



The Battersea Society Newsletter

Autumn 2008



The Bells of St Mary's

ring out for MP Martin Linton and his bride



Johnson, whose presence at his stag weekend had greatly enhanced its enjoyment (see the tribute to PC Johnson on pages 6 and 7). Mr Linton said he was sure that John would have wanted everyone to enjoy themselves on this happy day.

After champagne and cake in the church grounds, a reception was held in the Castle pub in Battersea High Street.



The sun shone on Saturday 26 July, the wedding day of MP Martin Linton, in St Mary's Church. Mr Linton, who has represented Battersea in Parliament since 1997, married Battersea Labour Party organizer Sara Apps.

While the Labour Party was well represented among the guests, there were also Conservative councillors, including former mayor Stuart Thom. Guests from all areas of local life included the Rotary Club, the Crime Prevention Panel and the Somerset Nursery, where Mr Linton is chair of governors, and

neighbours from the Shaftesbury Estate.

The Battersea Society and the Friends of Battersea Park were represented as well as family and friends from Battersea, Scotland and beyond.

Colleagues from Parliament included Tooting's MP Sadiq Khan and Lord Alf Dubs.

Tribute to an old friend

In his speech, Mr Linton emphasised the neighbourliness and friendliness of his constituency. He also paid tribute to John

Photographs: David Amos & Linda Restell

Local Artists Open their Doors

Painters, potters, jewellers and printers will open the doors of their studios and houses to the public on two weekends this autumn. The annual Wandsworth Artists' Open House takes place on 27-28 September and 4-5 October.

This is a marvellous opportunity to meet artists, talk with them about their work and buy directly from them. Brochures (pictured right), including a map, are available from borough libraries or by visiting: www.wandsworth.gov.uk



Don't forget to visit our website: www.batterseasociety.org.uk
for regular updates on Battersea Society news, events & planning matters



Editorial

Gardening has been a bit of a trial this summer, with drying winds alternating with chilly downpours and the odd sunny day. But the seeds of a local gardening club are germinating, and need just a little cossetting to burst into sturdy growth. A few enthusiastic garden-lovers (some of them Battersea Society members) have agreed to meet to develop the idea.

I do hope that more of you will join us. If you are interested in helping to start a new community association

that's all about plants and gardening, please email or phone me. You don't need to have a garden; many Battersea gardeners have gloriously flowering balconies or window boxes. And you don't need to be an expert, just interested. Do get in touch.

I must admit that this autumn there is a vast number of events that will tempt me away from my herb bed. As well as the Society's own events (page 16), there is the SW11 Literary Festival (page 3), which is going from strength to strength, and the always fascinating Artists' Open House (page1).

On a London-wide scale, there is Open House weekend on 20-21 September. Design and architecture affect all our lives and this fabulous architectural carnival opens our city up to us. See page 14 for local attractions, or hurry to your local library for the full guide. From the Isle of Dogs to Barking Abbey, there

is so much to explore, delight in and argue about.

John Johnson's life is celebrated in this issue. It is a rare community policeman who has an obituary in the national press and on Radio 4, and who has Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, delivering a eulogy at his funeral. But John was a rare man.

You can listen to Radio 4's obituary of John Johnson on our website, www.batterseasociety.org.uk

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In a changing world some things don't change. The ladies and gentlemen of the BBC Weather Centre always endeavour to end their summary with a cheery message, however dire the day's weather prospects. I wish I could say the same of those economists who gloomily deliver their daily inflation forecast. I do my best to unravel the tangle of initials they fling at us – the CPI and the RPI and something called HICP. Apparently this is the 'Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices', which I'm sure is - like a hiccup - anything but harmonic. Then, for a really terrifying vision, try to imagine what factory gate inflation actually looks like...

Of course what it will all mean in practice is a new era of cutting back, holidays at home, make do and mend, and meals concocted from leftovers. Many of us will have been here before - more than once. If you are mature enough to remember raffia, Five Boys chocolate, chilblains and Camp coffee then it will seem very familiar. It cannot be very long before some enterprising

manufacturer comes up with a new breakfast cereal called Credit Crunchies which we can munch as we listen glumly to the news. It will probably taste a lot like Grape-Nuts.

But enough of this harking back to what we cheerfully refer to as the good old days. There was some sunshine during this rather changeable summer, and on a recent balmy evening I took myself

and my charming fellow passenger on a stroll by the river through the verdant churchyard of St Mary's. We actually found ourselves on a flattened, potholed, grassless cycle track. Looking at it more in sorrow than in anger we wondered if there was a way to enable the cyclist, the stroller and the grass to share the same riverside space. Perhaps the Battersea Society can come up with a solution.

A Look at Life

by the Man on the Battersea Omnibus



And finally,... I always like to finish these little pieces with something positive. And the good news is that no longer will our local ASDA supermarket claim to be in Clapham. It has at long last decided that it will announce to the world that it is in Battersea. So there is still hope. Perhaps the grass in the churchyard will grow again...

See you next time
Mike Roden

Seize the Day

For those holidaying in Britain it has been a year without the Gulf Stream. As I pen this on the South Coast, winds of 50 – 60 mph are forecast for the next day. What to do? Actually the answer is a no-brainer. It is the same today as it was yesterday and as it will be tomorrow – ‘carpe diem’

Elsewhere in this newsletter there are tributes to our much regarded trustee and friend, John Johnson, who last month, for reasons that he kept entirely to himself, terminated his life by jumping into the Thames from Battersea Bridge. Since then, all those who knew him well must have thought, as I have done, “If only I had taken the time to talk with John, then I am sure we could have worked through the ‘whatever-it-was’ that drove him away from life.” Who knows? But what such sad events reveal to those alive to

witness them is a really sharp sense of the delight of life in all its kaleidoscopic shimmerings.

The view from Battersea Bridge, especially at dawn or dusk, is the stuff of lyrical poetry and the raw material for many a painter. At times like this all the old quotes and tags come flooding back. It was Hamlet, in one of his piercing shafts of insight into the human condition who observed that “There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.”

All those Latin tags from school days have a special resonance too – ‘Age quod agis’, my old school motto, translates as ‘Do what you do well’. Others, like Carpe Diem – Seize the day - or ‘Do it now’ served Rome well for centuries and remain fine advice today.

So, to turn up another one, “Look around you”. In the context of this

newsletter, look at the events list. One of the great delights of a civic society like ours is that it enables members to investigate and experience the variety of worlds around us in good company. And that is what I hope the autumn program of events will offer to us all.

