

STUDENT
RSA **DESIGN**
AWARDS



CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY

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#RSAdesign

WELCOME!

**HOW MIGHT WE REIMAGINE
COMMON SPACES TO BUILD DIVERSE
COMMUNITIES THROUGH FOOD?**



- UK is worse than any other EU country for social isolation and neighbourhood belonging.
- Disconnection in our communities is costing the UK £32bn a year.
- 92% of people think community has a role to play in reducing loneliness.
- 26 million of us want to get to know our neighbours better.
- 60% of people would like to be involved in neighbourhood projects, but only 3% actually are.

The Big Lunch

BUT WHY?

What are the potential drivers of isolation, fragmentation and division?

Systemic causes.

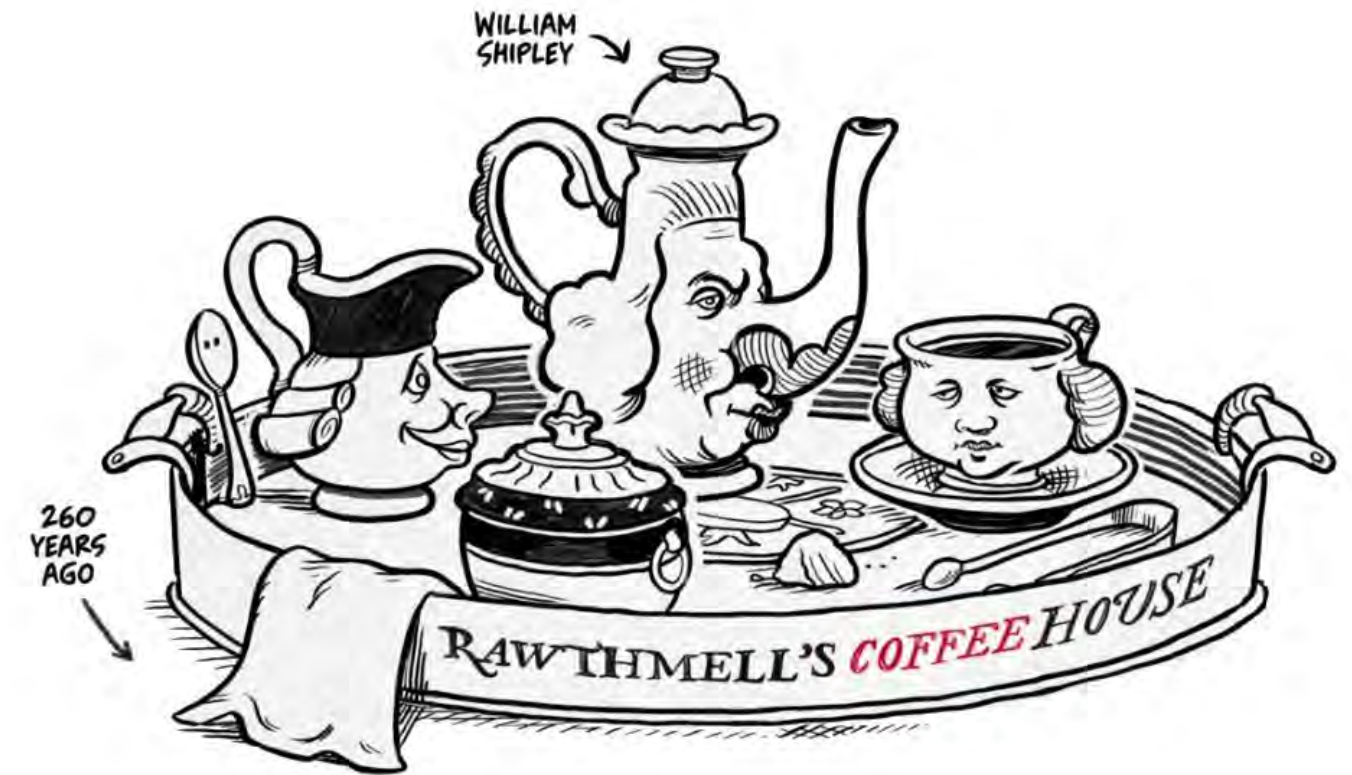
What is happening?
What are events, behaviours or issues that are problematic?

Why?
What is causing this?

Why?
What are underlying structural issues?

Why?
What are our mental models, assumptions, values, beliefs

PLACE



People, encounters and conversations. Community as a space of opportunity. Continuity of place. Meaningful encounters and their enabling ecosystems.

