

THE ELEPHANT MAGAZINE

Issue 7 / Spring 2016



SPLASH DOWN

The council's new leisure centre, The Castle, set to open this April

THIS ISSUE

MEET THE BROWNS

The lifelong locals tell us about their move to Trafalgar Place

COME ON IN

London College of Communication throws open its doors to the public

JAMYANG

The hidden vegetarian cafe with a secret past

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.
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THE CASTLE CENTRE OPENS

The Castle Centre is set to open this April.





Left to right: Entrance sign; Teaching pool; Sports hall

When you enter the cool, crisp interior of the Castle Centre, you're enveloped in the very best of modern design. This isn't like the municipal leisure centres of old but rather something that feels sleek, state-of-the-art and well-engineered. Filled with natural light throughout, the Castle pulls off the neat trick of being both elegant and welcoming.

The centre has been designed to offer the best possible experience to local residents. Whether you're an ambitious athlete in training or a nursery child in armbands, the Castle Centre has been built with you in mind. In particular, great care and attention has gone into ensuring the centre is inclusive. So the very young, the elderly and the disabled are all able to get as much use out of the centre as anyone else.

Stephen Hopkins, from Southwark's Sports and Leisure Services team, told The Elephant Magazine "We're proud of what we've achieved here. We've delivered an environmentally friendly

building and we've gone on to fit it out in style. The high quality of the finish and the standard of the equipment puts the Castle Centre on a par with some of the smartest private gyms I've seen."

"But what I'm most excited about is the centre's inclusivity. I'm not just talking about the disabled changing spaces fitted throughout the building, either. Take the learner pool, for example. It's been fitted with a moveable floor to help people with mobility problems but it's also got specialist sensory equipment that can flood the room with light and sound to help people with learning disabilities or mental health needs."

As well as the learner pool, the three-storey leisure centre boasts a full-size 25-metre pool; two exercise studios; a fully equipped gym and a dedicated spin room (complete with 'virtual' spin instructor). It also has a sauna and steam room, a cafe and a crèche. For those keen on team sports, the top floor features an enormous four-court sports hall that can accommodate anything

from handball and volleyball through to basketball, football and boccia.

Cllr Barrie Hargrove, Southwark's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Parks and Leisure, told The Elephant Magazine "People have been waiting for this and we know - with everything that's on offer - that there's going to be big demand. So we've decided to extend the opening hours to include 6:30am starts on weekdays and a 10pm finish on Sundays. Best of all, the council's free swim and gym sessions mean that anyone who lives in the borough can now get fit or simply enjoy a dip, at least twice a week, without paying a penny."

To find out more about The Castle Centre visit www.southwark.gov.uk/leisure

For more details on free swims and gym scheme visit www.southwark.gov.uk/energise

The Castle Centre at a glance

- Six-lane, 25m swimming pool
- Learner pool
- Four court sports hall
- 140-station gym
- Two exercise studios
- Dedicated spinning room
- Sauna and steam room
- Cafe
- Crèche
- Free Wi-Fi throughout
- Designed to achieve Inclusive Fitness Initiative's 'excellent' rating for accessibility



SOUTHWARK STUDENTS QUALIFY AS DUKE OF EDINBURGH **NEW LEADERS**

It's an exciting time for five students from the Sacred Heart School, Camberwell, who have become the first young people in the borough to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Southwark New Leaders programme.

Delancey has supported Tyrone Salami, Omolode Ojo, Samuel Imie, Abena Obeng and Ellen Hagos on their Duke of Edinburgh journey. All five students are now close to qualifying.

The group has participated in regular training sessions at Duke of Edinburgh's central London headquarters, while also studying for their A Levels. The scheme requires each of the young people to volunteer, practise a sport and pick up a new skill by doing something completely new.

After five months of hard work, the programme culminated in a life-changing trip to The Gambia in West Africa. The trip enabled the group to put their volunteering and leadership skills into practice. The five New Leaders volunteered at a local school and worked alongside their Gambian peers from the President's International

Award (part of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation).

Abena says that becoming a Duke of Edinburgh New Leader has been a positive experience that will help her achieve her goal of becoming a paramedic. She said "I see the world through different eyes now. I feel more cultured and able to be proactive in my community and beyond."

