

**LOUGHBOROUGH
JUNCTION**

**ACTION GROUP
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
TOGETHER**

LJAG 2014 Annual Report to 5 April 2014

Welcome to
Loughborough Junction


Lambeth

**The London
Community
Foundation**


PROJECT
MYATT'S FIELDS PARK

Money raised by
HealthWisdom
through



 **ARTS COUNCIL
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LOTTERY FUNDED

It has been another busy and rewarding year for the Loughborough Junction Action Group (LJAG) but one tinged with great sadness.

In September Angela Akinyemi, one of our most active and dedicated volunteers, died in childbirth at the tragically young age of 40. Her daughter Nevaeh Eden survives her and is doing well in the care of Angela's sister Michelle. We continue to miss Angela, her energy, her commitment and her passionate desire to ensure that young people have the opportunities to reach their full potential.

Our trustees

Tim Gaymer	Co-Chair
Anthea Masey	Co-Chair
David Warner	Treasurer
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Hazel Watson	
John Frankland	
Amanda Kamin	
Saakidhya Manohara	
Amy Stones	

Resigned as co-treasurer 31.03.2014

Charlotte Holt

Resigned as co-treasurer 31.03.2014

The work of LJAG

LJAG works to improve the environment of Loughborough Junction and the lives of the people who live there. With these aims in mind we work with partners to improve the public realm and to bring joy to the neighbourhood with festivals, events, art projects, and food growing and public gardening activities all of which engage with the diverse and talented range of people who live and work in Loughborough Junction.

Funding

LJAG continues to be supported by the Lambeth Forums Network and we are grateful to Gerry Evans, our Capacity Building Officer at Lambeth Council, for her help and support over the last year. The Cambria Bridge project was supported by Lambeth Council with a grant of £31,777. We were successful in obtaining a grant of £17,000 from the People's Health Trust for the Loughborough Farm; the Arts Council with a top up grant from Lambeth Council awarded us £8,027 for the Made in Loughborough Junction project; £300 came

from the Lloyds Bank Community Fund and in the new financial year the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded LJAG £12,350 for an exciting World War 1 project.

PUBLIC REALM

The Loughborough Junction Plan

LJAG, working with Lambeth Council and consultants DSDHA, has produced the Loughborough Junction Plan, a toolkit of ideas both short term and longer term for improving the neighbourhood. These include building on the series of "hidden yards" which characterise the area and using the roads and alleyways along the railway arches to open up new public routes. The Loughborough Junction Plan will be attached to the new Lambeth Plan, when it is adopted probably in early 2015, as unofficial planning guidance.

LJAG can also consider developing this further to form a Neighbourhood Plan to give it statutory powers.

LJAG ran a postal consultation on the Loughborough Junction Plan in December 2013 and as a result Lambeth is now proposing major public realm improvements at the junction of Coldharbour Lane and Loughborough Road and Hinton Road. LJAG set up a steering group of local people that meets monthly. This group produced the Loughborough Junction Plan and continues to work on the public realm improvements in conjunction with Lambeth Council and consultants DSDHA. New members to the public realm steering group are always welcome. Also LJAG and Lambeth Council have been meeting regularly with Network Rail, Loughborough Junction's major landowner.

The Cambria Road and Cambria Road bridge

Cambria Road is part of a proposed "Green Route" for safe walking and cycling that is designed to link Lambeth's parks. A number of these parks run through Loughborough Junction and the proposed route will connect Ruskin Park, Elam Street Open Space and Myatt's Fields Park. The improvements to Cambria Road that Lambeth Council has carried out form the first part of the Green Route. The improvements have run from Northway Road, along Cambria Road, taking in a section of

Coldharbour Lane and the junction with Luxor Street. Improvements have included new paving, raised tables at junctions and pavement level parking spaces.

Last year LJAG worked with Mosaic Arts and two local schools Jessop and St Saviour's to produce six large mosaics on a fossil theme. The fossil theme was chosen because of the connection with the Cambria Explosion an era in pre-history where there was a large increase in life forms that has left a rich layer of fossils. This year with funding from Lambeth Council LJAG commissioned 20 local artists to design and produce further artworks using the fossil theme. These have now been mounted under the bridge and the local response has been overwhelmingly positive. Work still being undertaken will see the painting of the bridge with a text-based artwork, new bollards cast from trees in Ruskin Park and a fossil trail.