SOCIAL VALUE



Eating, cooking, farming, gardening,
foraging, pickling...

in the company of others triggers
endorphins in our brains, which play a key
role in social bonding.

Create relationships important for physical,
mental health, happiness, wellbeing and
sense of purpose in life

Living with people who differ — racially, ethnically, religiously, or economically — is the most urgent challenge facing civil society today. We tend socially to avoid engaging with people unlike ourselves, and modern politics encourages the politics of the tribe rather than of the city.

Richard Sennett

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL EATING

Nottingham Workshop

by Marsha Smith

Eating on purpose? Social eating as a new form of commensality?

Marsha Smith

@eatingonpurpose



Drawing by Louis Pohl, FoodHall.



Context

- food insecurity
- food wastage
- deconstruction of the family mealtime

Summer dinner at Growing Spaces, Sneinton, Nottingham, 2016

Food insecurity

Reciprocity

Exclusion from
social life

Instrumental
provision of food



Foodbank



Food
wastage

Abundance
coexists with
scarcity

Framing creates
material effects

Destruction
of family
mealtime

Shared mealtime
Commensality as
a social engine

Convenience
foods

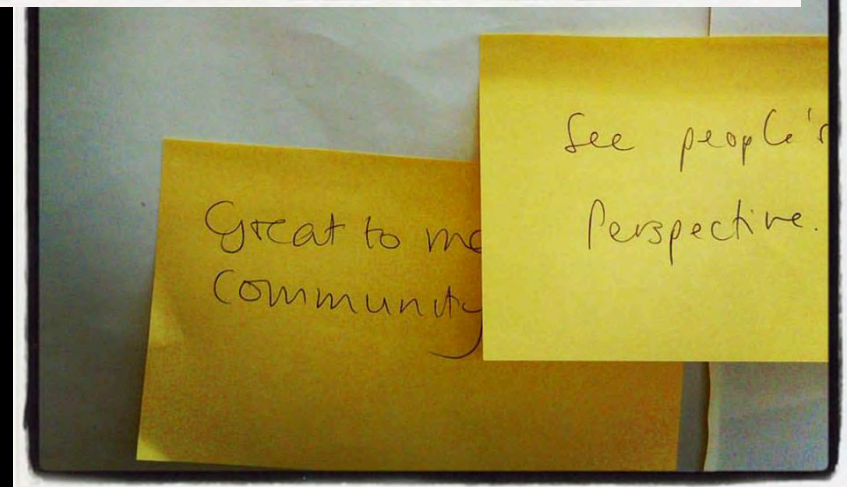
Alternative
reading?



Current definitions of food insecurity and the responses to food insecurity, such as food banks, are positioned around:	Current definitions are expanded by encompassing alternative responses to food insecurity such as social eating, which are positioned around:
Availability- affordability- accessibility- adequacy	Appropriateness
Nutritional value- hunger- sustenance	Wellbeing
Immediate, individual need for food	Ongoing group participation in eating activities
No/limited choice	Choice- exchange-reciprocity
Hunger	Pleasure-socialising
Structurally-determined	Constructed at multiple-levels
Deficit-based approach	Asset-based approach

Social Eating Initiatives

- the public consumption of surplus foods
- new or modified form of group participatory practice
- Homemade meals in public places



FoodHall, Sheffield, 2018

Social Eating Initiatives as a Practice



- temporal, spatial, material, discursive, performative

Practice

Temporal- mealtimes, rhythm, regularity, routine, sequence

Spatial- set-up, location, nearby, walkable, service, interaction, atmosphere

Discursive- family mealtime, homemade, fast food, framing, offer, myths, stories, emotions

