

# THE ELEPHANT

MAGAZINE

Issue 10 / Spring 2017



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A beautiful new book of photographs shot in Elephant and Castle

# THIS IS THE ELEPHANT

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

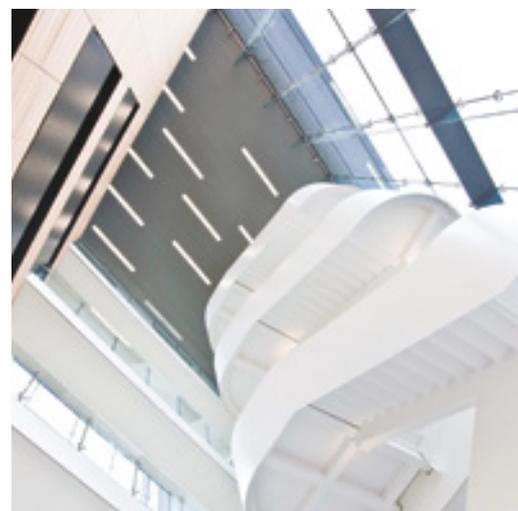
The Elephant Magazine is the publication dedicated to all things Elephant and Castle. We want to celebrate all that is fabulous about our neighbourhood and our community. We want to look back with fondness on the area's past and look forward with optimism to the future. The Elephant is changing and the 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: East Street market sign; market trader; Jack Stones, publican; the Strata; elephant statue; Metropolitan Tabernacle; Elephant and Castles band; Austin Osman Spare; Hotel Elephant, construction worker, LCC exhibition, sportsman, Castle Centre, market trader, food at Mercato Metropolitan; Cinema Museum; Cuming Collection; Castle Centre sign; Siobhan Davies; Cinema Museum; paint pots; LCC; Orbit Beers; dancers; elephant pendant, Carol Mather; Baldwins Apothecary



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LSBU

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London South Bank University is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. LSBU's Vice Chancellor, Prof. David Phoenix reflects on its enduring success.

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A pillar of Elephant and Castle for more than a century, LSBU continues to transform lives, businesses and communities to this day. Since its foundation in 1892, the university has helped almost 275,000 students to fulfil their ambitions.

The university first opened its doors as the Borough Polytechnic Institute towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign. It focused on "promoting industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being of young men and women belonging to the poorer classes". Although much has changed since then, the mission has remained largely the same: to provide professional opportunities to all who can benefit.

As Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2016, LSBU is renowned for embedding enterprise in education; providing students with the knowledge to build their own businesses and with transferable skills suited to any career.

But it's been a long journey to get to this point.

Towards the end of the 19th century, Elephant and Castle had some of the worst deprivation and social conditions in London. To help tackle this, in 1887, local educationist, Edric Bayley launched an ambitious fundraising campaign. He sent out more than 55,000 postal appeals, placing collection boxes on London's bridges and organising collections in

workplaces across South London.

His efforts resulted in thousands of individual contributions being combined with a grant from the City of London and match funding of £150,000 from the Charity Commissioners. The money enabled the institute to begin offering evening classes to hundreds of young South Londoners in trades and technical skills such as brick-laying, printing, hat-making and leather-tanning.

The institute's spirit of civic engagement was put to use in both world wars: manufacturing munitions; teaching evening classes to servicemen and women and providing a community centre for people who'd lost their homes in the Blitz.

It continued to expand after WW2 through merger with a number of specialist colleges and, in 1969, the Duke of Edinburgh opened a set of new extensions to the existing buildings, designed to house the expanding student population. The following year, the institute became the Polytechnic of the South Bank after incorporating a number of local colleges. In 1987 it appointed its first female director, Pauline Perry, and changed its name to South Bank Polytechnic.

After being awarded University status in 1992, the name was changed again, to South Bank University, before it finally became London South Bank University in 2003. Since then,

the university has continued to invest in its campus, adding the Keyworth Centre in 2003, K2 in 2009 and the new Student Centre in 2012.

LSBU's values have endured throughout its 125-year history. The university remains committed to both professional and technical education and to widening participation in education amongst the population of South London.

LSBU excels at adding extra value to the education it provides its students; building their skills and social capital. Around a quarter of LSBU's students are drawn from the local area and the university was ranked among the top 25 in the country for graduate starting salaries last year. With alumni spread throughout the world, LSBU has an international influence these days, yet still remains rooted in the local community and committed to delivering education to all.

The university has exciting and ambitious plans for the future. It has set itself a target to be London's top, modern university by 2020. It will continue to provide the very best student experience and to deliver real-world impact through its research and it will continue to transform its campus to ensure it's fit for learning in the 21st Century.

