

THE ELEPHANT

MAGAZINE

Issue 11 / Autumn 2017



THIS ISSUE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Castle Centre celebrates a successful first year

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

Local designer Malcolm Garrett talks about music, maps and why he loves the Elephant

WALK ELEPHANT

Turning the neighbourhood into a place where people want to walk

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. Editor: Richard Wells / Additional copy: Nikki Spencer / Main photography: Hannah Mauleffinch / Designed by Westco Design and printed by Swiss Post / Enquiries: councilnews@southwark.gov.uk



Photography from left to right: La Luna pizza; cabaret, Lost Rivers; elephant statue; East Street market sign; paint pots at LCC; market trader; LSBU; barman, Mercato Metropolitan; Sadiq Khan with construction trainees; LCC exhibition; traders, Mercato Metropolitan; Austin Osman Spare; beer pumps; Castle Centre; Cinema Museum; LCC students; musicians; Imperial War Museum; Elephant and Castle pub; ice cream parlour; elephant pendant, Carol Mather; Baldwins Apothecary; Cinema Museum; Siobhan Davies dance

WALK THIS WAY

Walk Elephant is a community initiative to improve walking routes around Elephant and Castle.

Dominated by its busy traffic junction, Elephant and Castle has never been an easy place for those on foot. The 1960s redesign didn't help matters much by prioritising cars over people and relegating the humble pedestrian to underground subways or walkways in the sky. Today's regeneration is starting to redress the balance to ensure the neighbourhood welcomes those who prefer to walk.

The regeneration at Elephant Park is central to this ambition; opening up new routes and reconnecting Walworth Road to the new Elephant and Castle town centre.

The new Elephant Park – central London's largest new park in 70 years – and a host of improvements to other, smaller parks in the area are also helping to make the Elephant a more pleasant place to navigate on foot.

To further help pedestrians, the council teamed up with Southwark Living Streets and the Walworth Society to launch Walk Elephant earlier this year. The initiative was kick-started by a series of walks around the neighbourhood, during which local residents identified opportunities for improvements to help pedestrians, such as new crossings, better landscaping or clearer signage.

These were plotted and shared on a communal map under three headings:

- Green Links: streets which could be improved by 'greening' (trees and plants etc).
- Low Line: walking routes along and across the north-south railway line.
- Better Streets: improvements to the roads that connect people to the Elephant and the Elephant to the river.

Now the council is backing local residents in bringing the best of these ideas to life. By seeking support and funds from a variety of sources, including Southwark's Cleaner Greener Safer programme, local property developers and crowdfunding, it's hoped that many



of these small projects could be underway within the next 12 months.

Inspiration has been drawn from similar, community-led initiatives in the vicinity, such as the various gardens and small parks projects undertaken by Bankside Open Spaces Trust or Leathermarket Joint Management Board. In particular, inspiration has come from the East Walworth Green Links project which is improving and publicising walking routes through the small parks that connect the Elephant to Burgess Park.

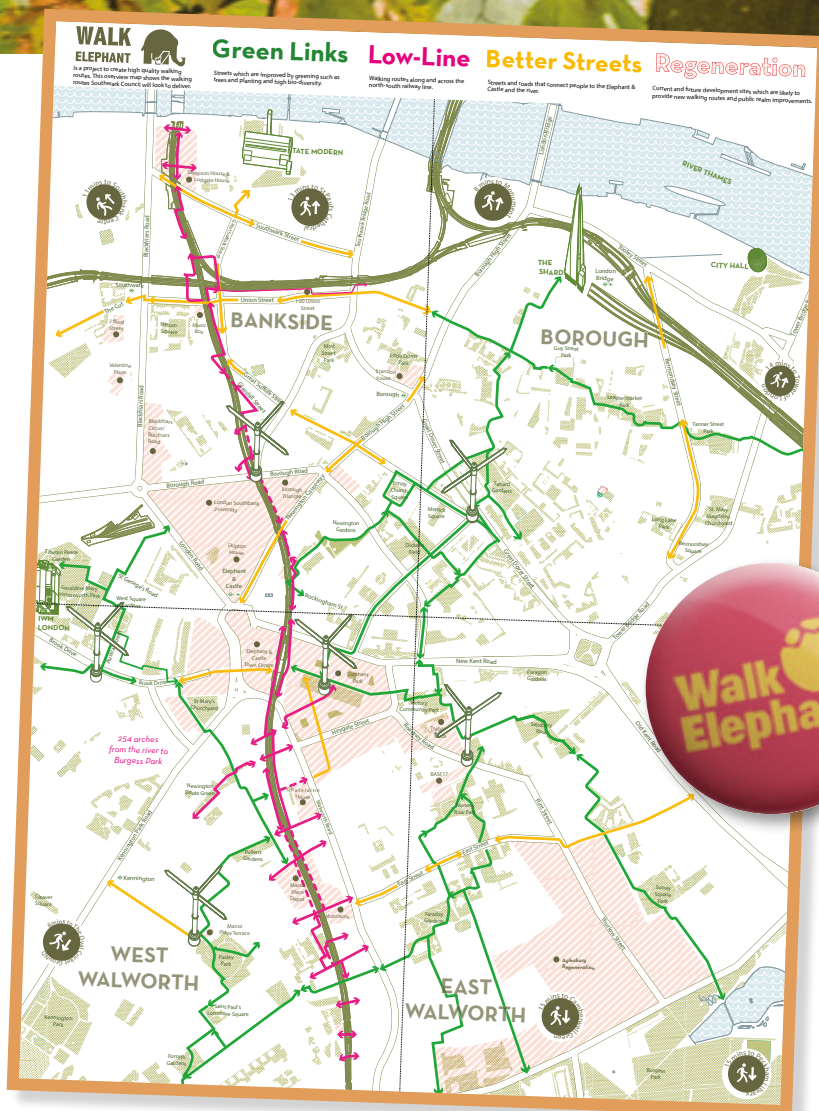
Indeed, there have already been several successful projects in Elephant and Castle itself, which have helped to prepare the ground for the Walk Elephant initiative. For example; the Low Line, a walking route alongside the railway viaducts which connect Elephant and Castle to Borough, Bankside and Waterloo, has already started to take shape. Spare Street is a new street that has been created beside the railway line, near the Strata. In the process, five redundant arches have been transformed into a permanent home for local, not-for-profit enterprise, Hotel Elephant. A little further north, Flat Iron Square and Old Union Yard demonstrate the kind of improvements which could be made elsewhere along the line and there are already proposals in the pipeline to open up routes beside the railway at Manor Place and Borough Triangle.

Another success is Lamlash Garden, which was created from a derelict street just off Elliot's Row. As well as adding another useful walking route to the neighbourhood, the garden has proven itself a popular 'pocket park' and has provided opportunities for volunteers to learn new skills. Now the team of local residents behind Lamlash are raising funds for the Castle Place Project. The idea is to tackle two other neglected sites near the garden and bring them back into use as a new neighbourhood hub complete with community centre, work studios and high quality landscaping. The project will also open up a new pedestrian route through to West Square. If you'd like to pledge your

support visit their Spacehive site before 25 September.

Other Walk Elephant proposals include: extending the green on the Newington estate to create a better walking route through to Steadman Street; work on the Alberta estate to improve the communal gardens by preserving the fruit trees and renewing the planting; as well as a scheme to improve pedestrian access to West Square.

One proposal that has already been fleshed out in more detail (and is now open for consultation) is a plan to improve Hampton Street and Steedman Street for pedestrians. It includes widening the pavements and improving the lighting as well as new plants and trees. Ultimately, it would become part of a route for people making their way on foot from Newington Butts to the new Elephant Park (just the other side of Walworth Road).



All of this is just the start. Since the initiative launched, dozens of ideas, comments and suggestions have been submitted to the Walk Elephant website, some of which are already winning the support of the wider community.

If you've got an idea or would like to get involved, there's still plenty of time to do so. You can see the original map, detailing potential improvements, on the council's website and you can see all the ideas generated on the walks (and since) plotted on the Walk Elephant website.

Find out more at: www.southwark.gov.uk/walkelephant and walkelephant.commonplace.is.

Pledge your support for the Castle Place Project at www.spacehive.com/castle-place

THE CASTLE CENTRE IS ONE

The Castle Centre celebrated its first birthday earlier this year.



IT'S IN A DIFFERENT
LEAGUE TO
THE FACILITIES WE
HAD BEFORE



Almost half a million people visited the Castle Centre in its first year alone. And with more than 25,000 people registering for the free swim and gym scheme, it's clear that the Elephant's new council leisure centre has been a big hit with local residents.

On any weekday evening, the building is buzzing with people coming for a swim or to join in a packed programme of classes for all ages and abilities, as well as those who are here for the gym and the spa.

"I watched the Castle Centre being built. I live at the end of the road and I was so excited," recalls Hayley Atkin.

"I hadn't played netball since I was about 16, but when I heard about the Back to Netball sessions, last year, I decided to give it a go. I love it as it's for all ages and levels and we have fun and get fit at the same time. For me it's much better than going to the gym and I've made some new friends too" says Hayley.

The Monday night netball sessions are run by Polly Howell, a coach from England Netball. They're aimed at people who haven't played netball for a while and they took off straight away.

Hayley says "While I watched the centre being built, I was expecting good, modern facilities, but I was still surprised at just how much there is to do here. I'm probably here three times a week now, as I play badminton as well."

The £20m leisure centre was paid for with regeneration money from

Lendlease's One the Elephant development. As well as a sports hall for games like badminton and netball, it includes two swimming pools, a 140-station gym, a dedicated spin room and a sauna.

Scott Lockwood, coach at the Lockwood Football Academy in Browning Street, also lives just a stone's throw from the Castle. He runs an indoor football session for four to nine year old boys and girls, of all abilities, in the sports hall every Friday.

"Being able to have an indoor space here has made a huge difference to us in so many ways" says Scott, who has coached for Wimbledon and Millwall. He started his academy to give local youngsters something active to do.

"We usually play on an outdoor concrete surface, which is not that child friendly, so to have a safe and friendly environment for our younger players now, is wonderful. More girls have started to join us and we've seen kids progress massively, not just in their footballing ability but physically and mentally too. Recently, a parent showed me a video of their child doing a football demo at school. They said he would never have had the confidence to do that if he hadn't come here."

"It's also a nice place for parents" adds Scott, "they bring their kids here for football and then discover all the other things they can do too. This facility has been absolutely amazing for the area as it brings different people from different communities together."

The Castle is also home to a regular 5-a-side football session run by Stonewall FC. Describing themselves as "the world's most successful gay football club" Stonewall FC run everything from semi-professional teams to sessions that are open to everyone.

"We used to play at the old leisure centre, so as soon as I knew the Castle was opening I got in touch" explains Jamie Feldman, a trustee of the club and local resident. "Playing 5-a-side is great for your physical and mental health," he adds. "It's about keeping fit but also about making friends. We're lucky to have such a great venue in such a good location. Provided you're over 18, you can just turn up on the day and join us. The only thing we ask is that people wear shin pads."

"It's in a different league to the facilities we had before" chips in Tom Cunningham, a regular at the 5-a-side sessions. "The old leisure centre was quite grotty and dingy. It wasn't somewhere you wanted to go really. Whereas this is a modern accessible sports facility and the surrounding area feels so much nicer and safer too."

"With many LGBT bars and clubs closing down, the social side is important as well" he adds. "So it's good to be somewhere central with plenty of places you can go for a drink afterwards too."

The Castle Centre,
2 St Gabriel Walk, SE1 6FG

033 3005 0411

For more information visit
[www.everyoneactive.com/
centre/the-castle-centre](http://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/the-castle-centre)

A CLEANER, GREENER ELEPHANT

Lendlease wants to ensure Elephant Park is one of the greenest regeneration projects in the world.

Elephant Park is one of the two major developments at the heart of the Elephant and Castle regeneration programme. When complete, it will include over 2,500 new homes and the largest new park in central London for 70 years.

The scheme is the only development in the UK (and one of only 19 globally) that aims to be designated 'Climate Positive' as part of the C40 Cities Climate Positive Development Programme. This means, that on completion in 2025, it aims to be certified as a net-carbon negative development.

To achieve this, Lendlease is working hard to reduce the amount of carbon that the development creates in the first place and is then introducing a number of measures to offset the carbon produced to reach what's known as a 'net-zero carbon position'.

THE ENERGY HUB

You can already see Elephant Park's Energy Hub under construction on the corner of Heygate Street and Rodney Road. It will be complete in 2018.

The Energy Hub includes a combined heat and power plant that will deliver net zero-carbon, affordable heating and hot water to all residents and businesses across Elephant Park. This is done by using biomethane (a renewable gas produced by fermenting organic matter) as a carbon offset. In fact, the Energy Hub will have enough capacity to power a further 1,000 homes outside of Elephant Park, which means that the benefits will be shared far beyond the development itself.

But the Hub isn't just about producing energy. Uniquely, for a building of this kind, it's been designed to also serve a number of other purposes too. These include a new café with a community space for hire; a nursery to provide early years education, plus a new pocket park and children's play area.



FUTUREHOME

Futurehome at Elephant Park is a collection of 15 new townhouses on Wansey Street that have been built to what is arguably the world's most highly regarded energy efficiency standard, known as Passivhaus.

The Passivhaus standard, invented in Germany in the 90s, focuses on delivering high levels of insulation and exceptional levels of airtightness to dramatically reduce the need for heating and cooling. It means that, even in the coldest winter months, a home can heat itself just from passive sources (such as the use of home appliances) rather than active sources like a conventional boiler.

The standard is so rigorous that these houses are the first homes to be built to this specification anywhere in Zone 1. And, unlike some of the more outlandish designs you might associate with 'eco homes', these have all been designed as classic London townhouses with brickwork and bay windows to match the Victorian homes opposite. Get in touch with ele-ask@lendlease.com if you'd like to take a look for yourself.



TREES

Trees are a vital part of the Elephant Park development.

