

StockwellUNITED

Autumn 2003

The Newsletter of

The Stockwell Urban II Community Initiative

Inside this issue:

- The Stockwell Urban Festival 2003
- All change at Larkhall Park: get involved!
- Cheap computers and free IT support for local residents
- Work for the Stockwell Partnership – see the back page
- South Lambeth Library extends its opening hours
- Grants of up to £15,000 available to local community and voluntary groups
- Your opportunity to comment on future planning decisions that affect Stockwell

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Stockwell United newsletter.

Stockwell United is the £12 million regeneration programme that covers the wards of Stockwell and Larkhall, plus all the Lambeth Council housing estates in West and North Stockwell neighbourhoods. £6 million comes from the European Union (EU) via its Urban II Community Initiative with the balance raised from other sources. To date, just over £2 million of EU funding has been allocated to local projects and inside this issue the progress report covers them and gives information on some more in the pipeline.



photo: Clare Horan



Fun in the Sun



Oasis Children's Venture get ready for the Festival procession. Photo: Leah McNally

The Stockwell Festival was held over the weekend of 20-22 June and fine weather helped to make it a huge success. The Festival with its wide range of events and activities for all ages was organised by the Stockwell Partnership, the local community forum for the area. Events this year included DJ and football tournaments for young people, an exhibition of artworks by local senior citizens and archaeology workshops.

The main event was the Funday and Parade on 21 June – midsummer's day – in Larkhall Park. Bright sunshine and Maryanne Benson's Funfair brought a fantastic turn-out and the community stage kept people entertained with performances from local Mauritian dancers, the Dixie Five Jazz Band, a children's magic show and a Capoeira display.

Under European Union stars in the park, the Stockwell United tent gave away T-shirts, balloons, and goody bags to youngsters. Local people ran bric-a-brac stalls and there were all sorts of tasty foods on sale. Many chose to take time out - and cool down - in the Peace Tent; a traditional yurt offering a range of reflective activities such as meditation, baby massage and workshops on peace between partners and neighbours.

At 4pm a huge crowd assembled for the Festival Parade around the streets of Stockwell. For many young people, this was the culmination of months of preparation in our funded workshops run by local schools, Oasis Children's Venture, the Bureau of Silly Ideas and Arts for Space. The variety of costumes, banners and contraptions was fantastic. The Police were excellent at stopping traffic and navigating the procession safely through the streets and locals used their free cameras in attempts to win a £50 prize for the best Festival photos. The winning entries are printed in this newsletter.

All in all, the feedback from this year's Festival suggests it was the best yet and the Stockwell Partnership hopes that next year's will be even better thanks to increased funding from Stockwell United. Work will soon begin on planning the Stockwell Urban Festival 2004, so if you are interested in getting involved contact Justine Kenyon, the Festival Coordinator, on 020 7735 5051 or e-mail Justine@stockwell.org.uk



Lansdowne Green estate celebrate winning the under 10's football competition Photo: Jane Lawrence



EU stars were festooned across the park. Photo: Eileen Finch

All systems GO! at Larkhall Park

Work has begun on producing improvement plans and designs for Larkhall Park and its surrounding area in which we hope local people will play a full and active role.

To try to maximise community involvement in the decision making process, a group called Planet Earth are coordinating a community participation programme. Local workshop sessions will be held in the newly installed Regeneration Portacabin in the park next to the Moon Café and the changing rooms. Pop in and give your comments until the end of October.

Shillam & Smith have been commissioned to produce a Park Regeneration Plan: a comprehensive blueprint for the future of the park, detailing improvements and, crucially, how they will be properly maintained in the future. Hawkins Brown is conducting a feasibility study into possible community uses for the old Rising Sun pub on the south east corner of the park.

Levitt Bernstein Architecture (LBA) has been appointed to produce designs for an improved park entrance next to Wandsworth Road and Courland Street. Over £200,000 of funding has been allocated to implement the agreed design. LBA is also developing designs for environmental improvements in front of the shops on Wandsworth Road between Albion Avenue and Union Road.

Planet Earth is arranging a number of different events and is particularly keen to involve young people in work experience, volunteering and having fun.

Key events arranged so far include:

4 October: Consultation festival in Larkhall Park - 12noon-5pm.

6 November: Consultation event at the Park Portacabin – 6.30-8.30pm

For details on participation activities, volunteering and opening times for the Portacabin contact: **Claudia Lopez on 020 7729 8630 or Claudia@planet-earth.co.uk**

South Lambeth Library extends its opening hours

Friends of Tate South Lambeth Library are celebrating extended opening hours. The Friends are a group of local people working together to improve resources and services at the library. They organise events, run exhibitions at Tate Local - the library's art space - and have regular meetings with the library manager to discuss the service and pass on local views, suggestions and complaints.

