



Wandsworth Society

Newsletter September 2012

A day in the country

A trip jointly arranged by the Wandsworth Society and Friends of the Wandsworth Museum, involving a walk along the North Downs Way, to visit the Watts Gallery at Compton.

We started at Clapham Junction – where the train to Guildford the walkers had intended to catch was cancelled. (I quote; ‘the train is cancelled as it is late and that upsets the schedules.’ I am glad that cancellation doesn’t always apply in such circumstances ...)

Some 15 walkers finally set off from Guildford station beside the River Wey before branching on to the North Downs Way. At that point we met an 86-year old who was visiting for the first time the cottage he left aged 9-months! Shame about the drizzle – but it didn’t slow the pace or dampen our spirits. The path ran through pastoral country direct to the Watts Gallery where we joined up with the 10 or so who had taken the bus from Guildford.

Splitting into two groups, we had a tour of the collection of George Frederic Watts’ paintings. Our guide was so enthusiastic and ensured we saw all the key paintings which covered his life and loves. Watts claimed that his teacher was the Elgin Marbles; although he was enrolled at the Academy Schools, he did not attend many classes. We saw how his style developed from the early self-portrait, all flowing locks and casual dress, very much ‘the artist’, to his social realism pictures, reflecting his disgust that the poor and needy were disregarded by society: *Found Drowned*, for example, shows a woman’s body lying half out of the Thames, with the industrial South Bank beyond indicating wealth; *Under the Dry*

Arch shows a destitute woman huddled against the cold with St Paul’s looming in the distance.

There is a painting of his first wife, Ellen Terry, as Ophelia; he was 47 and she 16 when they married and the union lasted less than a year. Watts made his living mostly by portraits – the gallery has a good selection including a chubby faced Florence Nightingale (unfinished), Garibaldi, J S Mill and Lillie Langtry.

His symbolist pictures were a later strand of his art – our guide kept showing us ‘just one more’ as she so wanted us to know and see all we could. The gallery holds a comprehensive collection of Watts’ work.

Downstairs in the sculpture studio (yes, Watts sculpted too) are the monumental plaster figures of Alfred Lord Tennyson and of *Physical Energy*, both cast after his death. There are various death masks (including Beethoven), casts of part of the Elgin Marbles (oh for the days when one could just go and make a cast!), sculptures Watts bought, and maquettes he used to perfect the angles of the people in paintings such as in the magnificent *Chaos* in the gallery upstairs.

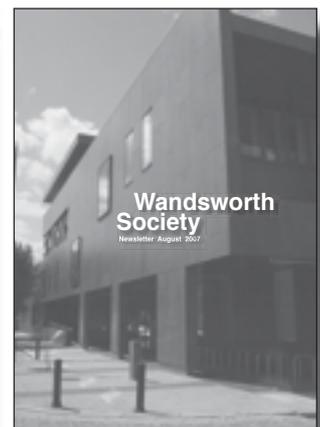
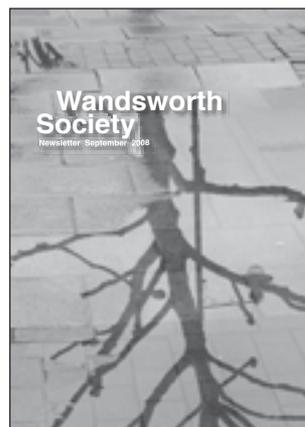
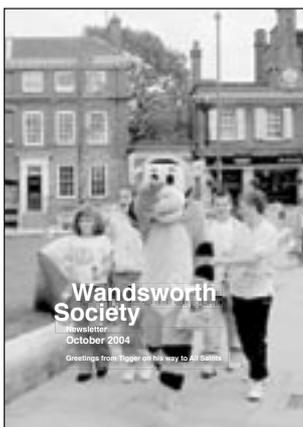
When he was 69, he married Mary Fraser-Tytler. Though there was again a large age gap, the marriage was happy; they adopted an orphan, Lillian, and together they moved to a new house in Compton with a purpose-built gallery.

By this time, we were ready for refreshments in the excellent cafe and a browse in the gift and studio shop before some of us walked down to the amazing Watts Cemetery Chapel, a circular building designed by Mary on the crest of a mound in the cemetery where both she and Watts are buried.