Similarly, other pieces in the newsletter describe happenings in current affairs and development matters, whether it be the Ralph West Hall site and the shaming of Wandsworth Council’s Planning Committee or the opportunity to discuss the monumental re-development of the Power Station.

In short, Seize the Day. Roll up your sleeves and get involved in what ever pleases. Tomorrow may be too late.

Tony Tuck
Chair, Battersea Society

SW11 – the centre of the literary world

Do you love reading? Is your bedside table laden with thrillers, histories, novels, cookery books or poetry? Do you find it hard to tear yourself away from a bookshop or public library?

The SW11 Literary Festival is a book-lover’s dream come true. It is our chance to hear well-known authors talking about their books and their passions, all in our own backyard. Many of the writers have local connections.



The festival, which is sponsored by Waterstones and the Clapham Junction Town Partnership, runs from 9 to 29 September. Among the many highlights:

Tuesday 9 September: Where did it all go wrong? Britain’s involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. David Loyn and Oliver Poole. At the BAC

Wednesday 10 September: Food night with chef Mark Hix and local food writer Rose Prince.

Waterstones, Clapham Junction.

Friday 12 September: A world without bees. Local beekeepers Alison Benjamin, Brian McCullum and James Hamill (of the Hive Honey Shop in Northcote Road) Waterstones, Clapham Junction.

Thursday 18 September: Will Self. (pictured left) St Mary’s Church.

Friday 19 September: Ruth Rendell (above right). St Mary’s Church.



Monday 29 September: Literary pub quiz. Latchmere pub.

See the full programme at <http://tinyurl.com/liifest> or drop into Waterstones in St John’s Road, Clapham Junction.

Tickets (average price £4) can be bought from Waterstones or from Lorinda Freint, Clapham Junction town centre manager, on 020 7627 3182.

Battersea Power Station – we want your views!

**Special meeting at the
Power Station**

Tuesday 30 September

6pm-8pm

Entrance by the main gates
in Kirtling Street
**Battersea Society
members only**

The proposals for development by the new owners, Treasury Holdings, have had widespread publicity. The Battersea Society's planning committee want to know what YOU, the members, think of the plans.

We hope that as many members as possible will record their views before the Society comments on the

proposals and we have organised this meeting to help this process.

There will be time for discussion after the presentation.

Programme

6-7.30 pm

New vision for Battersea Power Station (presentation by Treasury Holdings)

Questions.

7.30 – 8pm

Discussion for Society members.

The meeting is limited to 50 people.

If you cannot attend, we still want to know what you think and there will soon be a chance to record your views on the Society's website.



More details of the new development proposals can be seen at:
www.battersea-powerstation.com

**IMPORTANT: To gain admission your name must be on the list. To register please contact Harvey Heath
secretary@batterseasociety.org.uk tel: 0207 585 3788**



As its name suggests, Buchan's has a distinctive Scottish emphasis. It was revolutionary when it opened, 18 years ago, in its breaking down of the barriers between bar and restaurant. It created a sense of cool, lounge but elegant style of dining out which has since been widely imitated.

In the entrance is the bar and dining area, which has its own menu. This leads into the restaurant, with its combination of

lavishness and informality. Persian carpet lines the walls, low lighting and snowy white napery and a floral display create a feeling of welcome and pleasant anticipation. During warm weather tables outside make for a continental atmosphere.

As well as the bar menu there are two menus to suit varying occasions – a la carte and specials. Buchan's is recognised for its wide range of malt whiskies, its haggis and neeps with whisky sauce and its Aberdeen Angus fillet steak. The ingredients are fresh and the simple, clean flavours work subtly together.

My special recommendations are the haggis, the asparagus with poached egg and their soups. In summer, their gazpacho with melon is delicious. Puddings are also of a consistently high standard. Apricot tart with vanilla ice cream was particularly good.

The service is friendly but professional. Buchan's is my restaurant of choice when I want to feel pampered, or to celebrate an occasion.

Prices: Starters around £7.

Mains £13.50.

Puddings £5.50.

Weekday lunch and Sunday and Monday supper: two courses and a glass of wine: £12.50.



Joan Brittain

Battersea's War

Mike Roden describes how people and buildings suffered in World War II



Wartime PM visits devastated Nine Elms

The Second World War had a devastating impact on Battersea. With its railway yards, Power Station, and industries, it was a prime target during the air raids of the Blitz and afterwards.

It was late afternoon on Saturday 7th September 1940 that the first big daylight raid took place. Two hours after it had finished a second wave of bombers arrived guided by the fires set by the first assault. This time the attack lasted until half past four the following morning. Eleven Battersea residents died during this raid, with the first being Ernest Clark of Rawson Street.

The air raids continued day or night for the next two months, with the constant accompaniment of gunfire from the massive banks of anti-aircraft guns in Battersea Park. Elsie Young was an ARP warden based at Battersea Town Hall, taking calls from other wardens detailing where the emergency services should be directed.

"Sometimes when the bombs were dropping really heavily I had blisters on my two fingers where you hold the pencil - scribbling so hard you just went home with blisters."

Nights of destruction

On the the night of Sunday 10th September 1940 the Nine Elms area was badly hit. Gas pipes and water mains were fractured and rescuers struggled to get through

the debris. Six streets were destroyed including Thesally Square and Patmore Street, and the local school was reduced to rubble. The next day Winston Churchill and other government members arrived to look at the damage. The area is now the Savona and Patmore estates.

Four days later Battersea and Wandsworth suffered their largest number of deaths in a single day of the war, when an unusually heavy raid killed 144 people, injuring hundreds of

others. Over half the deaths happened when a high explosive bomb hit the booking hall of Balham Underground Station, rupturing a water main and sending a torrent of water and mud to the platforms where hundreds were sheltering. Sixty-five of them died. A plaque in the ticket hall commemorates this event. For those of us who did not live through those years it is hard to imagine how people coped, but of course they did.

Flying Bombs and Rockets

In May 1941 the Luftwaffe turned its attention to the Russian front and though air raids continued sporadically for the next three years, the damage was not so severe and casualties were much lower. Then on 13th June 1944, a week after the D Day landing the first of the V1s or Doodlebugs arrived. These pilotless aircraft were almost impossible to intercept because of their size and speed. Alan Day remembers "You could hear quite clearly the high pitched whistle which went lower in pitch as it went over. If that whistle stopped you were in deep trouble."

