



THE ELEPHANT

MAGAZINE

Issue 19 / Autumn 2020



THIS ISSUE

FOLLOW THE HERD

Rediscover your favourite shopping centre traders at Castle Square and Elephant Arcade

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sokari Douglas Camp talks steel, sculpture and Southwark

LOCKDOWN HEROES

Elephant Says Hi celebrates the locals who came to the rescue during lockdown

COVID-19 CASES ARE INCREASING IN SOUTHWARK

We can beat it together,
by staying apart.

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
OR CALL 119

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.



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**Photography from
left to right:**

East Street sign;
Trieve and Kayode
from Enterprice;
dinner at Paladar;
Castle Centre sign;
Elephant Says Hi;
Elephant statue

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WE CAN BE HEROES



Rachel Rumbol



Adramo Tezgazzi

Two people, who went out of their way to help others during lockdown, have been named as Local Hero Award Winners.

A chef who cooked thousands of meals for those in need and a kiosk owner who stayed open throughout the pandemic, dispensing coffee and kind words, have both been given Local Hero Awards by Elephant Says Hi (ESH); a community project designed to make Elephant and Castle the most welcoming place in London.

Liza Makarov and Jenny Sawyer from ESH asked for nominations from the local community at the beginning of June and the winners were announced in July.

Not long after lockdown began, Rachel Rumbol started Neighbours in Need with Chris Greenwood, owner of Walworth cafe, Louie Louie. Over the next few months, she and her helpers cooked more than 3,400 nutritious, free meals for vulnerable people, including those who were homeless, shielding, on free school meals or waiting for access to food banks.

They also teamed up with Meals for the NHS to provide a further 7,400 meals to NHS workers who were unable to access shops or cafes during lockdown.

“Like everywhere else, Louie Louie had to close its doors and the kitchen was lying unused, so it made sense to use both the space and my cookery skills to help others” explains Rachel.

Once she got started, Rachel was soon working in the kitchen on a daily basis, cooking everything from chilli con carne to roast chicken and a range of vegetarian meals.

Rachel and Chris got an £8,000 grant from Southwark Council and crowdfunded a further £10,000 to pay for the project. They also worked closely with North Walworth Mutual Aid Group

and other local services to ensure that their meals went to where they were most needed.

“Looking back, I’m not sure how we did it” says Rachel.

“We went from providing about a hundred meals per week to around a thousand” adding that it was very much a team effort. “None of this would have been possible without those who helped in the kitchen and all the volunteers who delivered the meals and coordinated everything” she says.

“It’s wonderful how people have helped each other during such a difficult time

“Lots of people have told us that they don’t know how they would have coped without this help.”

For more than a year, Adramo Tezgazzi has run The Kiosk in Elephant Park, a coffee stall offshoot of Mercato Metropolitano (located nearby, in Newington Causeway).

When lockdown began, Adramo shut up shop for a few days before realising that he was allowed to stay open and that people would need a hot drink and a warm welcome now more than ever.

The Kiosk soon became a regular

stop-off point for everyone from bus drivers, ambulance crews and police officers (Adramo gave them all a hefty discount) to many other local residents who just needed a coffee and a chat. “It can really make a big difference to someone’s day to say ‘Hi, how are you?’ especially if you live alone. I might be the only person the customer has spoken to all day” says Adramo.

“At that time, there were shortages in supermarkets. A few of my customers worked in the local Sainsbury’s, so when I heard that they had a delivery of milk or whatever I would let people know.”

Adramo adds “I feel very much a part of the local community now. I know many of my customers by name and although most shops and cafes have since reopened, they keep coming back here and supporting me as a way of saying thank you, which is lovely.”

“It’s wonderful how people have helped each other during such a difficult time and it goes to show what a caring local community we have here in Elephant and Castle” says Liza Makarov.

She adds “Both the winners received certificates and an Elephant Says Hi hoodie. Adramo also received a bottle of champagne and Rachel a “digital hamper” which contained vouchers from local businesses, including Diogenes the Dog, Black Cowboy Coffee, Tasty Jerk, Art in the Park and Blue Elephant Theatre. So my thanks also go to all those who supplied prizes.”

www.elephantsays-hi.com

THE OTHER NOMINEES

Amy Gray, owner of Dragon Castle, who made dozens of free masks for NHS cancer centres

Beza, the Ethiopian restaurant which cooked meals for NHS staff and the homeless

Irene Hayes, Superarts Academy, who provided online dance classes and support for students and families during lockdown

Hatch Enterprise, which helped to support local businesses through the pandemic

Richard Galpin, from Pembroke House, who helped to get food to those most at risk and in need

FOLLOW THE HERD

The Elephant and Castle shopping centre, which is set to be redeveloped as a new town centre for the neighbourhood, closed in September. It will be much missed by many local shoppers as well as by those for whom it was simply a famous landmark. But the centre's customers won't have far to go to find their favourite stores. Most of the independent businesses that operated in the centre can now be found just a stone's throw away. So come with us as we follow the herd.