More than 120 mature trees have been retained from the former Heygate estate, which has proved something of a challenge (given the scale of the construction work taking place all around them) but one that's been well worth the effort. In addition, over 1,000 new trees are also being planted in and around the site, all of which will combine to make the area far greener than it's been for decades.

The centre-piece of the development is the new park – the first part of which opened in August. Naturally, it's here where many of the trees are to be found. The park is open all year round and, if you haven't visited yet, Lendlease has scheduled a full programme of events for the year ahead so you're sure to find a good reason to go soon. See www.elephantpark.place for details.

CATCH 'EM WHILE YOU CAN!

While the amount of construction work underway in the Elephant might cause inconvenience it also creates opportunity – as space becomes

temporarily available for short-term projects. By encouraging innovative people to put this space to creative use, the neighbourhood remains lively and small businesses and the local

community can enjoy the benefits. So here's a run down of what's happening this autumn. But remember – catch 'em while you can because they won't be around for long...



LOST RIVERS: ELEPHANT ROAD

Lost Rivers is a new entertainment venue on Elephant Road, which has been hosting cabaret, circus performances and live bands throughout the summer. It's even hosted its own night market featuring clothes from independent London designers. The venue, which includes a 'contampitheatre' alongside a mini big-top for performances, is the latest venture from the Lost Rivers Brewing Company. So, as well as a great show and some top tunes, you can also enjoy a crisp craft beer or two while you're there.

www.lostriverselephant.com

ARTWORKS ELEPHANT: ELEPHANT ROAD

Clocking in at a positively ancient three years old, Artworks is the granddaddy of the Elephant's pop-up scene. A lively creative hub, built from recycled shipping containers on the edge of the Elephant Park development, Artworks is home to small independent businesses, an events space, two bars and six restaurants. It even manages to cram in a fully stocked public library (temporary, of course). The site hosts regular live music and poetry and puts its small but intimate open air courtyard to maximum use with regular events all year round.

www.theartworks.london

THE SOCIAL MARKET: CASTLE SQUARE

The Elephant's latest street market is to be found in Castle Square, the new plaza behind the shopping centre. Here you'll find a delicious assortment of good food, including jams and chutneys from neighbours, Lamlash Garden; farmers' market produce; curries and Polish pierogis. They also have cooking demos, local designer and vintage clothing stalls and a roster of buskers to conjure up a wonderful, family-friendly atmosphere every Friday and Saturday (from 11am to 6pm). The square is permanent but the market is just for now.

www.theartworks.london/elephant-social

THE ART ACADEMY: NEWINGTON LIBRARY

The old Newington Library on Walworth Road is being put to good use by the The Art Academy. The library was put out of action in 2013 by a fire at the Town Hall next door. Now, for the first time in four years, the library is opening its doors to the community once more. Borough-based charity, The Art Academy is taking a short journey south to turn the library into three teaching studios; studios for 16 resident artists; a public gallery and community space.

artacademy.org.uk



LCC entrance

LCC STUDIO: THE SHOPPING CENTRE

LCC Studio is designed to open up London College of Communication's design, media and communications work to the public. Located on the first floor of the shopping centre, it provides a conveniently located space for a variety of workshops and exhibitions run by the College. The studio has already seen students collaborate with members of the public on a range of engaging activities – from a 'printing with bicycle wheels' workshop to a seminar celebrating shopping centres in sci-fi films. Plenty more is planned in the months ahead.

[www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/about-lcc/
lcc-studio](http://www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/about-lcc/lcc-studio)



Hotel Elephant on Spare Street

HOTEL ELEPHANT: SPARE STREET AND BEYOND

Hotel Elephant is a not-for-profit company set up to provide space for arts, culture and creative enterprise in Southwark. Established in 2009, it has occupied a number of temporary sites in the area and last year it established a permanent home in a row of railway arches on Spare Street.

This site consolidates Hotel Elephant's mission to provide a permanent creative enterprise hub in Elephant and Castle, which supports recent graduates, artists, makers and creative entrepreneurs. It's enabling the team to offer co-working space for creative businesses with a range of flexible membership options. It's also home to a small bar and coffee shop, which hosts a rolling programme of talks and networking events, workshops, exhibitions and film screenings. And of course, the company still provides a number of temporary studios elsewhere in the borough for use by local artists and makers.

www.hotelelephant.co.uk

MERCATO METROPOLITANO: NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY

If you haven't visited the Elephant's massive 'super pop-up' yet, then you're clearly not a hipster. But you don't have to be a bearded fashionista to enjoy a trip to Mercato Metropolitano – a huge, temporary market making use of the old paper factory site on Newington Causeway. As well as a family-run store, selling authentic Italian produce direct from Palermo, Mercato is home to the Backyard Cinema and Rooney's Boxing Gym. But its real selling point is the vast array of food and drink available from dozens of small vendors. The food area seats around 1,000, so just turn-up, grab a table (outdoors or under cover, depending on the weather) and treat yourself to some fantastic food.

