

## **Beautiful Launderette**

On MONDAY 31 OCTOBER, from 1.30pm to 7.30pm

Digital Tuesdays are launching THE DIGITAL LAUNDERETTE at Dirty Laundry, 255 Wandsworth Road (opposite South Bank gym, just up the road from Vauxhall Sainsburys). With Stockwell Community Resource Centre and Lauren Preston, who owns Dirty Laundry, they've been awarded a Nominet Trust/ UK Online Community Outreach grant to install two computers at the launderette. Until March 2012 they are holding weekly sessions (Wednesdays 1.30 to 3.30) to help people who have never used the internet to get online. Wi-fi is also available. Just drop by any time between 1.30pm and 7.30pm. You can't miss Dirty Laundry, as it's painted shocking pink!

## **New Portuguese books**

Drop in at TSL library at 2pm next Thursday (3 November) to celebrate a donation of Portuguese classics by Guilherme Rosa of Montepio Geral, a Portuguese Building Society. Guilherme says: 'For us it is a very important issue, because Tate South Lambeth Library is at the heart of Little Portugal being symbolically (and very cherished as) the Trafalgar square of our London community in South Lambeth Road). 'We are the only Portuguese building society, and the oldest bank there (170 years old), and we have a social responsibility initiative programme quite developed in Portugal.'

Edith Holtham of the Friends of TSL says: 'This is a "good news" story about our local library and the Portuguese community, in the present fraught climate for the library service.

'There have in the past been generous donations to the library, from the Portuguese consulate and from a Portuguese charity, that were mediated by Friends, and of children's titles for Lambeth libraries from a Portuguese bank, negotiated by Luisa Ribeiro. We'd very much like to keep up this tradition.'

## **Libraries Commission latest**

Be ready! The report of the Libraries Commission is taking shape, and is due to be published on Monday 14th November, before being presented to a Cabinet meeting on 21st November.

It is a pity that it has not involved library users nearly as much as it could have, and library staff hardly at all. However, we have reason to hope that it will produce an acceptable framework on which these people – the ones who know best – will be able (at last) to help build a creative, flexible service that suits the needs of our neighbourhood. If the council accepts the report, there will be an official consultation period – not before time. It will be our task to get FULLY involved and listened to, and to make sure it works financially. Your help will be needed. For the Friends' current position, see SAVE OUR LIBRARY at the end of this mini-newsletter.

## **Digital Bazaar**

The next DIGITAL BAZAAR is Saturday 19th November, 10am to 12pm. More news nearer the time about what's on offer this time. But remember, it's a unique chance to swap notes with real (local) human beings on ways to use digital technology, from your mobile phone or camera to the furthest reaches of the internet's resources. All levels of knowledge very welcome, from beginners to the highly savvy.

## **Wanted: life changers!**

We are looking for volunteers to run and participate in a reading support group for adults with reading and writing difficulties. It would be located at the library. The model for this is the Ruskin Readers group at Carnegie Library. To find out what this involves go to [www.amity.org.uk](http://www.amity.org.uk). To find out more about the Ruskin Readers Group email [ruskinrdrs12@gmail.com](mailto:ruskinrdrs12@gmail.com). If you are interested, please contact [friendsoftsl@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsoftsl@hotmail.com). Your contribution could transform lives.

## **Brazilian movies**

After the huge success of the first film screening this year on our new equipment, take note – the next Digital Tuesdays Screening is Tuesday 15th November. It's two short Brazilian films... more details next week.

## **Fresh look at our neighbourhood**

40-odd students of the Royal College of Art met at the library last month to discuss a fascinating project they are carrying out - exploring the theme of philanthropy in Vauxhall and developing themes via interactive design. They have been briefed about such local highlights as Bonnington Square (including watching the film about it, on the Friends' new equipment at the library), the Tradescants and Vauxhall/Spring Gardens. They have also found their own treasures, including Lassco and even penetrating into the Interplanetary Society building... We hope this work will result in some kind of presentation at the library, probably in November, which is sure to give us some fresh insights into the neighbourhood

and its possibilities.

## **SAVE OUR LIBRARY**

### **A CALL TO ARMS FROM FRIENDS OF TATE SOUTH LAMBETH LIBRARY**

On November 21st the Libraries Commission will present its report on the future of Lambeth's libraries to Lambeth Council. That report will contain proposals that could go as far as removing library services from our local library – Tate South Lambeth Library .

#### **Why the danger?**

Because the Libraries Commission has been charged with identifying ways of reducing the money spent on libraries by £750,000 over the next two financial years (April 2012 to March 2014). In other words a cut of around one quarter on the present budget.

A cut of this size over such a short period cannot be made through simple improvements in efficiency or in income generation. Additional “easy” cuts have already been made in the current financial year, amounting to a planned £75,000. The danger is that the Commission will call for services to be maintained at the large libraries, such as Brixton or the new one being built at Clapham, leaving the small ones (Carnegie, Durning, Minet, Waterloo –and of course South Lambeth) in the firing line.

#### **The case for South Lambeth**

We do not know what will be proposed for South Lambeth. But we are not living in cloud cuckoo land. We know there's very likely to be some cutback here, in the services provided or the hours of opening. But we insist that this landmark building (the oldest surviving library in Lambeth) remain the site for library services, with spare capacity in space, facilities and time used for community programmes and other Council services.

Our argument is based on:

- its location (highly visible and highly accessible, close to six primary schools, on two bus routes, close to three more and to two tube stations, in the centre of a shopping area and – looking to the future – just a few hundred yards from the Vauxhall Nine Elms Development)
- the involvement of the local community (providing services free of cost to Lambeth, such as the repainting inside and out by students from Lambeth College, exhibitions of artwork from local schools and artists, and – a groundbreaking activity – the monthly Digital Bazaar, where people share their skills in the internet, mobile phones, computers and cameras)
- the facilities that have recently been installed on the initiative of Friends of TSL, backed by local councillors (first class film-showing equipment and a renovated courtyard suitable for open-air events) and which would be attractive to other users of the site (for example in adult education)

**So we see immense potential for this building as a multi-function community hub with a library at its core.**

**Do you agree?**

**Please give your views to Kate Hoey MP ([hoeyk@parliament.uk](mailto:hoeyk@parliament.uk)), the Council leader Steve Reed ([sreed@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:sreed@lambeth.gov.uk)), your ward councillors (go to [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk) for names and email addresses) – and anyone interested in keeping our local library alive.**