Tyrone took part in the school musical for his new skill while Samuel learnt to network during work placements at KPMG and Deloitte. All of the New Leaders have further developed their leadership and volunteering skills by mentoring younger pupils at their school.

Despite their busy schedules, the New Leaders have also managed to fit in regular sport. Keen footballer Tyrone, who hopes to study politics and economics at university, has maintained

his fitness and continued to train throughout the off season, while Abena and Omolode have taken up boxing and cycling respectively.

Reflecting on his experience on the programme, Tyrone said "as city kids in one of the biggest cities in the world, being able to get out and into the countryside, gives you a different perspective."

The programme was set up by the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) to engage with young people from across the London region and commits to providing participants with a Youth Work Qualification, DofE Leadership, DofE Modular Training Certificates, work experience placements and residential trips.

To find out more about the programme visit: www.dofe.info or email maryah.mufti@dofe.org

PEOPLE'S BUREAU

SKILLS EXCHANGE

The People's Bureau is a community art project, which operates from a bright pink cart in the shopping centre.

Sponsored by Delancey, the People's Bureau aims to celebrate the local community's diversity, breadth of skills and depth of knowledge.

Friends Eva Sajovic and Southwark-born artist Rebecca Davies founded the People's Bureau in 2014. Since then, the pair have organised regular 'Skills Exchanges'.

Centred around the pink shopping cart, the events are open to anyone who wants to take part and share and learn new skills. Workshops can cover any topic from languages to DIY and previous sessions have included bike repairs, henna art, lino printing, gardening, job searching, reflexology, budgeting and embroidery.

To start the project, Delancey donated one of the centre's iconic shopping carts, which the People's Bureau customised and decorated with the help of a local

architect. The new and improved cart can be used to create a flexible, multi-use space and adapted to facilitate all the different functions involved in the Skills Exchange events.

In addition to pooling local knowledge and skills, the People's Bureau is interested in documenting the Elephant's history. As well as working on a film and scale model of the famous shopping centre, the Bureau is also creating an archive of all the cultural and arts projects which have taken place at the centre since it first opened in 1965.

The Bureau brings together a number of groups working in Southwark including Siobhan Davies Dance Studios, The Rockingham Womens' Group, Latin American Womens' Rights, London College of Communication, Peckham Print Studio and Peckham-based skills exchange group HOurBank PECAN.

By working from a mobile cart, the project is able to travel around the area and beyond to celebrate the cultures of Elephant and Castle past and present and to connect with communities from further afield. To date, the cart has travelled to participate in events at Tate Modern, pop-up market #Transacting at Chelsea Parade and exhibitions at London College of Communication.

The ambition is that the cart will return in future as part of the regenerated shopping centre, thus creating a link between the old and the new.

If you want to know more about the People's Bureau or if you know of a project which you think should be included in the archive contact:
peoplesbureau.elephant@gmail.com





**I KNOW IT'S A BIG
UPHEAVAL FOR
THE COMMUNITY
BUT IT'S WORTH
IT TO SEE LOCAL
PEOPLE GETTING
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AND, OF COURSE,
HUNDREDS OF
NEW HOMES.**



COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS

TALKS TO THE ELEPHANT MAGAZINE

As the council's lead on one of Europe's largest regeneration projects, Cllr Mark Williams is bullish about the future of Elephant and Castle. We caught up with Southwark's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes to find out more.

Asked about his favourite part of Elephant and Castle, Cllr Williams eschews the obvious answer, Pullen's Yard, a much-loved cafe or perhaps a cosy pub. Instead, he says simply "The people." And as we talk about the huge transformation currently taking place, it's this theme that Williams returns to again and again.

Referring to the construction underway throughout the neighbourhood, he says "I know it's a big upheaval for the community and it causes lots of disruption. But it's worth it to see local people getting jobs, training and, of course, hundreds of new homes. I just wish it had happened sooner."

Cllr Williams isn't the first politician to have a brief to regenerate the Elephant but it's on his watch that it's finally happening. "The first reference to regeneration I've seen was in a copy of the Southwark News from 1983" he says with a wry smile "but over the last five years it's become a reality and people are already feeling the benefit."

He goes on to explain that nearly 500 local residents have already found work on Lendlease construction projects alone. Half of whom were previously unemployed.

