NYU London Residential Life presents:
The Neighbourhood Connection
Series—Spring 2015
Staff at NYU London are constantly exploring ways to immerse our students in to British culture. While our location here in Bloomsbury is a fantastic one and a great place for students to start their explorations, we always encourage them to go further, learn and experience more. Students have also frequently expressed a desire to explore the “real London”. With this in mind, the Neighbourhood Connection series was born!

Our fantastic group of RAs organise weekly trips to various neighbourhoods and boroughs in London, offering a guided and supported way for students to explore diverse areas of London further afield than Bloomsbury. These trips have been a massive success!

**Brixton**

RA Terri led a group of students to Brixton. She was interested in the area because of its vibrancy and multiculturalism. Students were intrigued to learn about how much the area and the perception of the area has changed over time. They enjoyed exploring all that the markets had to offer.

**Neasden**

RA Christina led a group of students to visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden. The temple is an important part of the community in this area of London as there is a large Asian community there. Although the temple is a Hindu one, it is welcoming of all faiths and spoke to Christina’s interest in mindfulness. Students that attended were able to tour the temple, attend the Arti ceremony and enjoy an Indian meal at the
Hackney

RA Victoria led a group to Hackney; a diverse part of London, where more than 100 languages are spoken. Famed for its street art, she was excited to show students this vibrant area of London. Another area that has had much change over the years, both tangibly and in people’s perception, students enjoyed exploring. They were also able to visit the well-known Brick Lane Beigel Bake to sample their infamous salt beef bagel. Then round out the day with a trip to a lovely non-profit café.

Richmond

RA Rebecca led a group of students the borough of Richmond to explore Richmond Park. One of the many green spaces in London, Richmond Park is best known for having wildlife, including deer, roaming free in the park. This was one of the things that attracted Rebecca to pick this location. It is an eclectic mix of wildlife and wilderness and also developed land inhabited by people. Furthermore, it related to her interests and field of study, as two movies have been filmed on in this park. The group explored the park and had lunch at the Pembroke Lodge
Haggerston

RA Tanushree took students to experience the eclectic neighbourhood that is Haggerston. They visited Broadway Market as it began to wind down for the day, then walked along Regent’s Canal to Hawker House, which is home to the “nomadic street food circus” that is Street Feast, only occurring for 10 weekends. Tanushree told us that “the walk along Regents Canal was probably the most delightful thing I have experienced in London”.

Tower Hamlets

RA Terri led a trip to the borough of Tower Hamlets; a diverse borough that is home to both the financial district and one of the most diverse populations in London. Terri was drawn to the borough by Canary Wharf but planned an event that encompassed the diversity of the borough. Students walked through Canary Wharf, visited the Museum of London Docklands, and enjoyed a meal at a Bangladeshi restaurant; a culture which is quite prevalent in the borough.

Greenwich

RA Michael led a trip to Greenwich. The group took a boat along the River Thames from Embankment to Greenwich pier. Students then were able to have a quintessentially British experience; pie and mash at Goddards restaurant. They then took a walk up the hill to the Royal Observatory, where they had great views and stepped on the prime meridian. They moved on to the Queen’s House and afterwards shopped in Greenwich market.
Notting Hill
RA Tanushree took students to the infamous Notting Hill. Well known because of the film that was set here, students were able to explore the off-screen Notting Hill known and loved by Londoners. The group shopped in Portobello Market, famous for its antiques, and had a lovely brunch in a café which paid homage to Princess Diana. By luck, this was also the day that the new royal baby was born so the group moved on to participate in some of the festivities.

Dulwich
RA Michael took a group of students to Dulwich. The group were able to attend the Dulwich festival fair. This fair is put on by local residents showcasing the work and talent of those who call this neighbourhood home. The group also enjoyed a meal together.

Over the course of the semester, we covered a huge swathe of London as you can see in the map opposite!

But there's plenty more to explore, and we'll be doing so in future semesters as part of the NYU London Neighbourhood Connection series!