader for the movement Richard Reynolds.

The StockMKT, with its delectable food / arts and crafts offering, also returns to Hotel Elephant. This year they come accompanied by the Voodoo Love Orchestra and Howard and Clack: Workers in Song and Electric Pedals - a bike powered workshop and cinema.

Meanwhile, for the film extravaganza, the Cinema Museum is hosting a whole weekend of workshops, screenings and live rescues for free.

Finally, Sunday is dedicated to the Elephant's most famous son, Charlie Chaplin, including a children's slapstick comedy workshop from the London Comedy Festival School of Slapstick. There will also be a South London Film Crawl taking in film locations and the sites of old cinemas for which the area was once famous.

The whole shebang wraps up on Sunday night with a closing party at Longwave at Artworks on Elephant Road.

Full details on the multitude of events taking place over the four-day festival can be found at www.elefest.org

For more about events coming up across Southwark visit www.southwark.gov.uk/whatson

COUNCIL ON TRACK WITH KEY REGENERATION PROJECTS

Change is underway throughout Elephant and Castle including several council developments for the whole community.

The Castle Centre

Work on the new council leisure centre being built at St Mary's Churchyard is progressing well. The new leisure centre, which includes a six lane 25 metre swimming pool and trainer pool, (pictured above) will be a state of the art facility for everyone in the area. With works well under way it is set to open in spring 2015. The new centre will also offer a sports hall with four badminton courts; a fully equipped gym and cycle studio; two exercise class / dance studios; a crèche and a cafe.

Walworth Town Hall

Since the 2013 fire at Walworth Town Hall, which destroyed much of the structure and put Newington library out of action, the council has been working hard to bring the buildings back into use. This meant immediate, emergency, works were undertaken last year, followed by further work this year, to stabilise and protect the site and to salvage as much of the contents as possible. At the same time, the council has developed and consulted on a vision for a new improved town hall; one which will provide the Elephant with a world class civic centre fit for the 21st century.

Earlier this year, the council's outline vision for the rebuilt town hall was approved and the process to appoint an architectural practice, who will further develop the plans, is now underway. When they start work, in early 2015, the architects will be expected to work closely with the community on all their designs and plans for the restored building. In the meantime, following planning consent granted this summer, more work will be carried out, shortly, to further stabilise the building and to enable a permanent roof to be reinstated.

Newington Library

The plans for the new town hall will include the Newington Library building. Until then, to bridge the gap, the council has built a brand new, temporary library, a little further up Walworth Road at the new Artworks development. This temporary library, which opens on 30 September, will include up to 10,000 books for loan, daily newspapers and magazines; free access to internet and wifi, public computers, study spaces and a children's area with books for the under 5s.

The Northern Roundabout

Transport for London (TfL) has been developing plans to transform this vital

junction in support of the council's regeneration programme. Earlier this year, TfL conducted a consultation with local residents and commuters during which over 80 per cent expressed their support for the main elements of the new design. However, some concerns were raised and TfL has made a number of modifications to the scheme to help to address these. Construction will commence in late spring 2015 with the main highway works expected to take roughly a year to complete.

To see TfL's latest designs for the roundabout and for the results of the consultation visit www.tfl.gov.uk/elephantandcastle