"And most of this construction work has been house building" says Williams "a huge number of new houses and flats have been built so far, including more than 1,400 affordable homes already completed, or under construction, for the local community." He adds "some former residents of the Heygate estate are already back on their old turf, in new homes at Trafalgar Place."

Asked about the deal on the Heygate, Cllr Williams doesn't hesitate. "We got a good deal" he says "we not only ensured that at least a quarter of all the new homes built on the site are affordable, but, should Lendlease exceed their profit forecasts, then the council will receive an additional share of the money. This can then be reinvested into more new housing. And that's not to mention all the transport improvements and the jobs created and paid for by the scheme."

However, he acknowledges that the council have learned lessons from the way in which the redevelopment was originally handled. "I don't think we should have done it all in one go - that was too disruptive for residents. We should have taken a phased approach, block by block, and that's what we're doing now on the Aylesbury estate."

New housing is just one part of the regeneration story. Cllr Williams is equally enthusiastic about the improvements to shopping, educational facilities and especially the Castle Centre. "I can't wait to see it open" he says "I'm proud that we've got this new state-of-the-art leisure centre for everyone in the community to enjoy. It's been paid for entirely by the regeneration scheme. And, best of all, if you live in the borough, you can benefit from our free gym and swim offer."

With the Castle Centre complete, Cllr Williams is turning his attention to the shopping centre, which Delancey plans to redevelop as a new town centre for the neighbourhood. "It's part of our vision to open up the area and make

it more accessible" he says. "We want to reconnect the site to Walworth Road so that the increase in visitors and the increase in business will help to revitalise Walworth Road and the south as well. We want to ensure this development benefits everyone in the area, not just those in the new centre itself."

Returning to his people theme, Williams emphasises the importance of continuity and how he wants to ensure the current population continue to feel at home in the area. Citing local Latin American and West African businesses as examples, he says "It's important that they continue to thrive because they're an important part of what makes the Elephant so special. So we're working hard to make sure that there continues to be affordable space in which they and others can do business. This includes dedicated affordable business units in Elephant Park and bringing more of Network Rail's arches into use at low rents."

He pauses briefly, as though momentarily awed by the scale of the change and then adds "You know - the council doesn't own everything, nor does it control everything in the borough. London is constantly changing and change is inevitable. So it's our job to continue listening to local people and to guide and steer that change - as best as we can - so that it provides the maximum benefit to everyone. Put simply, that's what I'm here to do."

For more details on free swim and gym scheme visit
www.southwark.gov.uk/energise

EAST STREET MARKET

500 YEARS AND

COUNTING

East Street is set to get a boost from a market makeover and an injection of Latin American spirit.

East Street's famous market is one of the oldest and busiest in London. It currently boasts more than 200 stalls, selling everything from fresh fruit and veg to colourful clothes and fabric, from handbags to household goods. Now the much-loved market is set for a spruce up, with new stalls and new signage.

The origins of the market date back to the 16th century when Walworth was just a small village on the outskirts of London where farmers used to rest their livestock before continuing into town. By the 1800s, stalls lined the whole of the Walworth Road and with the advent of trams, in the 1880s, the market moved off the main road and onto East Street.

Charlie Chaplin is believed to have been born here (look out for the Blue Plaque) and the street's association with the screen has continued ever since, with appearances in Hollywood films - including the next Jackie Chan feature - as well as a starring role in the *Only Fools and Horses* title sequence.

Now, the council is working with Southwark Association of Street Traders to give the market a bit of a makeover while Carnival Del Pueblo is putting down roots in the street.

"We want to keep the character and atmosphere but give the market

a boost" says Southwark Development Project Officer, Lauren Sharkey.

"We don't want to take away what's there, as it's successful and people like it, but we do want to improve it and brighten it up. Lately, the market has started to look a little tired and we want to bring it back to its former glory, refurbishing the barrows and making it more appealing."

The market has many long-established traders including family-run businesses which have been here for generations. But the market is also keen to attract new stallholders.

"It's not like the old times when stalls were always left to sons and grandsons so we do need new blood" explains Markets and Street Trading Officer, Lisa York.

Recent additions include the 'Egg Man' who has a very popular stall selling organic and free range eggs. Lisa hopes others will follow suit.

