

THE ELEPHANT

MAGAZINE

Issue 2 / Winter 2014



THIS ISSUE

THE DUKE OF UKE

George Hinchliffe
and the Ukulele
Orchestra of
Great Britain

BEST OF THE ELEPHANT

Dragon Castle:
the best Chinese
this side of
the river?

THE SHOPPING CENTRE

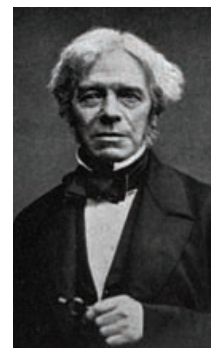
Due for
demolition:
find out what's
in store

THIS IS THE ELEPHANT



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

The Elephant Magazine is the quarterly 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.



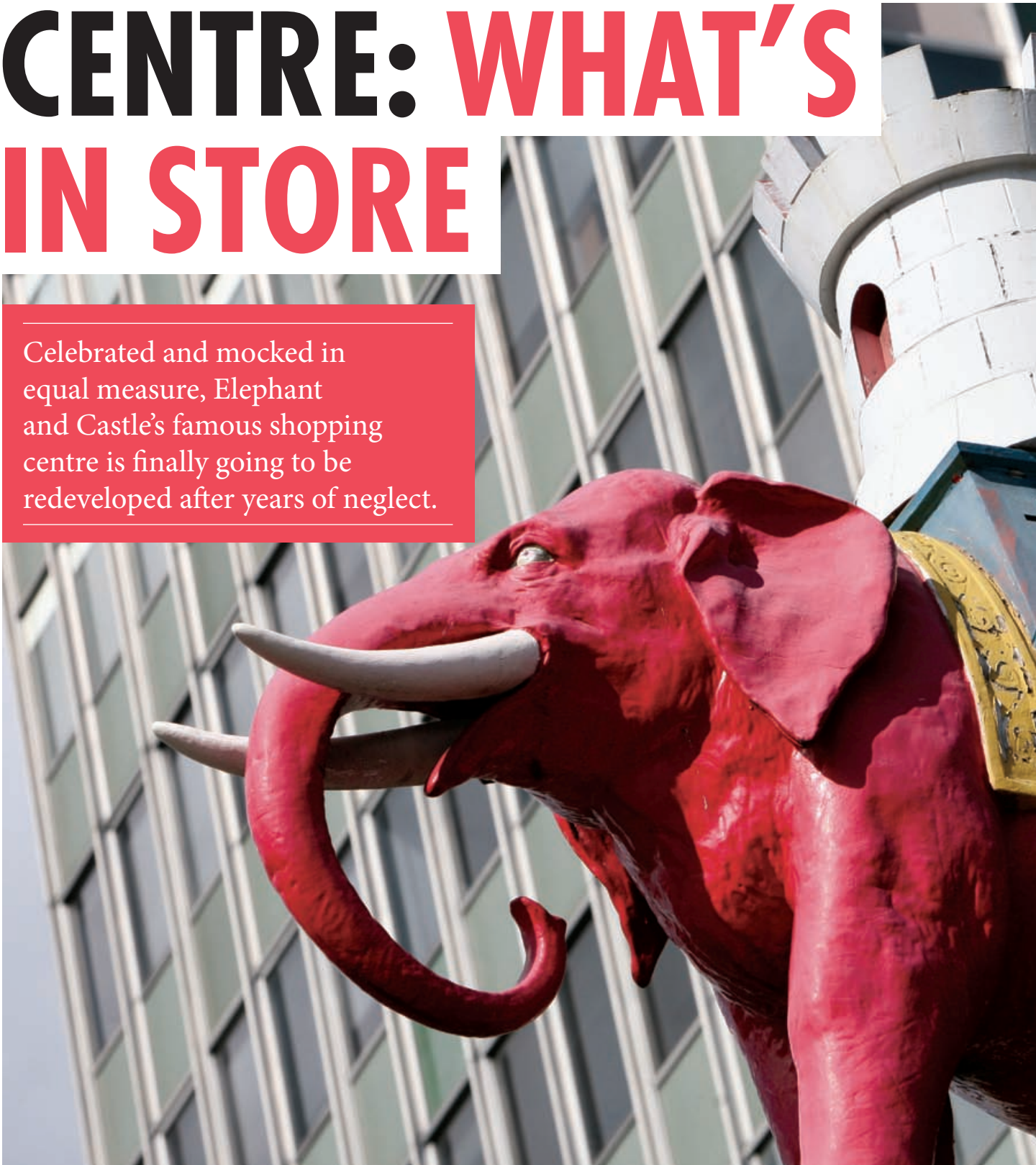
The Elephant Magazine is published by Southwark Council. We'd welcome your ideas, comments and contributions, so please get in touch. Editor: Richard Wells / Additional copy: Nikki Spencer and Catherine Simonds / Photography: Hannah Maulte-Finch, Jamie Simonds and Graham Maxwell. Designed by Westminster Design and printed by Novitex / Enquiries: councilnews@southwark.gov.uk