Luz Villamizar-Lizcano, Lucy's Hair
Hair salon & beautician

Find me in
Elephant Arcade



"When I came to London in 1985, I hadn't mastered the language and I was still improving my skills as a beautician. But Elephant and Castle was just waiting for me to open my salon!"

For the last 28 years, I've lived countless moments of my life with my two families; the one made up of me and my son and the other (the one that I carry in my heart)

made up of all the customers and traders at the shopping centre.

Like everything in life, business needs to evolve and change to progress. We will not be the exception.

As for my move to Elephant Arcade? I can only say thanks to God for all the moments lived that will last in our hearts."



Zahir Qaderi, Z watch & phone repair
Watches and accessories

Find me in
Castle Square



"Back home, in Afghanistan, I worked in the watch business. It was one of the reasons I took over the watch stall at the shopping centre.

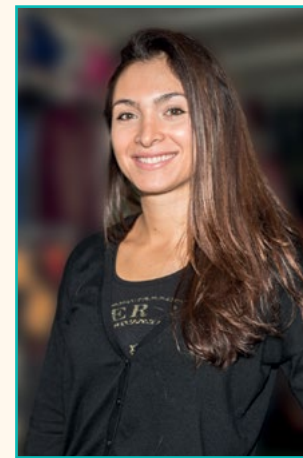
Over the years, I've seen a lot of changes with all the new buildings going up.

We used to have a lot of local customers but our numbers dropped because of the changing population. So, at our new place,

we're stocking higher quality items to try and attract new customers.

It's going to be strange for a while, because not all of the new buildings are completely open and some of the shops may take some time to get going because COVID is making it a tough period at the moment.

However, we will try our best and I'm hopeful for the future."



Elizabeth Duque, Medellin Y Su Moda
Women's fashion

Find me in
Castle Square



"The inspiration behind my shop has always been about helping women to be more confident, so they can feel beautiful and love themselves.

Over the ten years that I operated in the centre, I acquired many loyal customers. For them, it's not just about the clothes, it's also about the body shapers and how my garments can help women of all shapes; including those who want to lose weight or change their lifestyles.

I get customers from different parts of England and the whole world. One lady comes from Italy specifically to get my jeans because she loves them.

Despite the centre closing, I'm confident of keeping my customers. Being in Castle Square will mean my doors are open to all – to existing customers and new customers – as well as to new opportunities.

Yes, it's sad that the centre has closed but you also need to look at the positives and live your life in a positive manner. The redevelopment of the centre will help the area, hopefully.

Personally, I'm excited about the move. Once COVID is over, I'd like to expand and grow my business. I want to help women – not just around Elephant and Castle – but around London and the world."



Faye Gomes, Kaieteur Kitchen
Guyanese food stall

Find me in
Castle Square



"I came here in 2003. I bought an existing food stall that was originally located at the front of the market (outside the shopping centre) before moving to the back, where the food mall is.

The centre changed a lot during that time. Back then, you had the bowling and the bingo and other nice places that people could come and enjoy. They are all gone now.

But the closure of the centre is an opportunity to move on and to lift standards (for me, personally, as well as for my food).

I do outside catering and I had a lot of customers who wanted to eat at the market, but because of the standard of the shopping centre they didn't come. Castle Square is much better, and I'm fortunate because now I've got a seating area, too.

I'll keep the same dishes but I'll also create different ones so there's always something new and exciting to look forward to.

Going to Castle Square is a new chance and a new start. Moving will create a bigger customer-base and new relationships with new people. I'm looking forward to that."



Saif Mithu, Games & Gadgets
Video games and tech

Find me in
Castle Square



"My shop has always been a meeting place and it's created good memories for local people. They could come here, play games, try out the PlayStation etc.

Now their kids come too. We've seen the generations come through.

One regular customer (who's now in the police) used to work here when he was a student. Other young people would come after school. They used to call it their second home.

With the centre shutting, people kept asking us if we were moving or closing. But we reassured them that we were moving

just across the road. We felt OK about it because the new shop is nearby and it's still the same business.

Demographically, this area has changed a lot with the new developments bringing in more people who can afford more things. Hopefully it will be good for the store.

We have had to squeeze things in a bit at the new shop and get rid of some products, like the DVDs – but then we don't sell many now, anyway.

We're glad to still be in Elephant and Castle and to be part of its future."



Dianne Augustin, JN Money

Money transfer

Find me in Walworth Road

“Elephant and Castle has a big Caribbean population and JN Money Services has been helping the local Jamaican community to support their families back home for over 20 years.

Our remittance services, which allow customers to send money home in minutes, is invaluable to lots of people who live in Elephant and Castle. So when we heard that the shopping centre was due to close we were keen to find somewhere close by to relocate.

Our new branch is at the top of Walworth Road, in one of the new units built as part of the Elephant Park development.

It’s just a stone’s throw from the shopping centre, where we’d been based since the 90s, so it’s very convenient for our existing customers and I hope we’ll get some new ones too.

Elephant and Castle has changed a lot over the past decade but I’m glad that we’re still going to be here for many years to come.”



