

Southwark Cyclists Healthy Rides - 7 Murals & A Windmill - Harry Clark

24/6/17.



1

The mural's beginning had come about in the late 1970s, when Dale McCrea met Brian Barnes who was then working on the Seaside Mural in Thessaly road, Wandsworth. On completion of this mural, Dale suggested that Brian paint a mural on the side of the place he lived, a late Victorian building called Carlton Mansions.

In 1981, "Nuclear Dawn" was painted by Brian Barnes with the help of a rickety cradle, some household paints, Dale McCrea and 20 residents of the building. The 25 square metre mural depicts a large skeletal figure standing astride the city of London as a nuclear bomb goes off behind. Below him safely sheltered in bunkers below the Houses of Parliament sit the Government including leaders of the political parties of the time, the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and Prince Charles. The skeletal figure is swathed in flags from countries with nuclear weapons; bombs fall out of his hand with one hovering just above Brixton. To the left, a dove flies up and becomes the CND symbol. Behind him the double mushroom cloud shows a map of the world in the main cloud and images of screaming faces in the lower cloud. In the cityscape, Brixton landmarks can be picked out including a mini version of the mural. [Location](#) - Junction of somerleyton Road and Coldharbour Lane.



2

The mural was painted throughout April 2013 by Camila with the help of volunteers. In order to give youngsters, the chance to participate in the painting of the mural the parts closer to the ground were designed to be more detailed. Over four weeks 200 people painted the mural in 336 hours, using fifty paint brushes. The mural was unveiled on the **6 May 2013** as part of the windmill's annual Mayday festival. [Location](#) - Brixton Windmill.



3

Located just off Brixton Hill is the Brixton Windmill. Built in 1816, it has stood the test of time as the local area went from quiet countryside to a suburb of the city to an urban sprawl. In 1983, to brighten up a small part of the Blenheim Gardens Estate and to mark the important history of the windmill within the local community, it was decided to paint a mural. [Location](#) - Junction of Lyham Road & Ramillies Close.



4

Designed by Christine Thomas it tells the story of the hidden River Effra and the work of the women at the Lambeth Doulton factory in Vauxhall. Completed in **December 1985** and opened by the mayor of Lambeth. [Location](#) - Junction of Strahlevan Road & Glenelg Road.



5

The mural incorporated images of the now lost Empress Theatre, the green dome of the McDonalds on Brixton Road and the abstract patterns of the local church. There is play on the names as the bell represents Bellefields road and the gate, Gately Road. There a pile of bricks symbolising Brixton; this is similar to the design on the Victoria Line at Brixton underground station. The mural was opened on **20th May 1987**. [Location](#) - corner of Bellefields Road and Stockwell AVE



6

Having successfully worked with local residents of Bellefields Road in 1987 to create one mural, the London Wall Mural Group were asked back to do a second piece. This was to be located on another gable end close to the first mural.

Residents of the area were consulted about the content for this piece. It was agreed that the colour scheme should match the first mural. This time the scene created was that of an abstract beach. In the top three quarters, there is a partially sandy and partially rocky beach, then white foam which meets the blue sea. Off the shore to the right, is a small rocky island. Past that is a blue sky with abstract sunset and pink rays. In the foreground on top of a rock, stands a winged dog. [Location](#) - corner of Bellefields Road and Stockwell Road.



7

The story of the '**Children At Play**' mural starts in 1981 when the artist Stephen Pusey was approached by Lambeth council to paint a mural. As the site had not been decided, the artist and a local Lambeth officer went to look for a wall; the artist spotted what was then the wall of the fly-tower for the empty Astoria cinema (now known as the Brixton Academy or O2). Funding was raised and discussions were had with the local residents, who lived on the neighbouring Stockwell Park Estate, about what would be painted on the wall as many of them would be looking onto the finished art work. **The mural was finished in November 1982**. [Location](#) - Rear of Brixton O2 – Stockwell Park Walk.

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