Photography from left to right: Charlie Chaplin (MPTV, Camera Press London); Singer, Elefest; The Strata; Naomi Campbell (MPTV, Theodore Wood, Camera Press London); Mary Wollstonecraft (© National Portrait Gallery London); East Street; Station; Combination performer, Elephant and the Nun; The Heygate estate; Metropolitan Tabernacle; Difference engine (Carsten Ullrich CC-BY-SA-2.5); R.C. Hutchinson novel; Siobhan Davies (Rachel Cherry); Hotel Elephant; Seizure, Artangel 2008; East Street Market; Eugen Sandow; Ministry of Sound; Elephant statue; The Rockingham estate; Michael Faraday; The Coronet; Young performers at Azucar festival; Dancer at Azucar festival.

THE SHOPPING CENTRE: **WHAT'S** **IN STORE**

Celebrated and mocked in equal measure, Elephant and Castle's famous shopping centre is finally going to be redeveloped after years of neglect.





The shopping centre - designed by Boissenvain & Osmond for the Willets Group - first opened its doors in March 1965. It was the first covered shopping mall in Europe with 120 shops on three levels and a two-storey underground car-park.

In the original sales brochure (1963), Willets claimed it to be the "largest and most ambitious shopping venture ever to be embarked upon in London. In design planning and vision it represents an entirely new approach to retailing, setting standards for the sixties that will revolutionise shopping concepts throughout Britain." When it opened, however, budget restrictions meant that the proportions and finishes of the building had to be scaled down and only 29 out of the possible 120 shops were trading.

Martin Black, a local resident at the time, remembers visiting the centre with his mother as a child. "It was brand new when I was a kid, it may not have revolutionised Elephant and Castle but it did revolutionise the way we shop. You used to have to get rained on outside or ask the shopkeeper to find what you wanted from the back of the store. So a shopping centre with a roof and the freedom to look in the shops yourself was very much the latest thing."

However, by the 1990s, despite a lick

of lurid pink paint, the centre was clearly tired, run down and in need of extensive refurbishment. A number of proposals on what to do with it have come and gone but last September, Southwark Council finally took the decision to require its full demolition in order to make way for a new range of good quality shops that many more people will enjoy visiting.

Marsha



"I don't really shop here that much at the moment, I'd like to see lots more high street fashion shops. At the moment there are too many

hairdressers and food places. I definitely don't want to see any more loan shops."

In November, Delancey purchased the shopping centre from its former owners, St Modwen. The aspiration remains to rebuild the centre and open out the whole space - to reconfigure the underground station entrances, create a vibrant shopping and residential location, and give the Elephant market a new lease of life.

Stafford Lancaster from Delancey, explains "We hope to enhance the shopping experience and provide quality space and homes for new and

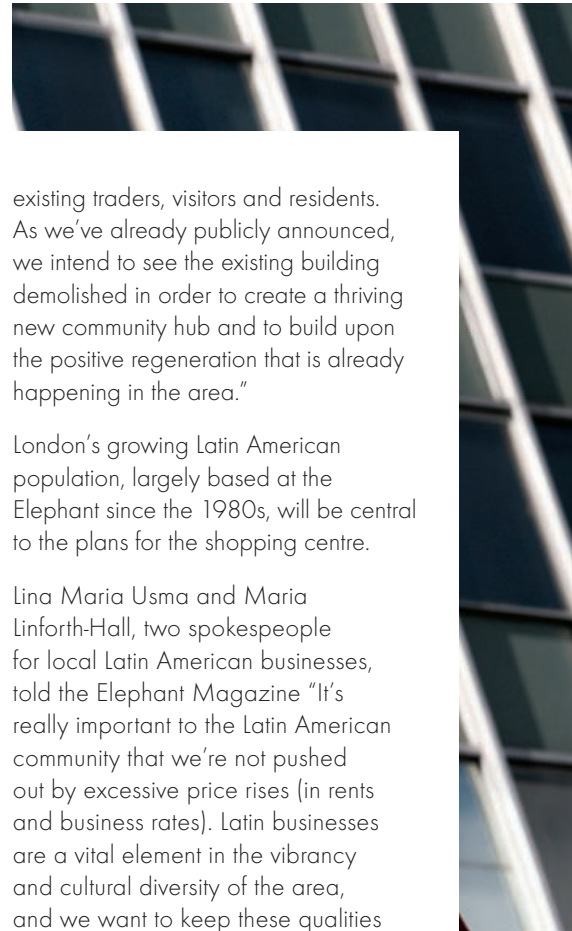
existing traders, visitors and residents. As we've already publicly announced, we intend to see the existing building demolished in order to create a thriving new community hub and to build upon the positive regeneration that is already happening in the area."