Diana Sach, Coma Y Beba

Colombian restaurant and cafe

Find me in Ash Avenue / Castle Square

“After 21 years, I’ve got a lot of mixed emotions about the shopping centre.

We were there a long time and we were the place where many of the Latin American community liked to get together.

But our new, modern premises at Ash Avenue and Castle Square, provide a challenge that I’ve been looking forward to. It’s a good opportunity to find an alternative way of doing things.

We’re in a new area – everything around is totally changed. So, while our businesses at the shopping centre have closed, being somewhere else feels amazing. It’s not something that has made me feel ‘oh my God, why?’ Rather, we will take the chance to improve ourselves.

Everyone should put something more exciting into the idea of running a business.

I believe in reaching new levels. We have to make this area modern and bring it into the 21st century.

The old Elephant and Castle was nothing like it is now. Today, when you walk through those passageways, the new park and past all the new businesses, you can see that they’re building a much better place – something totally different than it was before.

Our new restaurant is smaller than before but I have the open area, where people can take their drinks into the plaza.

As for our food, we’ll do things differently – different as in better! Today, food has become like art, so we need to give something more to our customers (both old and new) that will really make a difference.”



Asim Shabbir, Maya Clothing

Women’s fashion

Find me in Castle Square

“We were based at the shopping centre for 22 years. We know our customers, and as well as selling face-to-face, we also take requests and orders by text. They send me messages – asking me to keep certain clothes or asking me about a particular designer. I do my best to help.

Over the last two years, especially with the closure of both Tesco and the bingo hall,

our business was affected. So we will have to see how things go in the new space that we’ve been given. If business is good, I’ll continue to trade. Otherwise I might have to close.

Ultimately, you always need to try these things. Clearly, with all the new developments nearby, we hope that customers will come.



John Otagburuagu, Black Cowboy

Coffee shop

Find me in Elephant Arcade

“I’ve lived around the world, including the US, where I worked for nine years as a truck driver.

When I came back here, I felt a great emotion and passion about returning to the place that I belong.

The reason I started a coffee business was because I drank gallons of it when I was on the road and far too much of it was really bad coffee, especially in the truck stops.

I could have started the business in Croydon or anywhere. But I was drawn to this area, my home, because Elephant and Castle is in your heart. I said to myself, ‘I’m going to make it happen here’.

Other people told me I wouldn’t be able to sell gourmet coffee in Elephant and Castle because it’s not the right market, but I was

like ‘just watch me do it!’ Since starting, five years ago, things have been up and down. But I knew what I wanted and I knew I would succeed.

With my new premises in Elephant Arcade, the promise is that it will be a communal place – somewhere that you can come and feel at home. And, when I expand the business further, all my branches will be that way. Along with a cafe, I’d also like to have a shop here and then open in other parts of London.

After that, I want to shoot up to Scotland. I like to dress up and I want to wear kilts and do all the flamboyancy!

But my headquarters will always be in Elephant and Castle, and I’ll fight tooth and nail to stay here.”



Lenin Erazo, Miko's

Ecuadorian cafe

Find me in Sayer Street

“We opened in 2017 with one aim: to share our Ecuadorian culture with people here in England.

Our customers were mainly Ecuadorian, with some other South Americans, and about ten per cent English – but the number was growing.

While a new development on the site of the old centre is good for the area and London overall, I’m still sad to see the shopping centre closed as we have lots of good memories. Elephant and Castle has

become a home for Latin American people who would come here from around the world to meet in the centre.

The new Miko’s, on Sayer Street, has 56 seats and we should be open by November.

The area is different to before. It’s more expensive and less working class. But I hope to retain my old customers. They will see the same menu as I served in the shopping centre but I’ll also try serving more salads and healthy options.”



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME IN SAYER STREET

The Living Room @ Sayer Street is a new, temporary project that has just popped-up at Elephant Park, providing a unique retail experience.

Part of Lendlease's Elephant Park development, Sayer Street is home to more than ten new, permanent retail spaces that have been taken on by local entrepreneurs.

It has already started to earn itself a reputation as a great place to visit for independently-run bars and cafes, including some amazing restaurants, serving Jamaican, Ethiopian and Japanese food and much more.

However, construction on part of the eastern side of the street won't be complete until 2024. So instead of leaving this section as an empty space, hidden behind hoardings for the next four years, Lendlease has conjured-up something a little bit different.

The Living Room @ Sayer Street is a temporary installation which includes

verdant planting; outdoor work and dining spaces; colourful canopies and lights. There are a number of green nooks for relaxing and three new maker-spaces which house local, creative businesses.

It's been designed as though it were an extension of your own home; a place where you can explore, pamper yourself, enjoy an alfresco meal or just watch the world go by. Everyone is welcome.

The new, temporary maker-spaces are home to some brilliant, local creatives; Run Dem Radio, The Nunhead Gardener and Flat 70.

