

Review of EDO Events – January to December 2009

** JANUARY **



190 delegates turned out despite the wintry weather for the evening at the Putney Star and Garter. The agenda had been designed to help businesses source additional finance and improve their operational approach during the recession.

One of the speakers, Patrick Rea, commented:

"Well organised, an excellent attendance".

A series of *Beat the Crunch* events kicked off. The first in the series of seminars took place in Putney and was very well received.

".. Thanks for the event last night... very useful and particularly liked the two speakers... I will be using some of their tips straight away".

Carolyn White of Cakes 4 Fun.

** FEBRUARY **



The *CATS networking event* and seminar on intellectual property was held at Hatfields, Waterloo. CATS was the Cluster Action Team for back office services in Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth. The event was very well attended despite being rearranged after heavy snowfall on the planned date. A Wandsworth Business Director commented:

"Excellent event, Thank you!"

Fabio Roberti, Firstscale Ltd.

Also in February: A joint Roehampton Forum event with the Chamber of Commerce and Regenerate took place at Roehampton University.

** MARCH **



The events calendar began to fill up with a variety of useful business advice and popular community events, all benefiting our town centres and helping boost commerce - the famous *Putney Boat Race and Music Festival*, for example. A very popular *Nine Elms Inward Investment event* was held at Battersea Power Station (shown above).

"Congratulations on last night's Nine Elms stylish event... The Council flourishes on the back of these well run functions".

Sue Roscoe-Watts, Chair of Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership.



MORE COMPLIMENTS on the *Nine Elms Inward Investment Event*:
"Well done to you and your team for organising an excellent event last night".

Councillor Nick Cuff

".. Very good event last night – puts Wandsworth on the map for London".

Con O'Brian, South London Business

Congratulations on running such a successful event... I have been to many business gatherings in Europe and the UK but the food and ambience on Monday are the best I have ever experienced."

Peter Christian, Kingston University

"Monday's investment launch was a great success and I have had so many plaudits about it... It is very much appreciated by us all."

Councillor Edward Lister,
Leader of the Council

** APRIL **



The *Balham French Market* returned to Hildreth Street.



Wandsworth Town Centre, Battersea and Clapham Junction businesses attended *Credit Crunch events*, organised as part of council-wide recession fighting measures. A business advice seminar was held to give advice and feedback to businesses in West Putney.

Councillor Liz Stokes commented:

"Thank you very much for organising such a successful meeting last week. The agenda was excellent..."

** MAY **

A *London 2012 Opportunities event* in the Civic Suite, co-hosted with the London Business Network (LBN). Mike Mulvey (the LBN's CEO) said at the end that it was:

"..a real pleasure working with a local authority that was proactive in helping to arrange these events...impressed by all the staff that got involved."

Jason Choy encouraged businesses to sign up for the CompeteFor website that advertises contracting opportunities in London. He described the evening as the best local authority event he had ever attended.

Putney businesses tried out speed networking. Leonard Ellis (psgconsult.co.uk) commented:
"Thanks for arranging the networking evening... it was a really good event and I'm looking forward to future ones.."

Also in May: Advice was given to Tooting's businesses on *Beating the Crunch* at Jasmin's on Upper Tooting Road.

**** JUNE ****

There were non-stop activities around the borough from Week 1 with *National Volunteer Week* and the *Wandle Valley Festival*. Week 2 focused on business support. A final CATs event was held to promote Business to Business networking and the Go Green Plus programme. The *Putney Town Centre Business Seminar* provided advice on lease renewals/insolvency trading and employment/staff reduction law. The *Wandsworth Business Forum* took over the Globe Theatre in Balham. Week 2 culminated with the *Tooting and Balham Community Association Fun Day*, and the *Lavender Hill Festival*. Sean Creighton led the *first Battersea heritage walk* from Battersea Arts Centre.



During Week 3 a *Beat the Crunch seminar* was held in Wandsworth Town Centre. Much fun was had at the *Tooting Mela*. Of the *Northcote Road Summer Festival* Lynda Dawson, Co-Chair of Northcote SNT said: ***"We felt it had been a huge success and a great deal of enthusiasm was expressed by everyone who had attended"***. Week 4 saw another inaugural extravaganza, a free open air opera concert at Battersea Reach.



Councillor James Cousins commented: ***"I had a thoroughly enjoyable time. It was a well-organised and incredibly well attended event."*** Sue Roscoe-Watts, Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership, said this event was: ***".. Outstanding by any standard..."***

A Southfields Junior Football Tournament was held in King George's Park.