And so we left – some walking still, more on the bus. Our thanks to Wendy Cater and Valerie Taylor for organising the day, and to Alan Fennell for leading the walkers so patiently.

Jenny Massey

Covers from the past, the last in an occasional series



Wandsworth Society

September 2012

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www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Musings from Newsletter Towers ...

Don't it always seem to go

That you don't know what you've got

Till it's gone

In this instance it is not paradise that's been paved but Alvering Library that has been hidden (yes we know, it is no more, but in the same way that Southside is still the Arndale, it will be some time before we stop thinking of it as the library). The fence is now up and the open space is no more. You may recall that someone claimed, it may have been the applicant, it may have been the planners, that the fence would not 'have a significant impact to an unacceptable degree'. While not appearing to be as tall as we feared it is significant, and not a patch on the open space we once enjoyed. And you can see just enough of the library to be reminded of what you are missing.

And talking of going ...

This is to be the last newsletter from Newsletter Towers under the present management, it's time for someone else to pull on the green eyeshade and those black cuff things that we newsletter types favour, the cigar is optional.

It has been a smidgen over years. The first from the Towers to hit the newsstands was in April 2002. Not quite the last century, but it feels it. Had you asked we would have said it seemed we have been putting them out since, well since time immemorial. But there again these days the time from which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary is sometimes the middle of last week.

Many, many thanks to all those who have contributed articles, photographs and the like, proof red, thrown logs on the fire – it can never have been more appropriate to say it could not have happened without you, and very pleasing to have two stalwarts in this issue.

And so, dear reader, farewell ... if you have been, thank you for listening.

Should you feel you have it in you to step into the breach please let Philip know, he would be pleased to hear from you.

Ed

Front cover

We had a competition to guess the location of the photograph on the cover of a newsletter back in, well some time ago. However, as the postman complained bitterly about the weight of the mail bag (that was one heavy letter) we have decided not to repeat the experiment. Yes, you were right, the columns of the portico to St Anne's church, on St Ann's Hill. And should you be curious, nobody knows why the Hill is less an 'e' – an early example of cost-cutting in the street naming department?

To tunnel or not to tunnel,

Whether 'tis better to scoop up all of London's storm/sewage water and store it in a long tunnel, or to take arms against a flawed idea and by opposing, end it ... perchance to dream ... of green infrastructure.

(with apologies to William Shakespeare).

London's drainage system is magnificent, but it suffers from the problem that both surface water and sewage are combined in the same drains. During periods of heavy rainfall the system fills up and a mixture of surface water and sewage overflows into the Thames. The Thames Tideway Tunnel is a vast infrastructure project designed to mitigate the problem by constructing a tunnel below the Thames to store the overflow until it can be treated. While there is general agreement that there is a problem there are some who believe that a storage tunnel is not best solution.

When such respected bodies as Thames Water, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Government, and the politicians all jump on the bandwagon that is the Thames Tideway Tunnel project, those who oppose seem somewhat at odds with perceived wisdom, perhaps just the nutty fringe of society.

This week however (22 August 2012), a meeting organised by Thamesbank and hosted by Hammersmith and Fulham Council, demonstrated to at least some of the decision makers that there could be a cheaper and infinitely better alternative.

Those present included Matthew Pencharz, Environmental Adviser to the Mayor of London, representatives of the Environment Agency, the Greater London Assembly, four London boroughs (including Wandsworth), the Environmental Law Foundation, the West London River Group, other Thames-related bodies, the London Forum, and individual scientific specialists.

We heard from Chris Binnie the former chairman of the Thames Tideway Strategic Study. Chris Binnie is a consultant water engineer who was chief advisor to Thames Water on the project and formerly a wholehearted advocate of the proposed tunnel, Although reluctant to be too critical of the tunnel he thinks so much has changed since 2006 that it is not now the answer. And we listened to Dr Ben Pontin of the Environmental Law Foundation who explained the legal status of the Thames Tideway Tunnel in relation to the EU Urban Waste Water Directive, non-compliance with which is set to land the UK with fines of around one billion euros.

Highlight of the afternoon however was an illuminating, illustrated, and technical talk by Mark Maimone, Managing Director of CDM Smith the water engineering company that has overseen the installation of a Green Infrastructure project in Philadelphia, a smaller city than London but one where there is also a combined sewer system with the combined sewer overflows (CSOs) overflowing into the tidal Delaware River. It has more CSOs than London and has to cope with a storm water problem that is far greater.