London's growing Latin American population, largely based at the Elephant since the 1980s, will be central to the plans for the shopping centre.

Lina Maria Usma and Maria Linforth-Hall, two spokespeople for local Latin American businesses, told the Elephant Magazine "It's really important to the Latin American community that we're not pushed out by excessive price rises (in rents and business rates). Latin businesses are a vital element in the vibrancy and cultural diversity of the area, and we want to keep these qualities alive. I'm glad we've been invited to take part in the consultation as we want to stay here and ensure that the Elephant remains the Latin Quarter of London."

The next steps for the shopping centre will involve extensive consultation with existing businesses and local people as plans are drawn-up for the site.

For more about Delancey visit www.delancey.com



IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY THAT WE'RE NOT PUSHED OUT



THE ORCHESTRA WITH PLUCK

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, which started as “a bit of fun”, has given rise to the worldwide phenomenon of “uke groups”. Founder member, George Hinchliffe, tells us how it all began in Elephant and Castle.



With the band now performing their unique renditions of popular songs at sell-out shows everywhere from the Royal Albert Hall to Sidney Opera House, George is the first to admit that they didn't have a plan when they first formed back in 1985.

George, who grew up in Sheffield, started playing the ukulele as a kid and rediscovered it when he was in his 20s and living in a relative's flat on Trinity Church Square.

“It was a crazy idea in the pub one night” he recalls when we meet at their offices off the Walworth Road.

“What if we did a gig where all the musicians all played the ukulele just for one show? Let's do it in a local pub and play rock tunes. It might be fun.

We thought it would be a one-off but everyone loved it, we did another and another and now here we are 28 years later!”

Within three years, the Orchestra had released an LP, appeared on TV, played at WOMAD and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session.

They have gone on to play thousands of concerts across the world including America, Canada, New Zealand and Japan as well as numerous festivals including Glastonbury. They've also performed with everyone from the Kaiser Chiefs to Cat Stevens.

George describes their concerts as “A funny, virtuosic, twanging, awesome, foot-stomping obituary of rock-n-roll and melodious light entertainment”. Their sets can feature anything and everything from Tchaikovsky to Nirvana via Otis Redding and spaghetti western soundtracks to Lady Gaga's Born This Way.

There are nine members in the orchestra although they usually “rotate the squad” and take eight on the road. There is also an office staff of three who organise concerts and bookings along with CD sales.

“Most bands sign up with a record company and appoint a touring agency, but we do it all ourselves, right here in the Elephant” George explains.

Wherever they go in the world they discover other people who have followed their example and set up their own ukulele orchestras.

“We once played a festival in Svalbard in the arctic circle, where there are more polar bears than people” says George “We thought they would never have seen a uke before, but even in this really remote place they had a ukulele orchestra in the local hospital!”

For George, one of the main attractions of ukuleles is that they're affordable.

“When we first started you could go to the bar and have two drinks each or go to the music shop and buy a ukulele” he jokes. “They were cheap and it was pot luck if you got a playable one. Back then, they were more like toys but now every music shop has a good selection and they all sell far more ukes than guitars”.

For more information visit www.ukuleleorchestra.com



**IT WAS A CRAZY
IDEA IN A PUB
ONE NIGHT**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

With £1.5bn of investment from Lend Lease projects alone, the regeneration of Elephant and Castle is continuing to deliver new opportunities for local people. From jobs and training through to investment in local education projects the area is starting to see real benefits.

