



Burning the Clocks 21 December Brighton Beach at Madeira Drive

On 21st December, the shortest day of the year, Same Sky-Brighton's community art charity- produces a much-loved free event called Burning the Clocks. Local people make their own paper and willow lanterns to be carried through the city in a lantern parade then pass them into the fire on Brighton Beach as a token of the end of the year.

Same Sky states that the event is "an antidote to the excesses of the commercial Christmas... The lantern makers become part of the show, as they invest the lanterns with their wishes, hopes, and fears into a secular format that can be enjoyed by all regardless of faith or creed, and then pass them into the fire. No lantern is better for its purpose than any other, all are unique to the maker and precious but all are given up to be burnt to

greet the lengthening days..."

Around 2000 participants meet at the Brighton Dome Corn Exchange on Church Street at 5pm where their lanterns will be safety-checked by officials. The lit lantern parade starts at 6pm and progresses down New Road at Madeira Drive. At around 7:15, the final parade group reaches the beach and is greeted by drumming. The participants then add their lanterns to the beach bonfire creating a sizzling spectacle reminiscent of the Burning Man fiesta in Nevada. As the drumming builds to a crescendo, larger lanterns explode, and fireworks are launched at around 8pm. The best viewing points are from on the high ground of Madeira Drive, behind safety barriers.

Follow the Drinkin' Gourd

According to legend, a heavily pregnant Mary and her husband Josef, used a bright star, the Star of Bethlehem, to guide them through the desert to the warmth and safety of the manger where Jesus was born. According to science, that guiding light was Polaris or the "North Star", which is famed for guiding African slaves seeking freedom in northern states of the US. Whilst researching this mysterious and inspiring celestial body, (which is actually 3 stars, not one) LSI science columnist Mehmet Ali stumbled upon the folk song *Follow the Drinkin' Gourd* based on the African myth that all slaves had to do was look for the drinking gourd (or the Big Dipper constellation which rotates around the North Star) and follow it north to freedom.

*When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is waiting for to carry you to freedom,
If you follow the Drinking Gourd.*

*The river bank makes a very good road,
The dead trees show you the way,
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on
Follow the Drinking Gourd.*

*The river ends between two hills,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
There's another river on the other side,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
Where the great big river meets the little river,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is awaiting to carry you to freedom if you
follow the Drinking Gourd.*



Brighton's *Burning the Clocks*, the annual lantern parade and fire show held on the shortest day of the year, 21st December



Mary, Josef and the Star of Bethlehem



LSI Spotlight: Dan Sherrington



For those seeking reassurance that all of your papers are in order, Dan Sherrington is your first point of contact. Much more than a luxurious head of hair and a set of broad shoulder to cry on, he is an integral part keeping the LSI Brighton "family" happy and healthy (and he can blow a mean saxophone!)

Momo, LSI Living : Hey Dan, first of all, tell us your background and how long you have been working at LSI...

Dan, Administrative Manager : Hi! Well, I have been working for LSI since 2006, and was Registrar and Accommodation officer until 2009, when I was promoted to Administrative Manager. Before that, I worked as a Teacher and Student Welfare Officer for 3 years. I first came to Brighton to study at Sussex University in 1999 and have lived here ever since. I also play saxophone in my spare time, and like to travel a lot.

Momo : When was LSI established ? How many students are enrolled each year?

Dan : This has been a language school for a very long time – since 1965! In 1979, the company changed its name to LSI. There are 25 different LSIs around the world now, but Brighton was one of the first. Language schools are big business in Brighton, and we get more than 600 students every year.

Momo : In regards to teachers, origins of students, and atmosphere, what changes have you noticed over the years?

Dan : We are very lucky at LSI that we keep many of the same teachers year after year, so there are many of the same faces working here. Students have changed though. We used to get many more students from Europe, but they are much fewer these days. In recent years, we have been getting many more students from South America and the Arabic countries, especially Libya.

Momo : There are only two weeks left before the end of 2014. What changes are in store for at LSI in 2015?

Dan : The big changes for LSI from 2014 into 2015 will be in technology. We have a fantastic new online system that allows teachers and students at all LSIs around the world to access some fantastic study materials, and share information outside of class. This is going to be used a lot in 2015, and students will see this in classroom and will even be able to take classes online from their home country.

Momo : According to the student satisfaction questionnaire , LSI Brighton has a 98% satisfaction rate. How do you explain this success?

Dan : That's true – most of our students are very happy! There are lots of reasons, but I think one of the most important is our friendly atmosphere. We are a small school, and so we have time to get to know our students, and make them feel that they are part of a family here, not just another number.

Momo : Finally, there are many school of English in Brighton, what makes this school attractive ?

Dan : Again, I think its our friendly atmosphere and personal touch. We also have some very well experienced and qualified teachers who are enthusiastic about their jobs.

There are many ways you can spread good cheer during the holidays. Here are some ideas for 12 days of Christmas time good will to all men and women:

Here are some ideas:

1st Day – Donate toys to children in need.

2nd Day – Visit the sick or elderly.

3rd Day – Donate to animal shelters, pets without homes need love too during Christmas

4th Day – Drop off old clothing, food or blankets to homeless shelters in your area

5th Day – Donate to your favorite charity online.

6th Day – Check out Kiva.org and loan to someone.

7th Day – Bake something and give it to someone who needs it

8th Day – Call a distant friend or relative that you don't see often or that you will not see during the holidays.

9th Day – Have a holiday block party with neighbors

10th Day - Perform as many random acts of kindness as you can to strangers.

11th Day – Donate food to a food bank.

12th Day – Send a christmas card to a soldier overseas.

Christmas Fun at LSI

- Dec 16 Tuesday Night Movie: LOVE, ACTUALLY, 8pm, room 3
- Dec 17 Christmas Panto Peter Pan
- Dec 19 LSI Christmas Breakfast and Secret Santa Gift Exchange 11 am (after 1st lesson)
- Dec 21 Burning the Clocks, 6pm, parade starting at Corn Exchange 7:15 pm, Bonfire and Fireworks, Brighton Beach
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve