



THE BATTERSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity no 1103560

Chair: Tony Tuck
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Treasurer: Jill Newey



Chair's Report 2006/7

Another busy year: I hope that all members consider we have represented your interests sufficiently. It has seemed to be very much a campaigning year for both our Planning Committee and also the Open Spaces Committee, while it has been a successful year of events for the Events Committee.

Membership: Our individual membership at 30th April was 236: we lost 16 members but gained 25 in the past 12 months. However, our de facto membership is nearer 1,000 since we have a number of residents' associations and organisations in membership. We recognise that there is a pressing need to increase our membership and we ask all members to introduce a friend or relative to the Society and enjoy the many activities and take part in the many campaigns which we run.

Trustees: During the year one of our trustees, Rachel Davies, who was in charge of publicity and marketing, moved out of the area and ceased to be a member. Fortunately for us Sara Milne has agreed to join the Events Committee and handle publicity and marketing. During the year John Garvan, our treasurer, indicated that he no longer felt able to continue as treasurer following his illness, but he continues to remain and serve as a trustee. Luckily for us, the trustees were able to appoint Jill Newey as a trustee and treasurer and it is her report of our finances for 2006 that you consider today.

Events: We continued to have a varied programme of events and talks. Since the last AGM we held our usual Annual Summer Party, well attended on a lovely summer's evening in the beautiful setting of St. Mary's Church. We visited Lambeth Palace, the Apothecaries' Hall, Tate Britain print Archives, the Vintners Hall and Leighton House Museum. We had an enjoyable spring lunch at the "Thai on the River." Talks at open meetings included "Classicism, Aestheticism and Decadence" given by Julia Beaumont-Jones of the Tate and a talk by Brian Bloice on "The Thames and it's Shores – Chiswick to Vauxhall", and a talk and lively discussion on Energy Conservation.

Our latest 2007 Events programme is included with this notice.

The Planning Committee: is an enthusiastic and hard working group of Society members who meet every two months with David Lewis in the chair. It decides how best to counter damaging planning applications and how the Society should try to influence planning policies. Our work is progressed by participation in the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee and the Planning Forum of the Wandsworth Borough Council, the Wandsworth Environment Forum and the Clapham Junction Town Centre Partnership. In addition one of the Society's members, Kenneth Fergusson, is a member of the newly formed Heliport Consultative Group.

Patrons:

Baroness Prosser of Battersea

John Bowis MEP

Lord Dubs of Battersea

the
civic
trust

We made detailed submissions to the Borough Council Consultation on the draft core strategy and the list of identified development sites of the Local Development Framework, (LDF), the new Borough Plan. We also submitted detailed responses on the consultation process for Battersea Park and Latchmere Conservation Areas

The campaigns have been so many that an annotated list of the most important ones is all I can include in this report, but questions on any aspects of these will be welcome at the AGM.

Battersea Power Station: New owners with new plans! David Lewis has become the vice chair of the Power Station Forum and we hope to meet with the Wandsworth Borough Council Planning Committee chairman as we did in 2005.

Ralph West Hall: Planning Committee member, Keith Garner, played a key role in mobilising local residents in the successful defeat of the developer's plans.

Northcote Road: Harvey Heath is the chair of the residents' action group to preserve the character of the street and a successful petition and policy proposals for the LDF which has led to Wandsworth Council setting up a study group.

Clapham Junction Station: In July 2005 the Society held a well attended meeting to discuss the condition of the station. We are to hold a sequel in July 2007 to look at the situation a year on. We have been offered a place on Network Rail working groups.

Bus routes: Transport for London now recognises the Society as a stakeholder in relation to change of bus routes. Monica Tross is our person who keeps a careful watch on issues for us.

Asphalt paving: We congratulate the residents of Poyntz Road in their resistance to asphalt paving and the consequent backing down of the Council. Maureen Larkin played a pivotal role in this campaign.

Cycling: Movers and Shakers project - Harvey Heath took part in this prize winning TfL funded project to encourage a greater use of bicycles. One of the organisers of this project is Susie Morrow, one of our planning committee members.

The Open Spaces Committee: We continue to monitor the open spaces of Battersea with vigilance. Christine Fremantle now chairs this following the resignation of Anita Jackson. I would like to pay tribute and thanks to Anita for all her hard work in monitoring Battersea's open spaces on our behalf. Harvey Heath is the secretary of the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee, which is campaigning against the new white lines on cycle paths and has been successful in supporting the council's proposal to DEFRA for a new children's playground. The Open Spaces Committee also opposed the after hours licenses at the British Genius Site in Battersea Park, which were granted earlier in 2006. We went so far as to take the matter on appeal to the Magistrates Court. Unfortunately we had to withdraw our objections when we contemplated the costs that we might incur for the Society if we were to lose our appeal.

Battersea Arts Centre: As a member of the board of Battersea Arts Centre, I have been able to play a role in the strategy which, for the time being, has enabled the BAC to continue for a further year at least. From September BAC are presenting *The Masque of the Red Death*, a haunting version of the Edgar Allan Poe tale with Punchdrunk, following their smash-hit success, *Faust*, which won a Critics' Circle Award in 2006. The Masque will be a must-see for all who love theatre. Advance

tickets are already available from the National Theatre (see www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/?lid=23686).

Wandsworth Museum: The Battersea Society has joined with the other Amenity Societies of Wandsworth and the Wandsworth Historical Society to play a full role in trying to save the Museum from its threatened closure. Harvey Heath and I are members now of the resultant Wandsworth Museum Campaign Group. Although a £2 million donation from the Hintze Foundation has dramatically improved the position, a great deal has yet to happen before we can say the museum is safe. Watch this space – and do join the “Friends of Wandsworth Museum”, which is just about to be set up. This new Friends organisation, which is wholly separate from the Campaign Group, is open to everyone – individuals (not necessarily just residents) businesses, schools, colleges. The broadest possible mix of support is the aim. More details, and hopefully a membership application form, will be available at the AGM.

Communications: We have mithered about for so long in considering a **web site** for the Society that technology has now caught up with us. Initially we considered we needed a successful grant application to underwrite the costs. Now the software is sufficiently advanced in user friendliness that we can manage to do it in-house. Thanks to Peter Deakins for he has developed the site to an advanced stage and, with collaborative help from a small support team, the site should be available this summer.

Finally, a personal apology from me. For some little while I have been titular editor of the Society **Newsletter**. This has resulted in a long silence since last autumn apart from a few Newssheets since I have been pressed on other fronts. However, after the next Newsletter, we can look forward to a bright future since Jenny Sheridan has agreed to become editor from June 2007.

If you wish to contact or join any of our groups, then please contact: -

Planning: David Lewis drlewis27@yahoo.com or 7622 8017

Events: Wendy Deakins wendy@deakins.co.uk or 7223 5999

or Maureen Larkin Maureen.Larkin2@btinternet.com 7228 4873

Open Spaces: Christine Fremantle Christine@fremantle.org or 7622 4757

Newsletter Editor: Jenny Sheridan jennysheridan@btinternet.com or 7350 2749

Northcote Road Action: Harvey Heath harvey.heath@virgin.net or 7585 3788

My personal thanks goes to all the Society members - whose subscriptions enables our civic actions; to all those active members - whose participation make our actions effective; and to the members who participate in our management committee as trustees or otherwise, who not only work relentlessly on behalf of all of us for the civic good of Battersea, but also give me and Harvey Heath, our indefatigable Secretary, the support to keep on going on.

4th May 2007

Tony Tuck: Chair
The Battersea Society