Anyone who took a stroll up to Elephant and Castle via Walworth Road this summer, will have spotted another temporary Lendlease project; a wildflower meadow that was planted at

the end of 2019. Ironically, it burst into life in the spring – just as the country entered lockdown. Nonetheless, it will have brought a smile to thousands of passers-by, throughout the summer.

The meadow will eventually make way for the final phase of the Elephant Park development but – alongside Living Room @ Sayer Street – it demonstrates just how creative and engaging a temporary space, built in the midst of transition, can be.

So if you haven't been yet, take a moment to visit both, while they last.

elephantpark.co.uk/the-living-room-at-sayer-street

Charlie Dark, Run Dem Radio



"Run Dem Radio is a community internet radio station, podcast studio and record store. Our aim is for RDR to be the people's radio, bringing unheard voices to the airwaves as well as being a catalyst for creativity in Elephant Park and the surrounding area."

Peter Milne & Alejandro Beltran, The Nunhead Gardener



"We're a group of south London based community garden stores. We're independently owned and run and we pride ourselves on being a highly knowledgeable team of horticulturalists. We're always on hand to offer expert and friendly advice about all indoor and outdoor gardening matters."

Anthony and Senam Badu, Flat 70



"Flat 70 is a non-profit arts family based in Elephant and Castle. Our space has been reclaimed for artists, cultural workers and local communities of colour. We are a home for artist development, artist care, cultural celebration and cultural exchange."

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

Celebrated artist, Sokari Douglas Camp has lived and worked in Elephant and Castle for more than 30 years. Her work is inspired by people, culture and the neighbourhood she's chosen to call home.

Taking a turn off East Street to reach Sokari Douglas Camp's live-work studios, you leave behind one kind of street theatre, comprising stallholders and shoppers, only to enter another, this time made-up of large metal figures; static and yet, somehow, every bit as animated.

Literally skipping out of her home-cum-workshop, Sokari is certainly animated herself. Warm and welcoming; her boundless enthusiasm and giddiness belies her 62 years.

Once inside the building (which was designed and built by her architect husband, Alan Camp) you're immediately struck by an array of sights which represent different aspects of Sokari's life.

A spiral staircase, guarded by a life-size, steel palm tree, dominates the scene, climbing three floors up to the broad glass ceiling. Giant steel sculptures of various characters form a kind of reception committee, while a number of portraits, painted by her two daughters, add an additional, family touch.

The metal figures – which sit at the heart of much of Sokari's work – take inspiration from her Nigerian roots, her Kalabari heritage and life in Britain and Elephant and Castle.

Sokari's work appears in the permanent collection at the British Museum, as well as in galleries in Washington, Tokyo and elsewhere. She has had several local, national and international exhibitions; was shortlisted for Trafalgar Square's fourth plinth in 2003 and received a CBE in recognition of her services to art in 2005.

This summer, the role of sculpture and statues in public life came under intense scrutiny.

With protests against the memorialising of slave traders and others, led by the Black Lives Matter movement, more people have begun to ask questions about who gets represented in British art and how and why.

Indeed, the council's Southwark Stands Together initiative has already undertaken an audit of civic art and local place names as part of a broader mission to tackle racism and inequality in the borough.

"The more BLM grows, the more my statues are the kind of stuff I'd like to come across when I go for a walk in Elephant and Castle" says Sokari. "Maybe in one of the many new developments being built" she smiles.

"We're at a crossroads in the national conversation about our history and, rather than adding more blue plaques, I'd rather see a huge, fat sculpture that would stop you in your tracks."

Sokari moved to Elephant and Castle in 1988 and, unlikely as it sounds, she came for the steel.

Sokari had fallen in love with the material while studying at art college. She found the best place to buy it was from Thomas Tingley, who had a factory on Brandon Street, just around the corner from where she lives now.

"Back then, Alan and I were looking for a warehouse to share with friends and this site, near Tingley's, was empty" explains Sokari.

"I had a relative, in Camberwell, who said Elephant and Castle has fantastic connections. It's central; you're not far from the river; Westminster is just 15 minutes away and Burgess Park had really taken shape by then, too."

"To begin with, we'd visit and we'd

get lost. It was the end of the Bakerloo line and we didn't really know where we were. But after a while, it became apparent that the end of the line was actually the beginning of the line for us."

Sokari's own personal line begins in Buguma, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Born the daughter of a chief, she was brought up by an English anthropologist, Robin Horton who had married her elder sister.

"It was tragedy that gave me the luck I had" says Sokari.

"My sister died in childbirth and they lost their twins too. Robin was distraught and so, to keep himself together, he stayed with the family and asked that he might bring me up because I was living with them at the time."

That early, anthropological influence – a curiosity about how we look at people, society and culture – has become one of the mainstays of Sokari's work, alongside

« ————— »
Statues are powerful – they affect you. I should know
 ————— »

a desire to address injustice.

Her piece, *Green Leaf Barrel* (2014) was inspired by the struggles of people living in the Niger Delta, facing mounting unemployment as well as terrible pollution. Another piece, a full-scale replica of a bus – *Ken Saro-Wiwa Living Memorial Bus* – honours the life of the famous writer and environmentalist who was executed by Nigeria's military government in 1995.