Material- surplus foodstuffs, packaging, wastes, equipment





Thank you

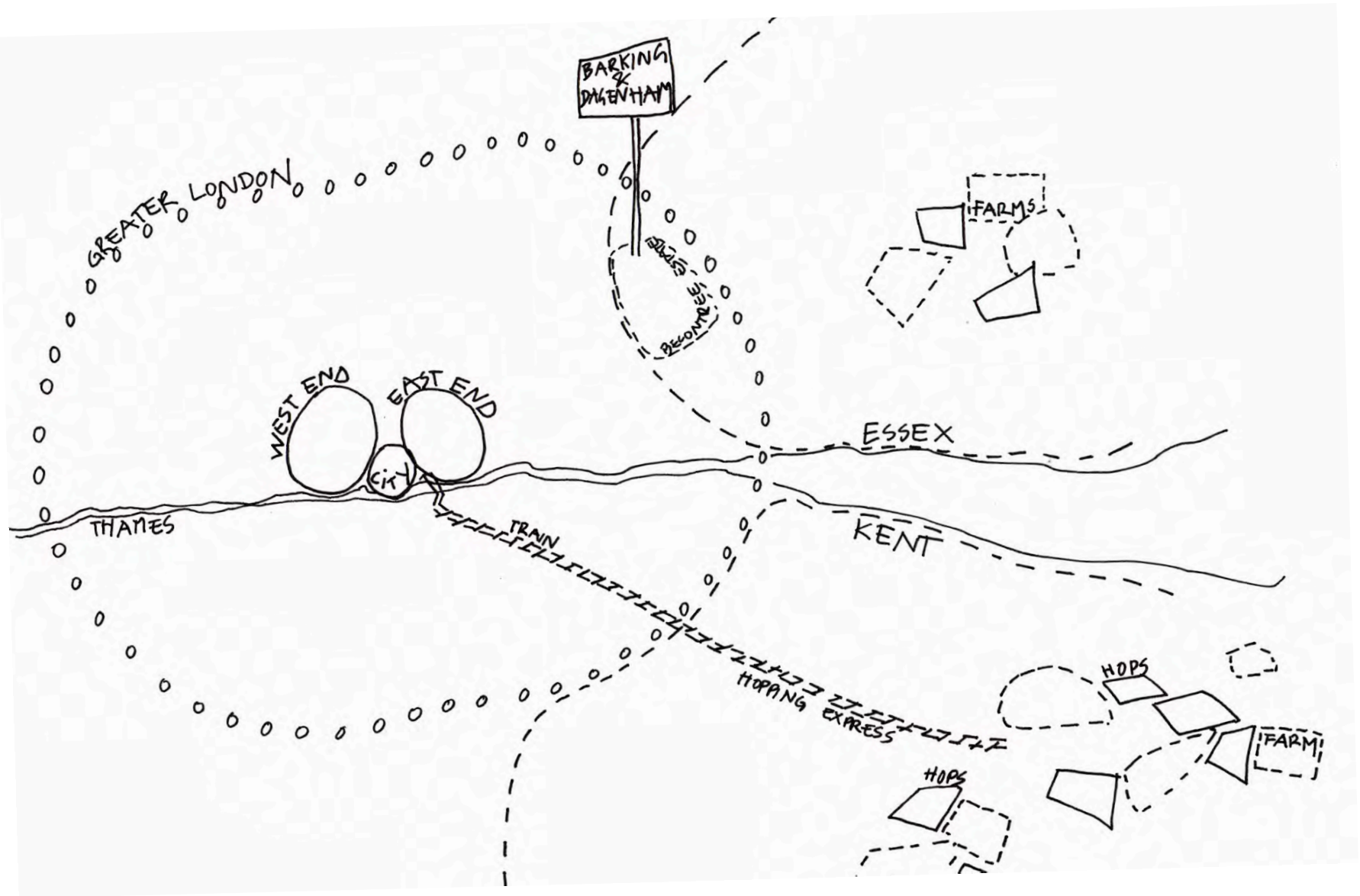
International Food Evening,
Old School Hall, Nottingham,
2012