For nearly three months the V1s arrived over London. Two dozen crashed into Battersea with the worst incident on 17th August when a V1 struck Lavender Hill hitting a passing 77 bus and killing twenty-eight people. Many buildings were destroyed or badly damaged

including the Pavilion Cinema and the Lavender Hill Sorting Office.

The final phase of bombing began at the end of 1944 when the first V2 rocket exploded in Chiswick. There was no advance warning for a rocket which travelled faster than the speed of sound, reaching its target four minutes after launch. Enormously destructive, they caused huge craters and flattened whole rows of houses. Battersea suffered just two V2 explosions: on Battersea Park Road when five people died, and on 27th January 1945 on Usk Road when seventeen people were killed, twenty houses completely destroyed and dozens more badly damaged.

With the peace came the reckoning. Hundreds had been killed and injured. Many local landmarks had been destroyed: among them Christchurch, the Pavilion cinema and Shakespeare Theatre on Lavender Hill, the fire station in Battersea Park Road, the Surrey Hounds public house and Battersea railway station. But for many people the main problem was finding somewhere to live. Across London thousands of homeless people needed rehousing. In Battersea 3,000 houses were demolished or considered a total loss and virtually every house suffered damage. Gradually the repairs were carried out, although bomb sites were a familiar part of the Battersea landscape until very recently.

And then of course came the determined slum clearance programme of the 1960s, but that is another story...

Sources:

Patrick Loobey, *Battersea Past Wandsworth Historian* – Spring 2006 –

Flying Bombs over Battersea
<http://tinyurl.com/sw11bombs>
Wartime Voices in Wandsworth
<http://tinyurl.com/wartimevoices>

John Johnson Community Hero

Tony Tuck pays tribute to a true friend of Battersea



John on his trusty bicycle

On the afternoon of Saturday the 19th of July PC John Johnson died.

At a stroke Battersea lost a key community activist; the Battersea Society lost a trustee, friend and adviser; and many individual Battersea people lost a good friend and companion.

Constable John Johnson was undoubtedly the most well known person of Battersea. As a community policeman he rode his trusty cycle around our streets for decades. People would stop him in the streets to chat. His sturdy figure spread a cheerful reassurance as he pedalled in his travels.

Uniquely, John had won the Metropolitan Police Community Constable of the Year in two separate years - 1994 and 2001. The party to celebrate the second award was attended by so many well wishers that late arrivals had to stand in the hallway of All Saints' Church to hear the speeches. His 50th birthday party needed the space and setting of the Reform

Club to do justice to the event, to him and his many friends and colleagues.

John belonged to a multitude of Battersea organisations. He infiltrated the Rotary Club of Battersea Park many years ago and has been a central figure in their social events. He helped organise the annual Policeman's Ball (never 'Secret' under John!), the pensioners' Xmas dinner in the Park, and was a constant support of St Mary's Church as a church warden. For many years he was a trustee of the Friends of Battersea Park and played a key role in their activities. He also worked tirelessly in work-related bodies, like the Battersea Crime Prevention Panel.

He was a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Battersea Society since its reformation in 1998 and played a key role here too, not just in organising social event 'nibbles' with the sure aid of his supporting 'helping elves', but as a touchstone for others as to what is right and good.

John had made a deliberate choice to be a community policeman. He was educated at a public school and attended Brasenose College, Oxford. He could readily have progressed through promotions in the hierarchy of the police force. He chose instead to follow his vocation in community work and remain a constable. This did not prevent him following his artistic interests and his home was full of fine paintings and artefacts. He possessed a breadth and depth of cultural awareness that occasionally surprised those around him – like the local resident on whom John had called to advise about security, who was astonished when the uniformed constable admired and

identified some John Piper paintings.

A complex and cultured man, nonetheless at one level John was a simple man who knew instinctively what was right and what was wrong. A keen cyclist, for example, he was not averse to shouting, "Hey, you, why do you think the Highway Code doesn't apply to you?" at the top of his voice when confronted with an antisocial cyclist.

The parameters of his life were bounded by a sense of service to others and the community. As a police constable he acted this out daily. As a member of the management committees of some dozen and a half local organisations he gave his time and energies without stint. His sudden wholly unexpected death leaves a gaping wound in many of us in Battersea, and doubtless elsewhere.

Ostensibly John walked straight out of the pages of a novel by Charles Dickens – probably *Pickwick Papers*. He seemed always to be a Mr Cheeryble. Always cheerful, always beaming with happiness, always doing good works in good ways. Never having a bad or sour word to say about anyone.

But, as is often the case with those radiating affability in social settings, John was a profoundly private man. He never wore his heart on his sleeve and rarely confided his innermost thoughts to those around him.

What is vital is to remember John for his life and not his death. His life was a multitude of affirmations and joyfulness with other people. His glass always was half full, not half empty. John was a rare and special man who made those around him feel special and valued. His life is his monument.

Tony Tuck
Chair Battersea Society

John Johnson – my memories

Joan Brittain, a friend of John's for many years, recalls his life in Battersea

One morning in 1991, the bell of Bridge Lane Montessori School rang and an assistant ushered in a policeman. His entrance aroused much excitement in the children, (aged 2 ½ to seven). They sat in a circle and a child-sized chair was offered to this special visitor. John Johnson introduced himself and explained to the children that he wanted to talk to them about crossing roads safely, what to do if they got lost and what they could do if they were not comfortable with some adults. Going round the circle, he asked each child with great sensitivity if they would like to try on his helmet, before gently placing it on their head.

John made an immediate positive impact on all the children, the staff and on me. From this time until the building was sold for a housing development he was a regular visitor to the school.

Every Christmas the children performed a nativity play. With great excitement they invited their families. John had become such a favourite that the children insisted on inviting him too. He never failed to attend and was often amused by the children's refreshingly unrehearsed performances, which he would recount with delight.

By now John was included in all our end of term celebrations, such as lunch at Buchan's or Ransome's Dock restaurants. He was always the most charming and entertaining companion and made these occasions memorable.

Policeman of the Year

In 1993 Henrietta Croker-Poole started the process of putting John forward for his first Metropolitan Community Policeman of the Year Award. Our staff and parents were



John enjoying a convivial drink at Martin Linton's stag weekend in Prague, shortly before his death

delighted to add their names to the nomination and were all overjoyed to hear that he had won the award.