Her collection of six sculptures, entitled *All the World is Now Richer*, addresses themes of slavery, evolution and change, and is currently exhibited in Parliament.

Sokari is alive to the change and evolution taking place in her own neighbourhood too.

She laments the loss of the Heygate estate ("it had the best views in London") and questions the need to build upwards ("what's wrong with horizontal?") but, nonetheless, Sokari says she's been looking forward to seeing the area develop.

"I hope the area continues to have

a cosmopolitan feel" she says. "The people around here are so exciting. But I'd like to see more, green community space so that local businesses and people can thrive. And that should include more art, too."

"Living and working in Elephant and Castle, I love knowing that I've had work – inspired by this area – exhibited in some prestigious locations. I had a show called *The Pleasure of Seeing You*. It was based on the local, West African Pentecostal churches and these ladies that I'd see on Walworth Road, stopping traffic. I created 20 figures in total, each with an elaborate headdress."

Warming to her theme, and reflecting on the slaver statue that was torn down in Bristol, Sokari says "Statues are powerful – they affect you. I should know, I've had paint and stuff thrown at my work. But I don't think you should hide statues. I'm in the game of trying to have a conversation where I affect people."

She adds "I don't knowingly set out to rile people but, as an artist, you hope to make some kind of statement because you've been touched, and you want to say 'this is how I see things'."

Sokari also has modest ambitions for transforming her own, little patch of Elephant and Castle. She wants to create a community garden on a small piece of land near her home, where the poet and philanthropist Robert Browning once had a hall.

The pandemic put a halt to Sokari's schedule of exhibitions for 2020. She says "I've been totally freaked out – caught like a rabbit in headlights. Every single show I was in, suddenly stopped; put to the side, not going to happen this year, maybe next year."

The pause gave her some time for reassessment, 'a reset button' as she calls it, nonetheless, progress on the garden has been slow. However, she takes comfort in the fact that even when the galleries and museums were closed, her own work could still be seen locally; in Great Suffolk Street, Union Street and in Peckham.

"I love it when people come across my stuff by chance. I love being seen. That is the best part of me."

sokari.co.uk

For more local arts and culture, visit: southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage



Inspirational

Based at St Peter's Church on Liverpool Grove, InSpire has provided a range of services and support to the local community for more than fifteen years. Now, it's needed more than ever, says CEO, Nigel Scott-Dickeson.

Until March, this building was the epicentre of everything we do" says Nigel Scott-Dickeson, as he gives a tour of his beautiful, brick-vaulted community centre, tucked away in the crypt beneath St Peter's church in Walworth.

"We have wonderful facilities here and, in the past, we'd often have three or four events going on at once in the different spaces. Of course, since COVID, all that has changed."

Along with many public spaces, InSpire had to close its doors during lockdown and it only partially reopened in September (in accordance with Government guidelines). Nonetheless, the charity has continued to offer essential services both online and over the phone.

"Fortunately, we had all our IT updated at the end of 2019. This meant we had all the software in place to run our main services off-site. So that was definitely money well spent" says Nigel.

InSpire first opened in 2003. It was the brainchild of St Peter's then Rector, Giles Goddard. He came up with the idea of turning the crypt of this huge, Grade 1 listed, early 19th century church (once used as a WWII bomb shelter) into a non-religious, community facility for local residents.

The space now houses a whole range of modern facilities, including an IT suite where people can learn computer skills; meeting rooms that are used for a wide variety of activities and services (such as Art in the Community sessions

for older people) and a main hall that can accommodate up to 100 people for conferences, training days and family celebrations.



Since it began in 2012, the Elephant and Castle Community Fund has supported dozens of organisations and helped thousands of local people.

This year, as well as InSpire, the Blue Elephant Theatre; Disability Sports Coach; Blackfriars Settlement; and Ripe Enterprises all received £10k each, to help with their work in the community.

Find out more at:
[elephantandcastle.org.uk/
communityfund](http://elephantandcastle.org.uk/communityfund)

There used to be a cafe, too. It closed in June 2019 but there are plans to reopen it as a community enterprise facility.

"Making ends meet, without any income from room hire, has been a major challenge" says Nigel. "20 per cent of InSpire's income comes from renting rooms and that subsidises all

of our operational costs."

Nigel says that they received a major boost in the summer, when news came through that InSpire was one of five local community organisations whose application for funding from the Elephant and Castle Community Fund had been successful.

Each of the five organisations, including InSpire, received £10k from the annual £50k fund for neighbourhood projects, which was first established by Lendlease and Southwark Council in 2012.

The charity also received a further £10k grant from the council's COVID fund for businesses, as well as an £11k emergency grant from the London Community Response Fund; both of which were designed to help cover loss of income.

"This funding will allow us to keep doing what we do and it will really make a difference to the communities we support" says Nigel.