NEP consultation

LJAG ran a co-design workshop in conjunction with Lambeth Council on the Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme (NEP).



NEP co-design workshop at the Loughborough Centre

The programme identified areas where improvements to the public realm could be made. Improvements have included lighting in Wyck Gardens to make the area safer for residents to walk and cycle through after dark; resurfacing Loughborough Road with new cycle lanes; new zebra crossings; a new entrance to Elam Street Open Space, tree planting and various decluttering measures. LJAG received a grant of £1,000 for this work that was used to commission four planters for Coldharbour

Lane, Loughborough Park, Lowden Road and Cambria Road.

FESTIVALS

LJAG hosted a Big Lunch on Sunday 2 June 2013 in Hero Square, the public space in front of the shops on Loughborough Road. The day was a big success: the space was transformed with bunting; there were two sound systems, one mounted on a bike; a jerk chicken stall; a barbecue; free vegetarian food from the Brixton People's Kitchen; a cake competition and a bouncy castle. Some 500 people attended at some point during the day. However, the highlight was the pavement carnival parade from Sunshine International Arts in Coldharbour Lane to the Big Lunch and the colourful yarn-bombing (the installation of colourful knitting attached to lamp posts and street furniture) of the area led by The House in the Junction project. The carnival parade was supported by two carnival making workshops in the weeks running up to the event. A community knitting workshop was also held to complete the knitting for the yarn-bombing.



Big Lunch 2013 carnival



Knitting workshop for yarn bombing at Big Lunch

LJAG helped the Eden Project launch its 2013 Big Lunch campaign at the Marcus Lipton Youth Centre where local celebrity Levi Roots demonstrated some delicious Caribbean barbecue recipes.



Eden Project Big Lunch launch with Levi Roots at the Marcus Lipton Youth Centre

THE LOUGHBOROUGH FARM

The Loughborough Farm is a community food growing project that aims to bring into use derelict and underused land in the Loughborough Junction area. The farm's strapline is "a patchwork of community growing spaces". Funding for the project came initially from the Lambeth Forums Network. This funded a project co-ordinator whose task was to build a solid volunteer base for the farm. Emily Myers was appointed to the project and we secured additional funding from the People's Health Trust to employ Emily for two days a week for a year from the end of January 2014. The first site opened at the end of August 2013 on a previously neglected piece of land on Loughborough Road opposite Wyck Gardens. Growing takes place in 100 ton bags donated by Barratt Homes.

During the winter the farm was open every Saturday afternoon and thanks to the mild weather every volunteer was able to take home a bag of salad crops and greens at the end of each session. The mobile pizza oven owned by the Brockwell Bake is kept at the farm and has been used on three occasions to make pizza for our volunteers.



Loughborough Farm celebrates with pizza with Brockwell Bake



Loughborough Farm chaffinch donated for free by street artist ATM

During the summer the farm is open additionally on Tuesday afternoons. The farm has a mailing list of over 200 people who have expressed an interest in the project and there are around 30 regular volunteers. The Saturday session is particularly popular with between 10 and 15 volunteers at each session. A strong DIY group has emerged that makes furniture from discarded pallets. Food growing sessions have been held fortnightly in two schools: Loughborough and Jessop.

The Loughborough Farm is also supported by the community gardener at the Myatts Fields project who has held monthly training sessions for volunteers and we have been able to extend our growing season with seed planting at the Myatts Fields greenhouses.



Volunteer farmers at the Loughborough Farm

Further sites are being explored. A site on Minet Road opposite Loughborough School is being cleared and should be ready to occupy at the end of July. We are working with the Lost Effra Project, run by the London Wildlife Trust, and residents of Lambeth Living flats in Southwell Road to establish a garden and food growing project behind their flats. This would involve removing a large area of unused concrete with flood alleviation funding from Defra. Additional fundraising would be required to establish the garden. We held a consultation event and all residents were keen to have a garden with some reservations expressed over issues of privacy and maintenance.



Loughborough Farm plant an orchard in Wyck Gardens

The Loughborough Farm planted a small orchard in January in Wyck Gardens in conjunction with the London Orchard Project (now re-named Urban Orchard Project). Two apple trees, a pear, quince and greengage were planted. The Loughborough Farm has organised a watering rota in conjunction with

the Millbrook Road Residents' Association. The Urban Orchard Project continues to support the orchard with various training events.

The Loughborough Farm organised four volunteer events for One Planet Ventures, which had funding from WREF, over four Sundays in February and March in Elam Street Open Space. The volunteers planted a new hedge along the fence overlooking Wickwood Street and cleared half the wetland area and planted new wetland plants. LJAG received a fee of £1,000 which allowed us to pay a volunteer a small fee to run the sessions and to provide the other volunteers with a hot lunch.



Loughborough Farm planting native hedge in Elam Street Open Space

COMMUNITY GARDENING

LJAG has held community gardening days that have involved planting in Station Avenue and the cycle lock planters by Loughborough Junction station that were installed to discourage local shopkeepers from parking on the pavement.

Loughborough Farm volunteer Marion Palmer and her colleague Nathalie Pleasance obtained funding from Building Communities in Coldharbour to provide a planting scheme for the area of green open space by the billboards at the junction of Coldharbour Lane and Loughborough Road and on the Loughborough Farm. LJAG volunteers and the Good Gym (a running group that stops to do good deeds half way through its runs) organised by LJAG dug up the grass and prepared the soil for the carpet planting of cosmos, tobacco plants, zinnias, marigolds, dahlias and other scented plants.



LJAG and Loughborough Farm volunteers digging up the grass at Bill Board Corner



Tobacco plant at flower bed at Bill Board Corner

LOUGHBOROUGH JUNCTION BUSINESS FORUM

Trustee Amanda Kamin has been working with Lambeth Council to start a business forum for Loughborough Junction. After the success of an initial meeting at the Blue Turtle Oasis on 26 February, the business forum was officially launched on 5 June at Harbour Cycles. LJAG is supporting the business forum in the first year with a number of activities including a visit to Wood Street in Walthamstow that has established a successful business forum in an area that has similarities with Loughborough Junction; a business directory; and the continuation of our We Keep Loughborough Junction Clean campaign that encourages local

shop keepers to keep their forecourts swept and litter free and to water any nearby planters.



Local shop keeper signs up for Keep Loughborough Junction Clean campaign



EAT WELL, LIVE WELL, BE WELL

LJAG ran three successful health and wellbeing events with funding from Building Communities in Coldharbour in March, April and May 2013. The Eat Well event was held at the Max Roach centre with involvement of the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign; the Be Well event was held at the Loughborough Centre with health tests provided by the NHS Health Check nurses from the Guys and St Thomas' Foundation Trust; and the Live Well event was held at the Marcus

Lipton Youth Centre with the involvement of Sports Fusion Development.



Be Well day at the Loughborough Centre

LJAG held a further health day in June 2014 at Sunshine International Arts working once more with NHS Health Check nurses from the Guys and St Thomas' Foundation Trust team. The event was held in conjunction with the Herne Hill Road Medical Practice and its patient participation group. There has been a request from another medical practice to run a similar event.

PARKS FRIENDS' GROUP

LJAG has helped local residents set up a friends' group for Elam Street Open Space. A committee has been formed that meets monthly; the group has made some noticeboard/planters with the Remakery in Paulet Road; meets regularly with the local parks manager and future events are being planned. LJAG will continue to support local park friend's groups and will offer help and advice to establish new ones where none exist.

MADE IN LOUGHBOROUGH JUNCTION

Made in Loughborough Junction is an Arts Council and Lambeth Council-funded photographic project that aims to promote the hidden creativity at work in Loughborough Junction. The project was run in conjunction with the Milkwood Residents Association and Photofusion, the Brixton-based photographic gallery and studio. The area has a wealth of hidden talent with many artists, artisans and makers working in studios and railway arches often unknown even to people living in the area. The aim was to reveal Loughborough Junction's hidden creativity to our own community and the wider world. The project hired photographer Giles Duley, an award-winning portrait and

documentary photographer who was badly wounded after stepping on an explosive device in Afghanistan. In spite of his injuries Giles continues to work in some of the world's most challenging places of conflict.



Made in Loughborough Junction exhibition on Hinton Road bridge

Giles worked for a week with a group of four local young people in the February half-term holiday. As well as working on individual portraits the students visited a leading photographic studio. Working with Lizzy King from Photofusion, the four students all obtained a Bronze Arts Award. The 22 portraits – four of which were taken by the students – are now the subject of an outdoor photographic exhibition under four of Loughborough Junction bridges and a number of events are being planned around the exhibition.



Made in Loughborough Junction students at photographic studio

WORLD WAR ONE AUGMENTED REALITY PROJECT

This Heritage Lottery Fund project is being led by LJAG volunteer, Walter Reed. The project will create an app that can be accessed via smart phones and tablets that will recreate

Loughborough Junction as it was between 1914 and 1918 and recount a number of fictional stories with a documentary element linking them to Loughborough Junction. Volunteers have been recruited to research the stories and a reminiscence event has been held.

PLANNING

LJAG led a successful campaign objecting to change of use to hot chicken takeaways: one on Loughborough Road the other on Coldharbour Lane. Both applications were refused, although the refusal on Loughborough Road was overturned on appeal; the other on Coldharbour Lane is now occupied by Harbour Cycles, a cycle repair workshop.

LJAG regularly monitors new planning applications in the area and has commented on a number of planning applications most notably Barrington Lodge in Barrington Road; the corner site at the junction of Coldharbour Lane and Loughborough Road and the UK Power Networks site on Cambria Road.

CYCLE PROJECT

The cycle repair project that was been run in conjunction with Cycooldelic has now been transferred to the Evelyn Grace Academy and is being run by cycle mechanic Kate Thompson and science teacher Mark Gillett. Between six and eight pupils have been attending sessions on Monday after school. An assessment of the project will be made before the end of the summer term and dependent on funding it may continue into the next academic year.

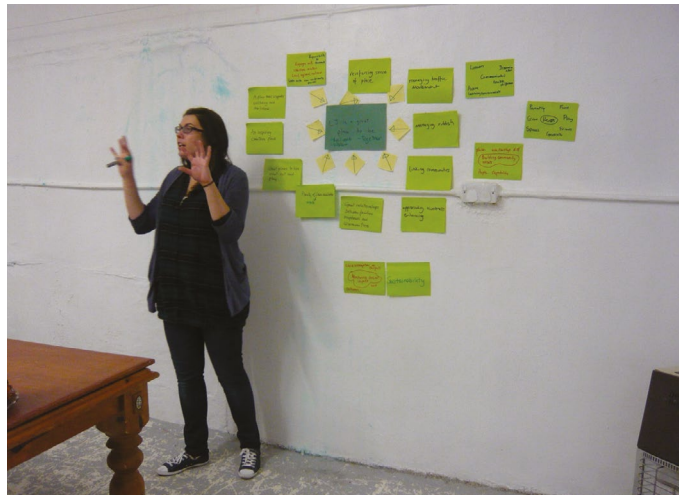
UP THE JUNCTION ARTS SALON

The Up the Junction Arts Salon runs events at the Whirled Cinema, a private cinema club, off Herne Hill Road. The events are organised by local author Stella Duffy, who also hosts, and sisters Hannah and Sophie Lambert in conjunction with LJAG who provide the volunteers and any small amount of financial backing if required. This year due to the team's other work commitments only one event was held; this featured leading novelist Rupert Thomson and local story-teller Chris Roberts.

STRATEGY AND PLANNING AWAYDAY

LJAG held a strategy and planning awayday funded by Building Communities in

Coldharbour. Our facilitator was our then co-treasurer, Amy Stones, who took us through the Theory of Change process in October. The event was attended by all but one of our trustees and a few members of the local community joined us for the day. The event has helped us clarify our strengths and weaknesses and plan our forward strategy.



LJAG Awayday with Amy Stones

PERSONNEL

LJAG is lucky to have funding for two part-time contracted self-employed workers: Mandy Mazliah, our administrative assistant, and Emily Myers, who works two days a week as the project co-ordinator for the Loughborough Farm. We would like to thank them both for their contribution which goes far beyond what would normally be expected. We would like also to thank Lois Acton, LJAG's part-time project officer, who during her time with LJAG over the last four years has taught us the meaning of working from the bottom upwards rather than the other way round.

Anthea Masey
Co-Chair
Loughborough Junction Action Group

July 2014

LJAG is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity
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Registered charity number 1150852