
Claire Quinn

Editorial Portfolio

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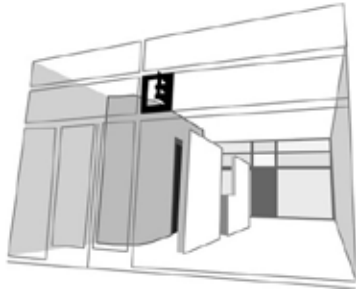
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Welcome to our autumn newsletter!

It has been a busy summer and we are pleased to release the first in a series of quarterly newsletters keeping you up to date. Here, you will find a rundown of exhibitions and events hosted over the summer and news of those to come. Special highlights include limited edition ceramics, award winning designer - Samantha Mark, and a new series of arts activities for you to note in your diary before Christmas.

EXHIBIT is an ongoing experiment in contemporary art and design development, based at the pivotal Golden Lane Estate in the City of London - a key modernist design and social housing project that encapsulates 20th Century idealism. EXHIBIT has a public face – as a commercial art and design gallery, promoting and selling limited edition prints and objects. We also operate as a Community Interest Company C.I.C. and cultural centre where artists and designers create work. Finally we act as a focal point for Golden Lane residents and admirers.

The Events

Jun 6 -
Jul 4



The Golden Lane Summer Market Day & Ring of Gold by Kathryn Faulkner

The Golden Lane Summer Market Day 09 held in June proved to be a very successful event. Whilst the weather was less than perfect the grey clouds certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of residents. Instead the covered market area was abuzz with cheerful stall holders and bargain hunters.

The event culminated with artist, Kathryn Faulkner's Ring of Gold video installation. Kathryn worked her way around the crowd, taking hundreds of photographs of stalls and the people behind them. These were eventually edited into a short film which featured the entire gathering of residents holding hands, emphasizing the collaborative nature of this event and the community spirit of Golden Lane Estate.

Many thanks go out to the estate's residents who helped organise the event. Especially Wendy Giaccaglia, estate Housing Manager, without whose efforts the event could not have taken place. Also a noteworthy presence was the support from City of London Police, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Drugs Action Team.

Aug 13 -
Aug 22

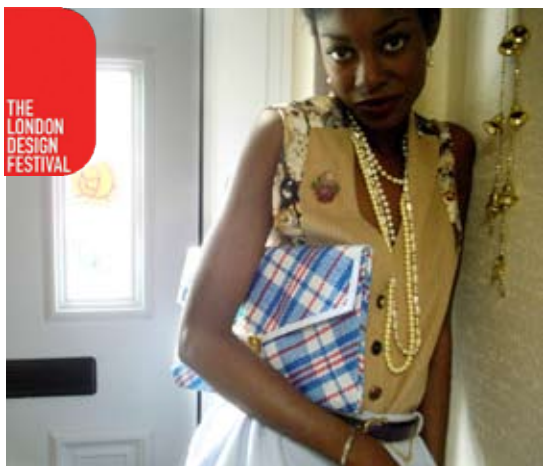


Societea by Camilla Brueton

Societea, a social tea hut and community gathering by artist, Camilla Brueton, with sponsorship from Lipton and Firefly. The project centered on the idea of converting the gallery into an art cafe where the artist explored resident's feelings about their social and communal spaces. The event attracted a wide range of people, their stories and experiences from Golden Lane. As part of the event Camilla hosted a drawing hour around the estate and a Mug-a-thon where local residents brought in their favourite mug, along with its story, to be photographed for a 'wall of fame'. The results subsequently formed part of the exhibition.

Over the next 11 months, Camilla's project will further develop with a number of participating residents by exploring social space within Golden Lane. Whether this involves a resident's garden, balcony area, or interior setting, Camilla will focus particular attention on the individuality of Golden Lane homes.

Sept 19 -
Oct 10



Young & Old Beauty by Samantha Mark

During London Design Festival 2009 EXHIBIT will feature the work of Samantha Mark. This new designer has recently completed an MA in Fashion, and is already creating quite a stir in the fashion world. At just 23, London-born Samantha Mark has shown her work in the New York International Designers Show, showcased her designs during New York Fashion Week, and worked alongside acclaimed designers Alexander McQueen and Zandra Rhodes. This 'Avant-Garde Designer of the year' award winner draws much of her inspiration from the "multi-coloured melting pot" of London, making her ideally suited to working for the EXHIBIT gallery here in the hub of Barbican/Clerkenwell.

Samantha has created a series of works based on 'Red, White and Blue' plastic woven material or 'grass-mat cloth'. Within the gallery a merchandise area will exhibit the designer's pieces, available for sale in limited edition and made to order. Additionally, an installation space will allow Samantha to create work 'in situ'. This exciting, quirky and innovative designer writes, "I want to keep pushing the boundaries of my creativity, so I try to find new and interesting ways to combine textures and shapes, colour and silhouette."

Image credit: Samantha Mark

Forthcoming Events

Modernism and I



Image credit: Thomas Haywood

12 Oct - 24 Oct

October sees a return to EXHIBIT's Super Estate programme with photographer Thomas Haywood. Having graduated from the RCA, Thomas has exhibited both across the UK and abroad. Thomas was also awarded the acclaimed Photographers' Gallery RCA Prize for his MA final show. His work centres on the key relationships held between people and places; past and present.

During his time at EXHIBIT Thomas aims to explore the legacy of modernist architecture, reflecting on the optimism, ambition and social ideals marked by the Golden Lane Estate. In October, Thomas will undertake a series of walks and meetings, drawing upon the individual experiences of those involved with the Estate, ranging from architects to residents. This work will build towards a final show in March 2010, examining the impact of imagination and memory on our perceptions of reality.

Things As They Ought To Be



Image credit: Antony McCorry

26 Oct - 28 Nov

Throughout Britain council estates are often portrayed as places to be feared or the very source of social ills; from gang culture and high unemployment to anti-social behaviour. However, our Super Estate artist, Antony McCorry, proposes that Britain's first modernist estates aimed to provide clean, spacious and affordable living spaces through their

innovative use of architecture, building materials and techniques. Antony's main aim is to produce a series of paintings based on residents' favourite views of the estate from within their homes, and their memory of that place in the past. Tony is interested in the resident-run Golden Lane Social Club located at the community centre on the estate. In his project, 'Things as They Ought to Be', Tony will engage members of the club to collaborate in the process of his paintings. This will bring viewers closer to their emotional view point towards the estate, and make the club more transparent to the local residents.

The Golden Lane Elderly



Image credit: Patricia Niven

10 Dec - 16 Jan

'The Golden Lane Elderly' is a portraiture project by photographer, Patricia Niven, as part of our Golden Lane Archive. As a resident in Golden Lane Estate, Patricia has an interest in the older residents and during the summer market day she collected a handful of beautiful portraits. The photographs document local elderly

people in the estate. Patricia's ability to find beauty in recognizable everyday scenes will change the way you look at the older generation.

From now until December, EXHIBIT is working closely with Patricia Niven, inviting some of the Golden Lane elderly to take part in a memorable day with us. Whether in their home or in an unforgettable place in the estate, we hope to create a day full of smiles and laughter. These images will be exhibited at the gallery as a warm welcome to Christmas 2009 and beyond.

Let us know if you would like to take part and become one of our golden grins!

Get Involved

As a non-profit organisation we regularly collaborate with local groups and people to make EXHIBIT accessible and relevant.

Over the summer we have been lucky enough to gain support from the local Safer Cities team, City.comm and many local residents. In addition to this we were joined by art and design graduate interns Eleanor Goodwin and Yasmin Bayat.

Over the coming year we welcome interest from local people who feel they have some time or skills to offer, in particular we welcome support from those experienced in fundraising, public relations and marketing.

Please feel free to get in touch or just drop in for a chat.

Features

Safer Cities Vision

Safer City Wards is how The City of London Police has implemented neighbourhood policing within the Square Mile.

This 'bobby on the beat' approach has allowed EXHIBIT and residents in the local area to become familiar with a handful of officers. As part of their interest in communicating with local people, the team also kindly provided a small donation towards our Societea project and we were happy to welcome several members of the team in for tea during the event. The project fitted in well with the teams drive to promote inter-generational communication in the local area and local officers had the chance to chat to residents over tea and homemade cake.



In Conversation with Camilla Brueton and EXHIBIT

As part of EXHIBIT's Super Estate project we further explored the topics of modernist design, people and public space through conversations with experts in their field. First was Eleanor Warwick, Joint Head of Research at CABE; the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. Next was Catherine



Croft, Director of The Twentieth Century Society; the body that campaigns for the preservation of Britain's architectural heritage from 1914 onwards. Both conversations were filmed and will be available to view on our website soon.

Art Adoption

Keeping with Societea's theme of local community involvement, plans are currently being made to celebrate the adoption of the exhibition's tea hut by the Golden Lane Campus. The hut will be passed on to the school, with the possibility of being used either as a play area or fun craft space for the children. It is hoped that the school will have as much fun and enjoyment from the hut, as we did here at the gallery! Who knows, maybe even Camilla will pop along to offer some artistic flair with the redecoration of the hut.

Limited Edition



Here at EXHIBIT we have a range of handmade limited edition items for sale. You can purchase an array of items ranging from posters and art books to handmade ceramic pieces. Limited edition posters designed for exhibitions, t-shirts, canvas bags, as well as hand crafted artefacts are all available to purchase. Card packs celebrating the Golden Lane Estate, Le Corbusier and modernism exclusively designed by Stefi Orazi are also on sale here at the gallery.

New In Stock

After the successful collaboration with Driade showing at Via Manzoni at Milan 08, Chinese artist, Xie-Dong has created a small series of handmade bone china tableware available for sale at affordable prices from EXHIBIT. These items are available for a limited time only.

This month's invited designer, Samantha Mark, has hand-crafted a series of unique hand bags exclusively for sale at EXHIBIT during London Design Festival. The fashion designer will sell a range of eye-popping clutch and hand bags, taken from her exhibition collection. This limited edition work will be available to buy at the gallery, with some items available to order 'by request' for a limited time only. Please contact the gallery for more information.



data

Information Sheet 7/2007 – 16th February 2007

1. Zero planning

A survey carried out by Building Design magazine has revealed that local authorities are not ready to administer the Code for Sustainable Homes. Results of the survey found large inconsistencies across the country with marked gaps in **knowledge and skills**. The findings come just six weeks before the planned introduction of the standard in public sector housing.

Building Design 16-02-07 p.1

2. Building experience

A study spearheaded by the Building Research Establishment and regeneration agency English Partnerships will scrutinise the building and performance of modern methods of housing construction. The project will examine panelised steel frame, panelised timber frame and insulated concrete formwork, aiming to provide data on **key performance indicators** such as cost, build-time and health & safety. An interim report will be published at the end of 2007.

Construction News 15-02-07 p.27

The **National Audit Office** is conducting research into the housebuilding industry on behalf of the Department for Trade and Industry, the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships. The report commissioned in response to figures which show that housebuilders are falling short of completion targets despite planning reform and extra funds. The report aims to compile information on 87 key performance indicators.

Building 16-02-07 p.26

A system developed by Jarvis in response to the £60K house competition has yielded savings in time and money. The **Jarvis MMC** system achieved a time and waste saving in the region of 30% and on average reduces the number of processes involved in building a house from 26 to 13.

Contract Journal 14-02-07 p.2

3. Top of the market

In announcing third quarter results this week British Land chief executive Stephen Hester repeated his

cautious outlook on the UK property market, commenting that opportunities for achieving supernormal investment returns had dried up.