My friendship with John was deep and valued. He persuaded me to become a member of the Battersea Park Rotary Club and every year John and I travelled to Eastbourne or Bournemouth to the Rotarian annual conference. As well as attending conference events he always planned visits to interesting or amusing places. One year, returning from the dinner dance – men in black tie, ladies in evening frocks – someone suggested buying a bag of chips from a fish and chip shop. The café owner was so amused that he asked us to sit down and be his guests, which we did.

One year John was taken ill with kidney stones and was rushed to hospital. After a day and night of care and pain relief, he was

discharged. When I collected him his first words were "Let's get a move on and find a decent place for lunch." This relentlessly positive approach to life was typical of him.

John was also known for his catering skills. He charmed me and a band of willing helpers into preparing his marvelous canapés. Those who have attended parties given by the Battersea Society, the friends of Battersea Park, St Mary's Church or the Rotary Club, will recall those delicious and elegant mouthfuls with pleasure.

London types

John's knowledge of art was wide. One day he rang my bell to invite me to a Rotary Club lunch. He noticed and commented on some William Nicholson prints of 'London types', one of which - "A for Artist" I did not have. It was difficult to find and John spent much effort in trying to track it down.

One of his favourite galleries was Dulwich Art Gallery, which we visited periodically, usually on Sunday after church. Lunch in the restaurant, viewing the exhibition then, weather permitting, a walk in Dulwich Park. Happy, happy occasions.

All my memories of John are of a remarkable man. He gave so much to the community, to Rotary and to many Battersea organizations and to his vast circle of friends and colleagues.

The world is a much better place for his life. It is a privilege to have known him.

Joan Brittain
September 2008

The New Wandsworth Museum

Andrew Leitch, the museum's director, outlines its exciting future plans

The Wandsworth Museum Company is a private charitable company set up in 2007 with a generous donation from the Hintze Family Foundation to create a new museum for Wandsworth. We are currently registering as a charity. I joined the company as its chief executive and director in June 2008. As a museum professional, project manager and curator, I have 20 years of experience of building museums in Europe, North America and Asia, including the Childrens' Museum of Manhattan and the Smith Centre at the Science Museum in London. Until recently I was the head of the Major Projects Group at the National Museum of Science and Industry, which includes the Science Museum.

The Wandsworth Museum Company is now working to create a new museum that will tell the story of Wandsworth's history (natural, human and industrial), from pre-history to ten minutes ago. I expect that this museum to be in development for two years. During that time I and my team will work closely with all the local and regional stakeholders to ensure that the museum becomes a true community project. Among our excellent team of advisors are Pat Astley-Cooper, former curator of the museum, and Lisa Geelhoed, its former head of education.

Site decision

No site for the new museum has yet been chosen, but negotiations are underway for one of two sites in central Wandsworth Town. We hope that a decision will be made by late October this year.

The museum project offices are located in Wandsworth Town at Argyll House, behind All Saints Church. Later this year we will hold open days for the public to come and discuss the museum with the team at our office. Until we have space, the collection and artefacts

are being stored in safe conditions in the old West Hill library building.

The new company's board of trustees includes former mayor Councillor Stuart Thom, Sue Roscoe-Watts of the Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership, Dorian Gerhold of the Wandsworth Historical Society and Professor Jack Lohman, director of the Museum of London, who was brought up in Wandsworth. Dorothy and Michael Hintze are also of course local. In July the trustees gave 'in principle' approval to the outline interpretive plan for the museum. This sets out the basic components of the museum's strategy for engaging with the people of Wandsworth and beyond.

The main components of the Wandsworth Museum interpretive plan are:

- A new museum facility. The target for this is 2010, but perhaps I am over-ambitious.
- In advance of the new museum facility, a series of temporary exhibitions on the museum and its collections in Borough libraries and at a centrally-located temporary gallery.
- A comprehensive new website using images, text, video and sound. Like Wikipedia, it will be possible for experts, residents and others to add to the site, creating a growing database that people can interrogate in a number of ways to find out about Wandsworth past and present.
- An oral history outreach programme, to include all local communities. A researcher and volunteers will record people's experiences and memories.
- Education programming in schools – to begin before operation of the museum
- An active outreach programme with talks and hands-on sessions for local groups.

We expect that by early next year all the items listed, except the new museum, will be well under way and available to the public.



Change and growth

I very much appreciate the high level of public interest in Wandsworth; indeed that was one of the factors that attracted me to this post. There is so much human history, so much change and growth, in this area of London.

We have excellent relationships with organisations such as the Friends of the Museum and Wandsworth Historical Society, both of which have been very supportive. There is a huge amount of knowledge in these organisations.

Our programme is ambitious. We want to create something new – not to reinvent the wheel but to make it turn in a different way. We are working in partnership with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and also making links with smaller museums. In order to be sustainable a museum has to be a certain size, and we will be fund-raising to ensure that we can reach this level.

I would like to assure Battersea Society members that there are no hidden agendas, that we want to be fully open in our communication with local people. Starting this autumn I will begin a series of speaking engagements with local groups, as well as working sessions to discuss the details of the new museum .

You can contact Andrew Leitch at andrew.leitch@wandsworthmuseum.co.uk

Living with the heliport

Kenneth Fergusson describes the workings of the London Heliport Consultative Group

Opened in 1959, the London heliport in Battersea remains the only commercial heliport in the capital. In 2006, the statutory basis for its operations changed, requiring the establishment of a consultative group to act as the contact between the heliport owner, the users, local residents, and the three boroughs most affected by flights in and out of the heliport (Wandsworth, Kensington & Chelsea, and Hammersmith & Fulham).

Wandsworth Borough Council took the initiative in bringing together all the parties, and the group has now been in existence for over two years. Meetings are held twice a year, in public, and the minutes are available on the internet.

In September 2007, an 8-page information leaflet, *The London Heliport at Battersea*, was published in the group's name by WBC. This key document explains the permitted operating parameters of the heliport, and the complaints contact for apparent breaches (online at www.londonheliport.co.uk or by telephone (020 7228 0181, 8 am to 8 pm.) The leaflet can be accessed online via

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/heliport. Hard copies are available from the council officer who serves as secretary to the group, Mr Francis de Lima, on 020 8871 6488, or from 020 8871 7524.

