

SOCIETY PEOPLE

THE VOICE OF THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE 05

LOOKING GOOD.COM!



CAMDEN SOCIETY NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

With a range of new features, a fresh new look and detailed information, we were excited to unveil our redesigned website on 6 November.

The site now offers an EasyFind tool to allow people with learning disabilities to find information more easily and discover more ways to get involved.

With downloadable leaflets on every service, club programmes, news items, events listings and a jobs noticeboard, the site supports all parts of the Camden Society. We'll be updating it every week so keep your eyes peeled for the latest news.

Designed by Cassbinder and built by CWN Design, we will continue to work in partnership to develop the site further as we build a UserZone over future months. This will promote service user interaction as we encourage people to share their stories, memories and photographs, to post ideas, complete online polls and discuss hot topics to help us develop new services.

Further online features will include a space for people to store and access their personal learning folders and CVs plus tools that will help us to track progress across our projects.



WE NEED YOU!

We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for our UserZone. If you'd like to contribute, email Jess Duggan at jess.duggan@thecamdensociety.co.uk. In the meantime, why not see for yourself at www.thecamdensociety.co.uk

PAID TO PLAY: EMEKA'S JOB SUCCESS

Congratulations to Fast Train to Work graduate Emeka Ogbogoh who is celebrating his new full-time job with the NW5 Community Play Project in Kentish Town. Emeka bagged a job as a School Collection Worker at the Under-5s drop-in after specialising in health and social care and getting an NVQ Level 2 award through our Employment & Learning Centre.

Taking health and safety and basic first aid courses, together with a volunteering placement at the local project, Emeka impressed his employers so much that they've snapped him up for this 5-day-a-week post. Emeka tells us that the job has boosted his confidence and communication skills, he feels "extremely happy that his life is now complete".

With ongoing support from our employment team, Emeka continues to work hard to get the best out of his new career.



Nice one Emeka! We wish you all the best in your new role.

INTRODUCING...

UNITY COFFEE

LEWISHAM LIBRARY

Our latest cafe enterprise, Unity Coffee at Lewisham Library opened in early December and is already proving to be a hit with customers. The start of what we hope will become a community hub, the cafe serves organic coffees, Clipper teas and fresh soups, salads, panini and cakes.

With an interior makeover and free wifi, Unity Coffee offers a modern space to read, meet, talk and eat. Society People will be catching up with Tomoko Berry, our Unity manager, to run a full feature on the cafe in the next issue.

NEW FACES FOR JOBS TEAM

Arriving on board to support our new employment and training programmes, we welcomed four new staff recently.

Working to support anyone with a disability who wants to get qualifications, refresh workplace skills or get a job, our new starters are featured in our jobs and skills Who's Who Gallery below.



Gareth Radford
Employment & Learning Centre Manager



Juliana Ajibade
Employment Development Worker



Lynne Campbell
Employment Development Worker



Matthew Blakemore
Employment Development Worker

Drop in and see them or call **020 7485 8177** for one-to-one advice and support.

CO-TRAINERS COMPLETE THE TEAM AT LEWISHAM WORKS

Photo (from left to right): Becky Sullivan, Kayleigh Bate, Tara Rigg and Thomas Beard



Breaking down the barriers to employment for people with learning disabilities in Lewisham is a difficult job.

It's great news then that Lewisham Works have recently welcomed four new Co-trainers to help the project achieve its goals. Joining the team in October, Becky Sullivan, Kayleigh Bate, Tara Rigg and Thomas Beard will spend the next year talking to employers about how to make things better for people with learning disabilities in the workplace. Welcome to the team guys!

We wish you lots of success in your new roles.



MR COOL TURNS 50

Sipping Moet & Chandon to chilled out reggae with a crowd of admirers and friends was the birthday celebration of choice for Dave Bryant in October.

Looking as sharp as ever for his big 50th, Dave served up a curry treat for our office regulars before they lifted the champers to give a cheery toast to The Man Himself.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVE!

RELISH OUR CHUTNEY THIS CHRISTMAS

Traipsing around Piccadilly for picallili is no-one's idea of fun. That's why we've created a new line of delicious chutneys to help you keep it local.

Choose from classic chilli onion jam or spiced cranberry and apple relish. A great stocking filler or wonderful with Christmas cheese and crackers, our chutneys are on sale now at all Camden Society cafes, Mill Lane Garden Centre and at our office in Kentish Town.