Property Week 16-02-07 p.21

4. Permit pressure

As a result of the buoyant construction market and the looming 2012 Olympics there are currently 6,468 vacancies for quantity surveyors in the UK. Quantity surveying firms and the RICS are urging government to include QS on the **skills shortage** list, alongside healthcare and engineering, enabling overseas recruitment without lengthy bureaucracy.

Building 16-02-07 pp32-34

The **Association of Consultant Architects** has petitioned the Home office to relax work permit laws. Backed by bodies such as RIBA and the Royal Town Planning Institute, the association pointed to the limitations of a 1 year visa when working on major projects.

Building 16-02-07 p.11

5. Click and mortar

The Olympic Delivery Authority last week revealed two key websites which will facilitate its system of procurement. The announcement that the ODA will use an E-tendering process came at the second **Building for London Conference**. One site provides information on contracts available, facilitating email alerts, and the other is designed for actual tendering allowing bids to be submitted electronically.

Contract Journal 14-02-07 p.12

6. People & companies

As Will Alsop steps down from the post of Architecture Foundation chairman this week, internationally renowned artist, **Brian Clarke** takes his place. A trustee of the Art Foundation for 5 years, he has worked on architectural projects around the world for more than 30 years.

AJ 15-02-07 pp12-13

Property tycoon **Gerald Ronson** talks about the continued success of Heron International which has

150 buildings in 9 European capitals and how, at the age of 67, he still likes to work 12 hour days, 6 days a week.

Building 16-02-07 pp40-43

The practice formerly known as the Richard Rogers Partnership has this week announced its new name, **Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners**, reflecting the promotion of Graham Stirk and Ivan Harbour.

Building Design 16-02-07 p.2

An article that details the experience of **nine young graduates** who have had the opportunity to work on the prestigious Heathrow Terminal 5 scheme.

Building 16-02-07 pp58-60

WRAP chief executive **Jennie Price** provides positive comment on the ODA's Sustainable development policy and discusses her intentions to secure legacy outcomes through her forthcoming post as chief executive of Sports England.

Building 16-02-07 pp36-37

7. News in brief

- Contractor Multiplex is nearing completion of **Wembley stadium** more than four years after work began. The stadium is expected to be handed over next week.
Construction News 15-02-07 p.1
- Developers operating within the London borough of Westminster may be subject to an additional **tax levy**. Funds raised would be used for the upkeep of public parks, gardens and other aspects of the public realm.
Property Week 16-02-07 p.13
- Analysts KBC Peel Hunt have advised building firms to take a broader approach to social housing, earmarking large **mixed use schemes** as the most successful route.
Construction News 15-02-07 p.6
- An anti-corruption body, **Transparency International**, have launched a set of procedures to help cut bribery and fraud on construction projects.
New Civil Engineer 15-02-07 p.10
- Research published by Market & Business Development shows that **architects fees** grew 9% to £4.2bn in 2006 and are set for a 24% increase over the next 5 years.
Building 16-02-07 p.21

8. Davis Langdon jobs

St John's Therapy Centre near Clapham Junction in South London is one of the first NHS, Local Improvement Finance Trust, LIFT schemes to be completed. Designed by Buschow Henley the centre houses two GP practices, a mental health unit, gym and physiotherapy suite.

Building Design 16-02-07 pp12-17

Work is well under way on a low-carbon housing scheme in **Upton, Northampton**. Designed by Franklin & Ellis Architects in collaboration with Bill Dunster Architects the 345 flats and houses meet the EcoHomes Excellent standard.

Building 16-02-07 pp74-76

BAA has announced plans to modernise **Heathrow Terminal 3**. Designed by Foster & Partners the work will include the redevelopment of the forecourt, an extension to the south-east side and additional check in space housed in a glass atrium style extension.

Building 16-02-07 p.10

Initial works have begun on a **Marks and Spencer's eco—store** in Bournemouth. Designed by Reid Architecture the store is the first of a pilot project involving four stores and forms part of a £200m plan to become carbon neutral by 2012.

Building 16-02-07 p.11

...costs

Davis Langdon provides costs for work associated with **landscaping** such as ground stabilisation, paving and fencing.

AJ Specification February 2007 p.32

... People

In an article that looks at methods used to manage the design process on architectural projects, Nick Schumann outlines **design webs** as a productive alternative to the use of Gantt charts. Developed by Davis Langdon Schumann Smith the design web is used to break the design process down into its constituent parts and then again into tasks, enabling progress to be tracked

AJ 15-02-07 pp40-41

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1. Top 100

We are delighted to announce that Davis Langdon once again moved up the **Sunday Times '100 Best Companies to Work For'** list achieving 29th position, up an impressive 52 places on last year. The results were announced at the Awards Dinner which took place at Battersea Power Station in London.

2. Investment watch

An overview of a new regeneration funding structure called **Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas** or Jessica for short. The framework aims to better utilise regeneration cash coming from the European Commission, a Europe-wide total of €308bn over the next six years. It will provide 'managing authorities' with the leverage to invest substantial funds into regeneration areas, and in doing so, hopes to attract private equity of an equal amount. *Regenerate February 2007 pp16-18*

An in-depth review of construction procurement in the Department for Education and Skills has begun. Known as **Procurement Capability Review**, and launched in January with the publication of the Treasury report, Transforming Government Procurement, it will be carried out by a team of public and private procurement experts. *Contract Journal 28-02-07 p.2*

The Department of Health this week gave approval for seven **PFI hospital schemes** worth £1.5bn. The approval may not be cause for too much celebration as five of the schemes already have preferred bidders, while one is at shortlist stage, leaving only the £310m Bristol North and South Gloucester PCT's project to be advertised. *Contract Journal 28-02-07 p.3*

3. Climate competition

An article that offers a systematic approach to mapping and responding to **climate change risks** in business. Whether applied to the cost of energy or the importance of a solid CSR policy the risks can be divided into six main areas: Regulatory,

products & technology, litigation, reputation, supply chain and physical. The authors propose a four step process for responding to climate change risk. *Harvard Business Review March 2007 pp94-102*

4. Productive wellbeing

A look at the importance of **exercise and wellbeing policies** within the workplace. Many offices provide shower facilities and multifunctional breakout areas that can be used for classes such as yoga. Other than being a salary package extra, these facilities have a real impact on staff motivation and productivity. *ON Office March 2007 pp64-65*

5. New management order

How do you manage the **most talented people** who don't want to be led and may be smarter than you? The authors outline seven characteristics of clever people and promote the role of benevolent guardian, rather than a traditional boss, to ensure they flourish. *Harvard Business Review March 2007 pp72-79*

6. People & companies

A look at the Dublin-based practice **O'Donnell & Tuomey** and their immediate project, a family house in Dublin Bay. The practice still operates from an old schoolhouse with 14 staff despite its ongoing success since the acclaimed Irish pavilion at the 2004 Venice Biennale. *RIBA Journal March 2007 pp28-32*

An article that looks at the 50-year partnership of RIBA gold medal winners, **Herzog & de Meuron**. Setting up practice in 1978 they went on to work on prestigious projects such as the Tate Modern and London's Laban Dance Centre. *Building 2-03-07 pp16-17*

Former campaigns director for the conservation group World Wildlife Federation, **Paul King**, has been appointed chief executive of the UK Green Buildings Council. *Building 2-03-07 p.11*

7. News in brief

- Corus has announced its intention to raise the price of its larger beam and column steel sections by as much as **£45 per tonne** and its structural steel section prices by **£30 per tonne** next month.
Construction News 1-03-07 p.3
- The **Crown Estate** is currently in talks with occupiers to make its £6bn portfolio more environmentally friendly.
Estates Gazette 24-02-07 p.39
- The British government have taken a U-turn over **green energy** and are supporting an ambitious 20% mandatory target for renewable power.
Financial Times 1-03-07 p.6
- The **City of London Corporation** has responded negatively to the government's proposed Planning Gain Supplement. In a draft response to the Treasury the corporation claimed it would distort the market and accentuate development troughs.
Estates Gazette 24-02-07 p.42

8. Davis Langdon jobs

A £65m refurbishment of **Norwich Union Headquarters** in Norwich features a widespan steel and glass gridshell roof over an original open courtyard. Project architect was Auckett Fitzroy Robinson with the new atrium roof designed by LSI Architects.
The Structural Engineer 20-02-07 pp20-22

The latest phase of the Liverpool One scheme has been unveiled this week. Designed by Cesar Pelli, the **One Park West** development is the largest residential building in the scheme containing 326 flats and will link the Albert Dock residential area with the Ropewalks area.
Property Week 23-02-07 p.7

An area formerly known as the Bradford Road Triangle in East Manchester is set to be transformed into the North's largest housing scheme. Masterplanned by EDAW and designed by Studio Egret West the **Holt Town Waterfront** covers an 84-acre site and aims to provide high-value, family-orientated city fringe housing.
Regenerate February 2007 p.43

A 1.5 acre site in the heart of Plymouth, called **Oceanic**, is the planned location for an ambitious mixed-use redevelopment by The Architects Design Group for Falmouth based developer, Devington Homes. Previously known as Trathen's Tower, the site will house a 22-storey tower containing 76 apartments along with two other blocks. Both will accommodate retail at boulevard level and a mixture of offices, residential and hotel space above.
www.thisisplymouth.co.uk 1-03-07

...cost model update

Davis Langdon provide **indicative rates** for a selection of building types ranging from car parks and distribution centres to offices and supermarkets. Additional comment on market conditions, sustainability and regulatory reform are also included.
Building 2-03-07 pp70-78

... people

Davis Langdon senior partner **Rob Smith** discusses the environmental challenges faced when building skyscrapers, work on London Bridge Tower and how the company drives diversity through a number of schemes.
RICS Business March 2007 p.5

Congratulations to **Simon Burke**, an Associate at the Peterborough office, who has received the **Alan Everitt Memorial Prize** for Best Overall Performance. The prize was given in recognition of his outstanding performance in coursework and dissertation during his MBA in Construction and Real Estate through Reading University, for which Simon received a distinction.

Keith Waterman, Davis Langdon Head of Facilities, presented at the EcoBuild conference last week. As part of a day's seminar session entitled 'Making Buildings Intelligent' his presentation looked at the key issues and demands of client, users and occupiers of property and space and showcased a number of sustainable building projects.
http://www.ecobuild.co.uk

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1. Heritage concerns

In a bid to protect Britain's twenty four **World Heritage sites**, culture secretary, Tessa Jowell, will announce plans this week to introduce protective legislation. The new laws aim to create buffer zones around heritage sites, enabling public inquiries to block insensitive developments. Details will be published in a White Paper following concerns from UNESCO inspectors that Britain was putting certain sites 'at risk'.

The Guardian 5-03-07 p.13

English Heritage has announced plans for a protected view from **London's Waterloo Bridge**, looking east, potentially spelling problems for prospective developments such as the Pinnacle Tower designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates.

Contract Journal 7-03-07 p.1

2. Digital home

Details of two projects taking off-site manufacture to the next level. The first, a Digital House, where a **computer controlled** router cut timber into bespoke components on site, using information direct from 3D modelling software. The second comprised 21 timber-frame panels which were assembled in one day and resulted in a three-storey extension to an existing grade II-listed terraced house.

Building 9-03-07 pp50-55

3. Shah developments

Millionaire businessman Eddy Shah, once famous for his union-breaking strategy on Fleet Street, has turned his attention to housebuilding. The 63-year-old entrepreneur is planning to build 44 luxury homes as part of a 240-acre holiday village. With three show homes already built the fuller project awaits planning permission.

Building 9-03-07 pp42-45

4. School fees

According to the **2007 ConstructionSkills Network Report** the government's Building

Schools for the Future scheme will provide the biggest boost to the construction sector. The detailed report pointed to the government's plans to spend £4.7bn over the next five years on construction and related technology, rivalling the 2012 Olympics build.