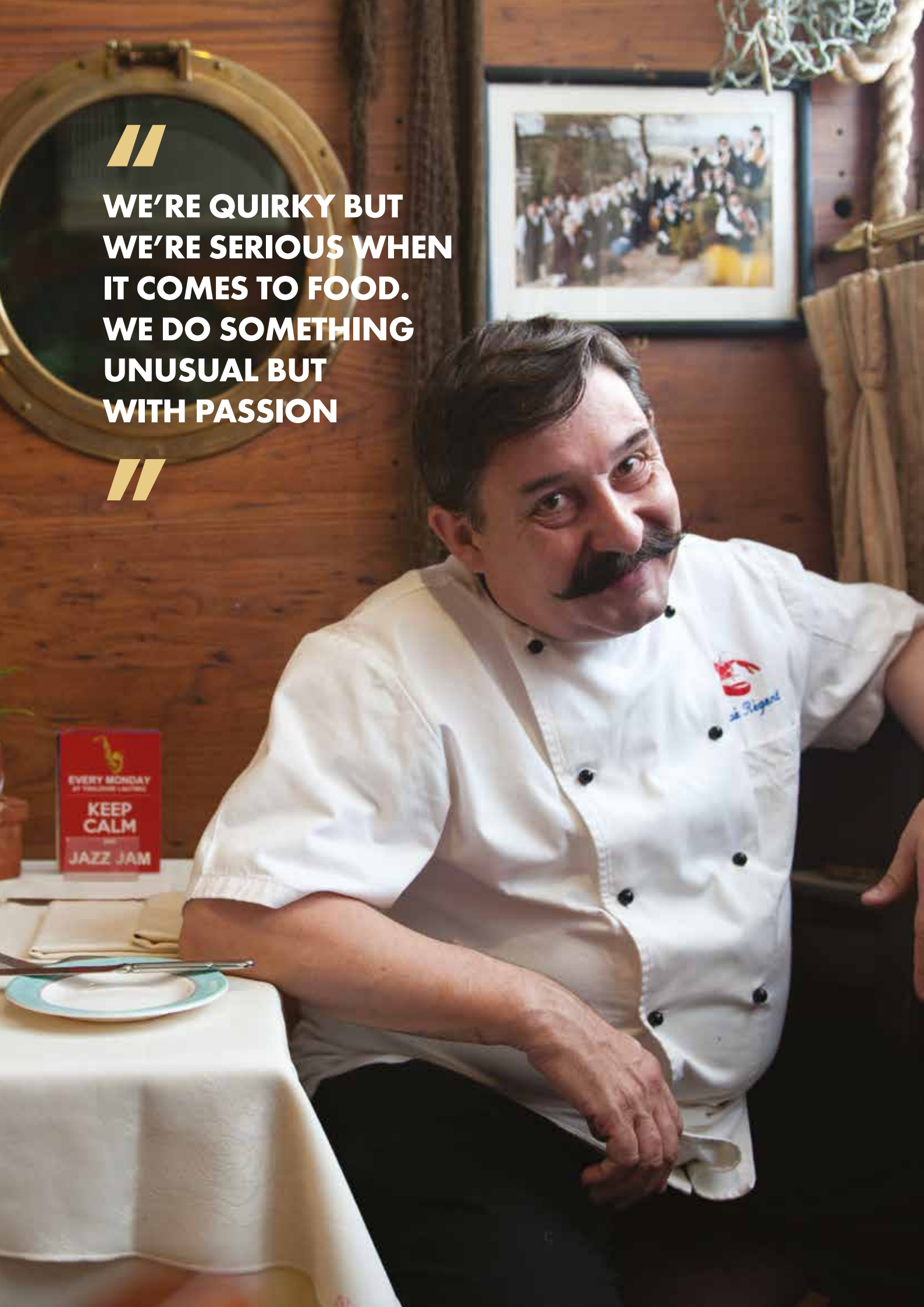
To find out more about Walworth Town Hall visit www.southwark.gov.uk/wth

To find out more about the new library visit www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries





**WE'RE QUIRKY BUT
WE'RE SERIOUS WHEN
IT COMES TO FOOD.
WE DO SOMETHING
UNUSUAL BUT
WITH PASSION**



THE BEST OF THE ELEPHANT: THE LOBSTER POT

For 24 years Hervé Regent and his wife Nathalie have been offering a unique taste of Brittany at their kitsch, nautically themed French seafood restaurant, The Lobster Pot, on Kennington Lane.



Step into The Lobster Pot and it takes a few minutes to take it all in. One moment you're on a busy road in Elephant and Castle, the next you're in a charming seaside restaurant, complete with wood panelling, fishing nets hung from the ceilings, fish tanks behind portholes and a soundtrack of seagulls and foghorns.

And with his dark, twirly moustache and twinkly eyes, Hervé Regent is just how you'd imagine 'le patron' to be. "We're quirky but we're serious when it comes to food. We do something unusual but with passion" explains Hervé, who describes The Lobster Pot as a 'destination restaurant'.

Customers come from far and wide, usually after hearing personal recommendations or reading enthusiastic reviews in guides such as Harden's or on Trip Advisor and Via Michelin. More often than not, the customers are here to sample the famous eight course Surprise Menu featuring fish and seafood handpicked from Billingsgate Market.

"People visit from everywhere" says Hervé "Last week we had a customer from New Zealand who said that his neighbour back home had recommended us". Situated within the division bell

area for Westminster, The Lobster Pot is also a popular haunt for politicians and celebrities. "A few other famous people eat here too, but I won't tell who they are" he teases.

Regular customers have even added to the restaurant's nautical décor, donating everything from old ships radios to portholes. And they've grown particularly attached to the seagull soundtrack that Hervé recorded one foggy day in St Malo. "Four years ago the whole system broke so we stopped using it" Hervé reveals "but we had so many complaints we had to put it back on".

Born in Brittany, Hervé began his career as an apprentice waiter at the age of 16, moved to Paris, where he worked on the Champs-Élysées, and then came to London to learn English. For a year he worked at the Michelin-starred Waterside Inn in Bray, before managing a number of upmarket restaurants in London and abroad.

Hervé cites the revered French-born chef and restaurateur, Michel Roux Snr, who established The Waterside Inn, as his inspiration when it came to setting up his own place. "I decided to do it and I've done it" he gestures around proudly. Despite his flair for the maritime, it wasn't all plain sailing, however.

"It was a complete disaster at first" he admits. "I used to pay a chef to cook and one day a plate came out of the kitchen that I really wasn't happy with. So I had to say something". The chef didn't take it well, to say the least, and Hervé ended up declaring "You go and I will cook".

"I'd never cooked in a restaurant kitchen before but I had watched Michel Roux and I'd seen how very good chefs work, and soon I really started enjoying it. Now, 22 years on, I still love it", he declares enthusiastically.

But not all the success is down to Hervé. His wife, Nathalie, is just as important and Hervé admits to leaving all the desserts to her. "She's a very good pastry chef and does an excellent Tart Tatin. I guess, when it comes to pudding, I'm just not patient enough" he smiles.

The Lobster Pot
3 Kennington Lane, SE11 4RG
020 7582 5556
www.lobsterpotrestaurant.co.uk

Open Tues - Sat, Noon - 2.30pm
and 7pm - 10.30pm

A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE: WW1 AND THE ELEPHANT

As the country reflects on the First World War and its centenary, Dr Patricia Dark delves into Southwark's archives for a glimpse into life on the battlefield and on the home front.

Elephant and Castle's local brigade, the 24th Battalion of the London Regiment, was based at what is now Braganza Street, off Kennington Park Road. Of the 1,200 men who left for the Front in April 1915, only 17 were still serving with the battalion when it returned home in May 1919.

One of those who died, Leonard Keyworth, is still remembered in the name of a local street and school today. Originally from Lincoln, Leonard enlisted with the 24th Battalion at the start of the war and went on to win the Victoria Cross. He was recognised for his bravery in capturing and holding a German trench near Givenchy in July 1915. Tragically, he died of his wounds just three months later. Keyworth Street, which runs through the London South Bank University campus, is named in his honour.

Beyond the 24th Battalion, local men and women served in every branch of the military and every theatre of the war. James Hines, an able seaman in the Navy, survived the sinking of HMS *Louis* off Gallipoli in 1915. The First Surrey Rifles, a local volunteer unit, fought at High Wood (near Ypres) in August 1916. Only two officers and 60 soldiers survived. Winnifred Hawkins, a local nurse, received the Military Medal for her actions during an air raid on a casualty clearing station in Belgium.

For every man and woman at the front, there was a family left behind. The sheer scale of sacrifice made by some can be hard for us to grasp today. Mrs Heard, of Carter Street, was a mother to 17 children and, according to the

South London Press at the time, had six sons plus two sons-in-law on active service. Five of them were wounded. Another local family, the Patersons, had 11 members on active service as early as 1916. As the war progressed, streets all around the Elephant developed impromptu shrines to the fallen.

On the home front, the war brought opportunity for some and further deprivation for others. Many local women, for example, took on traditionally male jobs at the South London Metropolitan Gas Company, headquartered off the Old Kent Road. Meanwhile some men, employed in what were considered 'non-war-essential' jobs, were to see their incomes depleted. The Bellamys of Leroy Street suffered when Mr Bellamy's job in printing was slashed to just three days a week. The family had only 12 ½ shillings a week to feed, clothe and care for a household of eight. It wasn't enough. In December 1914, the Southwark coroner's court ruled that their baby daughter Ruby's death from pneumonia was linked to malnutrition.