"Many more people are starting their own businesses now and this is a great opportunity. It's a cheaper alternative to running a shop" she says.

"Ideally we'd like more food traders. At the moment, people come, buy and go home.

It would be nice if we could make the market more of a social hub - somewhere people could stay and sit and eat and drink, especially around Nursery Row Park. And it's only £20 to trade on Sundays."

The arrival of Carnival Del Pueblo, the organisers of Europe's largest celebration of Latin American culture, will also help to keep East Street buzzing. Having recently taken over three abandoned shops at the heart of the market, they're now establishing an activity centre for the creative industries.

Inspired by the cultural heritage of all 19 Latin American countries, they're already using the premises for salsa dancing rehearsals and for a number of stalls for starts-up. These include a Colombian sewing and costume making service and a coffee stall.

The organisation is also planning a Plaza Latina event with dancing and eating all day in Nursery Row Park on Saturday 23 July.

"We're attracting people who maybe wouldn't normally visit the market" says Carnival Del Pueblo CEO, Nuala Riddell-Morales. "It will be a corridor of opportunity, bringing new vibrancy and a shot of Latin spirit to East Street."



//
**THE ORIGINS
OF THE MARKET
DATE BACK
TO THE 16TH
CENTURY**
//

Carnaval Del Pueblo is at
61 - 63 East Street, SE17 2DJ
www.carnavaldelpueblo.com
East Street Market is open:
Tues - Fri: **8am - 5pm**
Sat: **8am - 6.30pm**
Sun: **8am - 2pm**
For stalls contact **020 7525 6000**





**I'VE LIVED AT THE
ELEPHANT SINCE 1942
AND COULDN'T IMAGINE
LIVING ANYWHERE ELSE.**



JEAN AND REG'S STORY

Lifelong Elephant and Castle residents, Jean and Reg Brown, tell The Elephant Magazine how they came to be among the first people to move into Trafalgar Place.

Trafalgar Place was named the capital's 'Best New Place to Live' at this year's London Planning Awards. Completed last summer, the Lendlease scheme was the first phase in the redevelopment of the old Heygate estate. Now, all 235 of the newly built homes are occupied.

"I went to Victory primary school" says Jean "which is only about 100 yards from our new home. I've lived in the area all my life, so when we were looking for a new place it had to be in the Elephant."

A quarter of all the homes at Trafalgar Place have been designated as affordable housing and Jean and Reg were two of the first residents to move into one of these new homes, managed by housing association, L&Q.

Born during the war, the couple have witnessed, first-hand, all the changes that the area has undergone over the last 70 years. "When I was a kid we used to play in the bombed out houses" Jean remembers. "I wouldn't dream of letting my grandchildren do that now but that's what happened back then."

"We met at a dance hall, as you did in those days" Reg recalls "and I'd offered Jeanie a lift home..." Jean interrupts to deliver his punch line "yes - in a big red bus!"

"Our first date was at the Trocedero" she continues. "We'd agreed to meet outside a launderette at the Bricklayers' Arms. This time, Reg had his own vehicle but it wasn't a car, it was a scooter! I didn't know I'd be getting a lift on a scooter so I'd worn this pencil skirt. It ripped as soon as I got on and Reg had to take me straight home to get changed. It wasn't the best of start to a relationship."

"We're still married over 50 years later" Reg points out "so it can't have been that bad."

After marrying, the couple moved in with Jean's parents on Chatham Street, just round the corner from Trafalgar Place. The wedding itself, which took place at St Philips Church, off Old Kent Road, was captured on film by the BBC.

"They came to me and said they were doing a programme about weddings and divorce and asked if we were happy to be filmed" explains Reg, "I knew Jeanie was nervous enough about the wedding so I told them 'no'. But, when I told her later, she almost tore my head off and said 'get back down there and tell them we'll do it.' Jeanie wanted all our friends to see the wedding on TV, you see."

Some years later, with the arrival of their third child, they were housed in a three-bed maisonette on the Heygate estate.

"We had a fish pond in the front garden, which we loved" says Reg. "All the other parents used to wind us up because their kids would always be late home from school, as they used to stop off at our house to look at the fish."