A lot of InSpire's work is with young people. Nigel estimates that they help more than a hundred every year. This includes a youth employment programme, which helps 16-25 year olds to access jobs and training, as well as parenting support aimed at the under-21s.

Fifteen years ago, the charity launched the 2InSpire Youth Centre, which provides activities and support sessions for 11-18 year olds. It covers everything from arts and media workshops through to football, dance and cookery



sessions. They also host regular youth club nights with pool, table tennis and computer access.

For many years, 2InSpire was based nearby on the Aylesbury estate but their activities moved back to the crypt, last year.

Nigel says it's been very hard being unable to work with young people, face-to-face, lately, although they did manage to adapt their services quickly.

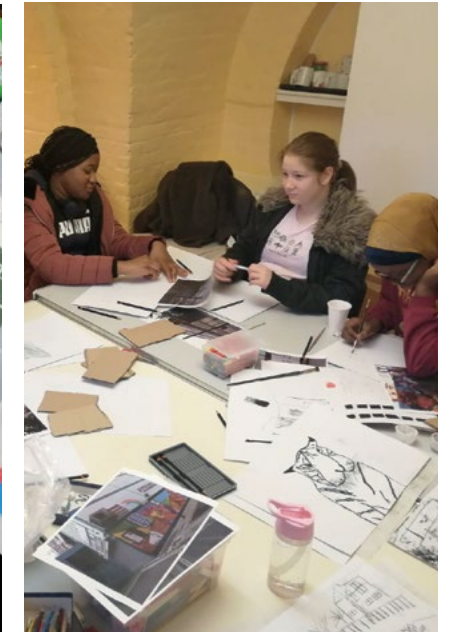
"Within days, Zara Lloyd, our Young People's Programme Manager, was offering online activities and competitions alongside projects that could be done during isolation" says Nigel.

"Steven Davis, our Into Work Programme Coordinator and Sarah Parry, who runs our parenting project, were also able to continue to provide help and support to those who needed it, over the phone and via WhatsApp" he adds.

"It's not ideal. When you see young people in person, you can get a much better idea of what help they need. But we're doing the best we can to be there for them in challenging circumstances."

As lockdown eased over the summer, Zara arranged some outdoor sports activities for small groups as well as a photography competition on the Aylesbury estate, which was sponsored by Creation Trust.

Many of InSpire's activities for older people, including their IT sessions and art activities, are still on hold but Nigel is pleased that the InSpire



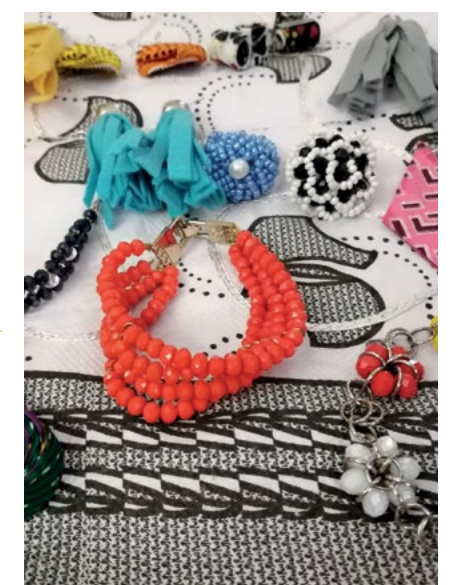
to Grow gardening project, which takes place on the allotments at Burgess Park, was able to restart with limited numbers over the summer.

"It's a challenging time but we're always here to help" says Nigel. "For 17 years, InSpire has been at the heart of the community and our aim is to ensure that this continues."

InSpire
The Crypt at St Peter's
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tupi



Tupi offers a taste of Brazil with a European twist.

ate on a sunny, autumn afternoon, a couple are laughing and chatting as they enjoy coffee and homemade cake at Tupi.

Sitting at a table on the restaurant's terrace, overlooking Castle Square, the pair finish their drinks while other customers tuck into a late lunch or make use of the large, airy space to work on their laptops.

"Tupi feels very South American" says owner and chef, Gleydson De Paula.

"People come here to eat and drink, to chill and relax, or as a break from working from home or the office. There's always a bit of a buzz, especially in the evenings, when we have a happy hour, and at weekends when we do our bottomless brunch."

Gleydson opened the first branch of Tupi in Peckham in 2017. His "South American food with a European twist" was an immediate hit – so much so that it was often hard to get a table at weekends.

When asked if he wanted to open a second branch in Elephant and Castle, Gleydson jumped at the chance.

"Only six months after I opened in Peckham, an agent got in touch and said that Lendlease were looking for Southwark-based businesses to take spaces in Elephant Park. They asked me to come and take a look" he explains.

"I wasn't planning to open another restaurant so soon, but the moment I saw the place and the location I said

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The freedom to cook what you want to cook is wonderful

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'OK I'll take it!' The space is much bigger than Peckham and we really are at the heart of Elephant and Castle."

"Tupi is really popular with students and people often come in for a drink or something to eat after going to Gymbox, next-door. With the new pop-up retail space opposite and more people moving in, I think it will get even busier in the future" he adds.

