

Rear View: January 2022

Monthly spotlight on an item from the HIV/AIDS Graphic Communication Archive

13. Mainliners

Leaflet: Mainliners, Brixton. A4 folding to A5, photocopied black on coloured stock (front & back shown). Circa 1995-2000.

Chosen by Theodore (ted) Kerr:

"A befuddled cat, two people sitting in a pleasant domestic setting. One, injecting drugs, their works laid out nicely on a table. The other, distracted from reading, asks, "Ever thought of trying acupuncture?" The person injecting responds, "You must be joking. I can't stand needles".

I chuckle. A drug-related dad joke gets me every time.

The scene is drawn on a flyer, with text below that reads: "Drop-in for tea or coffee and see what services are available". The invitation, which could seem impersonal, reads as genuine given the scene above. How nice would it be to line up your work, inject, and be surrounded by the aroma of tea and baked goods.

The flyer underscores that as important as a supply of needles is to a successful exchange, a welcoming vibe is crucial, a place that sees people who do drugs not as broken, but as fellow travellers on this spinning rock.

Above the scene, in bold letters is the word MAINLINERS, the name of a London-based organization hosting the drop-in.

As someone doing HIV work in Canada and the US, with a bit of knowledge of the European response, I'm not familiar with MAINLINERS. And that is exciting. The best thing about an archive is coming across something you weren't aware of that makes you want more knowledge. I am excited to learn about MAINLINERS as an organization – and a term. Example: was mainliner used as an identity, a community moniker?"

MAINLINERS

Mainliners is an agency working for and with people affected by drug use and HIV/AIDS

205 Stockwell Rd
London
SW9 9SL
0171 738 4656

Drop In for Tea or Coffee
and see what
services
are available

GUIDE TO DAY SERVICES AT MAINLINERS

MAINLINERS OPENING TIMES

Monday	12.00-4.00	Drop-in
Tuesday	12.00-4.00	Drop-in Lunch served at 2.00
Wednesday	12.00-4.00	Women only space Light refreshments
Thursday	12.00-4.00	Drop-in Lunch served at 2.00
Friday	BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	
Mon-Thurs.	APPOINTMENTS BY ARRANGEMENT	

OUTREACH SERVICES

Monday	12.30-4.00	Home Visits
Tuesday	6.30-10.30	Working Women's Project
Wednesday	10.30-12.30	St Giles, Camberwell Green
	2.00-4.00	Waterloo Station and London Bridge Station and surrounding area
Thursday	11.00-4.00	Home Visits

Complementary Therapies

Tue.	12:00 to 4:00pm 1:00pm to 4:00pm	Massage Acupuncture
Wedn.	Women only service, call for appointment	
Thurs.	11:00am to 4:00pm	Massage Reflexology
Fri.	10:00am to 1:00pm	Acupuncture Hypnotherapy Reiki

Schedule may change, please call to confirm, 0171-738-4656.

MAINLINERS is an agency working for and with people affected by drug use and HIV/AIDS. We run a drop-in service Monday--Thursday, and an appointment only service on Friday.

We provide a broad range of services. If you are a drug user or ex-user, at risk of HIV or Hepatitis C, or if you are infected, or if you have worries about someone close to you, we can usually help. But if we can't, we'll know someone who can.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Information about HIV/AIDS
- Information about Hepatitis B and C
- Information on drugs and their effects
- Advice on safer drug use
- Advice on safer sex
- Sexual health advice
- Practical and emotional support
- Benefits advice
- Housing advice
- Complimentary therapies
- Condom supplies
- Clean injecting equipment

In addition to the regular day centre services, Mainliners also provides Complementary ("Alternative") Therapies, by trained, experienced practitioners. There are limited sessions, so please make an appointment.

A Hepatitis C support group also meets at Mainliners every four weeks on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm. It is open to *all* Hepatitis C positive people, and aims to share information and experience as well as provide support and be responsive to other needs. Please call to confirm further meeting times.

Mainliners newsletter, produced with and for people affected by drugs and HIV, is published monthly and free to drug users, HIV+ and HCV+ people. And please feel free to write a letter, article, poem, etc. for the Newsletter.

Mainliners is easily accessible by Underground to Brixton Station, Brixton British Rail, and Buses 45, 109, 2 and others.

Come along and see us.

January Guest Curator

Theodore (ted) Kerr is a writer, organizer, and founding member of the collective, What Would an HIV Doula Do? He curated the 2022 NLM exhibition 'AIDS, POSTERS, and STORIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH: A People's History of a Pandemic'. He is the co-author of 'We Are Having This Conversation Now: The Times of AIDS Cultural Production' (Duke, 2022).