For more information visit  
[www.lsbu.ac.uk](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk)

# ELEPHANT AND CASTLE TOWN CENTRE

Delancey is one of the major partners helping to deliver the ambitious £3bn regeneration of Elephant and Castle.

Elephant and Castle is one of the last major regeneration opportunities in Zone 1 and over £3 billion is currently being invested in the area, as part of Southwark's wider regeneration strategy. Alongside other major stakeholders, Delancey is helping to deliver this ambition and has recently submitted a planning application to redevelop the existing Shopping Centre and adjacent London College of Communication site.

The application for a revitalised Elephant and Castle town centre

includes a modern Northern Line ticket hall, new shopping, restaurant and cultural facilities, 979 homes to rent, enhanced public spaces and community offerings, alongside a cutting-edge campus for London College of Communication, part of University of the Arts London.

If approved, the new town centre scheme will connect with Walworth Road and link to neighbouring development sites, such as Lend Lease's Elephant Park. The overarching ambition is for this to become a major new destination for London.

Delancey's scheme will be a phased transformation and, should planning approval be secured in the coming months, it is hoped to be open to the public by 2025. The first phase is already underway at the corner of Elephant Road and New Kent Road. Here, 652 new rental homes and student accommodation units have been built alongside a Sainsbury's supermarket, which opened to the public in January. Further retail and leisure facilities are due to open over the coming months.

## THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND BEYOND: DELIVERING THE VISION

The regeneration of Elephant and Castle will take a number of years and Delancey is working with all key stakeholders to ensure that the local community has somewhere to shop whilst the development takes place and disruption is kept to a minimum.

Delancey is committed to maintaining the vitality of the area during this period, encouraging people to continue to visit the area during the transition and ensuring residents can start to enjoy the early benefits of regeneration. The aim is also to

create new jobs and opportunities for local people, as well as to enhance the sense of place and community.

Delancey is currently agreeing terms with an operator who will build and manage the site between the Shopping Centre and Elephant Park. This space will house a number of pop-up units and a new bar or café. In addition, a programme of regular and seasonal markets will be established between Wednesday and Sunday each week from early summer and continue thereafter. All of

these activities will complement the surrounding existing leisure facilities such as Artworks Elephant, the Artworks North Site, Phase 1 of the new Elephant Park and Grow Elephant.

Amenities will sit alongside the exciting developments on the Elephant Road site, which include a crèche and a gym, which will open in January next year. There will also be up to five new restaurants, which will open over the course of the next two years.

# RELOCATION PLAN: WORKING WITH EXISTING BUSINESSES

Southwark Council has been listening to traders and working closely with Delancey is keen to ensure existing retailers can continue to operate in the area when the Shopping Centre closes.

Shops have been developed for a number of existing tenants at the Elephant Road site. These will offer discounted rents for the first five years to allow local businesses to continue and trade alongside the new amenities. Further information about these units, eligibility and the application process will be announced later on this year.