The new library opening times will be: Mon 1-6pm; Wed 10-6pm; Thurs 10-8pm; Fri 10-6pm; Sat 9-5pm.

Friends of TSL's October-December programme includes:

- October: Black Artists, Black Influences – a celebration of Black History Month through artwork from Stockwell Park High School
- November – December: Through the Eyes of Experience – artwork from workshops run by Age Concern in Stockwell (November) and Oval (December)

More information and membership forms are available at the Library or contact Friends of TSL on: 7622 8673 or email: Friendsoftsl@hotmail.com

Realise your IT ambitions...

The REALISE IT Network has been created to help minimise waste and pollution and maximise access to IT in Lambeth.

Many individuals, community organisations and start-up businesses need IT equipment. At the same time, there is little access to practical environmentally responsible disposal for unwanted IT equipment. REALISE aims to provide a solution to these problems by using refurbished IT equipment.

The Referral Service uses a database of IT refurbishers and suppliers of equipment are matched to users' needs. Users can also obtain advice and information on purchase decisions. The Community Business Partnerships programme provides a limited amount of free computers to eligible voluntary groups. Providing sources of equipment is only half the story. REALISE aims to provide advice and support on hardware and software purchase options. The Community IT Consultancy Service provides free technical advice and information to community and voluntary groups and business start-ups.

The REALISE Volunteer Support Service places IT professionals with community groups who need IT help and support. Projects approved for volunteer help include toy libraries, cultural projects and charities for people with disabilities.

To find out more about REALISE services, or to explore possible collaboration, please contact them on: 020 7926 6217 or info@realise-it.org or log onto their website at: www.realise-it.org

Progress on Urban II Projects

Thessaly Community Project – TCP will be opening very soon offering a range of activities for local people in Lambeth and Wandsworth. This brand new purpose-built centre on Thessaly Road will house an Internet Café, a crèche, an after-school club and a Youth centre. Three new computer-training courses will start at the end of September. TCP are having an open day on 9 October (12-7pm) and everybody is invited to come along and find out more about the project. The grand official launch will be held on 18 November. **Contact: TCP's Outreach Worker, Julie Timbrell, on 020 7622 4495.**

Stockwell West Health and Community Centre – Over the coming months a series of exhibitions will be held to provide updates on the West Stockwell project. For information on an exhibition close to you. **Contact: Anna Bowman on 020 7716 7159 or Anna.Bowman@lambethpct.nhs.uk**

Stockwell Partnership Community Capacity Plan – The Stockwell Partnership will soon employ an Advice Worker to provide a general service for Urban II residents and a Theme Group Coordinator to help voluntary groups with applications for Urban II funding (see below). A bi-lingual advocate, funded by Larkhall & Stockwell Sure Start, has started working with refugees and asylum seekers and their families. **Contact: George Wright on 020 7793 7730 or george@stockwell.org.uk**

Urban II Small Grants Fund – Over £400,000 of Urban II funding will be awarded to local community and voluntary groups over the next three years. Up to £15,000 per application will be available. This builds on the successful Connecting Stockwell SRB grants fund that ends in March 2004. **Contact: Bashir Miah on 020 7346 6526 or bashir.miah@hyde-housing.co.uk**

The GEL project – The GEL project, set up by Lambeth Council to help young people in Lambeth aged between 14-24, will soon employ a youth development worker to involve young people in the Urban II area and help them to set up new projects and liaise with local agencies. **Contact: Louie McNestrie on 07956 307846.**

Local jobs!

The Stockwell Partnership will soon be recruiting an Advice Worker and a Support Worker for voluntary groups. If you would like an application pack for either job, send a 57p sae to: **John McCay, Stockwell Partnership, 157 South Lambeth Road, SW8 1XN.**

Have a say on the future of Stockwell

Lambeth Council is in the middle of reviewing its Unitary Development Plan. This sets out policies on how the Council would like change to occur in the borough, what can and cannot be built and where it wants to encourage new development. A meeting to discuss proposed changes to Clapham & Stockwell will be held at the Clapham Methodist Church, Nelson's Row, near 121 Clapham High Street on 25th September at 7pm.

Stockwell Community Forum meets

The next Stockwell Partnership General Meeting will be held on 6 October between 7-9pm at Stockwell Community Resource Centre, Studley Road (behind Stockwell tube). Presentations, to be confirmed, include: Lambeth Council's Community Plan; Lambeth's Unitary Development Plan consultation; the Future of the Annie McCall Hospital.



Taking time out at the Surridge Court garden project Photo: Elaine Kramer

If you would like this newsletter in large print, on audio tape or another language, please contact the Stockwell Partnership on 020 7793 7730.