

BTC Voice

NEWSLETTER 9

July 2024



July 27th – AGM and Party!

St Mary Magdalene School,
Howson Rd, Brockley SE4 2AU

2pm AGM

3.30 – 9pm Party



Make sure you get your **FREE** ticket by contacting the office. Your ticket is also a raffle ticket, and we need **more raffle prizes** please!

BTC Voice EVENTS

Coffee afternoons at Lewisham Centre

April 6th and June 8th



Look out for more
dates in the autumn...

Seaside trip



Return coach from Co-op office

Adults £10

Children £3

Please email hello@brockley.coop to
reserve your places

Places allocated on a first-come, first-served basis



Meet **Kate Kasule-Muwanga** a founder member



Back in 1974, Kate found that she was not eligible for council housing in Lewisham borough. Her husband had returned to Uganda because his father was ill, and she needed housing for herself and her children.

In those days, housing associations (and co-ops) could get generous grants towards buying and renovating run-down properties. Kate got together with Richard Bell, a worker at Solon Housing Association, and some other people who could not get housed by the council. They took charge of some properties which Solon had bought but not done up yet, and thus Brockley Tenants Co-op was born.

The properties were managed by BTC once they had been renovated but were still owned by Solon. It was a while before BTC was able to own property in its own right, which is why today many of the properties that we manage belong to Hexagon Housing Association – the successor of Solon.

Kate was permanently allocated to a flat in Halesworth Road in 1975, and has lived there ever since. Currently she is there with her eldest daughter Shona and her two children.

In the 1990s and 2000s Kate was one of the main people growing things in the allotments. She grew a lot of greens, but also artichokes, and rocket was a speciality. Her vine and apple tree are still going strong, and our yellow-flowered perennial rocket might also be a survivor.

We wish Kate many more happy years with the co-op.

Allotment news



More produce from the allotments!

Come along on Wednesdays from 9 to get involved or contact Xim on 07986 355859 for more information.

Minestrone soup!

A recipe from our operations manager, Michaela

I make this to use up ropey looking veg and the ends of pasta packets that aren't enough for one portion.

I always start with chopping an **onion** and cooking in a small amount of oil on a low heat, so it colours slowly, then I add a couple of cloves of crushed **garlic**. Usually, I have **carrots** and **celery** in the fridge so that gets chopped (I like it fairly small so it cooks quicker but if you like a hearty soup then up to you the size of the chunks of veg). You can add literally any vegetable to this soup that you like/have left over, if you are adding **root vegetables** add them at this point if you are adding leeks or any other softer or **leafy veg** add later on after you have put in the stock.



Sweat the vegetables for a few minutes to soften them. Then squeeze into the pan enough **tomato puree** to cover the vegetables and cook for 3 minutes stirring frequently. Then add a can of **precooked beans** of your choice (I like cannellini beans), one can of **chopped tomatoes**, two **bay leaves**, a pinch of **dried herbs** of your choice (I like a bit of basil and oregano) and a load of **black pepper** to taste. Add enough **stock** (usually at least half a litre but depends

on how many veg you started with) to cover all of the veg, beans and tomatoes. If you have a rind left over from parmesan cheese, put this in as well. Cook till the veg is almost soft then add the **pasta**, you can break it up a bit so it's just bits, so it cooks quicker, if I use spaghetti, I usually break it into smaller lengths. Add more stock if it is too thick. Remove the bay leaves and the cheese rind before serving.

This soup is always nicer the next day and freezes very well.



Children's Street Art Competition July 2024

WIN £20 LOVE2SHOP VOUCHERS!

Do you know where the street art pictured above is located? What does the mural show, and what does it celebrate?

Competition rules:

- One prize per household
- 'Child' means a person aged between 8 and 15 inclusive
- Open to all children who have a parent or guardian who is a member of BTC
- All entrants must supply a name, address and email address
- BTC Voice decisions are final
- Deadline for entries July 31st 2024