Contract Journal 7-03-07 p.2

5. Innovation

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast have developed a metal treatment that increases the speed at which water flows off metal surfaces. Developed by the School of Chemistry the coating was inspired by the water repellent nature of lotus leaves. Metal products treated with the coating become very **hydrophobic** and its use could reduce turbulent flow in water-bearing pipes.

Construction News 8-03-07 p.19

6. People & companies

Congratulations to **Jamie Fobert Architects** on winning this year's Next Generation Award from the Architecture Foundation. The 10-year-old practice will be presented with the award at this year's MIPIM property conference in France. The award provides young architects with the opportunity to break into the commercial market.

Building Design 9-03-07 p.6

Kevin Bundy, project manager with Hammerson has a frank and insightful exchange with new RICS president, **David Tuffin**, about the cost of subscriptions, the gruelling Assessment of Professional Competence, APC, and what members can expect for their money.

Building 9-03-07 pp56-58

A look at **Gareth Hoskins**, principal architect at his own practice, and the innovative approach they have taken to healthcare projects. Approaching projects from the aspect of feeling and mood, the practice has built up a reputation for producing work that promotes wellbeing and care.

Building Design Healthcare March 2007 pp10-13

Network Rail chief executive, **John Armitt**, talks about the looming period review, the constant

pressure to improve efficiency and, of course, the recent Cumbria rail crash which has brought rail safety to the fore again.

New Civil Engineer 8-03-07 pp22-23

7. News in brief

- A series of technical problems at **cement plants** has caused a shortage of materials which is threatening to stop work on sites across the country.
Construction News 8-03-07 p.1
- The government has launched a **sustainable procurement plan** to establish lines of accountability and reporting, aimed at reducing waste and lowering carbon output from supply chains and public services.
Building 9-03-07 p.10
- Global interest in solar power, as a source of green energy, has the potential to boost growth in the **glass industry**.
Financial Times 5-03-07 p.15
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants has warned the construction industry that it faces much higher costs from the imminent **Construction Industry Scheme** than expected.
Financial Times 5-03-07 p.4
- The Home Office announced this week that it has asked the **Law Commission** to review anti-corruption and bribery laws with a view to fundamental reform.
New Civil Engineer 8-03-07 p.7
- Following its conversion to a REIT, **Land Securities** is selling almost £200m of retail parks.
Estates Gazette 3-03-07 p.44
- 10 top designers including Will Alsop and Terence Conran have joined a scheme to help plan **affordable homes** for families living in townships outside Cape Town South Africa.
Building 9-03-07 p.15

8. Davis Langdon jobs

The transformation of Liverpool, as it moves towards becoming Capital of Culture in 2008, seems to have undertaken new meaning. Several large regeneration projects have meant that the city will now experience an economic as well as cultural

renaissance. Amongst the developments are **Liverpool 1** - a large mixed use project masterplanned by BDP; **Kings Waterfront Arena**, convention centre and exhibition hall designed by Wilkinson Eyre; **Pall Mall** - mixed use scheme masterplanned by RWHL; **St Paul's Square** - an office development with some retail and residential, designed by RHWL; the **Design Academy** - an academic building designed by Rick Mather Architects; and the **Cruise Liner Facility** bringing ships into the waterfront, engineered by Giffords.
Estates Gazette 3-03-07 pp164-165

South London's riverfront will receive a new feature when the **Architecture Foundation's** new home in Southwark is completed in 2008. Designed by Zaha Hadid, the building will be the base for British architecture, housing exhibitions and events.
Southwark Spring/Summer 2007pp26-27

... people

In light of next weeks annual trek to MIPIM Davis Langdon partner **Paul Morrell** provides a candid appraisal of current market conditions and asks the question, can the bull market last?
Building Design 9-03-07 p.11

...MIPIM

Once again, Davis Langdon will be attending MIPIM in force this year. Attendees will include: **Alex Davey, Alison Berwick, Alan Willby, Anthony Ruperti, Christina Websdale, David Ainsley, David McCreadie, Donn O'Shaunessey, Eve Theron, James Clark, James Hamilton, Kevin Bradley, Kevin Sims, Lee Jones, Mike Oldham, Neil Fyles, Padraic McGuinn, Paul Allen, Paul Lewis, Paul Morrell, Peter Flint, Richard Bannister, Richard Owen, Rob Knight, Rob Smith, Stephen Winter and Tim Beresford.**

...costs

The latest Davis Langdon mini-cost model analyses **car showrooms** and includes a detailed look at design considerations, funding and procurement and new dealership trends.
Building 9-03-07 pp66-70

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On Form *Slovenia*

By: *Claire Quinn.*

When it comes to warehouses and industrial buildings the practice of architecture can normally rest easy with the design of a good functional shell, built to fit its pure logistical and spatial purposes. Not the case with Slovenia's latest architectural highlight. In 2007 Slovenian based architects Rok Oman and Spela Videcnik, founders of Oman & Videcnik, were commissioned to design a multi-use warehouse. The client's company produce and merchandise safety equipment and devices which had to be stored in two thirds of the building's volume; this needed to include storage loading, central storage for goods of different sizes and storage with attached loading. The remaining volume also needed to house offices and classrooms for safety lectures.

Built over a 780m² floor plate the design team created a thoroughly modern structure using pre-fabricated, reinforced concrete panels. Throughout the elevations, semi-translucent polycarbonate screens and glass walls are used to break the functional façade. This in combination with a confident use of colour means this Bauhaus-esque building could easily sit on any modern university or hospital campus. First floor office accommodation features floor-to-ceiling double glazing and the building again accents contemporary trends with its use of polished concrete throughout.

Whilst the project is noteworthy in itself it comes as no surprise from this award winning

young practice. Both Rok Oman and Spela Videcnik graduated from The Architectural Association in London in 2000 and went on to win the Corus/Building Design Young Architect of the Year Award in 2001. More recently the practice has notched up a string of nominations at the Mies van den Rohe Awards in 2008, including their work at the Maribor Football stadium and Hayrack apartments.

The practice operates over a wide spectrum of design from interiors to master planning and have been prolific since their graduation in London. Most noteworthy projects of late are the Farewell Chapel and their redevelopment work on the Maribor Stadium in eastern Slovenia. The Farewell Chapel stands near Ljubljana in Slovenia and perfects a quiet and reflective space. The building was designed next to an existing graveyard with its exterior wall cut into the rising landscape and three curved walls separating the building's internal use. A dominant external curve divides the surrounding hill from the chapel plateau and the buildings green roof features a cruciform skylight.

In Maribor the practice developed what was previously a multipurpose sports facility in the centre of town, converting it into a world class football stadium. This sports project sits in stark contrast to the aforementioned storage design because of its budget of nearly E10.8m, but showcases a dynamic, successful and yet truly creative young practice. **NEE**



01 Store, office & shop concrete container.

The credit lunch

The rise and fall of expense accounts.

Words: Claire Quinn



As the global credit crunch filters its way up the economic ladder some of the wealthiest employees in Britain have been notified to tighten their belts. City financiers famous for their extravagant expense accounts finally have to err on the side of caution during lunch hour as the world's largest investment banks restrict their spending.

These latest rounds of cuts were initiated by Deutsche Bank's chief executive Josef Ackermann in a memo issued to its staff around the world. The memo includes restrictions on first class travel, adult entertainment and an upper limit of £52 per person for lunch, unless prior permissions have been granted. The figure sits in stark contrast to £1,000-ahead set single meal introduced earlier this year by city restaurant Vivat Bacchus. The seven-course meal clearly aimed at the lucrative banking and business lunch includes royal Sevruga caviar and Japanese steak.

Famous chart topping expense bills must feature the bankers from Barclays Capital who reportedly spend £44,000 on wine alone at Gordon Ramsay's Pétus eatery. Other stories include a 33 year old investment banker who ordered £20,000 worth of Cristal and Dom Perignon at London's Movida club and proceeded to spray it around the club. In 2006 a middle-aged banker was reported to

have spent £32,000 on a bottle of whisky - a Dalmore 62-year-old malt - which he drank with friends later that evening.

Other banks have followed this lead with Merrill Lynch now requiring bankers to work a half hour longer before they take a company-paid taxi home. UBS and Goldman Sachs have also imposed restrictions on expensive travel and electronic devices such as Balckberries.

On the face of it these comparatively minor steps will do little to stem the giant losses incurred due to the credit crunch. They also fail to prevent further redundancies in the bulge-bracket firms which have so far seen 55,000 layoffs. Management consultants believe the cost cutting tactics send a message that employers are doing what they can to save money in a tentative financial environment.

Ongoing financial shockwaves have although highlighted flaws in British banking culture and an incentives framework embedded in many companies' pay structures that

encourages excessive risk taking. Rewards themselves are not properly aligned with the risks that are being taken. When these risks materialise, the worst case scenario for an individual is redundancy. In effect the system of compensation provides incentive to risk takers because the short-term upside is far greater than the long-term downside.

For most pedestrians it will be difficult to muster feelings of pity for these fatcats but the outlook for investment banks really is as bad as it has been for 30 years. A recent report by Morgan Stanley and Oliver Wyman consultancy indicates that looming financial trends may wipe out almost two-and-a-half years' worth of pre-crisis profits. Superseding the junk-bond crisis of 1989, the dotcom bust and the 1987 and the infamous Black Monday market crash.

Although not surprisingly for those in the know it continues to be a win-win situation. At this year's International Financing Review award ceremony in London, an annual outing for top bankers and managers, many of the top brass had the last laugh. As guests enjoyed an evening of fine wine and food the comper raised the subject of the audience's recent financial losses, adding the punchline: "The good news is, it's other people's money."



Scotland on the go

By: *Claire Quinn.*



Glasgow skyline. 01

With a world-wide reputation as one of Europe's most alluring destinations, Scotland is an ideal location for European, North American and indeed British corporations seeking a sophisticated international venue for meetings, events and incentive programs. Scotland has optimal accessibility, serviced by five main international airports (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Prestwick and Inverness) which together reach over 150 international destinations. Combining history and innovation, this small, northern European country is a vibrant, thriving, contemporary location where corporate groups can entertain their clients at a historic castle, organize a fun-filled team-building day on a country estate, or hold a glittering reception in a stylish city centre venue.

For those considering Scotland as a corporate travel destination their first port of call should be the Visit Scotland website here they can find information from the Business Tourism Unit (BTU).

This business/group travel division can advise on the vast array of conference, exhibition, meeting and incentive venues and activities in Scotland. Business tourism plays an important role in the Scottish economy; with an economic benefit of £1 billion a year and 20% of total tourism spend. Looking to the future the BTU's mission is to expand the volume and value of discretionary business tourism to Scotland by 75% before the year 2015. Visit Scotland will be happy to supply Scottish support materials for promotional use: information booklets and guides, including a wide range of Visit Scotland publications on events, sports and activities, and places to visit.

For centuries, Scotland has delivered the perfect combination of world-class science, technology and business capabilities set against dramatic locations and warm, welcoming people. As a result, Scotland has a long heritage as the perfect meeting destination for kings of the past and great political leaders of the future. From the traditional to the unique it can offer incomparable golf, whisky distilleries, luxurious spas and hotels, designer shops and enchanted castles.