SUPPORTING LOCAL STUDENTS

Lend Lease is supporting a number of education projects to engage young people in the regeneration programme and to ensure they benefit from the work as much as possible.

One of these projects is called "Mapping the Elephant". It sees ten local young people with an interest in architecture and urban development take part in a special project to investigate Elephant and Castle's urban landscape and the challenges it faces.

The project is being run by The Architecture Foundation - a non-profit agency that advances architecture and urbanism to enrich life now and in future - and is providing the young participants with a fantastic opportunity to go on a comparative field trip to Barcelona, with the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union, as well as take part in a series of creative workshops led by architects, artists, designers and writers.



JOBS AND TRAINING

Lend Lease's regeneration project consists of three key sites - the Heygate, One the Elephant and Trafalgar Place - representing half of the £3bn total investment going into the area and the company is leading efforts to ensure that all of this investment creates job opportunities for local people.

Already 116 local Southwark residents have gained employment on Lend Lease sites. Of these early recruits, 47 were previously unemployed, proving that construction is a great industry in which to begin a new career.

Former resident of the Heygate Estate, Kavyne, recently found work with Keltbray, who have been contracted by Lend Lease to carry out the demolition of the Heygate Estate.

Kavyne said: "I studied Property Management just down the road at London South Bank University so I was delighted when I visited Southwark Works and they were able to forward on my CV to a number of construction projects in the borough. I want to be a Building Surveyor in future so it's great for me to be getting on-site experience on such a huge regeneration project. As I used to live on the estate, I'm particularly looking forward to seeing how much better the area will look when the project is complete."

Walworth resident, Daniel Cuddy, has also found work with Keltbray and has been helping with the asbestos removal as part of the Heygate demolition.

Daniel said: "I've worked in construction for my whole career but getting this job on the Heygate is one of the best opportunities I've had. Keltbray has put me on an asbestos removal course, which means I'm now much better qualified than I was before. The best thing about the job though is that I only live a stone's throw away, which means I can now drop my daughter off at school each day before I go to work.

If you are looking for work, then please get in touch with Southwark Works which will provide you with the necessary advice and support to access the available jobs and training opportunities.

Tel: 0800 052 0540

Email: info@southwarkworks.org.uk

Or visit Unit 239, Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre, London SE1 6TE



IT'S GREAT FOR
ME TO BE GETTING
ON-SITE EXPERIENCE



ANOTHER VICTORY FOR LOCAL PARK

Five new silver birch trees were recently planted in Victory Park at a special ceremony attended by local residents, councillors and members of Victory Primary School's student-run newspaper, who were there to report on the event. Lend Lease's regeneration plans will see over 1,200 new trees planted in the surrounding areas of its construction sites, creating a healthier and more pleasant living environment for Elephant and Castle.

CUMING HOME AGAIN

A 200 year old bear, fish in formaldehyde, several monkeys and pots (lots of pots). A year after the fire, Walworth's weird and wonderful Cuming collection is coming back together.

// It's peculiar isn't it?" says Judy, squinting at the strange fish which stares straight back at her from the jar in which it's resided for more than a century. "It's not quite natural. Whoever did this has added a couple of details of their own".

Judy Aitken, one of the heritage managers at Southwark Council, is surrounded by examples of mysterious Victorian taxidermy. She surveys the collection - boxed, bagged and stacked around her - the result of a recovery and restoration operation which has taken her and her team almost a year. In one corner there's a collection of antique monkeys, in another Bert Hardy's original prints, and everywhere there are pots, vases, plates and ceramics of every size and colour. These are just some of the artefacts rescued from the fire which destroyed much of Walworth town hall last March.

Judy was working at the Cuming Museum, whose collection was displayed in the town hall, when the smoke alarm went off that fateful day. "The alarm sounded about midday and two hours later I was stood in the middle of Walworth Road, thick black smoke billowing down the street, with 400 items from the collection on the pavement in front of me" Judy, shakes her head.

"When they were sure everyone was safe and that they had the fire under control, the fire brigade asked me what I wanted rescued most. I had to make some quick decisions but thankfully our emergency plan meant we knew what to do. The Safe Stay hostel on the opposite side of the road were wonderful, providing us with temporary shelter, and within a couple of hours we'd managed to move 400 artefacts to secure, dry storage."