The market is holding a number of Sustainability events throughout September, including the launch of a Saturday Farmers' Market and a Food Assembly on Tuesdays. It will also host a Sustainability Festival from 15-17 September. Check the facebook site for free tickets.

www.mercatometropolitano.co.uk
www.facebook.com/mercatometropolitano

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

The Elephant and Castle shopping centre is set to close for redevelopment by the end of 2018. Social enterprise, Tree Shepherd has been asked by the council to help the centre's business owners plan for the future.



"The shopping centre is more than just a building, it's a community and we're here to listen to people's concerns and to help them navigate the difficult months ahead as the centre faces closure," explains Lydia Gardner, Regional Development Manager of Tree Shepherd.

"It's not just about helping the shops but the community of customers too," she adds. "People will still want their hair done by a favourite Caribbean hairdresser, have a meal at a Columbian restaurant or send money home to family in Latin America."

"These businesses attract local people of all cultures. We want to help the local community by supporting the businesses. This includes helping to

ensure they can successfully relocate, wherever possible."

Tree Shepherd is a social enterprise with experience in providing support to communities that are often overlooked. It has helped and trained numerous start-ups and is currently supporting a number of businesses in Peckham with up-skilling as they too relocate to new premises.

The shopping centre is due to be demolished as part of plans to develop a new town centre for Elephant and Castle. Tree Shepherd began working in the area in May, with part of the team moving into Unit 231 at the centre, in August.

Lydia has been instrumental in establishing the first phase of support for the centre's business owners and

has recently been joined by new business connector, Lisa Wilson. Between them, they're helping more than two-dozen businesses, some of whom have been trading at the centre for many years.

"The first phase is to offer each client a business health check – a two-hour meeting that provides the opportunity to really analyse their business," explains Lydia. "We help them to get under the bonnet of the business and find out where it's at. We look at who their customers are; assess their current commercial situation; find out if they want to get new premises and, importantly, whether or not they want to stay local."

"So many of these businesses are intrinsically linked to the local community that we hope they'll want to stay in the area. There will be more support over the coming months, as each of them comes to make those decisions, and in the next phase we can offer more focused consultancy to address any particular needs."



Lydia Gardner, helping businesses in the shopping centre

Lucy's Hairdressing Salon

Luz Villamizar runs Lucy's Hairdressing, a busy salon on the ground floor of the shopping centre and one of more than two-dozen businesses being helped by Tree Shepherd.

Luz came to London from Colombia in 1985 and opened Lucy's in the early 90s. She employs four staff to cut and style hair, as well as offering beauty treatments. The salon was London's first Latin American hairdressers, attracting customers from

across the city and, 25 years on, it's still a bustling place to be.

Luz hopes that Tree Shepherd can help her to find new premises nearby. She explains "80 per cent of our customers are local, so getting somewhere near here is very important, both for us and for them. After being here for so long, our salon is a big part of this community."

Luz has already had an initial two-hour business health check, which will

be followed up with more in-depth support.

She says "It's been really hard as there has been so much uncertainty for so long. When people first talked about demolishing the shopping centre, ten years ago, I was very scared. After a while, I managed to find a place to go and told everyone we were moving. But then it fell through, so we're still here."

Luz says that having someone she can talk to about relocating has made a huge difference. "I feel happier now because we have someone who will look out for us and listen to us and who can hopefully help us. For years I've been going home and worrying, but now Tree Shepherd is here in the centre, I can talk to them."

For more information on how Tree Shepherd can help your business: drop in to **Unit 231 at the shopping centre**, call **020 3948 3021**, or visit www.treeshepherd.org.uk

Find out more about the Town Centre plans at: www.elephantandcastletowncentre.co.uk



MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

Local graphic designer, Malcolm Garrett, explains why the Elephant is the real centre of London and why it's good to walk.

"If, like most new visitors to the capital, you relied on the Tube map, you'd think that Elephant and Castle was miles away from anywhere, but of course it's not" declares Malcolm Garrett.

"Look at any map. It's actually slap bang in the centre of London; the focus of six bridges over the Thames and just minutes from Tate Modern and the South Bank.

"Go back in history and all the roads from the major towns in the South East met at St George's Circus, which is just outside our office window" he adds. "Now more buses pass through the junction than anywhere else in the capital."

Malcolm and his business partner, journalist Kasper de Graaf, opened their design and communications company, Images&Co, at London South Bank University's Technopark in 2011. Since then, they've relocated to the university's Clarence Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, just down the road.

In the time he's worked here, Malcolm, who's received honorary doctorates from both of the Elephant's two universities (LSBU and London College of Communication) has

become a passionate advocate for the area. "There's massive potential here and we're delighted to be part of it" he enthuses. It's a real centre for collaboration and innovation, where you'll find modern and heritage side by side."