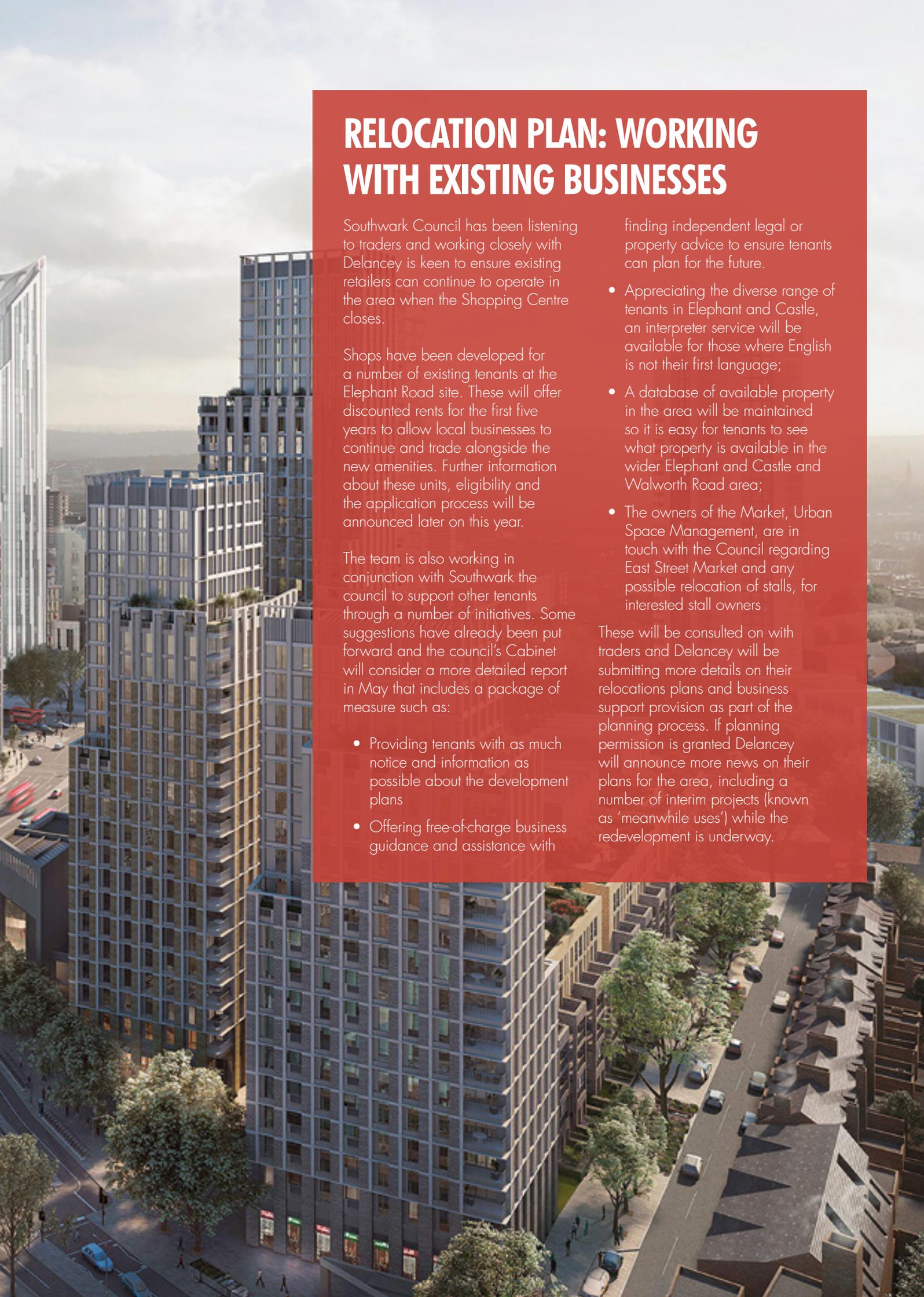
The team is also working in conjunction with Southwark the council to support other tenants through a number of initiatives. Some suggestions have already been put forward and the council's Cabinet will consider a more detailed report in May that includes a package of measure such as:

- Providing tenants with as much notice and information as possible about the development plans
- Offering free-of-charge business guidance and assistance with

finding independent legal or property advice to ensure tenants can plan for the future.

- Appreciating the diverse range of tenants in Elephant and Castle, an interpreter service will be available for those where English is not their first language;
- A database of available property in the area will be maintained so it is easy for tenants to see what property is available in the wider Elephant and Castle and Walworth Road area;
- The owners of the Market, Urban Space Management, are in touch with the Council regarding East Street Market and any possible relocation of stalls, for interested stall owners

These will be consulted on with traders and Delancey will be submitting more details on their relocations plans and business support provision as part of the planning process. If planning permission is granted Delancey will announce more news on their plans for the area, including a number of interim projects (known as 'meanwhile uses') while the redevelopment is underway.





# ON THE NIGHT BUS

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Over the course of three winters, photographer, Nick Turpin shot a series of photographs in Elephant and Castle. Now his evocative images have been published in a new book.

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Elephant and Castle wouldn't exist were it not for its role as a major junction, transporting Londoners back and forth to the bridges that span the Thames. Even today, the Elephant has more bus routes criss-crossing the neighbourhood than any other part of London. It's fitting, therefore, that when Nick Turpin wanted to capture an intimate glimpse into the world of London's commuters, he chose the Elephant as the place to do it.

His new book, *On the Night Bus*, is a beautiful collection of photographs; a striking series of ethereal impressions of passengers as seen through the steamed windows of London buses at night. The condensation on the glass and the reflections of the city lights blur and soften the faces behind each window. There's an impressionistic, painterly quality to the work that creates an enigmatic aura around each figure and the life that he or she might lead.

Despite the book's name, the photographs were all taken on regular buses, albeit at the dark, gloomy end of a winter's day as people travelled home from work. The characters depicted are in transit and in transition from their work personas to their lives at home. They're pensive, lost in thought, staring into the night or staring into their mobile phones. Nick has somehow found the poetry in this most unlikely of sources.

A professional photographer, with a background in newspapers and advertising, Nick lived in Southwark for almost 20 years before moving to Beckenham. It was while watching

the passing buses from a cafe in Lordship Lane one evening, that he noticed the way in which the windows framed the outline of each passenger. Musing on how much time Londoners spend in transit, he was inspired to start work on his own, personal 'night bus' project.