Eventually, the Heygate came due for demolition and Reg and Jean moved to a new place in Charleston Street - again, just down the road from Trafalgar Place. More recently, Reg was diagnosed with cancer and became a wheelchair user. So the couple needed to find somewhere more suitable - a flat that could accommodate his needs.

"We went to the council and fortunately this place was available" says Jean. Reg continues "We were really lucky. In our last place, Jeanie had to do everything for me. I was like a prisoner in my own home. Now I'm self-sufficient."

"Now we're here, we don't want to live anywhere else" he adds "our family loves it and all our friends are jealous."

When asked about all the changes they've seen in Elephant and Castle over the years, Jean says emphatically "The Elephant has sometimes had a bad reputation. But I've lived at the Elephant since 1942 and couldn't imagine living anywhere else."

LONDON COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION INVITES YOU

Do you know who we are? Do you know what we do?
Do you know where we're going?

If you've walked past London College of Communication lately, you'll know that these are the questions the College is posing to visitors, neighbours and the wider community.

London College of Communication, UAL, has been on its current site in Elephant and Castle since 1962. Now plans are in progress to cement its relationship with the area by relocating to a new, state-of-the-art campus, as part of Delancey's town centre redevelopment.

LCC offers courses that reflect the breadth of expertise you'd expect to find in a creative agency, from journalism, advertising, PR and publishing to photography, film and television, sound arts, media studies, spatial design, interactive media and visual media. As a world-leader in design and media education, the College has consistently adapted and developed throughout its 120-year history in order to stay at the cutting edge of new thinking.

To mark the start of this exciting new phase in its history, LCC is launching a programme of public events designed to open up the College and its activities to everyone in the neighbourhood.

IMPRINT UNTIL 13 APRIL

An archive exhibition which takes inspiration from the past by showcasing material from the University Archives and Special Collections Centre. The exhibition charts the development of the College in Elephant and Castle by highlighting the experience of discovering items in the archive, and celebrates LCC's people, its heritage and its place in local history.

Many of the items on display have not been exhibited before and photographs of material from the collection have been arranged to create a timeline through objects.

WEAVING MIGRATIONS UNTIL 13 APRIL

An installation which finds connections between the communities of LCC and the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre through images and sound. The work invites viewers and listeners to consider the College's future on its new campus and is deliberately based at two locations: LCC and La Bodeguita in the shopping centre.

UTOPIA COLLEGE 11-23 MARCH

An exhibition which uses the idea of utopia to imagine LCC's future, and brings together a diverse range of contributions from PhD students.

MAKE A MAG WORKSHOP 7 APRIL

Designed to help local groups and other interested visitors create a short magazine. Bring your own words and pictures, choose formats and papers, print and bind a few copies, and take away an e-version. With lots of help on hand, the atmosphere will be creative, collaborative and fun.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMME

Including the LCC Summer Shows, showcasing the work of departing undergraduate students as they prepare to enter the creative industries. Other events soon to be announced include a festival of service design and an exploration of the links between journalism and creativity.

For more information and full listings visit: arts.ac.uk/lcc/events



OUR FOOD IS MADE FRESHLY
EVERY MORNING USING
MAINLY ORGANIC, SEASONAL
AND LOCAL INGREDIENTS.



THE BEST OF THE ELEPHANT: CAFÉ AT JAMYANG

Hidden away off Kennington Lane is a vegetarian café with a unique heritage, where homemade food and a warm welcome are always on the menu.

With its counter piled high with a colourful array of salads, quiches and cakes, Café at Jamyang certainly tantalises the taste buds.

"Our food is made freshly every morning using mainly organic, seasonal and local ingredients and it's all delicious" enthuses chef and manager Ilaria Mezzogorii.

"We're famous for our quiche" she adds. "The recipe was passed on by the previous chef and it's always popular. People also love our cakes, especially our raisin and coconut flapjacks."

And there's lots more to choose from too, with a seasonally changing menu that includes soups, falafel and bruschetta along with tagines and risotto. Vegans are well catered for with a daily vegan main course and a totally vegan menu every Monday, plus there are gluten-free options. "And it's all very good value" says Ilaria "you can eat here for less than £5".