In the months after the fire, the museum team, along with help from museum colleagues from the British Museum and expert conservators, managed to salvage and restore many more items from the collection as well as books, photographs and archive documents. Later on, the Museum of London Archaeology Service was brought in to sift through the rubble of the collapsed building for the remainder. "They were more used to uncovering treasure lain buried under London for two thousand years rather than two months" recalls Judy "but they did a brilliant job". In the end, around 98 percent of the items on display were retrieved, with only a tiny handful being lost entirely.

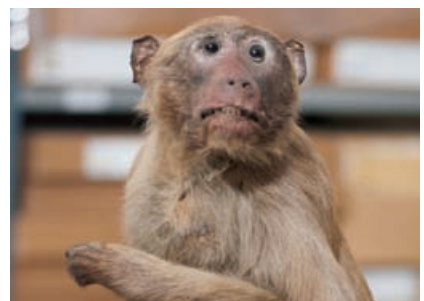
Judy is grateful for all support the museum has received from the local community, Inspire at St Peter's church and the museum fraternity.

Now her immediate concerns are about maintaining the service and what comes next for the museum.

"We're still doing plenty of activities, talks and events and we don't want people to forget about us. We may not have a museum space right now but, as a service, we're still very much open for business. The Cuming is a big part of life in Southwark and we're determined to secure its future" says Judy, the tone of her voice sounding every bit as resilient as one of her precious vases rescued from the ashes.

For more information on the Cuming museum see www.southwark.gov.uk/cumingmuseum

Southwark Council is due to announce its proposals for the future of the town hall, museum and library in March. For more information see www.southwark.gov.uk/wth





**WE MAY NOT HAVE
OUR MUSEUM SPACE
BACK ANY TIME SOON
BUT, AS A SERVICE,
WE'RE STILL OPEN
FOR BUSINESS**





NEW LEISURE CENTRE PUTS THE CASTLE BACK IN THE ELEPHANT

The brand new council leisure centre, now under construction at St Mary's Churchyard, is to be named The Castle.

The name was chosen by a panel of councillors following a public poll which drew over 300 responses from the local community. Other suggestions ranged from the historic, including references to Michael Faraday and Charlie Chaplin, to the witty - such as Trunks. Ultimately, The Castle was chosen because it would put the building firmly on the map and because the new centre promises to be a bastion of leisure and sporting opportunity for everyone in the Elephant.

Speedy progress is being made on construction. The two swimming pools have already been dug out and tested for water-tightness, and the official 'topping out' of the building is expected

by the end of March. When complete, the new centre will provide: a six lane 25 metre swimming pool and a learner pool; a sports hall with four badminton courts; a fully equipped gym and indoor cycle studio, two exercise class and dance studios plus a crèche and a café.

In addition to the leisure centre, more improvements are planned for St Mary's Churchyard itself. These include an extended and upgraded play area, an interactive water play area and a new pond. The council will also install new park furniture and plant more trees and shrubs. At the same time, work is underway to improve access routes to the public sports facilities at nearby South Bank University.

Work on the park will be done in two phases. The new playground will be completed this summer and the water features next year.

The leisure centre opens in the spring of 2015.



Lillian

"I'm really looking forward to the new leisure centre. I want to have sports facilities

close by for my children rather than having to go to Camberwell or Peckham."

You can read more about the history of St Mary's Churchyard on page 18. For more information about the leisure centre visit www.southwark.gov.uk/elephant

ARTWORKS ELEPHANT

A new retail and creative business hub comes to the Elephant.

Artworks Elephant received planning permission last December and will see 50 recycled shipping containers on the site of the former Heygate Estate provide low cost business and retail space for creative and start-up companies in Southwark.

The temporary new facility is designed to bring life and activity to Elephant and Castle during its redevelopment and to act as an incubator for entrepreneurs.



**Charlie Fulford,
Director of
Artworks**

"This is an innovative project that will bring immediate

economic and social benefits to the Elephant and Castle and help establish a real sense of place. We hope Artworks will be a lively and vibrant place for the occupiers as well as all the visitors to the site."

In total, Artworks Elephant will provide space for about 60 different occupiers, focusing on small and start-up companies. With competitive all-inclusive rents, local businesses will benefit from the opportunity to take space in a central London location.

It is hoped that many of the retailers and businesses that join Artworks will eventually take permanent space along

the brand new high street on Walworth Road and Heygate Street that will be created as part of Lend Lease's plans.

The project is set to open by May and will operate for five years. It is one of many interim uses that Lend Lease and Southwark Council will introduce during the course of the 15 year long regeneration project.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



One of the exciting new offerings at Artworks Elephant will be a restaurant and café.