In particular, Scotland is the undisputed "Home of Golf" hosting the 2004/2005 British Open at St. Andrew's. Across the country you can find more than 500 golf courses, including championship courses and world-renowned golf clubs. Whether you're hosting a seasoned enthusiast or someone new to the sport, Scotland's golf courses provide a broad spectrum for all levels. Let's not forget the Donald Trump £1bn super-course soon to be built in Aberdeenshire, sure to impress any client. >

It also goes without saying that Whisky, “water of life,” is Scotland’s national drink and has been produced in the country for longer than anyone can imagine. As one of Scotland’s biggest earners, the country boasts 300 whiskies that are locally distilled. Clients can become expert “nosers” of whisky by following the world’s only “malt whisky trail,” sampling a dram or two in Speyside, visiting Islay for a “peaty” malt, or taking a tour of Scotland’s distilleries. The many distilleries throughout the land can host convention and corporate events, executive entertaining and whisky dinners in facilities that range from large, high-tech reception centres to impromptu guided tours through a real working environment.

Unique to Scotland and probably Western Europe is Highland Adventure Safaris, Scotland’s premier Landrover safari company. This family run business entertains guests at its Safari Lodge Visitor Center near Aberfeldy, and takes visitors into remote, high mountains to see Perthshire’s magnificent scenery and spectacular wildlife. The company offers unique corporate entertainment packages and team challenges geared toward businesses and conventions. It also has the added accolade of receiving the First Gold Award for eco-friendly tourism in Scotland.

Scotland has always been a hub for new ideas and innovation, its national culture of exchanging opinions has created large city conference centres specifically designed to open the floor to hundreds and thousands of delegates. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen all boast first-class purpose-built conference centres and offer first rate service standards to match. Host your conference at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, situated in Scotland’s historic capital this venue holds up to 2000 delegates. Or try Glasgow’s Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre - the UK’s largest integrated exhibition and conference centre catering for groups up to 10,000. Whilst it currently has an impressive capacity, Glasgow’s SECC will soon benefit from the addition of a new £62mn purpose-built arena. A more scenic option is the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre; located in the North East of Scotland and surrounded by some of Scotland’s most stunning scenery this centre can host groups up to 2,000.

New to Scotland in 2009/10 work will begin on Glasgow’s Jumeirah’s five-star, super deluxe hotel. Opening in spring this year will be the Blythswood Square Hotel (one of the city centre’s most famous historical buildings) following a £17 million investment. The five star hotel will have 88 bedrooms and complete conference facilities. Also, Edinburgh-based Apex hotel group opens its

“ Scotland’s venue offering has continued to grow, and as a result, the international community, Fortune 100 companies and the entertainment industry are looking at Scotland as the destination for meetings.”



Panoramic view of Edinburgh at twilight. 01

fourth contemporary four-star hotel in the city’s Waterloo Place where the £35million hotel will feature 187 contemporary bedrooms, a large, theatre-style conference suite and five additional meeting rooms.

Scotland’s venue offering has continued to grow, and as a result, the international community, Fortune 100 companies and the entertainment industry are looking at Scotland as the destination for meetings. Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital known as the “Athens of the North,” alone has hosted more than 50 conferences in just 2005. Furthermore, when the 2005 G8 Summit chose beautiful and vibrant Perthshire to host this international political gathering, it brought further attention to Scotland and showcased the country’s quality of facilities and reputation for attracting and hosting major events. Other significant international events include World Renewable Energy Congress 2005 and the annual Edinburgh International Festival. More recently Scotland has played host to international companies such as JP Morgan, Amazon.com and McGraw Hill.

An important and beneficial aspect of Scotland’s Tourism development is its sustainability.

In 1997 Visit Scotland formed the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) to encourage businesses to reduce their environmental impact. The scheme covers issues such as business efficiency, environmental management, waste and transport as well as topics like social responsibility and biodiversity. A recent poll by responsibletravel.com suggested that Scotland was the leading eco tourism destination in Europe. Visitor attitude surveys show that Scotland’s wonderful environment is its most important tourism asset and nearly 90% of visitors said that one of Scotland’s most important attributes was its peace and quiet. To encourage Scottish venues and accommodations to institute green practices, Scotland’s GTBS introduced an accredited Visit Scotland Quality Assurance program called Green Business UK Ltd. The scheme now has over 600 members and is the largest and most successful environmental accreditation body for tourism businesses in Europe. In addition GTBS has founded a Sustainable Tourism Unit (STU) to promote cultural and environmental low impact activities, while helping to generate income, employment and foster conservation. ■





01 *The ha'penny bridge in Dublin, Ireland, at night.*

All eyes on Ireland

By: *Claire Quinn.*

Ireland's dynamic republic has come along way from joining the European Union in 1973. A country and economy still hiding its light under a bushel, when in January 1991, along with five other EU members it exchanged its indigenous currency for the Euro. The ensuing economic success in combination with this diminutive country's geographical location makes it one of Europe's hottest business tourism destinations. As a result Ireland's republic now offers a unique blend of fashionable cities, beautiful countryside, and high-quality hotels. Corporate guests can now expect cutting-edge conferencing facilities set against a rich backdrop of History and culture.

Travelling to and from Ireland has never been easier or more affordable. Daily direct flights are widely available from a range of cities in the UK, Europe, and the US, along with three-times-weekly flights from the Emirates. Ireland is served by two major low-cost national airlines – Ryanair and Aer Lingus – as well as dozens of international carriers, and boasts international airports in Dublin, Cork, Knock, Shannon and Belfast.

When it comes down to business this compact and dynamic country can hold its own amongst many of Europe's other favourite destinations.

Ireland can cater for up to 8,000 delegates with over 900 hotels and 60,000 rooms to choose from. Its strength lies in its ability to offer excellent conference facilities ranging from luxurious castles to state-of-the-art purpose-built centers. Amongst its best is The Royal Dublin Society, one of Ireland's largest venues for meetings, conferences and public shows; next up is Citywest Hotel, Ireland's largest Conference, Leisure and Golf Resort. Hot on their heels is The Convention Centre Dublin, designed by world-renowned Irish-born architect Kevin Roche, due to open in September 2010, with a capacity for 8,000 delegates. Last but certainly not least is the popular Irish National Events and Conference Centre in Killarney.

Figures taken from the Central Statistics Office show that in 2007 Ireland attracted well over 1 million business tourists, generating an estimated \$543Mn of overseas revenue. The figures are impressive but it can also bask in the calibre of events which have chosen it over recent years. In 1998 it hosted the early stages of the prestigious Tour De France. In 2003 the Special Olympics were held outside of the United States for the first time and choose Ireland as their base and in 2006 The Ryder Cup came to Ireland. >

Whilst the Irish are renowned for their luck this thriving tourism market comes as a result of joined up strategic thinking; in 2003 the Tourism Development Authority was established. Its public face, Fáilte Ireland, facilitates three key drivers in the industry's success. Essentially Fáilte Ireland develops products and enterprise, promotes best practice, quality and standards and facilitates investment in the industry's infrastructure. Lastly, by capitalising on Ireland's best resource it invests heavily in training and education across all career levels. Alongside this strategic body is Discover Ireland, a commercial information service that provides an extensive resource for anyone aiming to visit Ireland. Discover Ireland's website is bursting at seams with up-to-date leisure activities, accommodation to suit all budgets and an excellent cultural events calendar. Any organisation planning to hold a corporate event in Ireland will find a wealth of information and support across both websites.

Whilst Ireland's tourist trade is well established it may not be the first choice for many European delegates when choosing their summer break. In this respect it will provide a breath of fresh air to those visiting for the first time. A truly unique country steeped in tradition yet young at heart. In such a historic country there are lots to do and see, and business tourists will love the rich selection of galleries, museums, restaurants, pubs and shops, not to mention the traditionally warm welcome from the Irish. For the more active visitors or those choosing team building activities delegates can enjoy an unspoilt landscape with an exceptional array of activities, including golf, horse riding, walking, cycling, water sports, angling and adventure sports. On the opposite end of the scale, visitors who want to unwind will find an unrivalled selection of Spa products making their incentive one to remember.

World-renowned for their warm welcome and genuine sense of fun, the Irish people's enviable passion for life promises to entice colleagues and peers from around the globe, guaranteeing high delegate turnout.

Whilst current economic trends continue to clip expenses Irish Hotel costs are still well positioned within the European market to offer value for Money, customers then have the added bonus of Ireland's unique hospitality. Those organisations which are being extra prudent should view Ireland as the ideal short haul opportunity particularly from the UK market. In addition its immediate location helps to fulfil the ever pressing CSR demands that most companies strive to achieve. Better yet, in July 2007 the Irish Government introduced changes to the entitlement of

02 *Dublin City Aerial View featuring O'Connell Bridge over the river Liffey.*



Whilst current economic trends continue to clip expenses Irish Hotel costs are still well positioned within the European market to offer value for Money, customers then have the added bonus of Ireland's unique hospitality.



businesses and delegates to claim VAT on conference related accommodation expenses. Any Irish or non-Irish taxable business entitled to recover VAT will be able to reclaim the VAT element of the accommodation expenses paid by them on behalf of their delegates. Individual delegates attending a qualifying business meeting and who are entitled to recover VAT, i.e. self-employed, can also claim. Several restrictions apply and those wishing to claim should contact Fáilte Ireland for details.

Conferencing in Ireland can be a trip of a lifetime where guests are treated to the best Ireland has to offer as a reward by their corporation. Within this delegates have an extensive choice of Activities. The island's compact layout allows guests to squeeze the most from their trip enjoying cosmopolitan cities juxtaposed with serene countryside. What is certain for all of those who visit Ireland is an authentic cultural experience where positive economic growth has not changed the nation's unique and friendly manner. ■



02

The School of *Life*

By: Claire Quinn.

It is no wonder now in the thick of a recession that many of us are seeking more thoughtful and less materialistic ways to live our lives. As the crunch grinds on our social and economic landscape will continue to change, and not always for the worse. One aspect of a recession that brings hope is its ability to refocus people's minds, often fostering new movements in the arts and culture.

One such venue which captures the very zeitgeist of this new thinking is the School of Life. Based in a small shop on Marchmont Street, in a thriving and bohemian part of central London, the shop is organised as a 'cultural apothecary', selling The School of Life's experiences alongside a selection of relevant books and artists' multiples.

The School of Life was created by a group of writers and artists committed to exploring intelligent and playful ways to think about the art of living. Its founder and director is Sophie Howarth, herself an educator, writer, artist and curator. Before the School of Life Sophie worked as Head of Education and Research at Iniva (2006-7) and Curator of Public Programmes at Tate Modern (1999-2006). Other distinguished faculty members include Alain de Botton, Geoff Dyer, Susan Elderkin, Tom Hodgkinson, Brett Khar and Martin Parr who often hold one of the many events or seminars.

In essence the School has a passionate belief in making learning relevant and develops courses that investigate the more important questions of everyday life. In contrast to other more formal places of education The School of Life titles its courses according to things we all tend to care about: careers, relationships, politics, travels and families. Time on one of its courses is likely to be spent reflecting on familial moral responsibilities or how to regain the art of play.

“ In essence the School has a passionate belief in making learning relevant and develops courses that investigate the more important questions of everyday life. ”

In addition to courses the school also offers a range of typically quirky events to provoke creativity and intellect. For those who like to cogitate while digesting there are Conversation Dinners populated entirely by fellow strangers the meals are held in some of London's best restaurants and topics can vary from experiences, ideas, regrets to aspirations. Each meal has a specially-designed conversation menu to ensure even the most tongue

tied can contribute. More recently a new Breakfast Club was launched for early risers and those who like to ruminate ideas as a start to their day.