The Philadelphia Green Infrastructure scheme

The problem in both Philadelphia and London is that the drainage installations combine surface water and sewage. During periods of heavy rain the sewers can fill to capacity, causing both surface water and sewage to overflow into the river.

Philadelphia's Water Commissioner asked water engineers, CDM Smith, to do a study of the effectiveness, benefits, and costs of various methods of dealing with the problem of CSO discharges into the Delaware.

They considered a tunnel, and other kinds of extra storage capacity. They looked at separating the systems for surface water and sewage, with the surface water pipes discharging straight into the river (rejected not only on cost and disruption but because street water also contains harmful pollutants). It became increasingly obvious that having a green infrastructure to 'slow the flow' was the answer. With the initiative being taken by the water authority it was easier to convince the politicians that it would work.

Greening a city is clearly not something that can happen quickly, nor is it just a matter of planting

that is the question

more vegetation. Over time, Philadelphia aims to transform at least one-third of the impervious areas (concrete and asphalt) into permeable surfaces. There are already roadside planting strips, rain gardens, trees and tree trenches that store water below the trees, and other features. Financial incentives are used to get developers to co-operate. Communities and schools are involved. It costs a lot of money, but far less than the alternatives, and it has added benefits with none of the environmental and social damage associated with tunnel construction.

Philadelphia has found there is a significant improvement in the urban environment, increased biodiversity, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, reductions in energy use, and a much cleaner river.

The EU Urban Waste Water Directive

A synopsis of Dr Pontin's talk

Thames Water has stated that the proposed Thames Tunnel is 'required to ensure that the UK complies with European environmental standards'. There are already on-going infraction proceedings in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to decide if the UK is breaching the Directive by the storm water/sewage overflows into the Thames.

Thamesbank is a party to the ECJ proceedings as an objector. Its representatives have corresponded with the European Commission, and met with prosecuting officials to clarify the legal position regarding the Commission's view of compliance in the event that the ECJ rules against the UK.

The purpose of the Directive is to require member states to separate storm water and sewage at source and there are various ways of achieving this. With the tunnel the two are collected together, stored, and then pumped to a treatment centre. The Commission feels this is against the spirit, and also the letter, of the Directive. In any case (if ruled against) we cannot escape penalties for non-compliance so far, nor those imposed on a daily basis until the tunnel is ready in 2023.

Around 2001, the then UK government thought varied green infrastructure was the way forward but changed its mind because it was persuaded that a tunnel would be easier to administrate centrally and that a large capital project was more acceptable to Thames Water. All Thames Water's catchment-area customers will pay for

the tunnel with perhaps a contribution from the government. The financial benefactors will be just the Thames Water shareholders who are largely foreign institutions. Since the tunnel is not an EU requirement, Dr Pontin thinks Thames Water and the Government might have difficulty in defending this costly financial arrangement from legal challenge on cost benefit grounds.

The attraction in legal terms of green infrastructure solutions is twofold.

1) It brings some immediate benefit and will provide incremental and cumulative improvement over time, as opposed to an inevitable decade of unmitigated storm-water pollution associated with the tunnel proposal. Incremental compliance is legally attractive because it would reduce the daily penalty to which the UK is subject.

2) Many of the green technologies that are proposed bring wider social, economic and environmental benefits, in contrast to a mono-functional tunnel, and would help Thames Water resist a legal challenge on cost benefit issues.

(Mr Binnie had earlier pointed out that interim measures until full greening was in place, such as filtration, bubblers, booms and skimmers can be easily put in place).

The financial cost of the tunnel

The estimated costs have doubled since 2006 and now stand at over £4 billion. They are likely to rise. Tunnels in Japan and the USA have come in at between 5 and 12 times the estimates. Green infrastructure costs can be spread over time, and across a wide range of investors, landowners, public authorities, developers and individuals. The cost of the proposed tunnel will be borne largely by Thames Water customers.

Problems of water management by green infrastructure

There would of course be problems and technical challenges before a truly integrated water management system could be put in place, but the engineering is generally very straightforward. Administration is the biggest hurdle but is not beyond those with a will and the ability to think imaginatively. Philadelphia is a good example of how it can be done. The US government is looking to use green infrastructure solutions in more cities across America.

Shirley Passmore

Edward and Helen Thomas



On a sun-baked Monday at 2.30pm, in equatorial South West London, Richard Purver, with noble (no pun intended) assistance from Anne Harvey, led a three-hour walk visiting the homes where Edward and Helen had lived, and other places with which they had important connections.

Twenty-one intrepid devotees, many members of the Wandsworth Society (who organised the walk), mostly sporting protective sunhats and carrying the obligatory bottle of water, plus a plucky little dog called Hetty, convened at Battersea Arts Centre in Lavender Hill, which had formerly been Battersea Town Hall, at the start of a most interesting talk and walk led by Richard. Anne provided additional information, and also captivatingly read one or more of Edward's poems or prose at each location.

Of course, the homes where Edward lived and the other houses we were to visit did not fall in a convenient straight line or in a perfect circle; so understandably the chosen route took in places in an order which was geographically efficient rather than chronologically accurate!

In the vestibule of what had been Battersea Town Hall, Richard mentioned that Edward's father had been interested in philosophy and politics, and had stood, unsuccessfully, as a local Liberal candidate in Battersea. He walked regularly across St James's Park with Lloyd George – who also lived in Wandsworth (although Battersea was a distinct borough from Wandsworth in those days). Anne read two very appropriate poems, *Battersea* and *Lavender Hill* from *Nursery Rhymes of London Town* by Edward's friend Eleanor Farjeon.

We then walked through a street of handsome Victorian terrace houses – of which there are so many in London – to Clapham Common North Side, better known to

motorists as “The South Circular”. Here, Richard pointed out a magnificent house where John Burns, a statesman and a (radical) Liberal politician, had lived; in Edward Thomas's autobiography, Edward recalls being bowled out at cricket by John Burns on Clapham Common. Close by lived Charles Barry, the architect who designed the Houses of Parliament; another neighbour was Edvard Grieg. In fact, many famous people have lived along Clapham Common North Side and nearby; there is a positive epidemic of LCC and English Heritage blue plaques in the area!

Edward Thomas was born in Lansdowne Gardens, South Lambeth, near Stockwell, in March 1878. When he was 2, his parents moved to 49 Wakehurst Road (originally called 2 Tremorvah Villa[s] as Richard had recently discovered from the 1881 Census and other documents), at which several of Edward's brothers were born. When Edward was about 10, the family moved to 61 Shelgate Road, which was our next port of call. This large house, with very small front garden, and many-windowed attic, sports a plaque stating that Edward Thomas, Essayist and Poet, 1878-1917, lived here. Helen and Edward's first child, Merfyn, was born in this house in 1900, and Anne read Helen's very vivid description of the room in which he was born, no doubt with emotions and sensibilities heightened by her pregnancy, followed by Edward's poem about a similar place, *The Long Small Room*. Helen became a writer in her own right; two books about her life with Edward (*As It Was* and *World Without End*) and children's stories, although she never composed any poetry.

We then processed to Belleville Road, to an archetypal Victorian London primary school, Belleville School, built in the mid-1870s on a fairly steep hill. Edward attended this school, then the local Board School. He later recalled “crawling in (to school) and bursting out” – a feature perhaps common to all children, as we witnessed by the eruption of a multitude of energetic children from the school in mid-afternoon, ready to be collected by mums, dads, and grandparents!

By prior arrangement, we were able to visit the school, view a typical classroom and the assembly hall, and be able to imagine it as Edward had known it. Although very colourfully decorated, and with the children's pictures on the walls and along the corridors, and the inevitable presence of modern technical equipment, the original structure of the building had evidently not been changed since it was built, so that it was not too great a leap of imagination. Edward remembered his school as having lofty rooms and large windows – and smelling of carbolic soap! He progressed to the main school from

in Battersea and Wandsworth

the Infants here in 1886, when he was recorded as Edwy, his pet name.

After being shown round the school by two members of staff, Baki Gashi and Alexandra Turnbull, deputy head Sarah Atherton told us about the recent journey by 15 Year 5 Belleville pupils to Steep in Hampshire, where they visited sites associated with Edward Thomas and met pupils from Steep Primary School. A report of the visit is carried on the school's website.