Articles in *Brightside* have charted the group's key stages, in November 2006, December 2006



and October 2007. Notwithstanding all this publicity, we noted in the group meeting on 16th June this year that only a tiny number of complaints had been registered through the designated system. Group members decided to give further publicity to the existence of the liaison and complaints procedures. To this end, WBC put another article in the July 2008 issue of *Brightside*: 'Bothered by helicopter noise?' This repeated the

availability of the September 2007 information leaflet, and the complaints procedure.

A resume of all complaints registered, and their outcome, is presented to each meeting of the group by the heliport operators. As one of the designated residents' representatives, I do not need to know of the circumstances of an individual complaint being lodged, but I (and my fellow representatives) will be interested to hear of any dissatisfaction with how any complaint has been handled.

The heliport is here to stay, and the interests of all concerned will be best served by ensuring that there is good communication between the parties, that the complaints system is clear and effective, and that international best practice is continually applied to limit disruption. The residents' representatives will be striving to achieve this.

Kenneth Fergusson is a member of the Society, a long-term resident of Morgan's Walk, and one of the residents' representatives on the consultative group

Battersea Society does the samba at St Mary's!

Once again the Society's summer party, on 10 July, was an enjoyable event, despite the strong south-westerly breeze sweeping down the Thames. This year, to add to the festivities, live music was provided by Los Soneros, a talented Latin American group. The music, the convivial company, the delicious canapés and plentiful refreshments made this a very pleasant evening.

The music was such an attraction that those chatting away down in the crypt were drawn outside, as if by the Pied Piper, to the churchyard, where other guests were already dancing under the captivating spell of the latin rhythms.

Dancing in or around the church has probably happened before, especially when a mediaeval church stood on this site. A small fishing and farming village such as Battersea would have been deeply involved in seasonal festivities. Perhaps next year we should consider having a village fete, or even a Battersea ceilidh.

Finally, a big thank you to all our helpers: the canapé-creators, the bar staff, the raffle prize providers and the events team. And, of course, we are grateful to the church for providing us with such a beautiful venue.

Wendy Deakins



One half of the duo Los Soneros

A Garden for All Seasons

Virginia Hiller describes the development of her patio garden



Terracotta urn with Russian sage

I think of my garden as a stage. The scene changes dramatically as the seasons pass, but many of the players are familiar. A venerable fig tree is the undoubted star of the show, while rich green evergreens, giving shape and structure, are the dependable players. Then there are the much-loved visiting stars, the roses and clematis, whose guest appearances are all too brief. The perennials are the repertory players, eagerly anticipated and welcomed back every year, while the tempting but as yet unproven garden centre buys are the TV stars who often fail to fulfil their initial jazzy promise.

Six years ago, on first visiting my 25 x 25 ft patio garden I immediately saw its potential. Many years ago when I worked for *Popular Garden*, then a respected gardening magazine, the editor, Fred Whitsey, used to say that a lot of gardening goes on in the mind. Now I know what he meant, for gardeners are an optimistic tribe, forever dreaming of their perfect plot.

On the plus side I inherited a sheltered, west-facing site with lots of privacy. The soil was dark and rich, maybe a legacy of the market gardens which once covered this area of Battersea. I loved the white climbing roses, a rampant white wisteria, a graceful kolkwitzia and some beautiful ferns. I had one long very sunny bed, a shadier bed opposite and one very shady bed.

On the minus side there were expanses of boring pinkish paving slabs and a cat-ridden sandpit. A dreadful tangle of ivies, honeysuckle and vine threatened to engulf the fences while the fungus and blackspot which speckled many of the plants was evidence that such a sheltered spot is nirvana for bugs. The fig tree, at that time immense, blocked off far too much light and made the long bed beneath it unusable.

Cool colours

My first task was to dig out or tear down everything which wouldn't pay its keep. The plan which I drew up, was very clear: a Mediterranean-style garden, concentrating on cool colours and scent. I also wanted to create the illusion of space, and a garden which provided all year round interest.

To create some structure I had two little half walls built in Victorian London Stock bricks at the end of the first set of patio slabs. This immediately created two little



A secluded corner

'rooms'. At the end of each wall I placed a potted myrtle, grown from cuttings from my mother's garden. This area also contains a small table, home to a collection of scented geraniums, and some French cafe chairs.

Gardens can look dreary during the colder months so I planted a series of evergreens which I have

clipped into formal ball shapes, adding a sense of structure. The fig tree was severely pruned and in the shady bed beneath it I decided on variegated plants, ferns and a giant tree fern-which flourished amazingly well. On two shady walls I planted a shiny leaved evergreen jasmine. The sunny bed was filled with white and silvery plants which virtually look after themselves and often smell delicious too.

Replacing all the paving slabs would have been too pricey so I just replaced four slabs with bricks, to match the little walls. Among the bricks I planted creeping thymes and small rock plants, now joined by self-seeded lady's mantle. With the remaining bricks I built a herb bed fitting neatly under the kitchen window. The sand-pit was removed, and replaced with new, rich compost. An old terracotta urn makes a fine focal point, surrounded with white and mauve flowering plants.

Of course I over-planted like mad to start with, but gradually I have worked out a successful scheme. I have concentrated on a palette of greens, silvers and whites as well as variegated plants in all their infinite variety. There are also blues, misty pinks, mauves, apricots and the occasional flash of rich magenta.

For height, the surrounding fences house evergreen climbers and a series of clematis which flower throughout the year and I also have some lovely old-fashioned roses. I have planted four new trees - two crab apples, a quince which fruits wonderfully in a large pot, and a beautiful olive tree which is happy in a snug corner. Over the years the beds have become full of scent and colour and I am constantly surprised at the amount of cutting back and culling I have to do.

As I look out today my patio is unrecognisable from the sad little patch in which I first saw such potential; but one day someone else too will have their own ideas and the process of Gardening in the Mind will start all over again....

Virginia Hiller

It's beautiful, it's free and it's 150 years old

Chief parks officer Jennifer Ullman celebrates a milestone for Battersea Park

On Saturday 14th June Battersea Park celebrated its 150th birthday with a Family Fun Day. Opened in 1858 by Queen Victoria, the park has seen many changes, from



World War Two allotments, to the 1951 Festival Gardens, and most recently the restoration project that restored many areas of the park back to their Victorian design. To celebrate its Birthday, the park hosted a fantastic Family Fun Day with a mixture of historical and contemporary fun for everyone.

Music was a big part of the day, with bands at the bandstand and live music at the café and the Garden Opera Company performed Donizetti's Don Pasquale in the subtropical garden.