Founders and Southwark residents Gary Solomons and Catherine Menist told us about their plans.

What can the local community expect from Community Kitchen at Artworks Elephant?

We will provide a central space for tenants, local residents and employees to meet and eat. As a bar, street kitchen and bakery we will provide good coffee, craft beers and wines as well as a simple but well-sourced menu from breakfast through to dinner.

What is the idea behind Community Kitchen?

Community Kitchen Ltd was established in 2011 and is a commercial business

with a social purpose. At our core we are a street food business, committed to using food as a means for community regeneration. We do this by exciting our customers about the food we are serving them and from where it is sourced, and also by training those we work with to go on and do the same in other places - either in further employment or through their own food businesses.

How will Community Kitchen support the local economy?

We will create local employment and will support the local food supply chain. We have a particular focus on helping local people start their own micro-food businesses by providing relevant training and support, and we will be offering residencies for local food businesses to promote what they do at Artworks Elephant. This, in turn, will strengthen local catering as a whole and will support the council's aspirations to create more evening trade.

What inspires you the most about Artworks Elephant?

The opportunity to be part of creating a new and innovative business space, using food and micro-enterprise to regenerate a part of central London. For two years we have been searching for this opportunity and in five years' time we want to be able to look back and count on more than two hands the number of people we have helped into training and employment or in realising their own business dreams.



FROM BESPOKE DESIGN TO BOXING LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MEAN BUSINESS

With former TV “dragon” Richard Farleigh as Chancellor it’s perhaps no coincidence that London South Bank University is leading the way when it comes to entrepreneurialism with the opening last September of the new Clarence Centre for Enterprise and Innovation at St George’s Circus.

The £13.5m centre, in the previously derelict grade II listed Duke of Clarence pub and adjacent buildings, provides office space for new businesses along with a variety of informal working areas including “huddle” and “brainstorm” rooms and spaces for events and exhibitions.

The building is also home to LSBU’s Enterprise team, which runs a unique Graduate Enterprise Scheme for alumni who want to make a go of their own business ideas.

Rinz Sound – Arina Sprynz

Creating “art with a purpose” is the objective of 26 year old product design graduate Arina Sprynz who has developed the world’s first luxury recycled glass speakers.

Made in England, the speakers are a bespoke product where every piece of glass is placed by hand. Retailing at £18,000 a pair, the stylish speakers have been on display at galleries in Mayfair and Chelsea and Arina hopes they will be in Harrods later this year.

Last year, Arina attended a reception at 10 Downing Street for British entrepreneurs and got the opportunity to pitch her product to David Cameron. The Prime Minister was impressed with

the quality and the fact that every pair has been designed and manufactured entirely in the UK.

“I felt honoured to introduce Rinz Speakers to the PM” says Arina “and to share my vision for the brand”. “I only got to speak to him for three minutes though. Just a little longer and I might have sold him a pair”.

www.rinzsound.com

Stephen Addison – Box Up Crime

In August 23 year old business graduate Stephen Addison launched Box Up Crime, an academy to divert young people away from crime through boxing, and he’s already won a Team London Award from the Mayor of London for his venture.

Stephen, who confesses to a troubled past before finding religion and boxing two years ago, has recruited over 20 volunteers and had 120 young people sign up to his project.

His long term dream is to have Box Up Crime academies in every borough of London and he says that the support he has received from South Bank has been invaluable.

“If you need help with anything there is always someone you can ask” he explains adding that he finds it particularly beneficial to be working with others in a similar situation.

“It is good to be around other people who are all trying to get their businesses up and running. It sets a benchmark and gives you the drive to keep working and keep concentrating”.

www.boxupcrime.org

Kdevision – Kadeza Begum

23 year old product design graduate Kadeza Begum has launched her own company offering unique laser cut homewares, gifts and accessories.

After seeing her university project work, friends kept asking Kadeza to make things for their homes including lamps and lights and it “snowballed from there” she explains.

Kadeza has had her bespoke work featured in a glossy wedding magazine and is currently working to develop an

off-the-shelf range of products which includes coasters and an innovative book lamp, made up of a stack of “books” with the titles cut out to let light through.