Café at Jamyang, which opened seven years ago as part of the Jamyang Buddhist meditation and study centre, is very much a local community hub. The organic sourdough bread they serve is baked every morning at nearby Kennington Bakery and they operate as a weekday pick-up point for orders. Seasonal fruit and veg come from Sutton Community Farm, a not-for-profit organic farm in Carshalton and, every Thursday, customers can collect their Vegbags.

"We have lots of different people coming through the door and they all get a warm welcome, from pensioners to students to local workers" says Ilaria. "There are a few teachers who use it as an extra office; families drop-in from the nearby Mary Sheridan Centre and people going to the Cinema Museum, next door, like to eat here too. It's a really relaxed atmosphere."

It's a stark contrast to the building's original use as an imposing Victorian Gothic courthouse, where Charlie Chaplin's father was once held while his son was in the adjacent workhouse. It went on to serve as a maximum-security court for special remands and regularly appeared on news bulletins featuring suspected car bombers, terrorists or gang leaders.

After it fell into disrepair in the 90s, English Heritage made it a Grade II listed building. Jamyang Buddhist Centre bought it at auction and a team of volunteers and local people set about restoring it to its previous splendour.

"It's quite a transformation" says Ilaria. "The courtroom, which used to be lined with lead and had bullet proof glass, is now the Shrine Room, complete with a Buddha where the judge used to sit."

The 35-seat café dining area, with its homely wooden tables and colourful wall hangings, is in the former legal library, while the old clerk's office is the café's food preparation and service area. Some of the former cells are now

used as a larder and Ilaria points out the names of prisoners that can still be seen etched on the door frames.

Other cells have been converted into accommodation for volunteers, whilst four upstairs cells have become what must be London's most unusual B&B. The rooms are available for rent at £30 a night and include a help yourself breakfast with Dove's Farm cereals, Monmouth Coffee and Clipper tea.

The high-security courtyard is now a tranquil walled garden with a 6ft long gold Parinirvana Buddha statue - carved by sculptor Nick Durnan who studied at the nearby City and Guilds of London Art School.

When the weather's good, customers can eat and drink outside and there's also a new greenhouse where they plan to grow more of their own food for the café.

"It really comes into its own in the summer" says Ilaria. "When the garden's in full bloom it's wonderful. Like a little oasis."

**Open Mon – Fri
10am – 4pm**

Café at Jamyang,
The Old Courthouse,
43 Renfrew Road,
London, SE11 4NA

www.jamyang.co.uk

ELEMENTS AND CASTLE

Dr Patricia Dark reflects on the life and work of local chemist John Newlands

U nuntrium, ununpentium, ununseptium and ununoctium. These are the somewhat cumbersome (albeit interim) names of the latest four elements to be officially recognised by the scientific community. Only just approved (at the start of 2016) they can now take their place on the periodic table, alongside the more familiar names of gold, oxygen and aluminium.

You probably know something of the periodic table from school. It lists all the elements, arranged by atomic number. But did you know that the table has its roots in SE11?

The first person to devise a table of chemical elements, arranged in order of their relative atomic mass, was local chemist John Newlands. Born in Elephant and Castle, Newlands is one of the three, great nineteenth century scientists associated with our neighbourhood. Less celebrated than his contemporaries, Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage, Newlands was nonetheless an important figure in British science.

John Alexander Reina Newlands came into the world just four months after Queen Victoria took the throne. He was born on 26 November 1837, in West Square, just behind the Bethlem Hospital, which now houses the Imperial War Museum.

In his early years, John was home-schooled, mostly by his father, the Presbyterian minister, Rev William Newlands. At the age of 19, he joined the Royal College of

Chemistry – the first constituent college of Imperial College London – to study under August von Hofmann, a German chemist who discovered formaldehyde and helped found the synthetic dye industry. He later moved to the Royal Agricultural Society.

In 1860, Newlands, who was a passionate supporter of various Victorian social reforms, put his chemistry career on hold and turned his attention to Italy. He joined some 800 volunteers to fight alongside Giuseppe Garibaldi's Redshirts in their bid to unify the country. Returning in 1862, he married Jane Rickings and went on to have a son and daughter.

In his early career, Newlands worked as a self-employed analytical chemist, before becoming chief chemist for James Duncan's pioneering Clyde Wharf sugar refinery in Silvertown. Newlands and Duncan (a skilled chemist in his own right, who had created a new process to refine sugar) patented a number of improvements to the sugar refining process and, in 1888, Newlands collaborated with his younger brother, Benjamin, on a manual for sugar planters and refiners, based on this work.

