

The Mixer

The Mixer is new. It is all about working together. It will be put together by a variety of people in as many different styles as they like.

Could you be one of The Mixer's guest editors and work with an editorial team to create an issue? There can be as much, or as little, practical help as you want. The Mixer is for anyone who wants to use the opportunity to create something new, something specifically made as a response to Mixing it up: interview with a neighbour, serious jokes, small fry, local or historical insights, drawing invisible boundaries, re-mapping the hill, all sorts of things.

The Mixer's emphasis will be on interaction and collaboration, helping people to surprise themselves as much as everybody else. It will open windows and doors, which are now closed. It will take their hill to your doorstep and back. There will be space for news about things happening, especially events that encourage everyone to have a go.

There will be an open meeting for anyone who would like to get involved or contribute to the Mixer in any way on Wednesday, 30 November at 7.30 at the Hill Station, Kitto Rd, SE14 5TY. If you would like to guest edit, bring your proposal for format and theme or content and let's see what happens from there.

Have you a story to be told in prose, verse, fiction or reportage? Tell it! Or an image in line, paint, digital or film? Show it! The more voices that are heard and points of view aired, the better. Or send in your contact details and proposal to Susan Edwards at boldvisionmail@googlemail.com.

This sample issue of the Mixer has been put together just to show the kind of thing that might be done. Some ideas have already been thrown into the mix but there are no hard and fast rules. *The Mixer* will appear every three months for the next year and the first issue will come out in February 2012. No experience necessary - all ideas considered.

Who's behind The Mixer

Editor, for Bold Vision - Susan Edwards
Designer - Simon Oliver > www.simonoliver.co.uk
Creative Direction, for Bold Vision - Patricio Forrester

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Issue 1



Illustration: Nick Kobyluch



Behind the wave

From her window on Musgrove Road, Deborah Tatley gazes out on her world with a smile. To locals she's "that lovely woman who waves to passers by." But behind every smile there's a story, and this story is nearly 90 years old.

Born in January 1922 (she'll be 90 on January 27th) Deborah grew up in Suffolk. When war came she worked on a farm looking after animals as a Land Girl. As we talk a stray cat comes into the room – "We've three cats in this house" she laughs, "but we've just seemed to acquire this new stray." The cat arches its back and rubs against the rim of her wheel chair. "During the war we didn't have much, but looking back we were happy. We just got on with it.

It was the real friendliness which kept us going," she says.

Later she worked for the Sun Alliance Insurance company before she and her husband moved to Telegraph Hill to live with her son in 1979. "London was such a great place to retire to," she says. "Free bus passes, so much to do, wonderful people, who could ask for more? I've lived here for 30 years and love it." I thought of Samuel Johnson's famous quote: "When you're tired of London, you're tired of life".

There's a quiet content in Deborah. Though she's confined to her home she has such an active mind. She knows what's happening locally and asks me about what's happening at the New Cross Library. I notice she's been reading the newspaper. "I'm scared that we are going through another turmoil in Europe," she says as we start to talk about the world outside her window. "The behaviour of some these days is so hard to understand. We need to show more kindness, more friendliness, more compassion to each other – especially in these uncertain times."

I leave feeling I've made a new friend. "I'll bring my daughter to meet you next week – she'll love chatting to you," I explain. I want to capture this gracious wisdom, and learn about an age gone by. As I leave I remember the words of another elder, Muhammad Ali "If you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, then you really haven't learned anything."

Words: Stephen Carrick-Davies

Cut The Mixer into a House

idea: Patricio Forrester

Once everyone has finished reading it, why not make the Mixer into a house? Follow the cut line on the other side of the page. Have fun decorating it and bring it back to Hill Station. It will become part of a paper sculpture exhibition by Jascha Lenkiwics. It will also be featured on EastLondonLines.co.uk

The Common Growth Magic Garden

A story with an ever-growing cast...

It's winter now and it's wet and cold in the Common Growth garden. The plants and flowers put on their show all summer, and can sit tight now and wait for spring. And the people who work in the garden have washed the mud off their wellies and are dozing on their sofas while the kettle boils. They are dreaming of something magical....

Richard Bailey and the team who have been tending it since the very beginning, have noticed that the garden is full of characters and would like to hear their story. **WILL YOU TELL US THE STORY?** Write an instalment of the story of the magic garden and send it back to The Mixer. There will be space saved in the February issue for a selection, and Richard and Common Growth team will arrange to have them read, or acted, or even maybe turned into puppet shows at the Garden so everyone - new shoots, saplings, fully bloomed, over-ripe or gone to seed - can help decide where the story is going.

To get you started, here's a beginning.

There's a pond in the garden, and there are shoals of fish. Not in the water. They have flown up and perched in the trees where they can keep a look out for the marauding squirrels from the tree next door. It's a squirrel fortress, twisted and thick with plaited twigs - and the noise! It's party central for squirrels in there. 24/7. Seriously.

So it's up to the fish to keep an eye on the golden apple tree and the sun flowers. After all, the birds enjoy the sunflower seeds as well, guys! And it's the fish - as well as the bees - who notice when the mysterious Mr Mirabilis Jalapa from Peru decides his siesta is over and opens his petals - which is never before 4pm.

That leaves the pond for the frogs, who rub along OK with the newts, and are wondering if it would be worth getting to know the toads in the woodpile under the tree. The water-boatmen scooting all over are too busy to take much notice. The tabby tomcat and his jet black friend are generally too chilled to pay much attention to the squirrels - but now and again the fox gets really quite annoyed with them.

But now someone else is moving in apparently. They're having a house built! A rescue hedgehog? What can that be? Who will he rescue? What will the squirrels make of that? Why are the fish out of water? And who, really, is Mr Mirabilis Jalapa?

SEND YOUR STORY, WHICH CAN BE BY, OR AIMED AT, ANYONE, OF ANY AGE GROUP, TO boldvisionmail@googlemail.com before the end of 2011.

Paper House

— cut
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The Incredible Unextinction Machine

Did you know that more than 70 species of Earth's inhabitants are eradicated from universal existence every day? Blindly destructive industries and mega-corporations are irrecoverably altering the delicate balance of life on our beautiful planet. What the world needs now is creativity, care and energy directed at halting our descent towards barren oblivion. The Unextinction Machine was one fantastical solution on the path to recovery.

This wondrous device, powered by invention, spews out new weird creatures with the power to adapt, evolve and reclaim the world for Nature. This was our inspiration when Megan (11) and I, Brian (48) were given the opportunity to present something "artistic" at The Hill Station back in the Summer of 2011.

We decided to produce a single large artwork that would grow organically as we worked together. Excited at working straight on the wall and at such a big scale, we drew and painted in the evenings for a whole week. It started with the magical machine itself then splurged out as we added dozens of never-before-seen creatures. We each drew several animal half parts, then swapped over and completed each other's work until finally our mural was finished and could be revealed to the public. Inexplicably though, the Hill Station staff reported that new critters kept appearing on the walls for many more weeks.....

We hope the Unextinction Machine may have touched your heart and inspired you to fight for the right of wondrousness to exist and flourish in our world.

Megan and Brian McKenzie

www.bdmckenzie.blogspot.com