Nick, whose grandfather drove a London bus, has had commissions from TfL in the past but this book was a labour of love. He spent time researching how previous generations of photographers had approached the subject of commuting and public transport before he took to the street. He told the *Elephant Magazine* "The time was right. I couldn't have taken photos like these ten years ago. Using a telephoto lens and in such low light, it wouldn't have been possible to capture sufficient resolution with the cameras available at the time."

All the pictures were taken from the raised platform outside the shopping centre: the perfect spot for a bus-spotter and the perfect height for peering into the top deck.

"It was a good position because I was delivered an endless stream of buses and hundreds of potential subjects. I had just a few moments to scan each window before choosing my shot. It was cold and it was wet and I had to brace myself to keep as still as possible to take each photo. Thankfully, the elephant statue sheltered me from the rain."

Nick, who describes himself as a 'street photography evangelist', shares his enthusiasm for observational image making through his photography collective, iN-PUBLIC, as well as

teaching, lectures and talks. This has included occasional appearances at the Elephant's London College of Communication. Having spent three winters documenting the 'Piccadilly of the South', Nick's follow-up project is on the other side of the river, focussing on the mass of humanity passing through that other famous London junction, Piccadilly Circus.

Over the three-year period in which Nick took his pictures in Elephant and Castle, much has changed. The roundabout, which sent buses towards him at Newington Butts, has been transformed into a peninsula, the Castle Centre has opened (just across the road from his favoured spot) and new housing has been built throughout the neighbourhood. Whether by chance or intuition, his contemplative series of images has captured moments of transition in the lives of his subjects just at the point when the area, itself, was embarking on its very own transformation.



For more information visit:  
[www.hoxtonminipress.com](http://www.hoxtonminipress.com)

For more books about Southwark visit  
[www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries)



# REJUVENATED: ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Bathed in beautiful spring sunshine, St Mary's Churchyard has never looked better.

St Mary's Churchyard, Newington Butts, has had a complete revamp over the past two years. The arrival of the Castle Centre, One The Elephant and the Realstar Living development have all given a boost to this corner of Elephant and Castle but the park itself has also undergone a dramatic transformation.

Funded by the council and its regeneration partner Lendlease, more than £1m has been spent on giving the park a complete makeover. The improvements began in 2015 with the installation of a new children's playground, including a zip wire, trampoline, climbing frame and dedicated under 5s play area. Now the second phase in the park's transformation is complete.

The latest round of improvements has introduced a new pond, a paved plaza and new seating. New trees and plants have been added, along with two fabulous water features: a central fountain for the pond and a spot lit fountain with an array of interactive water jets on the plaza.

The pond, which has been fringed with wildlife planting, will make use of recycled rainwater, captured onsite. The council has made a commitment to create more ponds, throughout Southwark, as part of its Biodiversity Action Plan, and this latest example should provide a boost to various species of wildlife in what is otherwise a very urban area.

St Mary's has always been a popular

park with locals and, with the new Castle Centre pulling in swimmers, spinners and sports fans from across the borough, it now has a whole set of new fans too. In the summer months, there will be provision for a catering concession and a new branch of Daily Goods, the popular Camberwell coffee house, is due to open next door, very soon.

There will be an official opening ceremony in May when the fountains are turned on to usher in the summer.

To find out more about St Mary's Churchyard and all the other parks in Southwark visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/parks](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/parks)





**LOST RIVERS**  
**ELEPHANT**



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## Acrobats and trapeze artists will fly through the air at Lost Rivers Elephant, the latest addition to the neighbourhood's expanding arts and entertainment scene.

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"I think it's fair to say that the area hasn't seen anything quite like this before" declares Nick Boland, Operations Director of Lost Rivers, a 3,200 sq ft pop-up on Elephant Road. "We've got the highest aerial rig in London, so our circus and cabaret shows will be truly jaw dropping spectacles."

Like its neighbour, Artworks, Lost Rivers Elephant has been created from shipping containers. In this case, piled three storeys high and surrounding a central area with a fully equipped stage and rig covered by a stretch tent roof.

"We call it our 'contampitheatre' as it's an amphitheatre made from containers" explains Nick. "We're going to bring some amazing circus and cabaret acts to Elephant and Castle. In fact, we'll be scheduling anyone and anything which oozes entertainment."

The front of the site has a separate, slightly smaller tented structure, which has already hosted a number of cabaret shows and which will open daily as a bar. "I've nicknamed it 'the Eletent' and I call the main space 'the Castle'" smiles Nick. One of the shipping containers also houses a high spec kitchen so visitors can expect to enjoy a wide range of food when they come to see a show.

Lost Rivers Elephant arrived onsite in

November and will use the space on an interim basis while the Elephant Park development is completed. "I live just up the road and it's been amazing to see it all come together from nothing, so quickly" says Nick.