“I’d really like my work to be sold in a well known department store like John Lewis or Heal’s” she says.

www.Kdevision.com

For more information visit:
www.lsbu.ac.uk/clarence-centre





**FOR SOUTH LONDONERS
LOOKING FOR A
CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE
TO CHINATOWN**



THE BEST OF THE ELEPHANT: DRAGON CASTLE

Behind big red double doors on the Walworth Road lies the Dragon Castle, a huge Chinese restaurant recommended by everyone from the Observer Magazine to Time Out. Although if owner Anthony Ho had taken others' advice he may never have opened at all.

Back in 2005 when Anthony told people he was going to open a large, high class Chinese restaurant in Elephant and Castle, the response he received was not overly enthusiastic.

Anthony already lived and worked locally. He ran J. Brothers Ltd, a successful wholesale catering company on the Newington estate, which he set up straight after leaving university in 1986, but when he shared his plans for a new upmarket Chinese restaurant in the area people weren't convinced.

"I had lots of discouragement from local friends and business people who told me it would be impossible to make a living. They predicted that we would fail but we didn't" declares Anthony as he gestures around the bustling restaurant he runs along with his business partner Amy.

"When we opened, without publicity or advertising, we got lots of customers because we were offering something different to the existing cafes and takeaways".

And it wasn't long before Jay Rayner, the Observer Magazine's restaurant critic, heard about "the massive Chinese place just off the roundabout" and was sampling the extensive menu, tucking into dishes including "sweet and salty poularde clams, stir fried with chilli" which he declared "a relative steal at £8.50 for a generous plate of bright and fresh



seafood" and lauding the Dragon Castle as a "genuine diamond in the rough".

"It has helped a bit as people do trust him" Anthony says of Rayner's review.

Time Out has also visited. "For south Londoners looking for a credible alternative to Chinatown, Dragon Castle is just the ticket" they reckon.

One thing that sets Dragon Castle apart, of course, is the sheer size of it.

"In Chinatown someone is usually crowded next to you and you can't move but here we have lots of space" says Anthony pointing out the high ceilings, decorated with giant gold lights that he tells me were imported specially from China along with a massive hand-carved dragon light that takes pride of place on a stage area at the end of the restaurant.

400 people can sit down to eat at the same time, plus there's also a function room upstairs, making Dragon Castle



a popular destination for wedding receptions, business events and private parties.

With over a hundred dishes to choose from, the kitchens are not surprisingly large too, taking up a third of the 9,000 square foot ground floor. At times as many as 22 people can be working in there at once.

While the restaurant is popular all through the week, it's Sunday daytime when customers come for Dim Sum that Dragon Castle is at its busiest.

"If you don't book, you don't get a seat" warns Anthony.

Dragon Castle, 100 Walworth Rd, London SE17 1JL 020 7277 3388
www.dragon-castle.com

Open Monday to Saturday
12 noon to 11.30pm
Sunday and Bank Holidays
11.30am to 10.30pm

RINGING IN THE CHANGES

With renovation of the churchyard an integral part of the new council leisure centre and One the Elephant projects, St Mary's Newington is once again asserting its position at the centre of the community. Local historian Dr Patricia Dark looks back at the long and eclectic history of this Walworth stalwart.

Since the time the Romans first settled in the area, the Elephant has been a bustling crossroads of routes in and out of London. Yet at the same time (for hundreds of years in fact) it was also a small farming village, quite separate to and well outside the tumult of the capital. And just like any other village, at its heart was its church, St Mary Newington.

Historically, a village church was the largest public building in a settlement. Churches could act as refuges for the entire community in times of conflict, disaster or severe weather, taking advantage both of the building's sacred status and its robust (usually stone) construction. News, not just the gospel, was proclaimed from the pulpit and it was the hub for publicly meaningful ceremonies, such as weddings.

Walworth's church, St Mary Newington, has a history to match the area it serves: the current building, completed in 1958, is at least its fifth reincarnation. The first known church in the area appears in the Domesday survey of 1086, while records from 1212 mention a church at Newington Butts. The last church there was built in 1721 but in 1876, the sheer volume of traffic led to a local road widening scheme,

demolishing the old church and parsonage (which featured a moat) and rebuilding them in Kennington Park Road. This church was a casualty of a 1941 German air raid but a surviving fragment of portico and a tower still stand in the forecourt.

The parish records and churchyard show the central position the church had in welcoming and bidding farewell to members of the community as do the hundreds of skeletons found during the building of the new leisure centre. The park near the leisure centre was originally St Mary's churchyard; when burials stopped in the 1830s, some vaults were left empty. During the 1870s road widening, remains that were found – residents of the mediaeval farm village – were exhumed and reburied inside them.

