

## **Camberwell Quarterly**

**Searching For Summer Fun, Then Look Locally**



London is always buzzing with activities during the summer months and Camberwell has its fair share of things to explore, as *Daisy Packwood* reveals

I'm on the lookout for new ways to spend my time and money and been thrilled to discover that our local venues are also brimming with a diverse range of activities this summer, offering something for everyone.

A personal favourite of mine are the shopping opportunities that can be found along Camberwell High Street. Cast your eyes past the array of chain stores and you will find there is the world of fashion, even if it is second hand.

Charity shops, once disregarded and overlooked, have been through a rebirth in the past few years. They offer unique, individual and one-of-a-kind pieces, alongside the bonus of patting yourself on the back for making the sustainable, slow-fashion choice. No over-consumption here!

Scope, Royal Trinity Hospice, Cancer Research, and the one I've found to be most lucrative, Crisis, all provide a place to source your next most loved, and importantly pre-loved, item. All are within a five-minute walk of each other in the centre of town, so it's oh-so-easy to spend a sunny afternoon meandering as you hunt down a treasure trove of shoes, jewellery, jackets, and accessories.

A longstanding home to creatives, Camberwell also has a myriad of occasions to express your artistic side. Many local galleries offer discounted exhibition entry rates for those aged under thirty and regularly hold skills evenings. Dulwich Gallery, for example, is hosting *Generations of Play* on August 10th, inspired by its current Japanese Printmaking exhibit. South London Gallery also has a myriad of events, such as its *Curators Tour* in August.

Music has also been a longstanding pillar of South London. Local venues like The Ivy House in Nunhead, Market House on Coldharbour Lane, and New Cross Inn just past Burgess Park all hold regular late-night gigs and organised events.

Market House, for example, is having a *That's Drag Bingo Show* throughout August, and Hootenanny Brixton is hosting Madalitso Band from Malawi. Both promise to be fun evenings, with great drinks and an electric atmosphere.

Dash The Henge record store on Camberwell New Road offers frequent free live events throughout the summer. With an ethos committed to supporting a wide range of genres and brands, there truly is something for everyone, and their unique musical tastes are right in the heart of the community.

It's long been said that a healthy life is a happy one, and the next couple of months hold just the opportunity to step into the sun, meet new friends from the local area and gently take care of your body. Brockwell Lido is a firm favourite of mine. Only a fifteen-minute bus ride from Camberwell, the venue offers both general and designated swimming lanes, so you can choose to exercise or just have a languid dip.

With plenty of room to sunbathe and the delightful poolside presence of Four Hundred Rabbits Cafe and Pizza Restaurant, much is to be enjoyed about a weekend visit. You may also want to head to Burgess Park's free open-air gym - an easy way to feel good on these hot summer days.

For foodies among you, the longer summer evenings offer a lovely opportunity to try out a new dinner spot. Camberwell has had some exciting new ventures pop up over the last few years. Little Cellars Bistro at 75 Camberwell Church Street offers a refined cheese, charcuterie, and mains menu paired with some great wines globally, selected by owners and longtime South-East London residents Ben, Luke and Helen.

The Vineyard Greek Taverna on Camberwell Grove is also perfect for those indulging in a staycation. A staple of the area for over fifty years, its homemade Greek Cypriot food will transport you to the Mediterranean. With friendly, efficient service and an extensive menu that caters to both vegan and vegetarian diets, this is a gem of a spot for a wholesome summer evening.

The Golden Goose Theatre is also presenting two plays: *My Plan For Tomorrow*, a hilarious and somewhat uncompromisingly surreal commentary and success written by George Abbott, as well as *Les Primas*, a progressive, comedic take on world-class ballet that combines extraordinary talent with unbridled humour to achieve an unrivalled performance.

So gear up for a summer filled with creativity, culture, food, and fun!

*All details for events listed can be found on our website. To stay in touch with 'What's On' in Camberwell, become a member of the Camberwell Society.*