This unique project is the creation of the Lost Rivers Brewing Co. As well as brewing craft ales named after London's hidden rivers, they run their own bars and cafes, including the Bermondsey Yard Café, which opened on Bermondsey Street 18 months ago and regularly puts on DJ nights and cabaret evenings.

In addition to their Bermondsey and Elephant and Castle projects, the company plans to add a third Southwark venue to their portfolio, with a deli style operation next to London Bridge station.

"The company has always been about providing more than just great beer. For us it's all about culture too" says Nick.

The 'Eletent' is open from noon with entertainment in the evening. They're already offering a lively events programme which includes live bands and DJs playing music from funky disco to reggae, all served up with freshly cooked food.

The team have partnered with circus and cabaret company, Zero Central, who will curate shows in both the

venues onsite. At Christmas, they staged Santa's Stocking, a month long circus cabaret show which featured everything from hula-hooping candy cane girls and snow globe contortionists to a knife-throwing elf.

"Santa's Stocking was a lot of fun and we're looking forward to doing a lot more in a similar vein" says Nick.

At the weekend, Lost Rivers Elephant will also host markets alongside other daytime events. "I don't like to see empty spaces going to waste" explains Nick. "I see this very much as an entertainment hub with shows and DJ nights in the evening and then fun stuff for families in the daytime, at weekends and in the holidays. We'd like to keep the circus theme, so we're looking at putting on circus skills workshops (for both children and adults) and various community events too."

"It's ever evolving. Who knows where it will take us?" says Nick "What I will say is 'watch this space'."

Lost Rivers is on Elephant Road,  
SE17 1AY

[www.lostriverselephant.com](http://www.lostriverselephant.com)

To find out more about arts  
and events in Southwark visit  
[www.southwark.gov.uk/  
southwarkpresents](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents)

# NEW HOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT ELEPHANT PARK

The first families have begun to move into the new affordable homes at South Gardens, Elephant Park.

"I'm new to the Elephant" says mother-of-two, Sylvia, sitting in the kitchen of her brand new, three storey townhouse at South Gardens "but I've lived in Southwark for over 20 years."

"We were living in a block of flats in Bermondsey for the last 12 and we'd been bidding for a new home for more than five. When this place came up, I didn't expect to get it as we only came tenth in the original bidding process. A few weeks after, though, I got a letter saying the house was ours and we moved in just a few weeks later. It's amazing compared to our old place."

South Gardens is the latest phase of Lendlease's Elephant Park development. The first affordable homes on the phase were completed just before Christmas and people started to move in soon after.

In total, 61 homes, sited next to Rodney Road, have been handed over to Lendlease's affordable housing partner, L&Q. The affordable homes are split between 3 or 4-bed family homes at social rents, 2 bed homes at up to 50% of market value and shared

ownership homes available to local first-time buyers.

Sylvia's new home is a three-bedroom townhouse, with a small front garden, private balcony and includes access to a communal residents' courtyard. Her two children, Darius and Maya, are excited about their new home too.

For Darius, the new buildings and construction work in the area provide the perfect setting for exploring two of his main interests. "The new developments have flat, newly-laid pavements which are perfect for skateboarding" he explains "and the number of cranes around here is perfect for my school photography

class - as architecture is one of the main modules on the course."

Maya likes all the shops that the Elephant has to offer, particularly on Walworth Road and at the shopping centre. "I also like the fact that you can get anywhere from the Elephant" Maya says, "not just on the tube, it feels like every bus in the world stops at the Elephant."

Looking to the future, the family are optimistic about their new life in Elephant and Castle. Darius sums it up well: "If it's as nice as it is now, imagine how nice it will be in 20 years when all the new buildings have been completed."





# ELEPHANT AND CASTLE COMMUNITY FUND 2017

The Elephant and Castle Community Fund is now open for applications.

The fund, which was set up by Lendlease and Southwark Council to celebrate the neighbourhood's rich cultural diversity and support community projects throughout the regeneration, is now entering its fifth year.

In total, £50,000 is available to local groups working on projects which will benefit the community.

Since 2012, the Fund has awarded more than £125,000 in grants to 28 community organisations and has directly benefited thousands of local people. From film projects and school drama to skill-sharing and language classes, the wide range of projects supported so far reflects the amazing breadth of creativity and inventiveness in our neighbourhood.

This year, the Fund is seeking bids which focus on any of four key areas;

- Further education, skill building, training and entrepreneurship
- Arts and culture
- Green spaces
- Older residents

The deadline for applications is 10am on 18 April 2017.