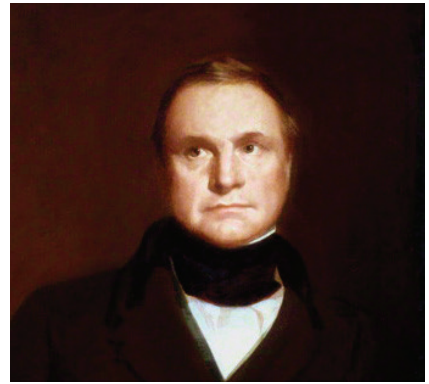
Some famous names are associated with St. Mary's, including Charles Babbage, the father of modern computing, who was baptised there in 1792 and Henry Syer Cuming (founder of the Cuming collection - see page ten) baptised in 1817.

St. Mary's also ties Walworth to the military history of Canada and the United States as the final resting place of Major Robert Rogers. Rogers was born in Massachusetts colony in 1731 and is renowned for raising

and commanding an irregular fighting force of colonial frontiersmen known as Rogers' Rangers. Started in 1756, Rogers' Rangers fought with distinction in the French and Indian Wars, and by the late 1750s were the chief scouting arm of British forces in North America.

Rogers fought for the British in the American War of Independence after George Washington rebuffed his offer to reform the Rangers and in 1783 he was evacuated back to Britain, his glory days firmly behind him. After spending his last years fighting drink and poverty, he died in 1795 while under house arrest for debt, and was buried at St. Mary's in a now unmarked grave.

However, his legacy lives on: the Queen's York Rangers of the Canadian Forces and the Michigan National Guard's 1st Battalion 119th Field Artillery are direct descendants of the Rangers while the US Army Rangers also uphold the traditions of Rogers' force. These include Rogers' Rules of Ranging – written by Rogers to ensure his troops survived in hostile territory behind enemy lines. Occasionally the Local History Library and Archive is visited by veteran Rangers who can still produce their copy of the Rules of Ranging, decades later.



Left to right from top: Recent excavations at St Marys; Charles Babbage (© National Portrait Gallery London); Major Robert Rogers (© National Portrait Gallery London); St Mary Newington, Kerminington Park Rd c.1961; St Mary Newington, Newington Butts 1750; Testing the pool at the new leisure centre 2014

Patricia Dark is Local History Library and Archive Manager at 211 Borough High Street. Why not drop in to find out more about Southwark's history? For details see www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries or follow @SouthwarkLibs on Twitter.

Locals tell us
what they
love about
the Elephant

MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE



Rhiannon

"It feels like a city but I like the parks and all the little pockets of green that make it feel quite villagey too. Burgess Park is lovely and there are lots of small community garden projects as well."



Elias

"I think it's a beautiful place with lots of activities for children. It's very close to the centre of town which is important in a busy, congested city like London. It doesn't take long to get around and I can use my bike, which keeps me healthy."



Katty

"I make hats in a studio in Pullen's Yard and I love the way they've kept the yards and looked after them. There are over 60 designers here and a great community vibe."



Charlie

"I like the shopping centre because it's not a big horrible fancy one where everything is slick. It's a place where people hang out and has a real sense of community. I also like the fact that there's such a cross section of people in the Elephant. It's really multicultural. It's got quite an arty side but a much more down to earth side to it too."



Juvane

"I like it that they've got table tennis in the shopping centre. I thought I was quite good but then I lost 21-2 to this big guy! Anyone can go along and queue up to play."



Emma

"It's a great place to go out clubbing. There are two brilliant venues right on our doorstep: Corsica Studios, under the railway arches, and also up the road there's Ministry of Sound."



Tim

"People are very welcoming. There's a strong sense of community and an energy and vibrancy. It's an area that's clearly developing and growing and changing. I get the sense that things are happening here and it's exciting."



Charlie

"There are so many different places to eat out. Today I'm off to the Amore café on the Walworth Road for lunch. Their wraps are very good."



Ian

"I like the mixture of nationalities and the range of food in the shops. You can buy any kind imaginable, from Vietnamese to African to Indian to British. A favourite place is Arments pie and mash shop off the Walworth Road. I discovered it when I first lived here 30 years ago and it's still going strong."

Have your say on the roundabout

TfL's consultation on the future of the roundabout starts on 24 February. See www.tfl.gov.uk/elephantandcastle for details

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