Even after six years in the area, Malcolm is still discovering new aspects to the neighbourhood. "I still walk down side streets and find interesting buildings that I didn't know were here" he says.

Malcolm and Kasper first worked together on music magazine *New Sounds, New Styles* (Malcolm designed and Kasper edited) and, in 1983, the pair teamed up at Assorted Images, one of the first design studios in Shoreditch. It was here that they created many of the 80s' most iconic pop images for the likes of Duran Duran, Culture Club, Peter Gabriel, Simple Minds and Heaven 17.

"I've always been into music" recalls Malcolm. "I was given my first single, *Can't Buy Me Love* by The Beatles, when I was just seven."

"When I was studying graphic design at university, I met lots of punk bands and I began designing for





Buzzcocks and The Members. Then I was introduced to Duran Duran and the rest, as they say, is history. We ended up working for them for seven years.

Up until then, bands didn't really do their own merchandise but we designed everything for them; from album covers and record marketing to books, watches and board games."

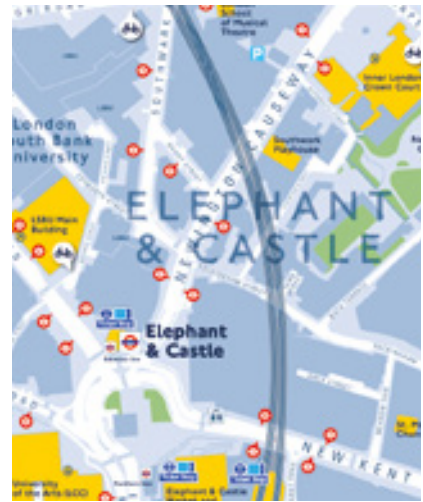
Malcolm went on to set up AMXdigital, one of the first digital tech companies (in what's now called Tech City) working with everyone from Barclays Bank to the Spice Girls, while Kasper worked on TV animations with artists such as Steven Appleby and on documentaries with Paul McCartney.

The pair were reunited in 2005 as part of the team behind Legible London. This citywide, pedestrian wayfinding system, introduced by TfL, was designed to alleviate congestion on the Tube by helping people to get around on foot instead. "Research showed that 20 per cent of the people exiting stations in central London had only travelled 800 metres or less on their journey" explains Malcolm. "It was quicker and easier to walk but people needed help finding their way."

The Legible London project started out with a small pilot scheme to introduce maps around Oxford Street and people took to it from the very start. "The first mock ups were only made with wooden posts and colour printouts," says Malcolm, "but when people immediately started coming up and using them, I remember thinking – 'this is really going to work'."

There are now 1,700 Legible London maps outside railway stations and Tube stations and at key points such as hospitals and art galleries. Similar schemes have also been implemented in other UK cities, including Brighton and Leeds.

Malcolm has had a lifelong fascination with maps. "I remember I impressed my friends on my first ever holiday, hitchhiking in Europe, because I knew exactly where to find the youth hostel in Amsterdam. But all I'd done was memorise the map!"



The Legible London signs can be seen all over the city, including Elephant and Castle. And, with regeneration opening up more pedestrian routes, the neighbourhood is set to become a much more welcoming place for London's walkers.



I STILL WALK DOWN SIDE STREETS AND FIND INTERESTING BUILDINGS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WERE HERE



Find out more about LSBU's Clarence Centre at www.lsbu.ac.uk/clarence-centre

and find out more about Legible London at www.tfl.gov.uk/legiblelondon



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**BASICALLY, WE'RE
A TRADITIONAL
COMMUNITY PUB
THAT SERVES
GOOD FOOD AND
GOOD DRINK**

THE BEST OF THE ELEPHANT: THE BEEHIVE

Home cooked food and a warm welcome is on the menu
at this hidden gem tucked away off the Walworth Road.

There's something about The Beehive pub that seems to encourage landlords to stick around. "We've all been long stayers" reveals Geraldine McNicholas who owns the pub with her husband Kevin.

"We've been here for 33 years; the people before us were here for 30 and the ones before that – the same. We started out as tenants when we were just 24. It was our first pub and we've been here ever since."

This continuity has been good for business and good for customers. "It's a friendly pub and people feel comfortable here" says Geraldine. "We're very lucky to have such a super clientele. We get locals, families and a real cross-section of business people and young professionals."

"We're a bit hidden away, so we get some customers who are surprised to discover that we even exist. But then we also have lots of regulars; people who've been coming here for years. We had a group in on Sunday who used to drink here 15-20 years ago but then moved away and came back with their families, which was lovely."

One of the first things Geraldine and Kevin did when they took over the pub

back in the 80s was to introduce food. Ever since, The Beehive has been well known locally as a place to come and eat.