We went on to look at 49 Wakehurst Road, where Edward's world consisted of home, school, and the streets neighbouring the common (Wandsworth Common) where he would engage in mock battles, and take an increasing interest in wildlife and nature, while playing in and around the ponds and gravel pits. He visited blacksmiths and pigeon fanciers, and began keeping pigeons and white mice. He subsequently went on to attend Battersea Grammar School (and then St Paul's School, before going up to Oxford).

We then walked onto Wandsworth Common by Bolingbroke Grove and set off across the common in the sun, glad at the beginning to experience some shade of the trees. On 13 April 1895, when Edward was 17, he recorded that swallows, house martins and sand martins came to Wandsworth Common; his early work consisted in what we might term nature notes or natural history jottings, rather than poetry, and inspired him to write his first book, *The Woodland Life*. It was later that he used similar material to compose two poems, which Anne then read: *How at once? [The Swifts]* and *Birds' Nests*.

We continued across the common, reaching the footbridge going over what must have been in Edward's day the line of The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, and crossed the common on the other side of the line to reach 6 Patten Road where Helen Noble had lived with her parents (they had previously lived in St Ann's Hill). Helen's father was the writer and critic James Ashcroft Noble, and Edward met her through both families attending the Unitarian chapel in East Hill (no longer standing). Helen had been born in Liverpool in 1877, and the family returned to Wandsworth in 1893 after a previous stay, Helen attending Wimbledon High School. Helen and Edward took long walks to Merton and Wimbledon, as part of their courtship. Anne read Helen's description of first meeting Edward and his later poem for her: *And You, Helen*.

We then passed some two blocks of fine large houses to view the home at 3 Routh Road where David Lloyd

George, former Liberal Prime Minister had lived. As mentioned, Lloyd George knew Edward's father through local politics, although, of course, Lloyd George was much more successful as a politician.

A further pleasant walk across another part of the common towards Wandsworth Common station provided an opportunity to hear another of Edward's poems. Anne read *Adlestrop* on a patch of green near the station, from which it is possible that Edward and Helen set off on the railway journey which produced arguably the best-loved of all his poems. Interestingly, although the poem has a profound sense of solitariness, Helen was with him when he experienced arriving at Adlestrop station.

Crossing the railway line again, near Nightingale Lane, we found 12 Rusham Road, a tall, handsome, well-built house surrounded by a garden of trees. Edward's parents moved here from Shelgate Road, in 1902 and Edward and Helen and their children regularly used to travel up from Steep to visit them, despite Edward's preference for the country. (Edward's father was to die in this house in 1920, three years after Edward's death at Arras in April 1917.)

Earlier though, in 1913, Edward wrote a travelogue of a bicycle journey from London to the West Country, *In Pursuit of Spring*. He started out from Rusham Road on 21 March 1913 and his route was followed on the 80th anniversary in a charity cycle ride by Mary Wynn-Jones. Anne had been in the party seeing her off and read for us the same passage from the book as she had that day in 1993.

Edward had been writing mostly prose, essays and nature notes, but his friendship with Robert Frost (who visited Edward here) proved decisive in encouraging Edward to write poetry. It was at Rusham Road that Edward said goodbye to his family before embarking for France on 29 January 1917. Anne spoke Eleanor Farjeon's elegaic poem for Edward Thomas, *Easter Monday* – and it was a much appreciated conclusion to an excellent afternoon, demonstrated by a spontaneous round of applause for Richard and Anne, much to the astonishment of some passers-by!

*John Haskey
(with thanks
to both Richard and Anne for some corrections)
June 2012*

Planning matters

Ram Brewery, Wandsworth High Street.

We have heard nothing more from either the Council or the developer in the last few months. This is not unexpected in view of the difficult state of the financial and property markets in both this country and Europe, where lending sources are viewing exposure to new commitments with great caution. The next application should be one which the developers are confident will meet with all requirements of both local and national policies and will be implementable without delay. We wait and see!

Skydeck Earlsfield Road.

The long running saga continues with a new application to alter the roof of both the main building and the car lift. We have considered the proposals which go some way to accommodating our concerns, however the fundamental matter of the height of the building appears to be unaddressed. We have commented on the revised applications now being considered by the Council and will let you know the outcome in due course.