Gleydson came to London from Brazil when he was 18 and spent more than 15 years working in restaurants across the capital. These included Michelin-starred Italian, Stefano Cavallini and Buonasera in Clapham Junction, but like many chefs he always dreamt of opening his own place and creating his own dishes.

"To have the freedom to cook what you want to cook is wonderful" he says. "Over the years, I've worked in several European and South American restaurants and all those influences have rubbed off on me."

Tupi's menu features an array of colourful meat, fish and vegetarian dishes, as well as dairy and gluten-free

options. There's a range of freshly made fruit juices, smoothies and cocktails too and they make their own granola for their all-day brunch.

Their most popular dishes include bavette, a seasoned steak with chimichurri (a herb sauce that's a speciality in Argentina and Uruguay) and sweet potato rosti, served with avocado and poached egg topped with hollandaise.

"The rosti was actually one of the first dishes I created for Tupi and it's still one of the most popular" says Gleydson.

Reflecting on the spring lockdown, Gleydson says it was very tough but they managed to keep going by supplying takeaways via an online delivery service.

"That helped us to keep afloat and it also introduced our food to a wider audience. What's lovely is that we now get customers coming into the restaurant who first discovered us online."

The restaurant reopened in July and took part in the Government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme in August.

"We were really busy so, afterwards, we decided to offer a 30 per cent discount every Monday-Wednesday from 5pm" says Gleydson.

Tupi also has a new branch at Boxpark in Croydon and a delivery-only kitchen in Bethnal Green.

"It's wonderful that more people are getting to sample our food. I think everyone loves eating at Tupi because it's something different; tastes good and looks so good too."

Even though he's busy running the business, Gleydson still likes to cook whenever he can.

"I'll never stop cooking. It's part of who I am. I even dream about cooking! When we first opened in Peckham, I was in the kitchen. I was cooking at Elephant and Castle for the first few months, too. But I wasn't needed for long as we soon found a great chef!"



Tupi

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Retail, the Elephant and the Harrods connection



Tam and Co circa 1910, one of many big stores in Elephant and Castle at the time.

Elephant and Castle has a long history as a major retail destination. It even boasted its own Harrods for a time. Having said farewell to the shopping centre, we dig a little deeper into the area's retail past.

The Elephant and Castle shopping centre, which closed in September, represented a 1960s vision of retail. A Modernist mall, in the American style, it eschewed the British notion of high street shopping in favour of an everything-under-one-roof approach.

Bring your car, park on site and you'll never have to set foot outside.

Today, as we tackle the twin terrors of air pollution and climate change (not to mention the need to get a bit more fresh air and exercise) the idea of a town centre built for motorists has had its day.

The shopping centre itself, replaced an old horse market that had traded on the site until the 1950s. And, when it's redeveloped, there will still be plenty of opportunity to shop. However, this time around, the new stores, as well as the new homes to be built on the site, will all be based around a street pattern designed to put pedestrians first.

From horses to motor vehicles and back to pedestrians: in a way, the current redevelopment marks something of a return to the past.

Elephant and Castle was once renowned throughout London as a fashionable place to shop for clothes, hats, shoes or even a new set of furniture. Indeed, coupled with its numerous theatres, music halls and later, its cinemas, by the turn of the 20th century the neighbourhood had earned itself a reputation as the 'Piccadilly of the South'.

Today, there are still a number of shops on Walworth Road that date back to the very start of Queen Victoria's reign, such as Schwar and Co, the jewellers (trading since 1838) and Baldwin's the herbalist (in business since 1844).

But you might be surprised to learn that there was also a branch of Harrods in the neighbourhood, too.

It wasn't a grand department store of the kind you'll see in Knightsbridge today. Although, Elephant and Castle did have plenty of big retailers of its own; Hurlock's, Rabbit's and the gigantic Tam & Co. to name just a few. Rather, this Harrods was a small confectioner's



« Harrod was found guilty of receiving 112lb of stolen currants »

shop located at No. 7 Newington Butts.

It was run by Henry Digby Harrod, son of Charles who had established the first Harrod store, nearby in Borough.

Charles Henry Harrod was a young man of just 25 when he opened his first draper's shop in 1824 at 228 Borough High Street. He ran the business, here in Southwark, with his wife, Elizabeth for a number of years before moving across the river in 1832. First he moved to Clerkenwell, where he branched out into groceries, then on to the East End, and eventually he arrived in Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, where the huge Harrods department store can be found today.

A recent book by his descendent, Robin Harrod reveals that Charles' career in retail was almost cut short in 1836 when he was convicted for handling stolen goods at his Cable Street shop. To be precise, he was found guilty of receiving 112lb of stolen currants, worth about £200 in today's money. Not the most heinous crime, but taken very seriously at the time.

Thankfully for Charles, he was spared a threatened deportation and seven years' exile in Australia. Instead, he was handed a relatively light, one-year prison sentence, while – in contrast – the man who sold him the stolen currants was deported to Tasmania.