Other activities included film workshops for budding young stars. Their story – monsters had escaped in Battersea Park and were masquerading as children. Inner monsters abounded as families created their own animated monsters! A more sedate time was spent by many enjoying the display of Victorian bicycles ridden by enthusiasts in period dress.

To add to the spirit of the day,

Jerry Birtles, Battersea Park manager, and I conducted guided heritage and tree walks around the park dressed in Victorian costume (pictured left).

An exhibition about the history of the park was displayed in the events arena, while Carter's Vintage Funfair offered traditional rides for children.

The weather held as people gathered to watch the colourful pageantry of the annual celebration of the London Peace Pagoda. Activities took place at all of the park's facilities, including discounted entry at the children's zoo, the boating lake and on the land train, and tai chi and yoga classes at the gym, as well as plant sales in the herb garden.

All in all, it was such an enjoyable day, we are wondering how best to celebrate the park's 151st birthday next year!

Jennifer Ullman

Music in a golden basilica

Jeanne Rathbone sings the praises of St Luke's Music Society

In the glorious 1880s church of St Luke's, on Thurleigh Road fabulous concerts have been taking place. The aim of St Luke's Music Society is to bring music to the Battersea and south west London community. It has just completed its fifth season. A recent newsletter stated it was beyond their wildest dreams that they would be presenting artists of the calibre of Tasmin Little, Emma Kirkby and the Kings singers.

The society's general manager, Antony Lewis-Crosby and its artistic director, Derek Carden, have impressive connections within the musical world. Next season will see world-famous bass Sir Willard White (pictured) presenting his tribute to Paul Robeson on 7 February and the remarkable Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra on 9 May, The Festival Chorus provides three of the concerts each season

The annual concert series is based

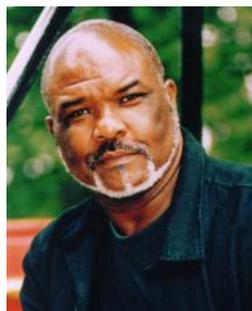
around classical music but also includes jazz, poetry and other diverse performances which have included memorable gigs with Humphrey Littleton, George Melly, Cleo Lane and Johnny Dankworth, Richard Rodney Bennett and Claire Martin. We have been enthralled by the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah and Roger McGough.

Concerts are open to all, and members also have access to private events, sometimes giving the opportunity to meet renowned

performers after the event. A recent concert featured the Russian viola player Ilya Hoffman and another was an amusing evening presented by Julian Curry in 'HIC! -all about wine'.

The acoustics at St Luke's are excellent and it is something special to hear such well-known artists in the intimacy of this venue in your own neighbourhood, with many familiar local faces.

St Luke's is in the south of Battersea and it would be nice to have some new members from further north. So I hope some of you, who are keen to support local activities, will come along to appreciate the joys of this gem of a music society.



Find out more about the society at www.slms.org.uk

Wandsworth Scoops Civic Trust Award

Civic Trust awards are hard to come by. They recognise excellence in architectural design and winners can display a plaque to display permanently and proudly on their premises. Wandsworth did well this year. The Herringbone Houses, 7-9 Lyford Road (pictured) just to the west of Wandsworth Common were announced as one of only six award winners in the whole of Greater London. The two family homes, designed by Alison Brooks Architects, overlook a bowling green, and are described as being

“a refreshingly contemporary and positive response to a difficult and restrained site.”

Full awards go to designs that make an “outstanding” contribution to their environment. At a slightly lower level, buildings that make a “valuable” contribution receive a commendation. Two Wandsworth buildings were commended – The National Lawn Tennis Centre in Roehampton, and St John’s Therapy Centre in St John’s

Hill. This was commended for its strong civic presence and for reinstating the line of the Victorian street.



Planning Matters: An Update

Ralph West Hall, Albert Bridge Road

Members will have been astounded by the Council's decision to uphold its planning committee's decision on the application made by Renaissance Holdings. (see page 14) The latest plans do not meet the criteria set out by the inspector at a previous inquiry.

The Battersea Society is at a loss to understand the Council's actions (which were opposed by councillors for St Mary's Park Ward). Our chairman has applied to the Government Office for London for this decision to be called in for an independent adjudication.

For the latest information see page 14 and www.batterseasociety.org.uk and www.ralphwesthall.com

Clapham Junction

The Society recently submitted proposals for a transport interchange. Members of the planning sub-committee have discussed these with Richard Tracey, the GLA member with special responsibility for transport. There are signs that the work we are doing is being taken seriously both by Wandsworth

Council and, perhaps even more importantly, by Transport for London.

Further meetings on the area around Clapham Junction and on a travel interchange will take place. We continue to lobby hard for a truly comprehensive approach to the Clapham Junction town centre and for real improvement to travel interchange facilities.

Plans for the re-development of the Peabody Estate are at an early stage but David Lewis and Harvey Heath have already taken part in early consultations on the outline plans. It will be 2009 before any planning application is made.

St Peter with St Paul Church and Vicarage, Plough Road

The Society has objected to the development plans for this important site. We criticised the scheme on the following grounds:

- Its relationship to a major open space
- its effect on surrounding buildings

- the proportion of affordable housing and the size of units (no affordable family housing)
- the large number of car parking spaces proposed
- the need for adequate secure cycle parking
- the loss of an attractive and historic townscape at the St. John's Hill end of the site.

New proposals for Battersea Power Station

A special meeting on 30 September has been arranged for members to give their views. See page 4 for details.

Any Comments on Bus Services?

The planning sub-committee is regularly asked to comment on proposed changes to bus routes. Please alert David Lewis, chair of this committee, to any problems or plaudits you have on bus services – or any other planning matter. Email: drlewis27@yahoo.com or phone 020 7622 8017

Monica Tross

Changing the World One Step at a Time

Susie Morrow looks towards a future of safer streets

Many of the 'big picture' issues - whether climate change or the projected burdens on the NHS resulting from sedentary lifestyles - seem hard to grapple with. Nearer to home, our streets are dominated by motor traffic, public spaces blighted by traffic and aircraft noise, our neighbourhoods often not very neighbourly - and when did you last see children playing on Battersea's streets? It doesn't have to be this way; we can choose to have streets and public spaces that prioritise people, especially the most vulnerable.

Living Streets, a national charity with which the Battersea Society has recently affiliated works to bring our streets to life, with more walking in people-friendly public spaces. The benefits are many; for instance, from a health perspective, walking all or part of the way to work or school is an obvious way to build physical activity into daily life.