HOMEMADE CHUTNEY
CLASSIC CHILLI ONION JAM
&
SPICED CRANBERRY
& APPLE RELISH

£2.95 PER JAR

All profits will be re-invested in our social enterprises to create jobs for local people with disabilities

WEAR IT PINK DAY



Photos (from left to right): John Crawford with raffle prize winners Clare Wootton, Amanda Diaz and Mario Diaz and Janet Lavin

A big pink thank you to everyone who participated in our Wear it Pink campaign on 30 October – we raised **£170** for breast cancer awareness as our staff and service users donated money to sport pink shirts, pink nails and pink smiles for the day at our Holmes Road office.

With cupcakes for all (guess what colour?) and the obligatory Camden Society teapot in full flow, our dedicated people showed their support in a raffle to win a range of pink prizes. **Great work guys!** Check out our pink winners to the left.

COMMUNITY PROJECT SOUTH TEAM CROWNED AS BOWLING LEAGUE WINNERS

Strike, battle and bowl... Community Project South's bowling allstars retained the title on 5 November at the Camden Society Annual Ten Pin Bowling Cup tournament.

Battling it out for the trophy, five teams – Community Project North, Community Project South, Greenwood Place, The Grange and Queens Road took over the Hollywood Bowl in Surrey Quays.

With maximum cheers from their team mates and staff, Greenwood Place and The Grange got off to a flying start, scoring several strikes and spares. But with all the teams playing well, and with strong performances from Greenwood Place's Jide and Jackie, Steve from Queens Road and from CPS's Amara, the cup was still anyone's at half-time.

As the championship progressed, supporters egged their teams on, boosting Michael, Philip, Tony and Amara from CPS and Jide, Jackie and Nurul from Greenwood Place to deliver some spectacular scores from their frames.

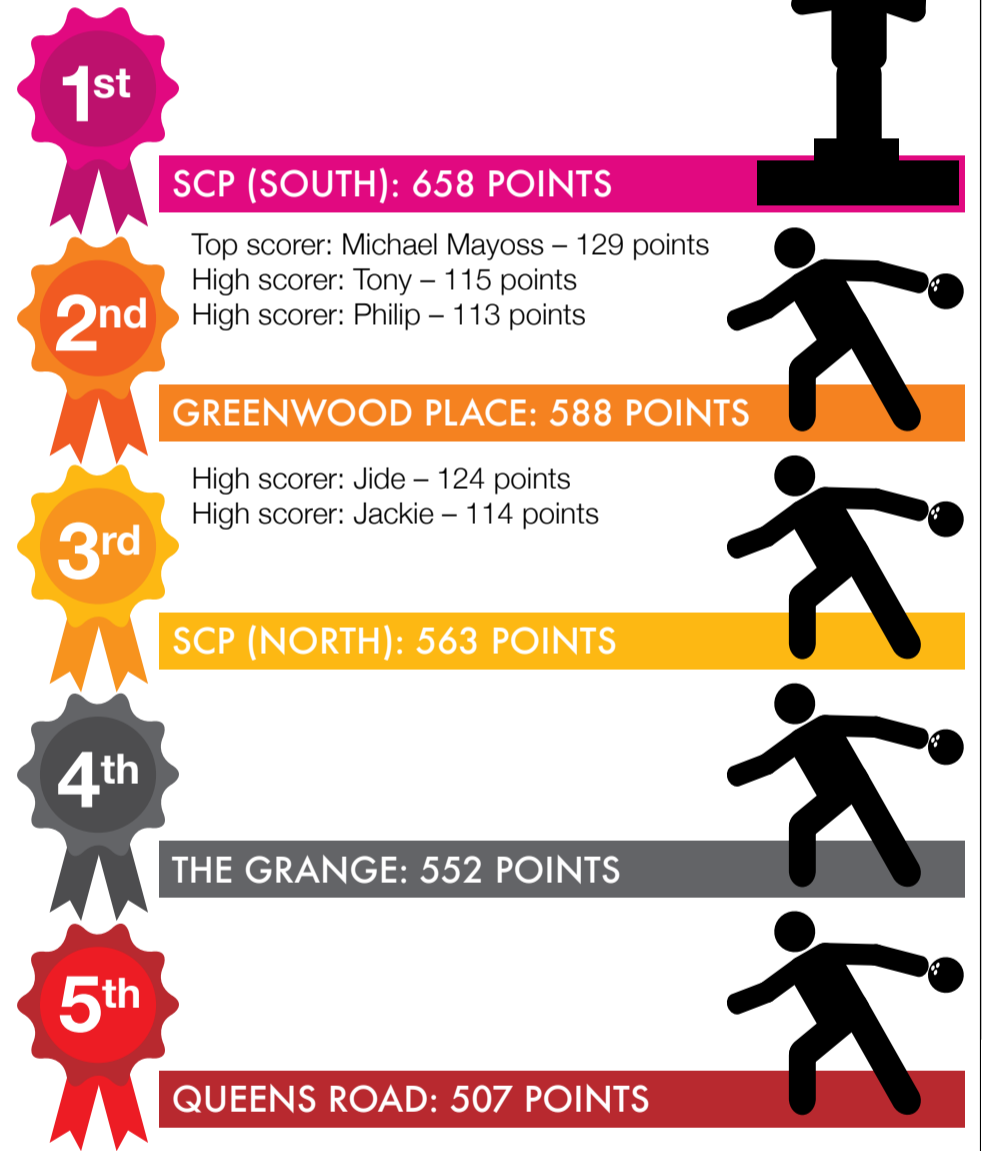
As the competition came to the final rounds, no-one could predict which team would triumph, as all teams were playing so well. A breakthrough came thanks to Michael Mayoss, who bowled two strikes and two spares in a row, followed by Tony Plows with his three spares, sealing a late, dramatic but very well deserved victory for CPS!

The winning team's Captain, Philip Martin was presented with the trophy by Steve Green, Service Manager. Winning team Manager, Nigel Spinks who reported on the event told us:

“Our success today was all down to encouraging and maintaining a good team spirit within the camp, by helping each other to strive to achieve their personal best, with a competitive edge.”

Trophy or no trophy, we think that all the teams are winners. By playing fairly and supporting the other teams throughout the competition, you're an inspiration to us all. Congratulations guys!

FINAL SCORES: ALL TEAMS



MATCH MADE IN FOOD HEAVEN AS SAINSBURY'S SPONSORS NEW HORIZONS



Going from strength to strength, our New Horizons Cafe in Chelsea has secured a new sponsorship deal with Sainsbury's.

This new partnership with the Sloane Avenue branch has already generated significant donations of kitchen equipment while the supermarket giant is helping to raise funds and promote the cafe locally. Serving up healthy, nutritious food, New Horizons is looking forward to working with Sainsbury's to make sure that even more people benefit from their culinary delights.



THANKS JEN! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU...

Keith, Ben and Chris from our City Living Fortess Road service wanted to thank Jen Latham, their resident volunteer for a fantastic 10 years. During this time, Jen has supported the guys to really live life to the full and they hope she'll stay for another 10!

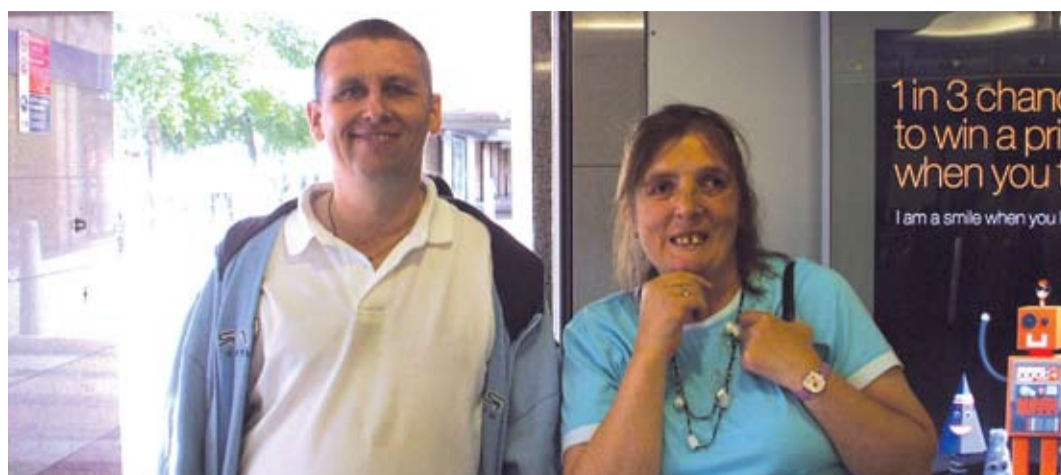
GENERAL NEWS

MICHELLE & GERALD GET ENGAGED!

Big congratulations are in order for Michelle Cigie and her partner Gerald O'Rourke, who got engaged on 26 September. Having met through Stars in the Sky, Michelle and Gerald have been living it up in the capital all summer.