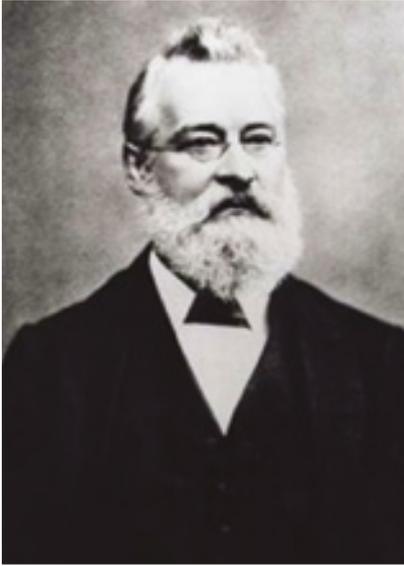
Newlands was active in teaching as well as research. He held posts at St Saviour's Grammar School, the School of Medicine for Women and the City of London College. Perhaps it was this dual role – an analyst of the properties of chemicals as well as an explainer of those properties – that first interested him in classifying the chemical elements.

Newlands knew that other researchers had grouped elements into 'families' and he noticed that the atomic weights of members of families were often related. In a series of papers in the mid 1860s, he developed his ideas further. He arranged the known elements in order of increasing atomic weight, and found that elements with similar properties occurred at regular intervals.

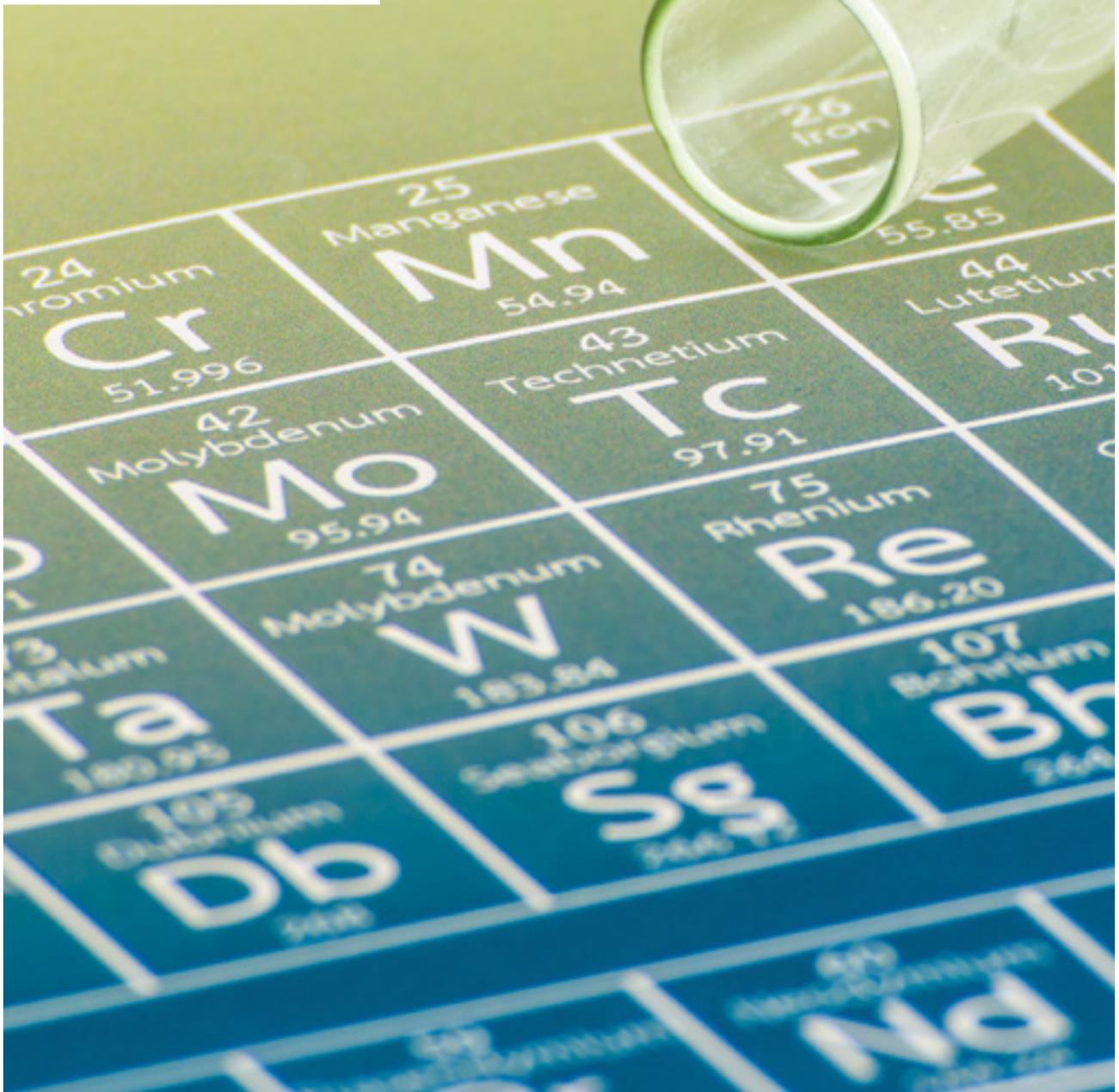
He divided the elements into seven groups of eight, in what he later called the 'law of octaves'. He acknowledged his table was incomplete, and allowed for the possibility that undiscovered elements existed. This included elements identified later, such as germanium, which he himself had predicted.