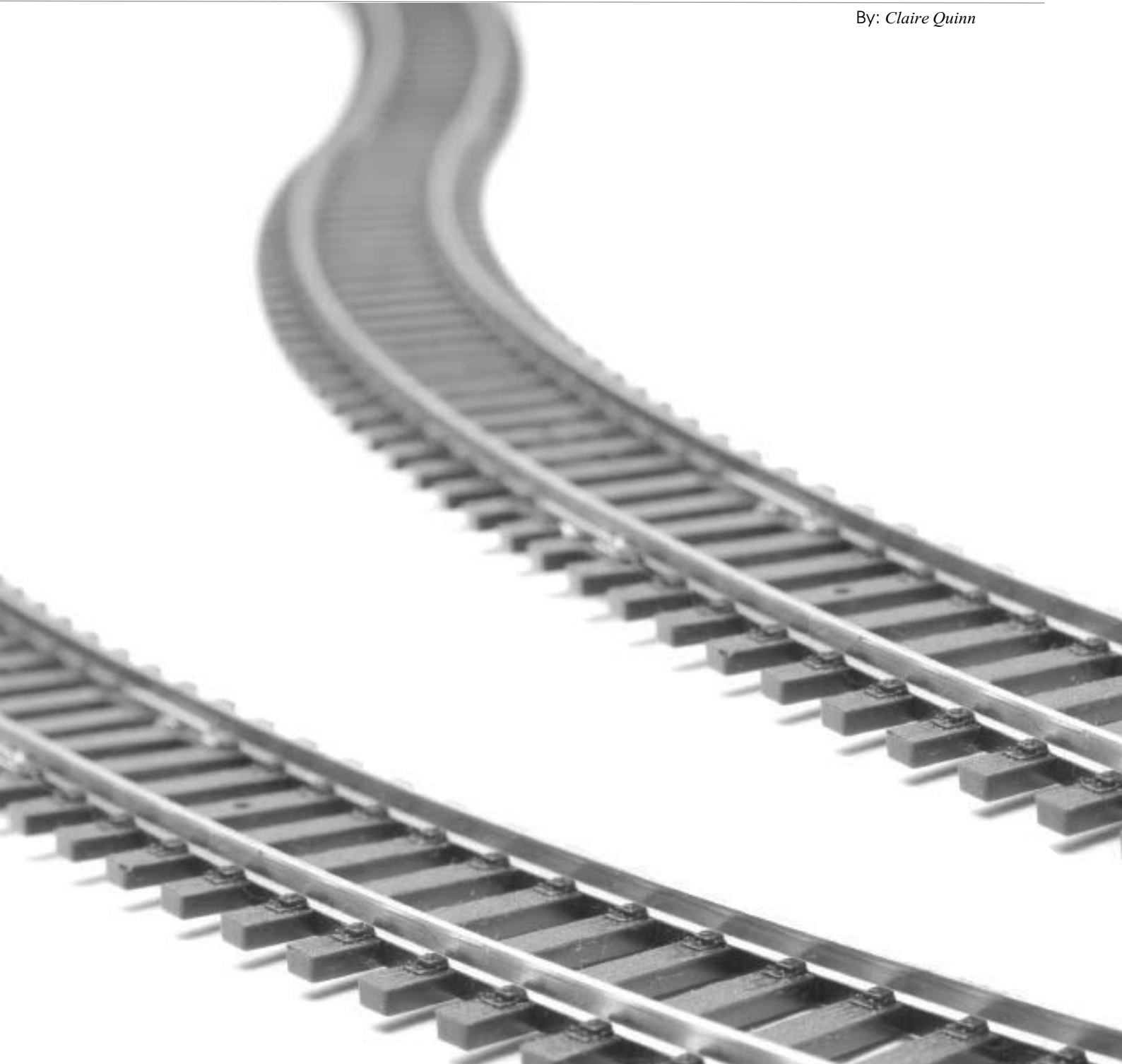
Other activities offered are entitled Holidays, these events are more like exceptionally well planned day trips. The SOL invites experts and artists to create extraordinary journeys around unusual parts of the UK. Cheaper, more sustainable and infinitely more rewarding than most sticky short haul breaks this year's programme offers holidays ranging from Urban Gardening – 'reclaiming orphaned land' to A Voyage in Epicuriosity – 'a gastronomic expedition to kitchens, laboratories and specialist food shops of London'.

Aside from the purely intellectual pursuits the SOL also promotes well being through the services of psychotherapy and bibliotherapy. The school's main aim here is to promote enlightening conversation marked by curiosity, respect and kindness rather than a purely clinical perspective. On a more indulgent level clients can book in for a short or long-term bibliotherapy session where a therapist holds an in-depth conversation about your attitude and experiences of books, here you can explore any topic or genre, from this consultation a therapist creates a reading prescription in line with your needs.

If you have found yourself staring out the window at work wondering what it's all about then now might be a good time to step back and think intelligently about this and other bigger picture ideas. The School of Life provides a forum where you can explore a variety of ideas - from philosophy to literature, psychology to the visual arts, things to exercise and expand your mind. At a time when so much is uncertain we could all benefit from a little time spent on the essentials of love, play, conversation and family. ■

Keeping **on Track**

By: *Claire Quinn*



As many of us will discover again over the summer period airports are a less than pleasant necessity that we suffer in order to take essential business and recreational trips. This painful and often expensive experience normally begins with our commute from the city centre to the airport and continues with the incessant queuing and waiting, in some cases with the added indignity of a body or bag search. So if time is of the essence then what are we to do, with increased government security measures it is unlikely that airport protocol will ease in the coming years.

Long before increased airport taxes and body searches were in place many government and rail industry bodies were hard at work streamlining a vast European network of rail services so that passengers could utilise services across several countries with one purchase. As a result a range of new bodies have begun to offer comprehensive rail passes, allowing travellers to move through several European countries taking their own route and pace.

The main drive behind the expansion in this and other rail packages is the dire environmental costs of our continued reliance on aviation as a means of travel. Most flights in Europe are short haul flights and most of the air traffic is within the bigger countries or in the economic centre of the EU, between London, Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam. For these flights and many others rail transport is a viable and far more sustainable alternative. Short distance flights are relatively (per km, per Euro) even more polluting than long distance flights due to the bigger impact of landing and take off and the same is true for the noise burden. Modern buses are the most environmentally friendly means of public transport but, for longer distances, trains are the most important alternative to air travel because they

comfort and speed for the traveller as well as improved environmental performance.

Strategically the European Commission has already endorsed a long-term vision for the sector, as laid out in ERRAC's Rail Research Agenda. ERRAC is the European Rail Research Advisory Council and its long-term vision for the sector is laid out in the Strategic Rail Research Agenda (SRRRA), first published in 2002, the SRRRA posits the goal of doubling passenger volume and tripling freight by 2020. Other goals include improved interoperability, better environmental and safety performance.

The facts are pretty impressive even for the most ardent fans of the aeroplane. On main European journeys, high-speed trains generate between 4 and 40 times less CO₂ per passenger than other modes of transport. Travelling by rail uses 2 to 3 times less energy than journeys by road and a high-speed railway line takes up half as much space as a motorway. A study carried out in Great Britain has shown that flights between London-Paris and London-Brussels generate between 8 and 11 times more CO₂ emissions than the Eurostar train would on an equivalent journey.

According to data supplied by the journey comparison tool, 'EcoComparateur' developed by www.voyages-sncf.com, a journey between Paris and Brussels generates, on average, approx. 62 kg of CO₂ when travelling by car, 45 kg by plane and only 10 kg when completed on a Thalys train.

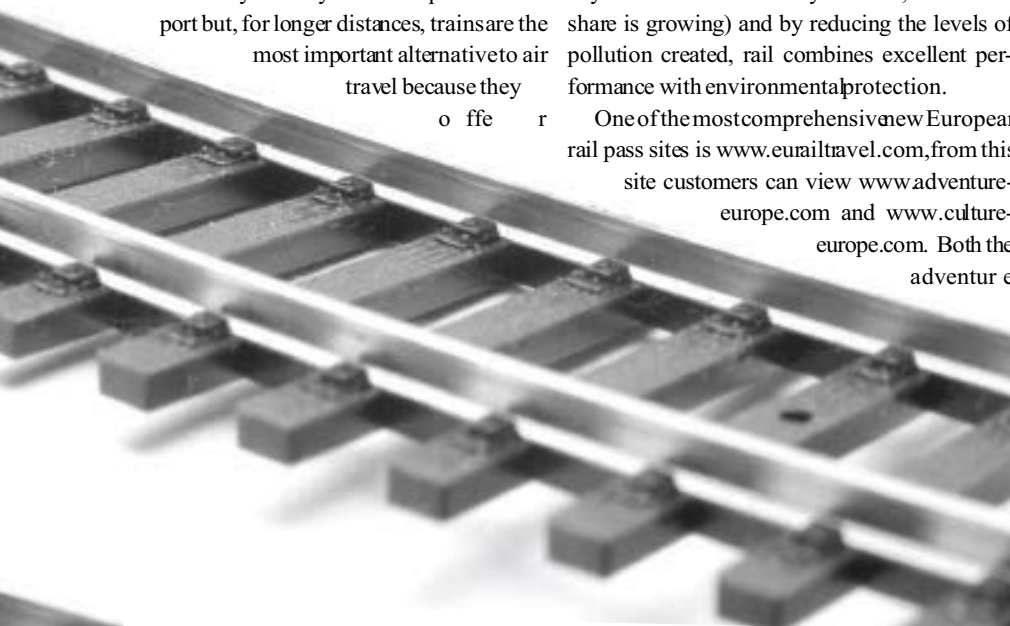
On a journey from Paris to Frankfurt, an average of approx. 116 kg of CO₂ is emitted per passenger when travelling by car, 67 kg by plane and 17 kg on an InterCity Express. By encouraging the substitution of air and road travel by rail (as journey times are continuously reduced, the market share is growing) and by reducing the levels of pollution created, rail combines excellent performance with environmental protection.

One of the most comprehensive new European rail pass sites is www.eurailtravel.com, from this site customers can view www.adventure-europe.com and www.culture-europe.com. Both the

and culture sites allow customers to browse a selection of travel passes or choose from several excellently themed Itinerary routes. Firstly the Eurail pass now comes in several thousand variations for 21 mainland European countries but passes can easily be divided into four main groups. The first is the Eurail Global Pass, this is right for you if you want to see more than six countries, and a variant of this pass allows unlimited travel for either consecutive-day travel periods (15 or 21 days, or one, two or three months) or flexible travel (10 or 15 days within two months). Next is the Eurail Select Pass, ideal if you want to focus on a micro-region, the Eurail Select Pass gives you the choice to travel between three to five adjoining countries for five to 14 days within a two-month period. The Eurail Regional Pass covers two bordering countries and gives you the opportunity to travel as much as you like within both countries, ideal for shorter trips or those where you really want to get to know an area. Finally the Eurail One Country Pass is a perfect option if you plan to focus on one country – travelling to the different regions and seeing all a country has to offer. Within the pass groups the sites also offers pre-set itinerary routes, one such route is Land of the Midnight Sun which offers travellers an exhilarating route starting in Oslo, moving north against the west coast of Norway and finally descending down through Sweden, to Stockholm and Copenhagen.

The range and type of tickets are as limitless as the travel possibilities. What distinguishes a Eurail pass from air travel or the choice to buy as you travel is its ability to offer a large variety of special trains. Passengers can flash past European cities using services from a widespread network of high speed trains. In a more relaxed tempo you can move around the high cols with snow-capped mountains, along deep ravines, taking in some of Europe's most scenic spots. Many passengers prefer to make their larger trips at night and Eurail pass allows you to choose from a wide selection of sleeper trains that get you to your next European destination while dozing away in a private compartment. Depending on which route passengers take they may wish to cross water and Eurail passes have the added advantage of offering free or reduced-cost travel on many ferry lines.

Long distance rail travel should be thought of as more than the sum of its parts. It ticks many environmental and cost efficiency boxes but what it gives the individual traveller is a more detailed experience when moving overland. Using European network sites such as Eurailtravel.com can take much of the research and guesswork out of your travel plans, simply deciding where to go next will be the bigger question. ■



Five of the Best

By: Claire Quinn.