Their Sunday Trio Roast with beef, chicken and pork belly is especially popular. So too is their range of 100% British beef burgers – such as the Walworth, which comes with smokey bacon and cheddar cheese.

"Everything's freshly made, including our burgers, and we also have plenty of vegetarian and gluten free options," says Geraldine.

And it's clear from a quick glance at the wide selection of malt whiskies and wines that just as much thought has been put into the drinks menu as the range of food on offer.

"Basically, we're a traditional community pub that serves good food and good drink. On a Sunday night, we have a pub quiz with Paul Partridge, who's a great quizmaster and has quite a following locally. It's such good fun," she beams.

While Geraldine and Kevin have been at the helm since the 1980s, the pub itself dates back to the 1780s.

It was once part of the Montpelier Tea Garden, a kind of mini version of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens where people would take tea, play cricket and navigate its renowned maze for 2d a time. In its more recent history, the pub has played host to a variety of politicians as it was a convenient drinking spot for Labour Party members and officials who had their HQ on Walworth Road in the 1980s and 90s.

"Back then we used to have pictures of all the old Prime Ministers on the wall," recalls Geraldine. Today, the décor is a lovely mix of old and new. It includes some artful touches, such as the recent addition of colourful Penguin books wallpaper in the back room and a number of large oil paintings by local artist and Hotel Elephant proprietor, Reuben Powell (all for sale). "Every few years we do something new" says Geraldine.

And, if you're thinking of dropping by, a major plus for visitors is the large outdoor area to the front and to the side of the pub. "Let's just hope we get some good weather this autumn, so customers can enjoy it" says Geraldine. Fingers crossed.

Open Mon-Thurs 5pm - 11pm, Sat 12 - 11pm and Sun 12 - 10.30pm.
Food is served Weds-Fri 5.30pm - 9pm, Sat 1pm - 9pm & Sun 12 - 8pm.
The Beehive, 60 Carter Street, SE17 3EW | 020 7703 4992 | www.thebeehivepub.london



ONLY MULES AND HORSES

Local historian, Dr Patricia Dark looks back at the horse-powered past of Elephant and Castle.

Travel back in time almost 120 years to the Elephant of 1898.

It's just as busy. Shoppers, commuters, children and workers throng the scene. There's no shopping centre, Strata or Faraday Memorial and yet, somehow, it all feels very familiar.

The Elephant statue is present, presiding over the bustling human parade below; the famous portico of the Metropolitan Tabernacle provides an instantly recognisable backdrop; and traffic, endless traffic, criss-crosses the junction.

But this traffic is the four-legged kind and not all of it is simply passing through. For in the 1890s, the Elephant was at the heart of London's horse-powered transport trade.

According to AF Gordon's *The Horse World of London*, there were more than 300,000 horses pulling vehicles through the city's streets in 1893. This included 10,000 pulling buses; nearly as many drawing trams and about 15,000 providing a taxi service.

Tens of thousands more were hauling freight; rubbish, raw materials, coal and casks of beer. 700 black horses, mostly of the Frisian breed, had the full-time job of hauling hearses for London's funerals, and Southwark firm, Thomas Tilling kept 40 grey horses exclusively for drawing wedding carriages (folk tradition held that they were lucky).

According to Gordon, roughly half the horses that worked the city's streets were second-hand, and one of the best places to purchase a horse was Elephant and Castle. The place to go was the Horse Repository at 16-18 New Kent Road (where the shopping centre stands today).

The two-storey Repository was the country's largest weekly horse auction. The famous Frisian horses, prized for funerals, were shipped to London by barge from the Netherlands (up to 200 at a time) all to be auctioned at the Elephant. According to a later account, all manner of trusty steed or old nag could be found at the sale: "hacks and cart horses, a brown mare which had hunted with the Southdown, and a group of wild ponies from Dartmoor, clattering in a frightened bunch about the runway."

We often think of this horse-drawn age as fizzling out at the dawn of the twentieth century but horses were still a familiar sight on the streets of Elephant and Castle right up until the Second World War. Indeed, as late as 1939 there were still 40,000 working horses throughout London.

And as times changed, so the Repository changed to keep up. By 1926 it had dropped 'Horse and Carriage' from its name to become the London (Elephant & Castle) Repository, presumably to reflect the fact that it now dealt with motor vehicles as well.

Jim Bellman, founder of the Dulwich Riding School, began his career as a costermonger, complete with a cart and horse and harness bought from the Repository.

The photographer, Bert Hardy took a number of photos of horses and buyers at the auction for his famous 1949 *Picture Post* feature about the area. Hardy had grown up nearby and understood that the Repository was an important part of life in the Elephant.

