



BlueBermondsey

Business Improvement District

WELCOME TO YOUR WINTER NEWSLETTER

Over the last year the Blue Bermondsey BID has continued building partnerships with strategic organisations across Southwark. Together, we're building better relationships that will help to tackle local economic problems and make the area a much better, safer and more prosperous place – for you and your business. We have helped to establish a brand-new training hub that will support local people to find work. Your levy contribution has made it possible to clean the high street and kick-start plans to improve the Blue market, as well as delivering many more services to you.

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR RECYCLING

Blue Bermondsey Business Improvement District has partnered with First Mile to provide members with a free recycling service. Sign up now to start saving!

-  Free cardboard recycling.
-  Subsidised mixed recycling, food recycling and general waste services.
-  Free reporting and compliance documentation.
-  Collections Monday to Friday.

To start your collections please get in touch with the customer team at First Mile.

Contact First Mile on 0800 612 9894 and quote your BID reference number to start saving money.

MAKING THE BLUE BERMONDSEY A SAFER PLACE

Business Against Crime Partnership

Twenty businesses have been equipped with a town-link digital radio and intranet system, allowing information to be shared with our local Police and Southwark Council CCTV networks, to help tackle anti-social behaviour and combat criminal activity in our area. The Blue Bermondsey also has a dedicated manager and crime reduction officer, who can be contacted for advice and support.



Crime prevention drop-in sessions

Blue Bermondsey BID teamed up with Southwark Safe, the London Digital Security Centre, and the local Policing team to run a 'Crime Prevention Drop-in' at the Biscuit Factory in October. The event gave businesses the opportunity to discuss safety and security issues on a one-to-one basis. The input will be used to formulate a strategy to deal with the concerns raised. We aim to hold more sessions in 2018 with additional events for high street businesses.



TheBlueBermondsey



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A NEW TRAINING AND ADVICE HUB IN THE BLUE

Blue Bermondsey BID, working in partnership with South Bermondsey Big Local and supported by United St Saviour's charity, have helped to establish a new community initiative in the market place.



The newly opened Big Local Works Training and Enterprise hub offers free training courses and advice for entrepreneurs, start ups and small businesses.

Big Local Works is also available as a meeting space for local community groups and businesses as well as hosting a job club to help get local people into employment.

It's a brilliant initiative that will increase skills and knowledge in the local workforce and help with local business recruitment. When you have a chance, pop down to take a look at what's on offer and find out more.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Representing businesses at The Southwark Business Forum

From Brexit to business rates rises and increasing local employment opportunities – we're working with business leaders, Southwark Council and strategic agencies, to identify the many economic challenges in the borough. The forum aims to support stronger, more coordinated relationships between all Southwark businesses, so we can share

knowledge and resources to respond effectively to the many new challenges ahead for our businesses.

We've joined the Southwark BID Forum

As one of the five BIDs in Southwark, we meet regularly to discuss the projects, problems and successes in each area. It's a great opportunity for us to learn from the longer established BIDs, and pick up tips on successful strategy building and the sorts of goals we can achieve for our area.

MAKING THE BLUE CLEAN AND GREEN

The look and feel of our area is crucial to visitor perceptions and the well-being of all who live, work and do business here.

One of our main goals is to improve the high street and Blue market place – so 2018 will see the start of our 'Clean and Green' campaign, to help keep the Blue neat and tidy.

Earlier this year, we ran a workshop with local environmental group Friche to explore ideas for planting trees, flowers, and greenery to improve our local environment, making it a nicer place to shop and spend time.



Street cleaning

This summer the BID organised for the pavements to be deep cleaned along the high street and there's no doubt that the area is looking a lot better and fresher for it.

LOCAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

Made in Bermondsey



Come and take a visual tour through Bermondsey's industrial heritage. With funding from Southwark Council we worked with local historians to create 'Made In Bermondsey' in the car park behind the market. We've given run-down garage shutters a new lease of life, transforming them into inspiring and informative works of art.

New look for the Bermondsey Lion

The iconic Bermondsey Lion was looking a bit tired due to the wind, rain and local pigeons! The Blue Bermondsey BID secured a grant from Southwark Council CGS fund to bring back original sculptor, Kevin Boys, to lovingly restore our lion to his former greatness with a lovely new paint job. The renovation of the plinth will follow in the new year.

Kevin Boys gets to work



HOW YOU CAN USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

Workshop and training for retailers

In September we hosted a workshop to help high street retailers set up their own social media accounts. Social-savvy business owners shared the benefits of using social media to promote their businesses for free, while the Blue Bermondsey BID media team were on hand to offer support.

Promote your business

Facebook, Twitter and more recently Instagram are the key social media platforms to promote your business to thousands of new customers – and they are FREE.

To find out how social media can help your business and get free help to set up your own accounts please email: media@bluebermondsey.co.uk

ANOTHER REASON TO START CYCLING

Free bicycle maintenance courses

Cycling has become the preferred way to travel on today's congested roads. We've teamed up with Cycling UK, a local business based on Almond Road, to offer BID members a free course that teaches you the essential checks and skills you need to keep your bike road-safe.

To sign-up, visit:

www.cycletraining.co.uk/maintenance

Select 'Blue Bermondsey BID' from the dropdown menu and enter your BID reference number.

THE BLUE MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The Blue Bermondsey BID has been awarded funding from Southwark Council's 'High Street Challenge' to create a long term strategic plan for the market's future.



Our aims will include transforming the look and feel of the market place and encouraging more stalls to trade on the market to offer a wider variety to attract more visitors.

We kicked off the venture in October with a new social enterprise stall, which offers budding entrepreneurs a stand each to pitch up and try out their business ideas.

The stall will give them the opportunity to grow their business and eventually graduate to running their own stall.

BERMONDSEY FOLK FESTIVAL 2017



Bermondsey born comedian Arthur Smith took folk fans on a guided musical stroll around the pubs, followed by a line-up of great acts in the market place, headlined by folk legend Martin Simpson. Hundreds of new visitors got to discover the area and enjoy some amazing performances.

BLUE CHRISTMAS 2017

Our annual Christmas event is firmly established as a major attraction in the local community.

Now in it's fourth year the event brought well over 1000 visitors to the market square to enjoy a day of festive fun. The ice-rink, rodeo reindeer, santa's grotto, face painting, arts, crafts and food stalls, irish dancing, live music, choir, donkey rides, elves workshop, storytelling and lots more, ensured a memorable day was had by everyone.



FIND OUT MORE

To stay up to date with Blue Bermondsey BID projects and activities, visit our website:

www.bluebermondsey.co.uk

If you want to get involved with any of our projects or initiatives, please email: info@bluebermondsey.co.uk