



## WORKS

after the subsequent riots; Miners Strike solidarity; Pink Brick with its strap line, “lesbian and gay class war”; the Fare-Dodgers Liberation Front (FDLF); animal rights activists and the fearsome Brixton Hunt Saboteurs; anarcha-feminist magazines Shocking Pink then Bad Attitude; AnarQuist, an anarcho-queer group; and the first-ever Queeruptation gathering.

In terms of Olive’s legacy, we can see a clear continuation of some of the things she did in the space. During the 1980s and 1990s, the Brixton Squatters Aid group loaned tools and a helping hand, and published a newsletter called Crowbar. There are still examples of squatters organising mutual aid and help for new squatters, for example, the fortnightly Practical Squatting nights that still happen in South London. The printing continued too: there was a big printing press and some smaller stencil printers upstairs, with a huge amount of radical propaganda produced in the building.

The 121 address was well-known around the world and was often the first place punks and other radicals would head to when they arrived in London. As well as a bookshop, an office space and mostly punk benefit gigs and industrial noise nights Dead by Dawn, 121 volunteers ran a cheap vegan café sometimes up to six nights a week. When we say “cheap”, we’re talking 50p per meal, although this went up to £1 in the last year or so to enable us to bulk-buy more organic stuff, which made it a popular choice for local squatters and contributed to the close-knit community that formed around 121. Despite so many years of occupation, Lambeth Council obtained a possession order for the building in 1999. You may have heard of a law called “adverse possession”: if you manage to keep a squat for twelve continuous years and, during that entire time, the owner fails to “assert their title” and you also fail to recognise anyone else as having title, you get to keep it. In the final court case about 121, the council produced a dodgy copy of a fax at the last minute, which reduced our continuous period to just eleven years, eleven months and two weeks! There have been a few examples of squatters gaining adverse possession, especially around Brixton, but this was not destined to be one of them.