From the end of the First World War until it finally closed in the early 1950s, the auction was managed by Mr AH Harris, always to be seen in his top hat and yellow gloves when wielding the gavel. Local heroes, Henry Cooper, the heavyweight boxer, and the actor, Michael Caine, both had family ties to the Horse Repository. Cooper's grandfather had worked there, while Caine explains in his autobiography that one side of the family (Irish immigrants) had originally settled in the Elephant so that they could sell horses at the auction.

Horse-drawn transport continued to be used by London's municipal authorities well into the twentieth century. Camberwell Council disposed of its last horses in 1933 (auction day at Grove Vale depot was a tragedy for the drivers, many of whom wept as they bid their old friends farewell). While Bermondsey Council continued to use horses up until 1953. The Local History



Bermondsey Council stables 1953.

Library and Archive has photos of these horses on their last day in service; the captions, many of which cite the horse's name, show the affection the staff had for their charges.

The library also holds records of the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark's annual cart horse parades, including programmes, covering a period between 1905 and the mid 30s. The cart horses in question were pulling the Edwardian equivalent of bin lorries: slop carts, dust carts, and water carts. The parade wasn't just a way to entertain local kids; it was a competition that gave council workers a chance to win cash prizes and bragging rights. In

1905, the contest was judged by two vets, and the chairs of the council's works and depot committee and horse and fodder sub-committee.

By the time the Elephant and Castle Horse Repository closed, London was on the cusp of a new era; an age in which the motor vehicle would reign supreme – with all the attendant frustrations that would bring, including pollution.

Traffic pollution was a problem for Victorian Londoners too, although it was a different kind of exhaust – horse manure – that caused the trouble. In the 1890s, nearly four tonnes of manure

were deposited on the streets every day (not to mention 300,000 litres of urine plus the occasional carcass). If you read a description of London "mud" in a Victorian novel, it's fair to assume the author is probably just being polite.

In 1894 the Times declared that horse droppings had become a crisis. The newspaper suggested that if things continued in this way, then by 1944 "every street in London will be buried under nine feet of manure." So, no matter how much the traffic jams and pollution of today's London might get you down – just take a moment to reflect on what could have been the alternative...



The Horse Repository by Ronald Searle, 1952. © Sayle Literary Agency

For more local history visit the Southwark Local History Library and Archive at 211 Borough High St.
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Locals tell us
what they
love about
the Elephant



Charlie

I've recently opened a British design shop in the shopping centre and now

I've developed a bit of a thing for the Papa Rellena (stuffed potato balls) at La Bodeguita. It's tempting to have them everyday but I'm trying to ration myself to once a week.



Ali

I've lived here for ten years and I love all the coffee shops on the Old Kent

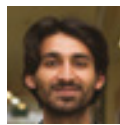
Road and all the food from across the world that you can get around here.



Arnett

I like living here as it's so central. It's easy to get everywhere as you have so

many buses as well as the Tube and the train. One of my favourite places is The London Palace bingo hall at the top of the shopping centre. It's so beautiful and such a lovely place to chill out and play a little game of bingo. They have food too. You can buy a book for just 60p and you may be lucky and win.



Imran

The people around here are very nice and very friendly. I like Pret

a Manger across from the shopping centre as they have good food and good customer service. I also like the coffee at Café Nova.



Jennifer

I've lived in Elephant and Castle since I was little and I love it. I work

for myself as a personal trainer and I think things here have changed for the better from a business perspective. It feels as though there's more of a future here now. There's more potential and lovely people too. Also, I like the fact that we've got such a wide range of restaurants locally – from Colombian and West Indian to Indian and Thai – with lots of healthy options too.



Silvia

I'm Latin American but I've lived here for ten years and feel like a Londoner

now. I like going to La Chatica café, deli and bakery as they sell everything I need to make Latin American food. I buy cornmeal to make cornbread and chocolate to make Colombian hot chocolate. I took my children to the Castle Centre for the first time today. The facilities are great, they loved the swimming pool and the soft play area.



Nioka

I'm a nanny, and have my own children as well. I love taking them swimming at

the Castle Centre. I also like to come with my mum and spend time in the sauna and steam room. This is a good area if you have kids. I love Burgess Park as the scenery is gorgeous, especially the lake, and there's a great kids' playground. We are planning my daughter's first birthday party and hope to have a BBQ there – if everyone else doesn't get there before us!



John

Café Amore on the Walworth Road has great service and good,

reasonably priced food. I always have a fry up with egg, bacon and tomato and two slices of toast and a cappuccino. I also like The Beehive Pub off the Walworth Road as the food is excellent, especially the Sunday roast.



Pauline

I always tell people I live five bus stops from Big Ben! I love being so

central. It was really easy for me to get to Regent Street when I worked there. I was born in the old Lambeth Hospital and I've lived here all my life. I like the way it has become very diverse. People are still very friendly and we have very good neighbours. There are lots more young people here now, which is good too.

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

Read more about the regeneration programme at elephantandcastle.org.uk


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