LATERAL INSPIRATION

London Workshop



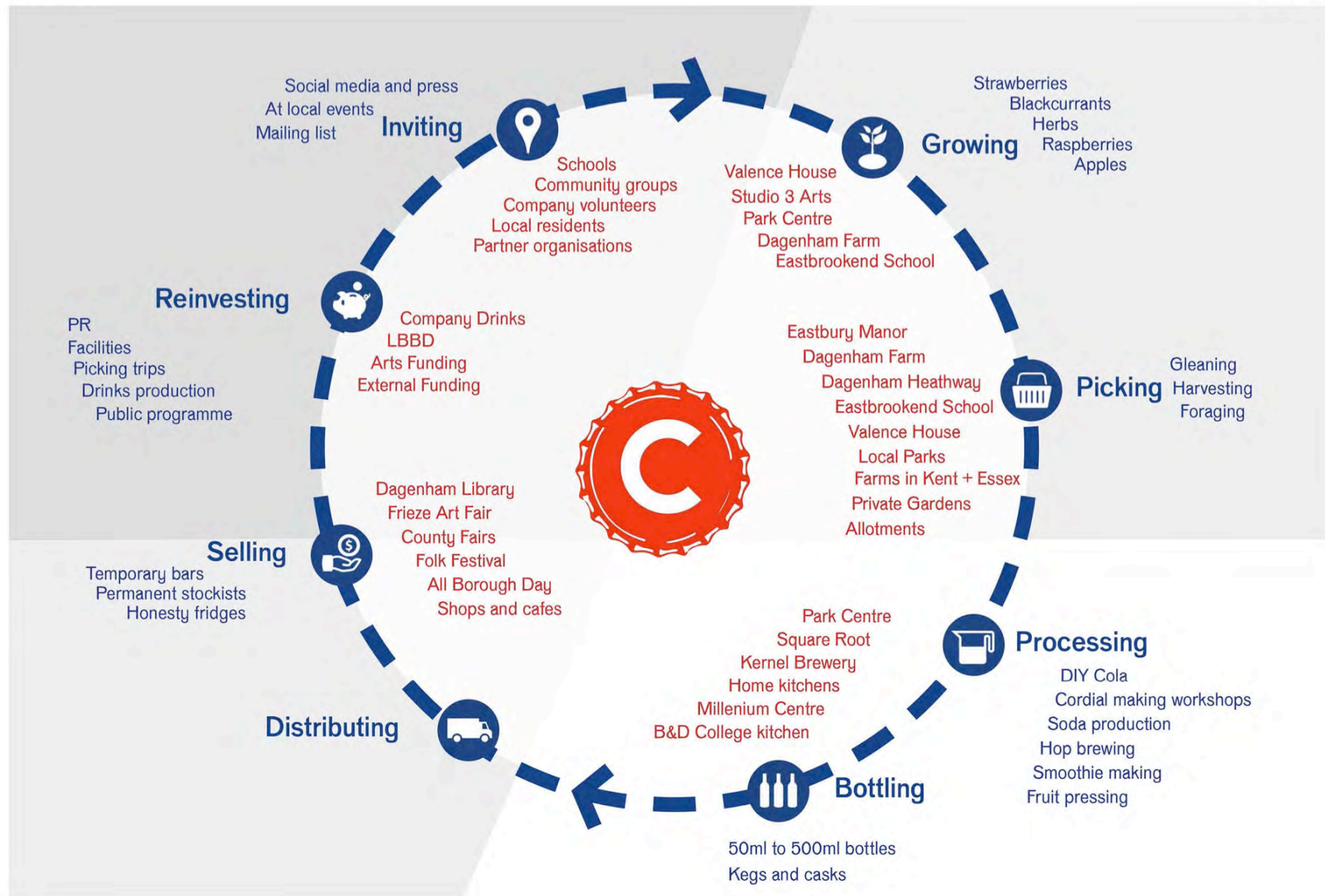
COMPANY DRINKS





Winter

Spring



Autumn

Summer



PICKING



PROCESSING



BOTTLING

There's
nothing
like good



DISTRIBUTING



SELLING



INVITING



DIGESTING POLITICS

THE GRANVILLE









**OUR
MUCH-LOVED
COMMUNITY
CENTRES
ARE UNDER
THREAT!**



**ALREADY, 2400+
NEW HOMES ARE
BEING BUILT IN
SOUTH KILBURN.**

**NOW, BRENT
COUNCIL
WANT TO BUILD
18 MORE HOMES
ON TOP OF OUR
CENTRES!**



Granville Community Kitchen begins

Brent Council votes to tear down Granville and Carlton.

Buildings saved through campaign led GCK and Otherwise Club.

Brent Youth Service retracted and building held open by GCK and OC. GCK feeding 100 meals on Friday night meals and redistributing 100s of kilos of food

SKT moves into building and manage The Granville after £750,000 GLA money spent on turning Main Hall into offices.

Cabinet moves to build housing on top of the Granville and expand offices into Carlton, reducing community space by 72%.

2014



2016



2017



2018



Granville Community Kitchen and Rumi's Cafe come together to defend the buildings.

2019



Why have we made this?