Charles' reprieve was largely thanks to

a petition raised by associates who were willing to vouch for his good character, including Charles Walker, a tea trader based in London Road, Elephant and Castle. A few year's later, Harrod would open his grocery store in Knightsbridge.

Without Mr Walker and the others' intervention, who knows, maybe the world's most famous department store might never have existed?

Charles wasn't the only member of the Harrod clan who was trading in Southwark, either. He had a brother who ran a jewellery store, around the same time, on Tooley Street (just a short walk from the original draper's store) and his sons inherited good heads for business too.

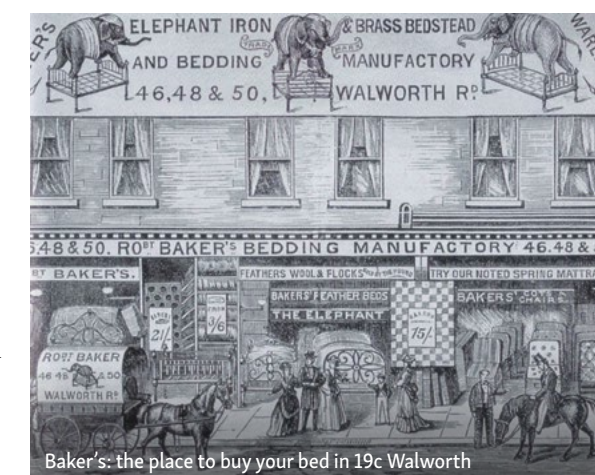
Around 1909, one of his sons, Henry Digby Harrod established HD Harrod, the confectioner's in Elephant and Castle (alongside several other stores - including one nearby in Peckham).

Meanwhile, Charles' other son, Charles Digby Harrod, would go on to turn the Knightsbridge store into the Harrods empire we know today.

Thanks go to Robin Harrod and his book *The Jewel of Knightsbridge*

For more local history visit the Southwark Local History Library and Archive at 211 Borough High Street

www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries
www.elephantandcastle.org.uk/more-history



MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Locals tell us what they love about the Elephant



Ajmal

I've been in London for over 20 years but this is the first place I've lived with a proper sense of community. I moved to the area five years ago and knew all my neighbours before COVID hit. Since then, we've all been checking on each other and helping each other out more. I live in Elephant Park and I like all the new cafes and restaurants, especially Beza which does Ethiopian vegan food.



Delorine

This is such a friendly community and people always smile at me on the street or stop me for a chat. I've been assistant curate at St Peter's since June but I grew up in south London, so I already knew the area well. Back in the day, we'd come to Elephant and Castle for the cinema and for Castello Pizzeria, and we'd always go to Grants to buy our school shoes. COVID has been very tough. It's been hard for people not to be able to see each other, so I'm glad we can have services in church again.



Olivia

Back in the early 90s, when I first moved here, people were incredibly snotty about this area but I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. I have everything I need on my doorstep. I love Oli Food Centre (which is open 24 hours) and Baldwin's herbalists and I like Khan's Housewares. I've never ever been into Khan's and not found what I want. It's also really easy to get anywhere by bike or public transport. Although I don't like the new road layout at the junction as it takes longer on the bus now.



Donna

My family used to live in Rodney Place and I remember when we were rehoused on the Aylesbury estate that my sister and I thought we were moving into Buckingham Palace as it was so huge! We were so excited just to have a bath; before that we used to wash in the sink. I'm so happy to be moving into one of the new flats in the redevelopment,

as I love the community here. I'm registered blind but I'm still very independent and during the lockdown I went shopping for my elderly neighbours. I'll miss the shopping centre though. My first job was working in the Green Shield Stamp shop there when I was 15. I'll miss Castle Tandoori too.



Steven

I've lived here for 17 years and over that time lots of places have come and gone but two of my favourites are still here; Mixed Blessing's Bakery and Winner Chinese takeaway. The patties at Mixed Blessings are the best and the smell of the freshly baked bread is so good. What I like about this area is that it's so diverse with so many interesting people and characters. Sport is great for bringing people together and I like to join in Parkrun in Burgess Park on a Saturday. It's great as you get families with kids and all ages taking part.



Richard

My favourite place around here is East Street Market. They have all the fruit and veg you could possibly need, which is great if you're doing a big Sunday roast at the weekend. I remember I once got a whole bowl of scotch bonnet chillies for £1. That's a lot of chillies! I've lived in Reading and Leeds and they have nothing as good as East Street. I also like CheeMc, the Korean place on the Walworth Road. The chicken is really good and you get so much bang for your buck.



Ana

I moved here from Romania five years ago and I really like it, especially now that there are more places to go. Mercato Metropolitano is my favourite, as there are so many different foods to choose from and the pizza is really good. I like all the new, small bars and restaurants around Castle Square too. During lockdown, I've definitely fallen in love with the area more, especially Burgess Park. Working from home but being able to go there for a run three or four times a week has been wonderful.

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

Email info@elephantandcastle.org.uk to be added to our mailing list for digital updates: use the word UPDATES in the subject line, followed by your postcode.

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

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