01 *The Royal Villa at the Grand Resort Lagonissi in Athens.*



01 *Penthouse Sea View Suite, The Hotel Martinez.*



01 Governor Villa.

Given a surprise lottery win or vast overnight success there are few of us that would spend in the area of £20,000 for one night's stay in a hotel suite, irrespective of its design kudos. This is exactly what several top hotels around the world offer in their deluxe suite packages, with extravagant designs, personal lift and staff. We take a look at where the super rich book-in and what they get for their money.

Topping this global list in the glitzy resort of Cannes, France, is The Hotel Martinez. The hotel itself looks onto the resort's prestigious Croisette boulevard. Guests can enjoy a vast private beach and pontoon where they are screened from the hoi polloi. Inside the Martinez's crisp white exterior there are 412 rooms. Arranged over seven floors, the building houses three restaurants, 'La Palme d'Or', a 2 stars Michelin gastronomic restaurant, 'Le Relais Martinez' and the 'Zplage Beach Restaurant'. The jewel in The Martinez's scone-like crown is its Suite des Oliviers, with 1500 square feet of living space the suite comes in at £22,900 a night. Guests enjoy two extremely spacious bedrooms with separate dressing room and sauna. In the event that you need a little more space, step out

onto the 2500 square foot, teak floored, private terrace, this hosts a Jacuzzi large enough for seven and looks out across the waters to the Lerins Islands.

Second in the list, just, is The Four Seasons New York, this elite hotel rises over Manhattan's premier shopping and business districts, and sits between Park and Madison Avenues. The hotel's trademark is its astonishing attention to detail and rooms that feature stunning views across Manhattan. In their own words 'a remarkable luxury experience, even by New York standards'. This Four Seasons offers 368 generously sized guest rooms – including 63 suites. The Ty Warner Suite – named after the hotel owner and beanie-baby billionaire – sits at the pinnacle of what is now Manhattan's tallest hotel. This exquisite creation is the result of a collaboration between Ty Warner, designer Peter Marino and architect I.M. Pei, who came out of retirement to join in the creation of America's most exclusive accommodation.

The Ty Warner Suite lives up to its reputation with cantilevered glass balconies and floor-to-ceiling bay windows, set beneath 25-foot cathedral ceilings, the penthouse offers a breathtaking

360-degree view of all Manhattan. Amongst the suite's design details are semi-precious stone surfaces and fabrics woven with platinum and gold, no wonder that this nine-room suite comes in second at £21,500 a night.

Matching the figure of £21,500 a night is Royal Penthouse Suite at The President Wilson 5* Hotel overlooking Mont Blanc and Geneva Harbour. The hotel holds 230 guest rooms each decorated and furnished in a contemporary and subtle style. Whilst the entire complex shrieks design chic its most expensive suite delivers a classier touch with the addition of period pieces such as a Steinway grand. More suitable for traveling heads of state and celebrities the penthouse is accessed via a private lift and when guests arrive they look out onto Lake Geneva safe in the knowledge that all windows and doors are bullet proof. If you like to move with your entourage then this is your venue, the living room has a billiard table, a library and a cocktail lounge with a view of the water fountain, and can accommodate 40 people. The dining room seats 26 people around an oval mahogany table.

Next on our list is The Royal Villa at the Grand Resort Lagonissi in Athens. The villa features an indoor and outdoor heated infinity pool, a gym, and fully equipped kitchen. You won't have to exhaust yourself using all these rooms as a premium booking comes with a butler, private chef and pianist. At your disposal are three large bedrooms, a large living room and dining room – a snip at £21,000 a night. The Villa looks out onto an expansive peninsula on the coast outside of Athens and guests have the use of a nearby private marina and beach.

Not exactly budget but the cheapest suite on our list is the Presidential Suite at the Hotel Cala di Volpe Costa Smeralda, Italy and costs £16,800 a night. Located in the hotel tower, this multi-level suite boasts 250 square meters of light-filled space, crowned by a rooftop terrace with swimming pool. Two large living rooms feature hand-crafted furniture cushioned with layers of luxurious fabric. Walls are decorated with rich tapestries and local artwork. All three bedrooms feature king-size luxury beds, topped by scrolling wrought-iron headboards and locally embroidered quilts. All of the rooms open onto deeply shaded balconies, furnished with teak patio furniture. Private meals are served outdoors and are particularly memorable on the stunning rooftop terrace. Guests may also enjoy the balmy summer nights, while savoring a rare vintage from the suite's own wine cellar. ■

Editors Letter

By Claire Quinn

I caught up with Paradise Gardens festival director Julian Rudd on Sunday afternoon and it seemed like he was beginning to wind down from what must have been a hectic week.

I wanted to get a feel for the festival's background and it became clear that there were several public bodies supporting this essentially community driven project.

Tower Hamlets Arts & Events Team and Lottery funding primarily drove the event with several additional partnerships including Hackney and Newham councils. In line with its community aspirations Julian was keen to point out that the event catered for every sector of the community irrespective of age or background.

Events ranged from contemporary urban dance to a tea dance tent with dance classes and cake stalls hosted by the Women's Institute. The main stage hosted a range of international acts from Omar, Alabama 3 and Ska Cubano with other support acts like the wonderful Katie Carr and Papayera. For the little people there was Carters Steam Fare and a Victoria village fete. Only in its third year the festival's aspirations continue to evolve with next year promising to uncover further performance art and dance commissions.

The event was produced by Remarkable Productions which is a member of the Independent Street Arts Network, representing promoters and presenters of street art events and festivals across the UK. Many thanks to Remarkable Productions, NoFit State Circus, Sensazione and all the artists featured in this publication for their cooperation and time.



Amadeus

By Claire Quinn

We caught up with Ludwig Amadeus recently in London's Brick Lane and got the low down over some mint tea. Unlike his name sake this young artist is very much alive and full of music. Born in Germany and raised in the UK Ludwig works as an electrical engineer by day and burns the midnight oil producing music. Talking about his day job and his music he drew some parallels between the two, 'I think they are quite alike, in both it's about getting the different parts to fit'.

Formerly he collaborated with a guitarist friend but took the decision to go it alone. Considering that all his songs are written, recorded and produced on about £100 worth of equipment he now finds the solo experience an easier and more enjoyable process. 'I spend a lot of time making each track; I strive to get the best quality recording'.

They say that creative success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration; in this case Ludwig is well on his way. He recently achieved Best Songs on the Amazing Tunes site and has also released, Happy Ending, his latest single for download.

With a constantly rolling giglist you can always catch Amadeus playing in the London area either solo or with his friends and collaborators, The Telegrams. While 2008 seems to be rolling along quite nicely for this 19-year old he's leaving nothing to chance and is currently in talks with a new producer who recently notched up 4 top-40 hits.

Music Reviews

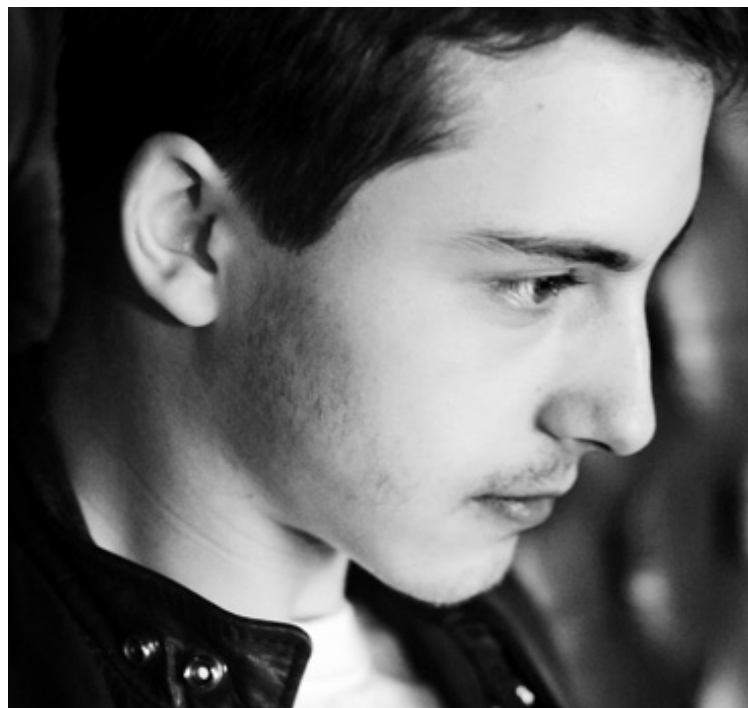
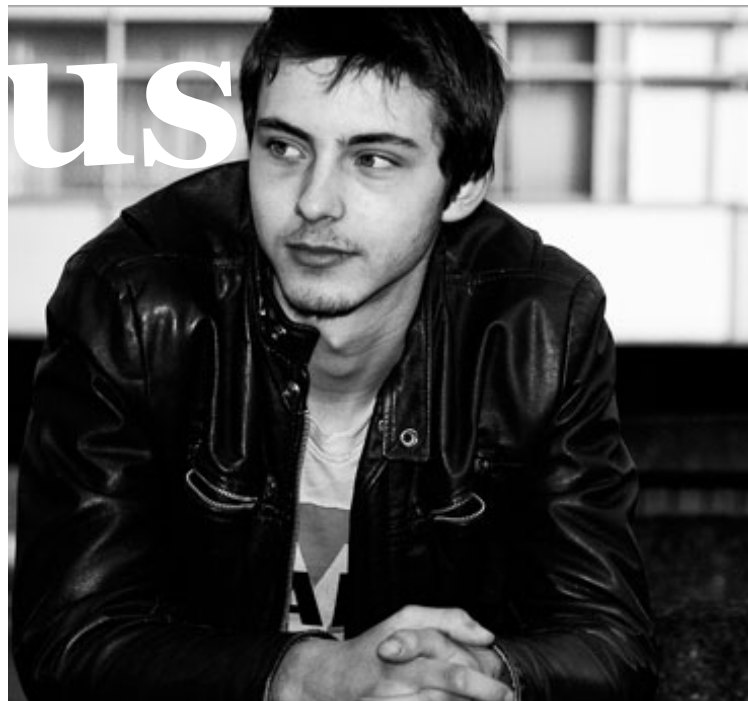
This young singer-songwriter just keeps making music and his latest samples attest to his versatility and talent. I could attempt to describe his style as funky up acoustic-pop but his new work is diverse and travels through pop, funk, jazz and there's defiantly some rock going on.

Complex , numbers such as 1 2 3 4 5 6... has veins the amazing 80's popsters Luscious Jackson, a sneakily tame intro leads straight into punchy base and fast paced vocals.

Got no love ...raises up the lounge elements of Amadeus', a pattering light piano intro, jazzy drums with funk base work all over them. Sounds like revenge as the lyrics reject their target with sexy piano and vocals.

The most acoustic sounding 'Jesus Christ I Must Have Sinned' really show this artist's style, this is energetic funk-pop that will move your heels. Irreverent satirical lyrics provide a good aspect to this artist's personality, 'Oh Jesus Christ I must have sinned, find the bin and throw me in'.

Another track that digresses in genre is 'Ooh Didi Lay De Day'; this fast paced pop track has synth keys and fancy electric guitar riffs moving all over it, very retro.



Society of Imaginary Friends

Claire Quinn

I went to see Society of Imaginary Friends at their pied-a-terre in Soho. Tucked away on the 3rd floor running off a narrow stair case, their small studio was littered with the evidence of creativity in motion. Papers, paintings, instruments, microphones and a few feathers fill this most bohemian of places. Tiny space big sound. SOIF consists of Louise Kleboe the face behind the chakra rattling operatic voice on their tracks, Alfie Thomas the bands composer who plays accordion and keyboards. Third member Cara Vella tugs at our heart strings with her violin.