Food price rises hit poorer areas such as the Elephant especially hard, particularly as the advent of submarine warfare cut off food supplies from abroad. Rationing began in February 1917, albeit on a voluntary basis to start with. Both central and local government asked people to do more with less and the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark held cooking demonstrations to show people how to make the most of their meagre rations.

Perhaps the most frightening new development on the home front came from air raids. The Germans bombed London with both Gotha bombers and Zeppelins. Out of 29 bombing raids on London, 12 involved Southwark. A daylight raid on 13 June 1917 killed six and injured 12 and a further Zeppelin raid in October brought the total dead to 24. A local coroner noted that two things had made the casualties worse. One; the fact that the public was not routinely warned about air raids, and two; that people – perhaps because of the sheer novelty of seeing an aeroplane or blimp – tended to stand and stare at the bombers, rather than take cover.

Even a century on we still have much to discover about how the First World War changed our borough and the lives of those associated with the area. To find out more about those mentioned above, or to discover more about your own family history, drop in to the Local History Library and Archive on Borough High Street. You can also visit the brand new First World War galleries now open at the Elephant's very own Imperial War Museum. Lastly, the borough Remembrance Service will be held on Remembrance Sunday 9 November at 11 am at The Borough War Memorial on Borough High Street. A youth led WW1 Memorial Service will be held at St George's Cathedral at 11 am on Armistice Day 11 November 2014.

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries
www.iwm.org.uk
www.1914.org
www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org



Left to right from top: Female workers loading cases of gas masks into a van at Edric Hall (now part of USBU) [courtesy USBU]; Leonard Keyworth's medals; Leonard Keyworth celebrating with his battalion after his investiture [courtesy Queens Royal, Surrey]; Air raid damage, Albany Road, following Zeppelin raid of 19/20 October 1917 [courtesy IWM]; Gotha bombers over London [Stan Stokes]

MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Locals tell us
what they
love about
the Elephant



Isobel

I like Baldwins the herbalist and Mama Thai is good for a quick meal. I'm a London

Registered Blue Badge Tourist Guide and do tours around the Elephant and Walworth. It's a great area to walk around with interesting places like Stage Services who work on a lot of West End shows and Husky recording studios. I also like the Victorian buildings and shop facades - my tip is always look up!



Tim

I love living on the Pullens estate, although it was different when I first moved in, in the 80s.

There were no bathrooms because at the time it was built, people used to go to the bathhouse. The Electric Elephant café is a real hub for people who live and work on the estate. I'm also looking forward to the new leisure centre at St Mary's Churchyard. It will be great to have a pool on our doorstep again.



Jamie

I like The Tankard, the black and white pub on the Walworth Road. It's good value with great

music and a real community vibe. Further down, towards Camberwell, there's the 24 hour Oli Food Centre which has everything you can possibly imagine.



Theo

Café Amore has great food at good prices and lovely staff. I also like it at

The Hub where they do bits and bobs about the redevelopment. The area has a really nice vibe.



Ollie

I'm really excited about Elefest. People associate Elephant and Castle with the roundabout but

it's so much more. The festival brings the whole community together. I'm in a rock 'n' roll band called Movie and we're playing at Corsica Studios. I also like Chatkhara, the Indian restaurant which stays open until 2am. It's delicious, great for veggies and top value.



Tim

I like the coffee! I go to Chatica on Elephant Road because it's Colombian and they

make the best coffee.



Adam

I love the food. Dragon Castle does the best Dim Sum in London and Sabor Peruano, the

Peruvian restaurant on the south side of the roundabout, has fantastic food. I also love the vibe and I hope it will be the same in five or ten year's time. It would be a massive shame if we lost the people who make this area interesting.



Maria

I'm from Ecuador and the Latin American shops here are good for food and clothes. I especially

like the coffee shops.



Orlando

I came here from Colombia ten years ago and found out that Elephant and Castle is

the second Colombia! It's good for food, for coffee, and for friends. I'm a musician and it's a great area for Latin music. I'm very happy here and I'm looking forward to the future. With all the new buildings, I think it will be even better.

The Elephant Magazine is produced by Southwark Council. We would love to hear your feedback and welcome suggestions for future features. Drop us a line at councilnews@southwark.gov.uk

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