Unfortunately, Newlands' tables contained errors and anomalies. Notably, he rearranged some orders to make the 'octaves' more obvious. For many years, this led the academic establishment to overlook the significance of his achievement and neither the Society of Chemists nor the Royal Society would publish his work.

However, by the end of the 1860s, Dmitri Mendeleev's and Lothar Meyer's (more accurate) work on arranging the elements had appeared in the UK. This prompted Newlands to push for greater recognition. His efforts finally paid off when the Royal Society awarded him the Davy Medal for outstandingly important research in chemistry in 1887.



**DID YOU KNOW
THAT THE PERIODIC
TABLE HAS ITS
ROOTS IN SET11?**



MY ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Locals tell us what they love about the Elephant



Ali

This area has a good mix of food. I like the Polish restaurant, Manuška. They used to be in the shopping centre but have moved across the road. It's good food and healthy too!



Rochdi

I like the atmosphere here. It's similar to Paris as you get all the different communities from Europe. It's very cosmopolitan and friendly. One of my favourite places is L'Opera, which is a café that serves Mediterranean cuisine on the Old Kent Road.



Colin

I've lived around here for five years and I love the community and I love the people. The Electric Elephant Café in Pullens Yard do the best muffins in the whole world. You can have egg muffins, bacon muffins, you name it they do it. Louisa, who runs the cafe, is lovely.



Mary

I love East Street Market (and not just because I have a stall here). I've been here for 21 years and I love coming to work and meeting so many different people from so many different cultures. It's a great market with great stalls and, if you haven't been, you should! I also love the fact you can get food from all over the world around here. The Chinese food at Dragon Castle is fabulous and it's so beautiful too.



Mahmut

I like the friendly community and that it's so easy to get everywhere. I love going down to the river and the London Eye. You don't need to drive or even get on a bus, you can walk everywhere. Elephant and Castle is the centre of the universe!



Sharon

I love Arments pie and mash. They do the best pies and it's part of the local community. I was born here and used to go there 30 or 40 years ago with my nan. You always meet people that have been going there for years.



Sally

I've lived here for four years with my family and I think it's a lovely area. I like all the new buildings and the big towers that are going up. I think the new developments are exciting.



Matthew

I love Kennedy's pizza and pasta because the staff are always friendly and welcoming and it's good comfort food. Also this area has a great sense of community.



Lynda

I grew up here and came back 15 years ago. The area has changed a lot but it still has a nice feel and so much heritage. I go to St Peter's Church on Liverpool Grove and they have a great congregation. If you didn't know, you wouldn't believe it was there, hidden away just off the Walworth Road.



Tom

I come here from North London to work everyday and love all the food places on the Walworth Road and Camberwell Road, especially Mary's which is a classic local café. As I come along on the bus in the morning I always read the board outside to see what the special will be.

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