Much of Living Streets' activity is project-based, such as the national 'Walk to School' campaign. It may seem hard to believe, but in 1971, 80% of seven and eight-year-olds travelled to school without an adult; by 2006 this had fallen to 12% of seven to 10-year-olds ['Backseat Children: How our car dependent culture compromises safety on our streets', *Living Streets*, May 2008].

Walk to School, with its distinctive 'Strider' mascot, seeks to reverse this trend. Walking to school:

- helps children develop traffic awareness
- keeps children fit (in 2006/07, the proportion of Wandsworth's children recorded as obese in Reception and Year 6 was 10.0% and 20.5% respectively)
- gives children the opportunity to develop independence and a measure of control over their own lives
- reduces air pollution (short car journeys, which form a high proportion of school car trips, are the most polluting and the least fuel-efficient)
- makes the streets safer and more congenial for everyone by reducing the volume of motorised traffic

In line with the 'empowerment' theme, the Walk to School campaign, to be launched in secondary schools as part of October 'Walk to School' month, is being shaped by children themselves. The theme in October 2008 is health - specifically, childhood obesity. More information at: www.walktoschool.org.uk

For people of all ages, Living Streets' recently completed Walkability project, funded by London Councils, has demonstrated how residents and others, together with local authorities, can work together to produce tangible improvements to the public realm.



Based on Community Street Audits led by Living Streets, this project targeted four district centres across outer London. Attention focused on important walking routes to/from and within these localities, both to encourage more people to choose to walk and to make the experience of walking more enjoyable. The project's findings, which include a range of tips for future success, are summarised at:

<http://tinyurl.com/livingstreets>.

Returning to the 'big picture' issues, perhaps a vision to aim for is for Battersea to become the 'most liveable' part of London. *Monocle Magazine* (July/August 2008), has awarded the title of 'most liveable city in the world' to Copenhagen, a city which "... treats residents to a lifestyle that's hard to match". The citizens of Copenhagen have actively made this choice and achieved this accolade through sustained, long-term commitment to decisions - often small-scale - in favour of liveable streets. What's stopping us in Battersea?

More information about Living Streets at www.livingstreets.org.uk

Susie Morrow (Trustee, Living Streets / member of Battersea Society)



Since its launch in December, the number of people visiting the site has grown steadily, sometimes reaching over 100 a day, though the average tends to be around 75. Most come from the UK but we now get visitors from all over the world, with Antarctica the only continent not represented!

More importantly, though, an increasing number of our members are using

the website regularly, to check on the events calendar, on the news updates page, or to buy a book or DVD from our online store.

I hope that many more of you will sign up for the new Discussion Forum, and help to start some lively debates. More features are planned including a much extended calendar to cover non-society events in the area, more photo galleries,

and an interactive map of Battersea, so why not come back now and again to take a look what's going on.

And if you have a suggestion for something you'd like to see on YOUR website, then do please get in touch.

Mike Roden
website@batterseasociety.org.uk
www.batterseasociety.org.uk

“We don’t want God’s Travelodge”

Keith Garner outlines the strange decisions over Ralph West Hall

Ralph West Hall, on Albert Bridge Road, is a good modern building designed in 1958 by local architect Michael Horsman. It was narrowly turned down for listing in 2004. In late 2007 Renaissance Lifecare, the owners, made a planning application to demolish the existing building and to build a new complex of 128 retirement flats. The building was virtually identical in scale and form to a previous application for the site, which was turned down at a public inquiry in 2006.

The proposed scheme would replace the existing Ralph West Hall student block at the back of the site, and build a new building on the lawn facing Albert Bridge Road, cutting down several protected trees in the process, including a large London plane. The new development would be twice the stipulated density in the London plan for a site in this location.

The application received some 200 objections. The Battersea Society objected on the grounds of the harm that the scheme would cause to the Battersea Park Conservation Area. Wandsworth Council’s Conservation Areas Advisory Committee also criticised the scheme.

Given the scale of the opposition, we were confident that the scheme

would be rejected when it went before the Planning Applications Committee on 17th June. During the meeting itself, the majority of committee members were critical of the scheme. We were astonished therefore when the scheme was approved, by four votes to three. The vote itself was mishandled by the acting chair and had to be retaken. Some committee members seemed embarrassed to be seen voting in favour of a scheme that they had criticised in the preceding debate.

Given the confusing outcome, Councillor Tony Belton placed a ‘Stop Notice’ on the application, causing the application to be referred to the full meeting of Wandsworth Council on 9th July. On this occasion, despite a brilliant speech by St Mary’s Park ward councillor Tessa Strickland – who described the scheme as “God’s Travelodge” – the scheme was approved by the Conservative majority, with the Labour group and ward councillors voting against.

The current situation is that the application is now the subject of an ‘Article 14 Direction’ from the Gov-



ernment Office for London (GoL). This prevents Wandsworth Council from approving the scheme until GoL has reviewed the application themselves, and decided whether to allow it to proceed or to call it in to be decided at a further public inquiry.

No-one in the Ralph West Hall Site Protection Group is saying the site can’t be redeveloped if necessary. However we want to see a scheme that follows the density guidelines in the London Plan and Wandsworth’s own Unitary Development Plan, and that makes a positive contribution to the area.

Keith Garner
Ralph West Hall
Site Protection Group
www.ralphwesthall.com



20-21 September 2008

The Battersea Society urges its members to take full advantage of this year’s splendid ‘Open House’ weekend when the public are invited – free of charge – to view buildings in London that are generally closed for most of the year.

It is the time when we can all delight in the variety of London’s built environment. The buildings are new and old, grand and tiny, from house extensions

to government ministries. Among the themes being explored this year are *Homes and housing*, *Art in the public realm* and *Greening the city*. There are opportunities to meet architects and designers as well as the people who live or work in the buildings.

To learn more and see the whole programme on offer over the two days go to www.openhouse.org.uk You can also pick up a brochure at libraries.

Wandsworth has fifteen buildings open. The goodies on offer in Battersea are:

Emmanuel School, Battersea Rise.
Saturday 2 – 4 pm.

Foster and Partners Studio, 22 Hester Road. Saturday 10am – 5 pm.