In May 2019, South Kilburn Trust published their impact report entitled "Four Granville", including a timeline called "The Story So Far". In the timeline, it says the "idea for The Granville" was conceptualised in 2011. As many of us who have lived and worked in the area for years know, the Granville has been the heart of the community for much, much longer, since the opening of Granville and Carlton buildings in 1888. The timeline fails to mention that for a long while, the buildings were left in a state of disrepair and decline DUE TO COUNCIL POLICY and in 2014, Brent Council wanted to demolish the buildings for 'redevelopment'. When this happened, it was the community that stood to defend the buildings in a campaign led by the Granville Community Kitchen and the Otherwise Club. Now we are seeing a new threat to the buildings, as Brent Council wishes to develop a further 18 homes on top of the Granville and extend the office space into Carlton. We have made this alternative timeline called "Our Granville" to highlight the real events that have led on to this present day, including the activism of those who fought to defend the buildings when Brent Council did not. Join us in the campaign to protect Granville & Carlton as community centres, for the South Kilburn community. #savegranville #savecq

OUR
GRANVILLE:
THE REAL
TIMELINE



Granville built as Mission Hall to help people of Kilburn by Presbyterian Church

1888

Granville Main Hall & Carlton opens as a school

1910

World War 2 destruction of the area. In 1959, post-WW2 regeneration begins.

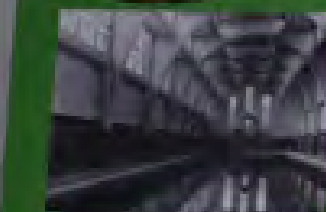
1939-1945

Granville bought by Middlesex County Council for £12,000

1958

OUR GRANVILLE: THE REAL TIMELINE

BROUGHT TO
YOU BY
THE SOUTH
KILBURN
COMMUNITY



Brent Council formed & takes over buildings

1960

Carlton School closes becomes Adult Education Centre

1970

Granville Baths closes

1980

The Otherwise Club moves into Granville and Carlton

1993

Merle's diner closes after 30 years in Granville

2009

South Kilburn Trust established

2013



SQUASH GROWING GREAT FOOD, PEOPLE AND PLACES

More



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

SQUASH LIVERPOOL

GOOD FOOD DOING GOOD

Brigade and Beyond Food Foundation have trained hundreds of apprentices into jobs and given thousands of homeless people new skills. With rough sleeping in London having more than doubled in the last six years, it's an issue of critical importance.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

BRIGADE BAR+KITCHEN





THE BEVY



THE SOAP CO.



PEOPLE'S KITCHEN



77

Brixton Pound

77A

PRO-SEC

Sun

79

BRIXTON POUND CAFE

E5 BAKEHOUSE - THE ROASTHOUSE





WOLVES LANE COMMUNITY FOOD HUB

Home to Edible London & other orgs



Company Drinks



The Granville



Squash Liverpool



Brigade Bar + Kitchen



The Bevy



The Soap Co



People's Kitchen



Brixton Pound Cafe



E5 Bakehouse - The Roasthouse



Wolves Lane Community Food Hub (home to Edible London & other organisations)

LATERAL INSPIRATION

Nottingham Workshop



SECRET KITCHEN





EAT BAKE SING

BULWELL FOREST GARDEN





PULP FRICTION





SYCAMORE DINING

FOOD HALL





FOOD WORKS



THAT BREAD AND BUTTER THING





FOOD CYCLE





SHARING SHERWOOD





Secret Kitchen



Eat Bake Sing



Bulwell Forest Garden



Pulp Friction



Sycamore Dining



Food Hall



Food Works



That Bread and Butter Thing



Food Cycle



Sharing Sherwood

EXAMPLES OF REAL PROBLEMS

As we move more into working with groups with protected characteristics: ie victims of domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health issues - We need **better chain of communication/signposting** for vulnerable volunteers and participants.

How do we design/divide the kitchen if it's going to be used for our own food hygiene certified drinks production space, as well as educational workshops with schools and community groups?

We are finding that people in the borough don't know we're here but we don't have resource for increasing our community outreach in other locations in the borough? What campaign, social media or activities would help improve our reach and welcome families from further locations in the borough?

We are sharing the building for free with more and more community groups, how do we **create and communicate procedures for safety, building maintenance and security** when there's so many people coming and going and so many different activities taking place? Ie. set of guidelines? Instruction manual? Some simple procedures or design interventions for rationalising protocols and sharing of equipment/space?

We eventually want to bring a food and drinks market to the bowls green, what campaign, activities or public programme could we produce to launch this?

To progress with the next phase to improve access to good food in the area we are developing a market, microbakery and CSA scheme. We need to find a building or shop front to develop to meet these needs and a campaign to promote and encourage buy in.

THANK YOU!

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