For more information visit [bit.ly/eccfund](http://bit.ly/eccfund)





# THE BEST OF THE ELEPHANT: LA LUNA

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Since the early 90s, La Luna has been offering an authentic taste of Italy and a warm welcome to locals and visitors alike.

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When you ask Antonio Adiletta, owner of La Luna, what he likes best about running his Walworth Road restaurant, he doesn't have to think twice. "I love the birthdays" he says with a smile.

He explains how they always dim the lights and bring in cake with candles to a chorus of "Happy Birthday". He even demonstrates how they rattle a pile of plates to add to the atmosphere - and it's loud! "80% of our customers are regulars and a lot come here to celebrate so we like to make it special" Antonio says.

La Luna is a bit of a Walworth Road institution. Opened by Nino Esposito in 1993, it quickly won a loyal following thanks to his authentic pizza and pasta dishes. Antonio and Nino both come from the same small town of Sarno in Salerno, southern Italy, and Antonio, who has worked as a chef in kitchens all over the world, used to help out by cooking at La Luna occasionally.

When Nino retired, six years ago, Antonio took over and now runs the restaurant with the help of his partner Kristina who is also half-Italian. Having spent much of his life working behind

the scenes, Antonio says it was a nice change to be the person greeting customers and making sure everything runs smoothly. "Kitchens can sometimes be very shouty places. On the floor it's more polite and I love it" he says.

Antonio kept the authentic, rustic feel of the restaurant but installed a new brick pizza oven from Italy, which takes pride of place in the middle of the restaurant. He redecorated and added homely touches such as the bright ceramics and copper pans that hang on the walls alongside lots of old black and white framed photographs of Sarno. There are also a few crayon drawings of the moon, created by La Luna's younger customers.

Antonio extended the menu and added a large range of dishes for takeaway too. Now, customers can take their pick from a specials board, which changes daily, and from over a dozen freshly cooked classic Italian dishes, all at reasonable prices. These include tuna steaks, grilled sea bass and veal escalope, plus pastas and risottos, pizzas and salads, all served in very generous, colourful portions.

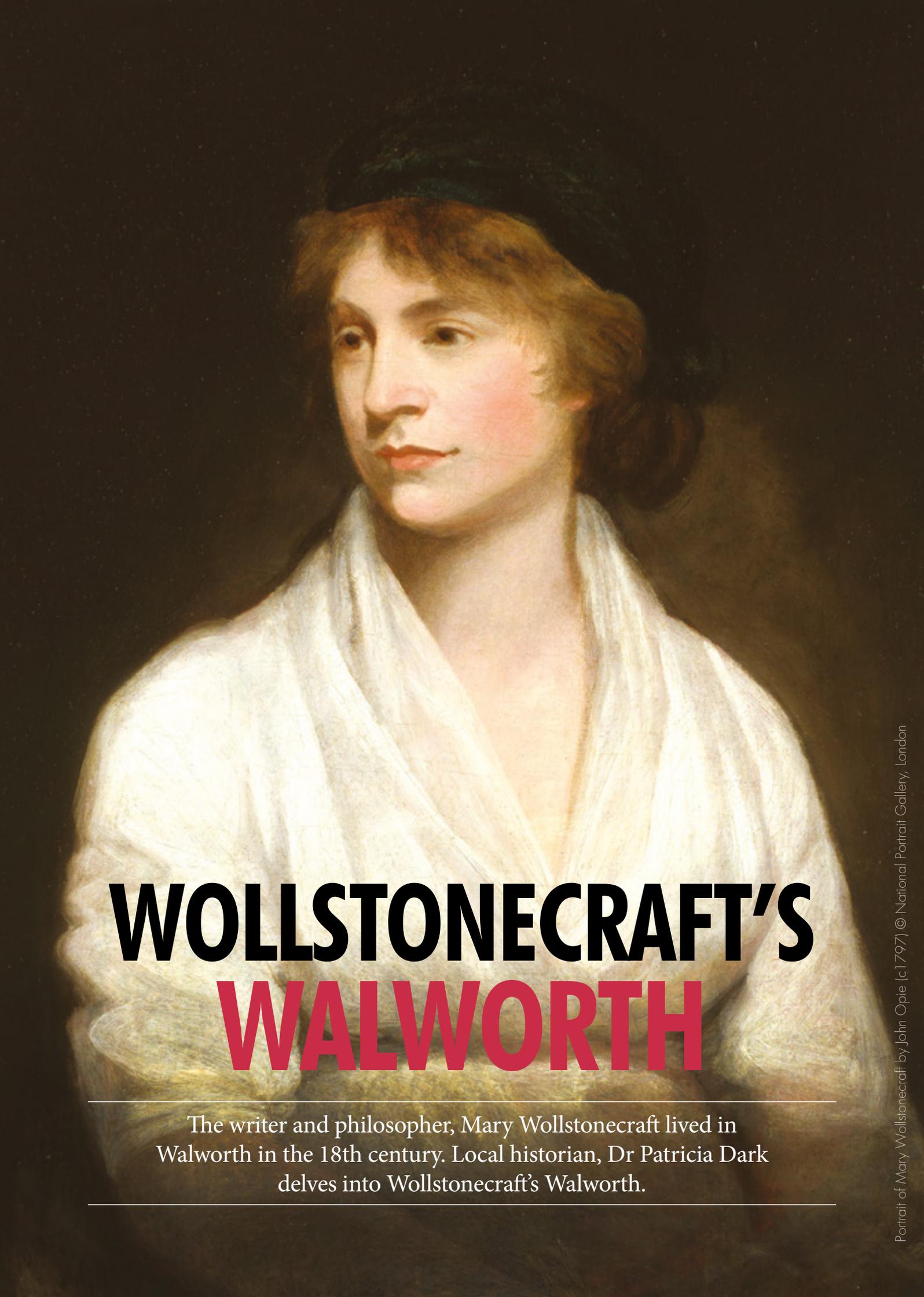
More than twenty years after it first opened, La Luna is still hugely popular with enthusiastic reviews on Trip Advisor, Square Meal and Time Out.

