

**BRANCH REPORT MARCH 2025 LONDON AGM**

London South Branch has had a busy year of meetings, social events, and taking part in campaigns, solidifying the identity of the South London branch under the guidance of our Membership.

A big ‘thank you’ to all the officers at Guild House who support so many aspects our branch activism: so many of you have come to Branch Meetings, had private one-to-ones with our Members, and answered queries. We must particularly thank Natalie Barker, whose last day as our officer is today! We hope your next chapter is full of wonderful stories.

We would also like express gratitude to the South Londoners who have engaged with the branch over the last year, whether by serving as a committee member, working on social media or our Zoom team to ensure our organising is accessible as possible, facilitating an event, or simply showing up for their Union by attending a meeting and taking part in Equity’s democratic structure. We are only as strong as each other, we are our Union, each and every one of us. Each of our voices count and we value everyone’s contribution.

This year we conducted a Membership Engagement Survey to find out what our members want from their union branch, and where we can make engaging with the union more accessible. The feedback we received from 152 members was enlightening; the varying perspectives aligned in many very wonderful ways. Most respondents joined for workplace protections, and fewer joined expressly to feed back into their union, so we’ve made an effort to clarify pathways to engagement where Members can support each other no matter their temporal or special resources. Most members’ greatest want was a sense of community and connection, so we’ve established Type and Gripe, a co-working meet-up where South Londoners can come together outside a formal structure. One of the main actions that came out of the survey was to implement a three-month rotating structure of meeting times and days. This has enabled more members to get involved, mirroring the differing work patterns among various professions in our industry, and Brixton House have been welcoming to our increasing attendance as a result. (We’re having our first Saturday afternoon meeting tomorrow, and I’m sure we’ll bring many updates from today.)

We have heard from a wonderful variety of speakers in person and via Zoom: drag artist Michael Twaites, Tim Fitzhigham, director of the medieval Guildhall in Norfolk, Emmanuel Akwafo & Emily Glaze, who spoke on their runs at Brixton House’s Housemates Festival, Adam Bamborough from Wellbeing in the Arts and Imogen Irving from Actors’ Benevolent Fund, and, of course, Tom Peters and Hannah Plant, from Equity HQ!

We sent representatives to participate in the Equity Annual Conference, and collaborated with London North on our summer picnic and to run Hustings for the London Assembly elections and the General Election.

Members organised and marched regularly—at Tolpuddle Festival, with Stand Up To Racism and the Palestine Solidarity Committee, at the TUC ‘May Day’ March and at protests around cuts to funds and venues including Applecart Arts, Bethnal Green Working Men’s Club and Actor At The Centre.

It's been a year full of new meetings, new faces, new ideas, and new purpose, and we can’t wait for the next one.