SOIF's sound traverses opera, folk and experimental but its clever arrangements and edgy biting lyrics make it a very contemporary interpretation of these sounds. Emotive and thought provoking, this music stands well outside the parameters of other popular music genres and for that reason it will have you mulling over it long after you've finished listening.

This most enigmatic of bands are enjoying an explosive year with the release of their first album 'Sadness is a Bridge to Love', receiving a number of outstanding reviews including that from Penny Black Music Magazine. When I met them the band had just returned from an East coast American tour and were still enthusing about it. The tour germinated through correspondence with Mike Pearlstein, an avid fan. Mike encouraged the group to cross the pond and perform a number of live gigs at a variety of venues such as the trendy Knitting Factory in Manhattan and Maxwells in New Jersey. Society of Imaginary Friends have often collaborated with full choirs in live shows and in NY they had the pleasure of working with Jerome Brooks' extraordinary Harlem based gospel choir.

This band have a wellspring of song writing, that in combination with ambitious plans for further touring and collaborative performances mean we can expect to see much more from our imaginative friends.

Music Reviews

With the launch of their new Album 'Sadness is a Bridge to Love' this three piece, boundary crossing act are sure to amass a whole new gathering of disciples. Whilst their music isn't religious it certainly has many spiritual qualities, as the title suggests, provoking both joy and sadness.

'Night of Power' is a grand song of majestic proportions using the driving sounds of base and accordion to create a foreboding backdrop to Louise Kleboe's brooding voice. Like night and day 'The Lovely Rain' sits in complete opposition to 'Night of Power' its delicate tinkling piano staged around tender vocals creates a sublime and feminine track that can't fail to move. Other tracks such as 'Nursery of Dark and Light' are so well articulated it's difficult not to envisage the original concept. Contrasting high notes from a tambourine and glockenspiel are juxtaposed with heavy base sounds and accordion to affect an abstract almost hypnotic non-reality.

This album is a stunning collection of thoughtful and yet experimental works by a group of musicians who are in tune with themselves, each other and clearly something bigger than all of us.



Glitter and Twisted

Claire Quinn

I met accessories designer Mandi Martin at her new home near Brick Lane in London's East End. Having just moved in she was surrounded by boxes and yet had created a small work bench and was fast at work finishing new necklaces and brooches. Much more than a designer, Mandi began her career as a 16 year old girl making her own jewellery.

A local designer noticed her wearing the work and soon she was taken onboard as an assistant. From there she worked for unforgettable 80's label Pink Soda and was eventually head hunted by high-end fashion designer - Wendy Dagworthy - who supplied clients such as Liberty of London. Graduating to design director Mandi then left Wendy Dagworthy and returned to her original employer for 4 years acting again as design director. Unlike most creatives Mandi then took the unusual step of becoming involved with the sciences and completed a four-year medical degree. Brings new meaning to the phrase career change! In the end it wasn't a career change and just an exploration: throughout the course Mandi continued to provide consultancy on a freelance basis for high street stores such as Pilot, NewLook and Stussy.

Today Mandi successfully runs her own label, Glitter & Twisted, here each item is drawn by hand and transferred to Illustrator before being sent for production. Her flat Perspex pieces are edgy and idiosyncratic and with small production numbers it's unlikely you'll have to share the limelight when you wear one out.

Artist Reviews

Glitter & Twisted collections feature a range of perspex brooches, necklaces & earrings. Signature pieces are always accompanied by the season's new designs. When you first see the jewellery your not sure whether to lick it or wear it, pieces formed from clean flat perspex in candy bright colours, it looks just like sugar sculpture. From butterflies to fiery skull & crossbones these pieces are stylish, affording the wearer a certain fashionable edge.

This sexy, sharp range marries beautifully with spring/summer trends set by designers such as Chloe and Marc Jacobs, accenting bright block colours, angular cuts and exaggerated silhouettes.



Ian Stevenson

Claire Quinn

Ian Stevenson likes to draw on everything and what results is a fusion of funny, weird and down right scary. Studying graphic design at university was his first step and thankfully his course focused on the ideas/fine art aspects of design rather than than computing, nurturing his talent for drawing. After the course he initially worked on his own ideas but then took an opportunity at a design company and worked there for three and a half years. Whilst this professional experience was valuable it didn't give Ian enough creative scope and he was soon off again focusing on his unique creations.

Ian believes his current style came about through spending a lot of time travelling via train, just sitting with a sketchbook, thinking and doodling, "I would finish the journey and look at a half full sketch book and think... what's going on here. From then on I've tried to train it a little bit but mostly it comes out when I'm not trying".

Soon after leaving the design firm Ian meet Chris Knight who soon became a friend and collaborator. Having lots of drawings and struggling with major publishing companies Ian and Chris joined forces to produce his first book 'Shutup Man', which soon sold out.

Since then Ian has held several successful shows both here and abroad. Not with intent but Ian's work now accents the big green issue on everyone's mind. Recent projects use everyday discarded objects such as fridges and cardboard boxes as the canvas for his dubious characters. His wit and beautifully simplistic drawings have made him one of the most interesting and exciting illustrators working today.



Artist Review

Ian's recent work was spotlighted by a documentary on Current TV where he uses everyday discarded objects such as fridges, skips, and cardboard boxes as the canvas for a series of curious characters. Produced by 'Institute For Eyes'- an independent film company, representing the work of directors Luke Seomore and Joseph Bull. - www.instituteforeyes.co.uk - the short film features music and art by Ian. Simply go to <http://current.com> and search under Ian's name.

Having drawn on rubbish and other discarded items for a few years now Ian has finally released a book of the best photos and this will be available later in the summer. Also very exciting is the pending release of the 3rd edition of IdN magazine, an international publication for creative people, devoted to bringing designers from around the globe together. The new issue features 8 top designers including Ian and looks at deciphering the hidden messages in their illustration: www.idnworld.com. Ian has also have been working on animations with another writer and animator and they can be seen online every month at www.oatmeal.tv

As always you can find a little piece of art for yourself. Ian continues to provide limited edition prints and these can be purchased at www.picturesonwalls.com and www.coshuk.com. Ian's latest book of illustrations 'Best Wishes Get Well Soon' is still available from www.concretehermit.com. More recently he has designed 4 t-shirts for Graniph and these will be released throughout 2008. www.graniph.com



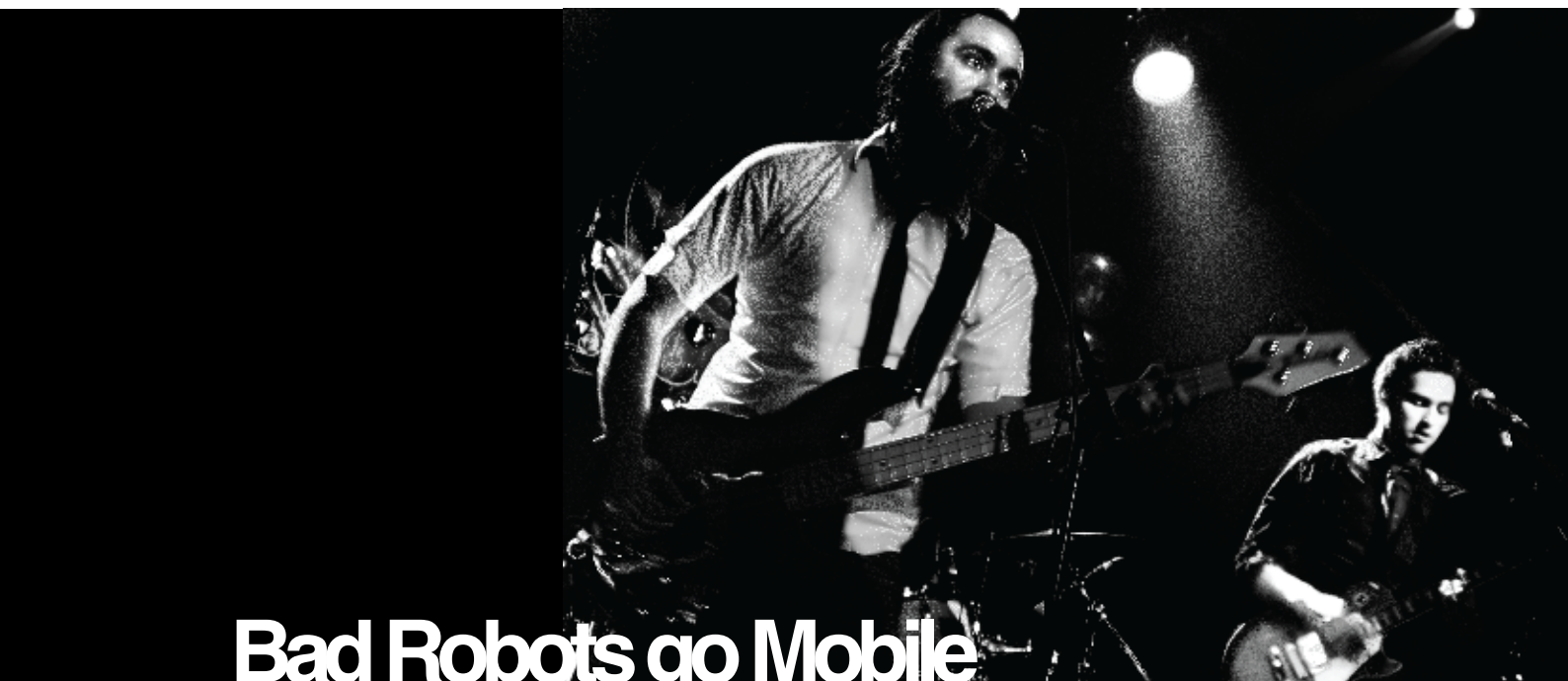


12 Bar Club

12 Bar Club can only be described as small and perfectly formed because despite its dimensions it remains a mainstay of good live music in London. Located in a building built in 1635 the club began life as stables and was later converted to a forge up until World War I. It then became a carpenter's shop and later store rooms. In the 80's it was renovated to house 'The Forge Folk & Blues Club', a social club for the staff of the guitar centre next door. Soon word spread and it became a popular haunt for musos. In 1994 the venue expanded and became the 12 Bar Club.

Since then, the bar area has been expanded, new offices and a restaurant were added to the front and a new kitchen installed below. It's still one of the capital's smallest venues but the music is non-stop, showcasing around four acts a night, 7 nights a week, from solo performers through to full bands. The emphasis is always on songwriting and the venue hosts artists from all over the world. Located close to the intersection of Charing Cross Road, Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road practically every person in London can get to this place but as there's limited standing room it's probably a bad idea.

<http://www.12barclub.com>



Bad Robots go Mobile

Congratulations are surely due to The Bad Robots once again for a stellar performance at the Mobile Act Unsigned this week as they swan through to the final 6. Not to mention of course the praise dolled out by Roisin Murphy (judge), commenting that the boys 'wrote great songs'. The band will now be travelling up to Liverpool to play alongside headline act, Athlete, in a bid to make it onto the next leg of the Mobile Act Tour.

www.myspace.com/thebadrobots



Bee Stings

Watching the Bee Stings play at the Bethnal Green Working Men's Club last Sunday night was a real treat. The band played a night called 'Boxbot' where attendees make their own robot outfit from the materials provided – you heard me – this leads to something called Boxfactor. All set around a vaudeville style stage. See venue review for lurid details.

Luckily their music is just as idiosyncratic, Dance-Rock-Pop-Electro ...oh who cares probably all of the above in all the right proportions. Whilst the band has genre flux they certainly don't lack identity, listening to them live they present a well-rehearsed band with a love of their own musicand maybe each other! While tracks vary in pace each

one has a multilayered quality mixing plenty of live bass and drums with some programmed material and synth. Tracks like 'Misadventure' take you straight into a bangin 'Underworld' style intro lightened by Valkyrie's lead vocals, the track then builds itself to epic proportions. 'Pressure Running Away' is real pop/rock fusion; a bouncy intro swiftly dips into some punk style vocals, really showing the bands diversity and energy. My main point of excitement about this band was listening to their complex, punchy album – Life by Misadventure – better was listening to it performed live to the same high standard.

www.myspace.com/beestingsmusic



THE ART TARDIS

Love galleries hate the attitude?

Then this jewel sized shop/gallery near Shoreditch is a real find. Set up by Chris Knight the label encapsulates a website, gallery and shop that work with artists and illustrators to produce and promote T-shirts, books, and other products to showcase their work. Tucked away on a side street the shop is full of great curios like badges and little coloured boxes you can twiddle with (you'll need to go along). Chris's philosophy was to take the austerity out of such spaces and make them a ground for collaboration and enjoyment, this certainly translates to the shop where you can browse the t-shirts, amble the gallery and finger some edgy art books and still feel relaxed at the end of it.

The shop contains books by illustrators such as Jon Burgerman, Motomichi Nakamura and artist Ian Stevenson and the gallery has a full programme running until after xmas including Anthony Burrill running 1st- 25th Nov. <http://www.anthonyburrill.com/> and then Peepshow opening early (3rd TBC) December <http://www.peepshow.org.uk> Looking forward, a schedule for next spring is already being drawn together and Chris is hoping to host an exchange programme with similar European galleries.

www.concretehermit.com

Plastic Fantastic



I met accessories designer Mandi Martin at her new home near Brick Lane in London's East End. Having just moved in she was surrounded by boxes and yet had created a small work bench and was fast at work finishing new necklaces and brooches. Much more than a designer, Mandi began her career as a 16 year old girl making her own jewellery. A local designer noticed her wearing the work and soon she was taken onboard as an assistant. From there she worked for unforgettable 80's label Pink Soda and was eventually head hunted by high-end accessories firm - Wendy Dagworthy - who supplied clients such as Liberty of London.

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www.myspace.com/glitter_and_twisted

<http://www.glitter-and-twisted.com/>

My Fair Lady

Designer, Ria Roberts, began her clothes label like many others from her flat, producing bespoke printed t-shirts using a hand held silkscreen and a small sewing machine.

The Ria Roberts label now represents much more than hand made chic, over the last 3 years Ria has travelled extensively in England, South East Asia and now India to source independent companies that meet European standards of fair trade and working conditions. In addition all prints are created using vegetable dyes and 100% cotton.

To elevate the label to near saintly status Ria is now in the process of acquiring organic cotton to use in all her lines. Leaving aside the ultra ethical nature of the products, her shirts, pants and dress' are playful and artistic looking and it's highly unlikely that you'll meet anyone with the same garment as each design is only ever given a small run. Her garments are available in a selection of shops, found on her website and can also be purchased online.

www.ria-roberts.co.uk





CEN VISION
LAA refresh
and training on
commissioning



**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE**
four new local
entrepreneurs



CHRISTIANITY
three messages
of faith

HCVS' magazine for Hackney's voluntary & community sector

SPARK

In this issue:

- ▶ fast track success
- ▶ winter diary
- ▶ fit for purpose
- ▶ commissioning
- ▶ hackney refugee forum
- ▶ social enterprise
- ▶ meet nathaniel stevens
- ▶ news from the sector
- ▶ plus the latest funding news

campaigning:
a look at local activism





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Winter 2008



2 008 will be about developing a strong voluntary and community sector (VCS) workforce to meet the challenges ahead and achieve future funding success. Read about about the range of free training available at HCVS with a little help from partners such as the Community Empowerment Network and HTEN. We're also going back to VCS basics with a look at Hackney campaigns. **Gillian**

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Advertise in this space

Everyone is welcome to advertise in SPARK - Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS) magazine, circulated to hundreds of local organisations. To arrange space in SPARK is simple - just contact **Gillian** as above. HCVS members get discounts.

A big thank you to everyone who supplied articles and information for this issue.

Bridging our Differences

An estimated 33% of the world's population were Christian in 2007 making it the world's largest religion. Closer to home, 46% of people living in Hackney name Christianity as their faith. Whilst this is a huge figure, it's worth remembering that under the umbrella of Christianity comes an array of churches and ministries, practising the faith in their own way. SPARK speaks to three local organisations delivering the Christian word according to their tradition - the African Caribbean Re-Union, St Scholastica's Catholic Church and Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry.



a message of reunion



Kaday Rose Kamara, left, from African Caribbean Re-Union:

The organisation began as a result of the death of my son. After this I received an anonymous letter informing me

who was responsible but the police failed to investigate and I was left helpless. One Saturday, after seeing the youths involved I wept bitterly. The next day I went to church, the sermon was on forgiveness and I felt strongly that the message was meant for me. I knew that my mission was to bring a message of reunion between African Caribbean and African people. I used the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers, where Joseph said to them that they meant it for evil but God meant it for good. This helped me to find the good in a very challenging situation.

The Re-Union was started in 1996 and our aim is based on 'Bridging our Differences'. We have a permanent exhibition called 'A Taste of Africa' to educate the general public about the cultural, artistic and historical wealth of Africa. Since 2005, when I learnt the reasons for the atrocities Africa has experienced leading to slavery to the present day, we have taken our exhibition to places such as, Brixton and Holloway prisons; Shoreditch College; Crown Prosecution Service and the New Testament Church of God, Clapton, to build understanding and communication.

Our passion is reconciliation and healing amongst all, especially those in the African and Caribbean communities. We welcome groups who want us to present our exhibition to them.

African Caribbean Re-Union: Representatives from Jamaica sharing their history

a living relationship with Christ



Father David Barrow, left of St Scholastica's Catholic Church:

I came to the Hackney parish just over a year ago and I'm still getting to know the congregation and understand the needs in this area. Saint Scholastica was the

sister of Saint Benedict and the first church was built here in the 1860s.

My congregation is composed mainly of West African, West Indian, Ghanaian and Nigerian; a usual mass will have around 550 people. On a weekend, we have four Sunday masses, then we have a daily mass in the week. I normally try to get some time for myself and at the moment we have a Nigerian priest staying with us until December. A big part of what we do is to try and inform people, to give them a perspective on faith, so that they have a living relationship with Christ instead of receiving it second hand. This then reverberates throughout their life, in their families, schools and communities.

We do try to reach out to people in ways other than mass; it's only an hour long and not enough for people to understand the faith deeply. The primary challenge today for a church like this is to exist in a society that no longer shares Christian values because you can be preaching a message that people are indifferent to.

a ministry on your doorstep



John Jeffers, left, Minister of Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry

The Shout Community Ministries began in 2003 as an outreach, having one Sunday service a month. In 2005, we began having a service every week in the tenant's hall here on the Nightingale Estate. It's still a very small church and we have a lot of young people coming through. Essentially it is a Pentecostal church, where we have a spiritual experience of God and a knowledge of the bible.

It's different because people don't really want to go into a church building, being at a community hall has a different atmosphere and feeling also people don't feel like they have to get dressed up to be a part of the congregation. It encourages a lot of the kids to come along because it's about being relevant and touching the community where they are at. A ministry on their doorstep.

During our service we have a time of worship and prayer we also have a time to share the scriptures and singing but mainly its very relaxed, we try to break it up so that people can engage in different ways. The main focus is building people's characters because we find a lot of morals in the community have gone. More negative influences such as crime are prevalent and we are trying to put back some of those spiritual values into young people's lives.

■ CQ



Young people at Shout

More information:

African Caribbean Re-Union

63 Churchill Walk, London E9 6EU

☎: 020 8986 4090

✉: africanib.reunion@tiscali.co.uk

Shout Pentecostal Community Ministry

18 Olympus Square, Nightingale estate
London E8 2HJ

☎: 0208 985 8687

✉: ushout@yahoo.co.uk

St Scholastic's Catholic Church

17 Kenninghall Road London E5 8BS

About Christianity

Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on a belief in one God, with three elements: God the Father, God the Son and The Holy Spirit. Christian faith is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament. Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God as the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament, and that the New Testament records the Gospel that was revealed by Jesus.

Christian worship involves praising God in music and speech, readings from scripture, prayers of various sorts, a sermon, and various holy ceremonies (often called sacraments) such as the Eucharist.

Upcoming Christian festivals are:

Lent: the forty days before Easter, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and begins with Ash Wednesday - this year it's on Wednesday, 21 February.

Mothering Sunday: the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. This year it's on Sunday 18 March.

Easter: the most important Christian festival and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. It celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, three days after he was executed. This year it's on Sunday 8 April for both Western and Orthodox Christians.

Types of Christianity include:

Church of England: England's state church.

Pentecostalism: emphasises the Holy Spirit and the experience of God's presence. Pentecostals believe that faith is not something found merely through ritual or thinking. They believe they receive 'gifts of the Spirit', including speaking in tongues.

Roman Catholic Church: based in Rome and headed by the Pope, it's the oldest institution in the western world.

Orthodox Christianity: Essentially the same but not the way of life and worship.

Kicking up a storm at Dalston Youth Project

Introducing Nathaniel Stevens of Dalston Youth Project - or DYP - an organisation working with local young people and families.

How did you get involved ?

I was working in Hackney Free Secondary School as part of the behaviour improvement programme. When my contract came to an end at the school I was approached by the project and told there was an opening. It was an organisation I had heard of before and it had a very good reputation, so I was pleased to be offered a role.

How long ago was that?

14 months ago.

Essentially, what does the project do?

DYP offers a wide range of products and services to young people, families and the wider community. Services include our transition programme that supports young people moving from primary to secondary school. We run a Key Stage 4 alternative provision programme commissioned by the Learning Trust with the aim of removing potential barriers to learning. We have a recognised mentoring programme that has been running over 10 years and we now deliver parenting programmes, manage a junior youth inclusion programme and support a youth led focus group, amongst other things.

Are all the projects education oriented?

Not all of them, as well as supporting academic achievement, we also promote



Nathaniel Stevens, third left

social work around self-esteem, personal development and anger management.

What does a typical week hold for you as a project coordinator?

I carry out a lot of planning, monitoring and evaluation on all the projects, we record data from the work that's happening. We organise a timetable of work and spend a lot of time talking to a wide range of people from other organisations.

What impact do you think the project has on the young people you work with?

It has an immense impact, the impact can't really be measured on a piece of paper and that's one of the things that lets down a lot of services like these; people often only recognise things they can quantify or summarise and the great work that goes on in Hackney just can't be measured like that.

Tell us about your work in conjunction with HCVS?

The training I did at HCVS was to help me inform and work with my focus group; we tried to create

real life experiences and opportunities for them. I worked closely with HCVS and 11Million - The Children's Commissioners Office - and we took a group of young people away on a training programme called 'Ready Steady Start'; this was about developing skills to set up your own company.

Where do you see the project going in the future?

There's a lot of potential, I think we're on the verge of taking it to the next level in terms of the work being a lot more creative and innovative. The parenting programme has been so successful that we are finding it difficult to meet the demands. So in that respect 2008 will be a great year in terms of development and expansion.

Any news you want to tell us about?

One of our projects produced a DVD called 'Guns, Gangs and Crime' and that has kicked up quite a storm around the borough and beyond, that will be premiered this year. That was with Ancient Future and Hackney Community Safety Team. Mentoring is due to expand and all the other programmes are due to grow. ■ CQ

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