Springfield Hospital NHS Trust

We have been advised that consent was granted in June by the Minister following the Public Inquiry last year. The recommendations of the Inspector were upheld and we hope to have further dialogue with Andrew Simpson of the Trust in the near future. The detailed application is likely to take some time to formulate, given the size of the overall scheme, although this may be able to be dealt with in phases.

Thames Tunnel

The last round of consultation has been completed by Thames Water and although there are still doubts as to the practicality of the overall scheme, I believe that the forward planning will continue. The first round of public announcements have been made and the programme indicates that the formal application will be

made towards the end of this year. The two sites which have been of particular concern to the planning group at Dormay Street and King George's Park have been considered in detail by Thames Water and some amendments made to the plans.

Peabody Estate St John's Hill Clapham Junction

We have been involved during the last six months with the proposed redevelopment of the estate on St John's Hill. Members will recall that a representative of the Trust spoke last autumn at a meeting organised by the Society. Following representations to the Architects for the Trust in which we indicated our concerns with the height, massing and density, little attention was paid, as an application was submitted ignoring all of our comments. The application was considered by the Planning Applications committee in July, which despite some members wishing to vote against, the submitted scheme was approved. There will be a significant loss of "affordable housing" which seems to go against the ethos of the Trust.

The Trust need to make a "profit" but at the expense of whom?

Southside, north end

An application was approved for the remodelling of the north end of the scheme which did not appear contentious, until it was shown that three listed London Plane trees were to be felled to "improve sight lines" for the retailers!! We, with others, objected strongly to this part of the application and were pleased to receive confirmation from Cllr Cuff, leader of the applications committee, that conditions have been imposed to allow the retention of these trees. We will have to see whether the developers find sufficient grounds to avoid this condition!!

Schools- use of Commons

Both the planning group and the open

spaces group have become greatly concerned with the proposed use of public open space by schools which do not have sufficient play ground space for their pupils. The new preparatory school on Allfarthing Lane and the new Bolingbroke Academy are two immediate cases. Many schools have sold off ground previously used for games and recreation and are now expecting to use the Commons for everyday purposes. Will we soon be faced with restricted access to parts of the Commons or will areas be used so intensively that clearance and reseedling has to be undertaken without a significant contribution from the users? Please let us know if you have a view on this as we are assembling comments to make to the Council.

Basements

This is a matter which is causing concern in this borough and throughout certain other Boroughs in London. The planning authority has restricted powers to control the use of sub surface space. This has led to some distortion of the watertable as clearly water has to go somewhere. The resulting effect has been disturbance to adjoining property, to say nothing of the disruption caused during construction. The planning group are considering whether a proposal can be made to the regulating authority (planning or building control) to try to ensure that all new basements have adequate geotechnical and other reports submitted with applications to ensure as little disruption as possible. Please let us have your views or if you have been affected, let us know of the circumstances.

I hope that this note will be of interest to Members, I will be pleased to answer any questions that may arise. The planning group are always ready to take up cases for members where we believe that there are grounds for comment. These comments are not always negative! as we wish to present a balanced view to whoever is concerned.

Philip Whyte
Leader Planning Group

U3A The University of the Third Age

Wandsworth U3A aims to encourage and enable older people no longer in full-time paid employment to help each other to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experience. In addition to study and activity group meetings, meetings are held on the third Monday of the month between 2.00 and 4.00pm at Earlsfield Library, Magdalen Road. The monthly meetings focus on guest speakers on a variety of interesting subjects, and also offer up-to-date information on U3A events and provide an opportunity to meet other members. Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend.

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 17 September | Women as Spies, Saboteurs and Resistance Fighters | Hugh Davies |
| 15 October | The Darwin Family at Down and Cambridge | Dr Enid Stockwell |
| 19 November | 18th Century Silver | Peter Titcher |
| 17 December | No Talk | |
| 21 January | Two Contrasting Mozart Operas | Jane Rosenberg |
| 18 February | Fair Shares for All – rationing during and after WW2 | David Evan |

The return of the tree in St John's Hill



Sad to see the tree go, if you remember young Will drew our attention to this in February 2011, but we had every faith that when the time was right it would be replaced, and here it is.

The tree people at Wandsworth are usually on the side of the angels, mind you it looks worryingly close to the edge there.