Opera Extension, 61 Sudbrooke Road.
Sunday 10am – 1 pm.
Pre-book only 020 8673 2469 or 07773 358 659

Glass Tower Extension, 138 Ramsden Road. Saturday 10am-1pm.
Pre-book only 020 8673 2613.

St John’s Therapy Centre, 162 St John’s Hill. Sunday 10am - 1pm.
Architect- led tours 10am, 11 am and 12pm.

St Mary’s Church, Battersea Church Road. Saturday 10am – 5 pm and Sunday 1 – 6 pm.

Harvey Heath

Laying the groundwork for stronger communities

Groundwork is an organisation working to build safer, stronger communities, mainly by improving the environment in areas of need. We work through partnerships with businesses, local councils, voluntary organisations and schools creating opportunities for people to get involved and to become more active citizens. Every year, we plant over 350,000 trees around the country, and in the process create thousands of paid and voluntary jobs.

Our organisation is national but we operate through geographically-based trusts. Last year, Groundwork London worked with over 400 schools in the capital, helping them improve their school grounds, work towards eco-school status and build sustainability issues into their lesson plans.

We have worked in Wandsworth for around three years, and officially launched a new partnership with the council in April 2007. We have developed excellent links with the Parks Department, Wandsworth PCT, the Youth Offending Team and Wandsworth Connexions among other organisations. We have also worked with four small community groups to help them improve their local environment. The following are some of our current local projects.

New Horizons Challenge Programme for young offenders

Just launched, this project will engage at least 20 young offenders between 16 and 25 years old in voluntary work experience. With opportunities ranging from improving the local environment to constructing environmentally-friendly social housing, the young people will gain experience and skills to help them find work and thus reduce the risk that they will re-offend. The programme, which is based in Roehampton and has links with South Thames College, will provide training, mentoring support and personal development plans.

Mobility Maze

In May 2008, Groundwork London was commissioned by Wandsworth PCT and Wandsworth Council to start consultation with older people about creating a maze in King George's Park. The aim is to create a safe space where old people with mobility problems can exercise and relax. Located near a play area, the project also aims to encourage interaction between the generations. The consultation will feed into sketch designs which will be displayed to the public and relayed to the PCT. This project has been shortlisted for public health funding.

Wandsworth Community Play Rangers

This outdoor play project is designed to encourage children to



Groundwork in Tooting Gardens

play near their homes, using green spaces or tarmac areas within estates, parks and schools. Play leaders will organise supervised play activities, such as basketball, outside school hours in places where such opportunities are rare. Our target age group is 5-11 with volunteering opportunities for older ages and adults. The project will run in Tooting, Graveney, Furzedown and Roehampton wards.

Heathbrook Park

We are currently liaising with housing estate associations, schools, police and community groups to gauge levels of interest and support for community events and activities in this small local park.

Wandle Valley Regional Park

Groundwork has been co-ordinating the development of the new park, which will follow the course of the River Wandle. Wandsworth Council and the three other boroughs through which the Wandle flows (Merton, Sutton and Croydon) have joined bodies including the GLA, Natural England and the National Trust in this exciting development.

Projects still in development include:

Outdoor Activity Programme

We are developing a project with Wandsworth PCT which aims to encourage gardening among people with disabilities and those from black and minority ethnic communities. Groups of people with or at risk of health problems will be referred to a gardening programme in their local community. As well as the mental and physical health benefits of gardening, the project will enable people to contribute to regenerating and maintaining their local spaces, promoting feelings of ownership and pride in their communities.

Community Food Programme

Together with the charity Thrive (see Newsletter Summer 2008), we are developing the Wandle Valley Community Food Programme. This initiative aims to engage people, including disabled people, to develop and manage land for growing food on a sustainable basis. The project, running on allotment sites or community spaces in Wandsworth, will focus on improving present and future health through gardening activities and through building knowledge of the links between food and healthy living. People taking part will be encouraged, if they wish, to grow foods which reflect their cultural identity, for example Bangla Deshi or Caribbean vegetables.

Angela Gorman,
Development Manager,
Groundwork London

Autumn Events

Tues 2 Sep, 6pm

Private visit to Old Battersea House, 30 Vicarage Crescent, SW11. £5. A few places left.

Tues 30 Sep, 6pm

Members' meeting about Power Station redevelopment. Free. See page 4.

Thurs 16 Oct, 7 for 7.30pm

Benedict Arnold (the American who spied for the British in the American War of Independence and who is buried in St Mary's).

Illustrated talk by Sven Tester. St Mary's

Church, Battersea Church Road, SW11. £3 (at the door)

Thurs 6 Nov, 7 for 7.30pm

Stage coaches and carriers before the railways.

Illustrated talk by Dorian Gerhold, Wandsworth Historical Society.

St Mary's Church £3 (at the door)

Weds 12 Nov, 2.30pm

Private visit to the Museum of Instruments, Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, SW7. £6. Only a few places left.

For tickets and further information, contact Maureen Larkin
membership@batterseasociety.org.uk
(020 7228 4673)

Or see our website
www.batterseasociety.org.uk
for amendments or updates to the Events programme



St Mary's Fair 13 September: bric-a-brac please!

It's time to clear out your cupboards! Every year the Battersea Society has a stall at St Mary's Church Fair, which this year will be on Saturday 13 September.

Virginia Hiller, stall organiser says, "We take great pride in our eclectic mixture of merchandise including china, table linen and costume jewellery – not to mention our bargain baskets, with some great finds for

20p. If you have anything we could sell, from cutlery to cushions and from ornaments to scarves and handbags, please do donate it."

The stall cannot handle electrical goods, clothes, shoes, toys or books.

You can phone Virginia on 020 7223 5501 to arrange a time to deliver donations, as soon as possible, please. We may be able to ar-

range collection if you cannot deliver.

It's also time to get baking and conserving. Sara Milne would welcome your delicious jams, chutneys, cakes and biscuits for the Society's home produce stall. Email Sara at marketing@batterseasociety.org.uk to arrange delivery preferably after 3.30pm on Friday 12 September.

The Battersea Society

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The wild flower meadow in Battersea Park



Last spring, a mix of wild flower seeds was sown on the site of the future winter garden, just inside the Sun Gate. In July and August they made this corner of the park into a brilliantly-coloured meadow. Parks officer Jennifer Ullman hopes that the flowers will reappear next summer. For more photographs, see www.batterseasociety.org.uk

If you love plants and gardening contact Jenny Sheridan to hear about ideas for a local gardening club:
newsletter@batterseasociety.org.uk