On a Thursday lunchtime there's a mix of customers: lots of couples, a few people having a meeting over lunch and a group of young Japanese students.

"Locals like it, and tourists like it too, because we serve good, healthy Italian food and try to make everyone feel comfortable. We don't treat our customers as numbers or rush them, we let them take their time and treat them as friends and family" says Antonio.

With almost 25 years in business, why change a winning recipe?

Open Tues–Fri 6pm–10.45pm  
Thurs and Fri 12pm–3pm,  
Sat 12pm–22.45pm  
Sun 12.30pm–10pm  
La Luna  
380 Walworth Road, SE17 2NG  
020 7277 1991  
[www.lalunapizzeria.com](http://www.lalunapizzeria.com)



# WOLLSTONECRAFT'S WALWORTH

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The writer and philosopher, Mary Wollstonecraft lived in Walworth in the 18th century. Local historian, Dr Patricia Dark delves into Wollstonecraft's Walworth.

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Born in 1759, Mary Wollstonecraft is celebrated as one of the intellectual founders of feminism. By the age of 18, she was living, on and off, in what we now think of as Elephant and Castle.

Her story, and her thought, owes much to the titanic changes that were rocking society in the 18th century; specifically the ideals of the American and French Revolutions. On a local level, Walworth was also going through rapid changes of its own. Understanding these changes helps us to shine a little light on Wollstonecraft's world.

Traditionally, Walworth had been a farming village. It supplied crops for the London market and it provided coaching inns for travellers to and from the capital. The 1629 book, *Paradisus Terrestris*, praised the quality of Newington peaches, which ripened at the end of August. At this time, the land on either side of Walworth Road was still common farmland, parcelled out on a yearly basis.

John Rocque's 1746 map of London and Southwark marks two windmills in Walworth and there was still a manorial court for the area and even a manor house (which stood at the corner of Penton Place and Manor Place). By this time, the area surrounding what we'd now call the Elephant and Castle junction was already relatively built-up and home to important buildings like the parish church and school (both roughly where the Castle Centre stands today). Walworth was growing in status and it was already starting to attract more middle class families just like the Wollstonecrafts.

As London's roads and transport improved, the pace of change in the area increased. Since mediaeval times, a huge proportion of London's traffic had used Newington Causeway as the route to London Bridge. Right up until the 18th century, the next nearest place to cross the Thames was at Staines. It wasn't until Westminster Bridge opened in 1750, followed by Blackfriars Bridge in 1769, that regular commuting became practical. At this point, the area's enviable transport links

cemented its position as an attractive and convenient place to live, just as it is today.

As the century progressed, Walworth and its environs became increasingly fashionable and new housing developments began to spring-up alongside market gardens. Surrey Square, which still stands today, is just one example. Penton Place followed soon afterwards along with several new schools. Walworth had 'arrived'. It was now a genteel place - one that combined traditional market gardening with upward mobility and a modern education. It was an ideal area for the Wollstonecrafts to settle.

Mary Wollstonecraft's father, Edward, was a drinker and a bully who dreamt of leaving the family silk weaving firm behind to become a gentleman farmer. As a consequence, he was constantly uprooting his wife, Elizabeth, and their six children.

The family bounced from London to Epping and from Yorkshire to Wales as Edward tried his luck as a farmer. Each move saw the family progressively worse off and meant that his eldest son, Ned, was the only child to receive systematic schooling. Mary spent enough time in a Yorkshire day school to learn to read and write, but no more.

Edward's treatment of his wife and children, and particularly the negative way in which Mary's cleverness, curiosity, and forcefulness were received (especially in comparison to her brother) sowed the seeds for what would become her life's defining work: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, published in 1792.

In 1775, a mutual friend introduced Mary to Fanny Blood. Fanny was slightly older than Mary and helped to guide her intellectual awakening. Moreover, Fanny lived with her widowed mother and provided a potent role model as an independent woman. Fanny would become the emotional centre of Mary's life for the next decade.

The Bloods lived in Newington Butts and the prospect of living near to

her beloved friend gave Mary the impetus to press for another family move. In 1777 she persuaded her father to uproot again - this time to try his hand at gentlemanly market gardening in Walworth.

But even living close to her dearest friend wasn't enough to make Mary's home life tolerable and she soon made an attempt to leave and earn her own living, elsewhere. In an effort to keep her close, her mother found Mary lodgings in Walworth - at the home of philosopher and translator, Thomas Taylor in Manor Place. Taylor acted as a tutor to his new lodger and undoubtedly influenced Mary in her own philosophical works. By 1778, Mary was working as Taylor's paid companion but she would return to live with the Blood family after her mother's death in 1782.

It's the Taylor connection, which probably accounts for one of the Cuming Museum's prized artefacts - a small card signed by Mary herself. It belonged to the museum's founder, Richard Cuming Jr, who grew up at 3 Dean's Row (now 196 Walworth Road) just around the corner from Manor Place. It's quite possible that Mary used it as a calling card to announce herself to her new neighbours, the Cuming family, on a social visit.

Mary Wollstonecraft died at the age of just 38, only eleven days after giving birth to her second daughter (who would become famous, in her own right, as the author of *Frankenstein*). There are various parts of Walworth that would still feel familiar to Mary today, and it's pleasing to know that a small token of her time in the neighbourhood still resides in the borough's very own Cuming Collection.

For more local history visit the Southwark Local History Library and Archive at 211 Borough High St. See [www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries) for details. For more on the Cuming Collection visit [heritage.southwark.gov.uk](http://heritage.southwark.gov.uk)

# MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Locals tell us  
what they  
love about  
the Elephant



## Tom

There are so many good places to go around here now. There's the new café, Louie Louie on Walworth Road, which I go to loads as it has excellent coffee and cake and a nice vibe. There's the Beehive pub on Carter Street, which has good food and lovely staff. And 3 Aces CrossFit is a gym under the railway arches in Penrose Grove, with really good instructors.



## Hayley

People are very friendly and the area has a nice sense of community. I like Bayroot, which serves Lebanese Street Food and La Luna is a great local Italian.



## Naomi

East Street market is great. I go there to buy meat and also because they have Ugandan vegetables like matoke (a kind of green banana). Everything is good and fresh and cheaper than in the supermarkets. The area is getting better and I like the new developments that are being built.



## Caspar

Mercato Metropolitan is a great place to go, both in the day and in the evening. There's good quality Italian food and music in the evening and they show films too. I run a local business and feel like I'm part of a nice, small business community on Walworth Road. Until recently, this stretch had been the forgotten bit in-between the Elephant and Camberwell, but now it feels like it's changing in a good way.



## Artison

I've lived here for six years and I love it. It's very central and well connected in terms of public transport. We've got good sports facilities: there's a 24-hour gym across the road and excellent tennis courts in

Burgess Park. Everything I need is on my doorstep, including Oli Food Centre, the Turkish grocery store.



## Silva

I like this area as the people are really friendly. I'm Portuguese and there are lots of good Portuguese places nearby, including O Portugues in Camberwell. I've lived around here for 18 years and it's much better than it used to be. There are so many more interesting places to go (when I've got the time).



## Sandra

I've lived here since 1972. There are lots of good places to eat. I like Arments Pie and Mash and the local Weatherspoons has a good curry club on Monday lunchtimes. I also like all the second-hand shops; they get new stock everyday so you never know what you'll find. I'd also recommend Hollywood Nails on Walworth Road. I hadn't had my nails done for over 40 years but then my son's girlfriend took me. They look wonderful now!



## Mark

I'm from north London but set up in business here two years ago because it feels like Elephant and Castle is really on the up. It's so close to central London and so easy to get to other places from here. I like Daily Goods, which is a great coffee shop in Camberwell, and it's good to see they're now opening a second branch around here.



## Hellen

My daughter will be three soon and it's a great area for kids as there's lots to do. We like to go to East Street Library for the books but also for the activities and storytelling. We haven't been to the new Castle Centre yet but we're going swimming there soon.

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](mailto:councilnews@southwark.gov.uk)

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