
From the chair ...

On a bright cold autumn afternoon, I think back to our Summer Party, and what good fun it was. People turned up in numbers on a very wet night paying their fee and hugging their contribution of food, and the sun came out just as the first guests arrived. We nearly lost our cake to the wrong party at the café next door, but the tower of the lightest cupcakes ever survived its second journey, and anyone who wants to know who made them should go to www.tea-partycakes.com.

We toasted 40 years of the Society, speculated on where it would be 40 years' hence and on the future of the Nature Study Centre, where we sat. Many felt nostalgia for the events that took place there, including Sunday opening when adults and children alike could learn about wildlife from experts, evening lectures and daytime classes such as Wildlife Photography with Tony Drakeford no less. I remember willow-sculpture demonstrations, the first I had seen, and how to make the bird box still in my garden.

The centre is about to have a new tenant, and we hope the successful applicant will resuscitate this quaint little building and its wildlife garden to its former usefulness and friendliness.

We launched our 2011–12 season with an evening devoted to the new Localism Bill, fast approaching the statute book, ostensibly to put planning into the hands of the people. This Society, particularly the ever vigilant Planning Committee, feel that this is nothing new, but it will be different as our eloquent speakers described, though many questions remain unanswered. Jane Ellison (MP for Battersea), suggested we think of the legislation as a bookcase, the Minister filling the shelves with regulations as time goes on. Localism? You have not heard the last of this!

We have two treats for the winter coming up, see overleaf. First an evening visit to the Museum, free of charge, where we will be able to view the current exhibition, and enjoy both a talk and the delights of the café bar. The second is our Christmas treat at the National Opera Studio, so enjoyed last year, despite the snow and ice, that we thought to do it again with two new young singers and accompanist.

Talking of the Big Society and volunteers – the Events Group would welcome some new blood. We are a group of four and, were we six, that would mean two events each to be arranged (a walk or a talk) and that would be great. 'We' are Diana Godden, Jenny Massey, Wendy Cater and myself and we don't bite! Just ring me!

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Wandsworth Society

November 2011

Planning Matters

National Planning Policy Framework, Localism and planning obligations

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) tries to condense the extensive, tried and tested planning system into a document of some fifty pages. It will undoubtedly require hundreds of amendments, clarification and reinterpretation by planners, lawyers, Uncle Tom Cobby et al. Although we believe parts of the system which have proved to be unclear or imprecise should be reformed we think the NPPF is unnecessary.

We are fortunate in Wandsworth to be well advanced with the Local Development Framework, which will form the basis of the next ten years or so of planning policy in the Borough. Planning decisions should be considered in the light of established planning policies.

Another of our main concerns has been the methodology applied to Section 106 Agreements, this is expected to be clarified by borough-wide tariffs to be applied in the Community Infrastructure Levy, with exceptions made for special areas such as Vauxhall and Nine Elms

My thanks go to members of the Planning Group for their consistent and thorough consideration of the various issues which have arisen and their ability to produce excellent papers in response, most of which have been submitted on time.

Springfield

Springfield University Hospital : a public inquiry is due to start on 8 November on the hospital's appeal against the refusal of their planning application.

We have been closely involved with the evolving plans over the last few years, and the Society is supporting the Springfield Hospital Trust. Unfortunately much of the emphasis of the mixed-use and integrated redevelopment has been lost. However, we believe that, broadly, the proposals will benefit the site, to say nothing of producing funds for the continued improvement of the hospital's mental-health facilities; and bringing the major listed buildings back into use is most welcome. We do not believe that the grounds for refusal are justified.

If any of our members would like to receive copies of the submissions made on any of the matters specified above, please contact me.

Philip Whyte 020 8874 4745 07860 317509

Thursday 24 November 7.45 for 8pm

Wandsworth Museum 38 West Hill London SW18 1RZ

A night at the museum

by invitation of the Friends of Wandsworth Museum

SEPARATION & SILENCE WANDSWORTH PRISON

A fine opportunity to visit the Museum free of charge and view the current exhibition. The café bar will be open, make a note in your diary for an interesting, informative and sociable evening.

An introduction for non-members and first-time visitors to experience what they have been missing, and perhaps become Friends of Wandsworth Museum.



NOT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY BUT A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 7.30 FOR 8PM

at the National Opera Studio
The Clore Building 2 Chapel Yard
Wandsworth High Street London SW18 4HZ

Three talented young musicians

Gabriela Istoc soprano

Alexander Sprague tenor

Philip Voldman piano

will delight us with songs by Donizetti, Mozart and Handel,
and there will be wine and a buffet

The Studio works closely with the six main British opera
companies, who each year select the 12 singers and 4 répétiteurs
whom they believe have real prospects of becoming principal
artists.

Please book your places from Valerie
020 867 3814 vytprojects@aol.com
£8 in advance or £10 on the door