Taking their relationship to a new level, the happy couple are pleased to announce their engagement. On hearing the news, Society People got straight on the phone to Gerald who told us:

"I take Michelle out for meals and she makes me very nice cups of tea, she's a very nice lady. We're happy and we're thinking of getting married next year. She seems to be having a nice time with me."



Congratulations Michelle and Gerald! We can't wait for an invite to the big day!

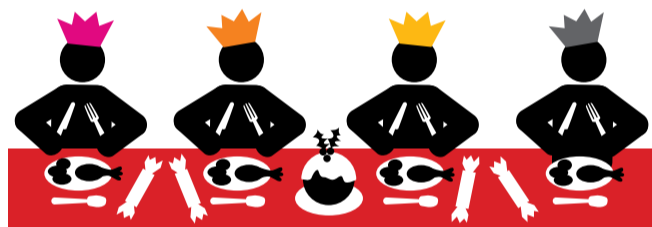
CHRISTMAS HANG-OUTS AT HOLMES ROAD

Transforming our Holmes Road office cafe into a Christmas film club, we're serving up luxury hot chocolate and mince pies for winter screenings of your favourite films.

Visit us from 29-31 December from 10.00am to 4.00pm and catch up on your favourite classics or request a film in advance by emailing: admin@thecamdensociety.co.uk or by calling 020 7485 8177.

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS

Forgotten to book your Christmas table? Lunch reservations are still available at all Camden Society cafes.



Check www.thecamdensociety.co.uk for your nearest cafe and to download a seasonal menu.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES ON OUR WEBSITE

Go to the Events page on the Camden Society website (www.thecamdensociety.co.uk) to find out when your project will be open and closed over Christmas or call us on 020 7485 8177.

EVENTS...

16 DECEMBER

QUEENS ROAD CHRISTMAS PARTY:

At Queens Community Centre, Southwark.
From 12.00 - 2.00pm

18 DECEMBER

CHOICES PROJECT CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

At Greenwood Place, Kentish Town: £5 per person, limited numbers, so book early!

21 DECEMBER

MONDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY:

At Greenwood Place, Kentish Town.

22 DECEMBER

TUESDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY:

At Greenwood Place, Kentish Town.

23 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

At The Grange, Southwark.

IN MEMORY OF SIMON



Giving a donation of £850 to Jacksons Cafe, staff at Allied Bakeries remembered the valued contribution of Simon Durrant to both businesses recently.

Having worked at Jacksons before moving on to Allied, Simon sadly passed away earlier this year. Knowing how much Jacksons meant to Simon, staff at the bakery decided to honour his memory with a collection for the cafe. The donation will enable Jacksons to buy new equipment to continue the work that Simon so greatly valued.

Thank you Allied, your donation is very much appreciated.



CHRISTMAS TREES: NON-DROPPERS TO GO

Dress your home for a proper Victorian Christmas with poinsettias, trees and mistletoe from Mill Lane Garden Centre. Flying off the flagstones, our trees are disappearing fast so reserve yours now! All Mill Lane Christmas trees are fully biodegradable and all our profits are reinvested to create more jobs and training for people with disabilities.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



MAIL OUT TRAINEES INTERVIEW NATALIE ARMITAGE

Moses Mazaheri, Michelle Cigie and Daniel Carr from Mail Out gave Natalie a grilling recently. Questions were drafted by all trainees at our mail fulfilment enterprise. Here's what they found out:

(Michael) How long have you worked at the Camden Society?

I have officially worked for Camden Society for two years.

(Michelle) What have you learned while working at the Camden Society?

I have learned a lot about Iranian food from Asal.

(Moses) What are you studying at university?

I am studying Politics and Sociology.

(Asal) Why did you choose that course?

I am really interested in politics and think that sociology is interesting too.

(Asal) What would you like to do after university?

I would like to go back to South Africa and work there.

(Monica) What makes you happy?

Seeing Michael P dancing to Michael Jackson!

(Moses) What hobbies do you like doing?

I enjoy going out with my friends. I also like writing articles on politics although I've not had any printed in a newspaper yet.

(Josephine) What type of music do you like?

I like all kinds of music. I really enjoy live music, not the stuff in the charts. I do like Beyonce.

(Mark) What would be your perfect weekend?

As long as it is hot and sunny, I'm happy.

(Josephine) How did you spend your time in South Africa?

I was working with children, teaching them in a church.

(Josephine) Have you been anywhere else beside South Africa?

I spent a some time living in America in New York. I have also been to Jamaica.