**** JULY ****

An Inward Investment Event for Wandsworth Town was held at the NLA, Store St. WC1. One business commented:

".. thanks for your hospitality yesterday evening.. I did find the whole event quite energising". Stuart Forbes, Stuart Forbes Associates.

In Balham Town Centre a business evening helped entrepreneurs to *"Refocus Your Business"*, followed by networking.

**** AUGUST ****



It was food Month in Balham with Time & Leisure Magazine and the Town Centre Partnership. The first ever *Music Festival and Street Festival* in Balham was greeted with much enthusiasm. Roehampton *"Lets the Music Speak"* too with support from Regenerate.

**** SEPTEMBER ****



St John's Hill business community hosted the last street festival of the season, complete with donkey rides and goldfish racing. Crowds filled the the Old York Road for a *Community Fun Day*.



A month of literati, glitterati and poetry, with the *SW11 Literary Festival* – 21 events in total. The picture below shows Val Evans of Leisure & Amenities with Alan Davis at Battersea Arts Centre.



Tooting town centre celebrated *Peace Week* and held a *Tooting Foodival* (organised by Transition Town Tooting) where local restaurants cooked up food grown by local people.



The *Putney Retail Seminar* for shops/businesses included upselling, cross-selling, and sources of commercial finance. Our Civic Suite and Voluntary Sector Team welcomed many of Wandsworth's Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to a *Surviving Recession Conference*.



Judith Roscoe (who has now left the EDO) congratulated the Voluntary Sector Service Development Officer on the achievement: ***"this was a very professional event and better than many mounted by professional national bodies. The speakers were all very good, the programme fitted together excellently"***

Judith is now helping to promote Garrett Business Park.

OCTOBER

From Day 1 the EDO's schedule was full: beginning with the *Moving on in Business* event at Battersea Power Station (a credit crunch update and business to business networking opportunity) at the View (see below).



Black History Month was celebrated throughout the borough. Tooting town centre also celebrated *Poetry Day* and the Town Centre Partnership met and helped promote *National Dine Week* with participating local restaurants. A new French market visited Church Square in Putney for the first time.

NOVEMBER

Global Enterprise Week 2009 took place (16th – 20th November) and a variety of events were organised including some at Roehampton University and at South Thames College. Creativity and Young Enterprise were particularly well promoted in Wandsworth this year.

The final *Business Forum* of the calendar year saw a full house packed into the Palais, when over 300 guests enjoyed networking, presentations and a special creative industries "Pecha Kucha" panel, including representatives from Design London (see picture below), Tara Arts, Galloway Create and the Battersea Arts Centre.



Rose Viggiani, London Excellence, said of the event, *"I was very impressed by the turnout and the speakers – and the admin was brilliant..."*

".. Well done and thank you for a well organised and highly enjoyable event last night. The quality of your events in my opinion shines above many others I have been too".

John Graham FCSD, Ad Creative Consultants.

And one member of the forum's facebook group, Valentin Petrov emailed us to say: *".. the organisation was great. I've met interesting people.. I think the whole experience was beneficial and I am looking forward to the next event."*



The *Roehampton Enterprise Awards 2009* (picture above) congratulated the business community on their winning endeavours.



Balham's Christmas tree and festive lights started sparkling to musical accompaniment.

In Clapham Junction, best selling author Isabel Losada and Shopstop manager Scott Thaytes shared the honour of lighting up St Johns Hill, St Johns Road and Lavender Hill.

Putney Town Centre also hosted a Christmas market with special guests Ade Adepitan (MBE) and Santa.



DECEMBER



Carol singing and the lighting of Christmas trees in: Battersea Square, Tooting and Wandsworth Town – where crowds gathered at All Saints Church for a short service.

Battersea Square resounded with music and carols from Thomas' School Choir. Local residents were invited to get together on the square and enjoyed free refreshments provided by the local businesses. St. John's Hill businesses began their Christmas promotions and offered youngsters (and the young at heart) a chance to meet Father Christmas at Santa's grotto.

Also in December: A webinar for Balham businesses, followed by some last minute treats at the Italian market. A French market full of festive delicacies for Putney's Church Square. The Knowing Roehampton Reception promotes a collection of projects and ideas to encourage greater public activity and participation - resulting from the partnership between the Roehampton community and the University.

2010

Wandsworth Business Forum

Date: 25th January 2010

Location: Chez Manny, 145-149 Battersea High Street, SW11 3JS

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

(refreshments served from 7:30 am)

This Business Forum will bring together our business community from in and around the Battersea area. More information and agenda (when available) from:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/business

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

From the Economic Development Office