If you are not a member and would like to join the Society



Please complete with your name, address, telephone number and email address. We will not disclose your details to third parties without your consent and return to the Membership Secretary - Gill Gray
 Studio 8 Royal Victoria
 Patriotic Building SW18 3SX
 phone 020 8870 4567

or alternatively
 phone 020 8780 0866 or email your details to gg@wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Name

 Address

 Telephone

 Email

No more Lollipops for schoolchildren



Wandsworth Council
ends funding for School
Crossing Patrollers
(‘lollipop’ men and women)
from January 2013

On Wednesday, 4
July, the Finance and

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Wandsworth Council voted by 7 votes to 3 to end Council funding for all School Crossing Patrols from the start of the school term in January 2013. One Conservative Councillor noted wryly that, with this decision (to be confirmed by the Executive on the 5th), he and his colleagues were following in the wake of much derided ‘Labour Lambeth’ and becoming only the second council in London to end public funding for the patrollers. These affectionately named ‘lollipops’ are the men and women who for half a century have been a source of security and friendly smiles on our streets.

Because of the costs of redundancy, there will be almost

no net financial saving in the current financial year. The minority of Labour Councillors, therefore, put forward an amendment to instruct officers to examine each school crossing site to see where patrollers might safely be removed and to suggest to the Committee’s November meeting alternatives like controlled crossings and 20mph zones across each school’s catchment area. This was debated. One or two Conservative Councillors agreed with some of the points being made. But when the vote was called, that old destroyer of community consensus and reasoned decision making -- tribal voting on party lines -- resulted in the officer’s recommendation to end funding being accepted.

What will happen now? The Department of Environment and Community Services is supposed to talk to each of the 44 schools affected after the summer holidays. They will explore whether a school can finance its crossing patrollers from that small part of its school budget that is not restricted, or recruit volunteers, or get commercial sponsorship. The Director’s report (Paper 12-437) makes clear, however, that no firm offer of sponsorship has been received in the past 12 months, and that volunteers for this purpose are near impossible to organise on a reliable basis. We can therefore expect a future with almost no ‘lollipops’ surviving on our local streets. Instead, our roads may become more congested in the mornings as more parents ferry their children to school by car. And, particularly in the poorer parts of the borough where parents do not have that option, only the future will tell whether more children are hit by moving vehicles.

*Robert Molteno
Wandsworth Living Streets*

Classified ads

Situation Vacant

Young, dynamic person with GSOH, required to produce the Society’s Newsletter on departure of old, moribund, grumpy present incumbent – actually young and dynamic would be more of a bonus than a necessity, ability to gather contributions and then arrange them in a word processing document sort of thing is all that is required in the first instance.

Interested, then please contact
Philip, see page 3

Ceramicists Prue Cooper and Regina Heinz

will be selling seconds and old stock, with prices starting at £5, on Friday 23 November and Saturday 24 November 10.00 am to 5.00, and Sunday 25 November 12.00 to 4.00.

Studio A208, second floor of block “A”, Riverside Business Centre, at the end of Bendon Valley, SW18 4UQ

Please note there is NO PARKING within the centre on Frida Should you get lost, or for more information please call 07963-129-756

And there are two other studios which will also be open selling jewelry and ceramics

Post script, and how to become a member

This is the Newsletter of The Wandsworth Society, a registered charity no 263737. The Society is concerned with the quality of life and the environment in Wandsworth town centre, Wandsworth Common and

adjacent areas. If you are not already a member and would like to join please contact the Membership Secretary Gill Gray, by email gg@wandsworthsociety.org.uk or phone 020 8780 0866

Please address Letters to the Editor, any comments, or, even better, contributions to -
Philip Whyte - see page 3

Dancing in the long-eighteenth century

a talk by Françoise Carter

A lovely evening at West Side Church as part of the 2012 Wandsworth Arts Festival last May was given by Françoise Carter. Françoise returned to talk to the Society and guests on the fascinating subject of dance under the title “Dancing in the long eighteenth century”. Soft-spoken, but authoritative, Françoise explained that the long-eighteenth century started with the Glorious revolution of 1688 and continued to the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837.

This was a time of great prosperity, a huge expansion of the British Empire and of the influence of the British way of life and social customs. Françoise’s talk took in both courtly and country dancing and demonstrated the influences that the French court under Louis XIV had on English dancing in the early part of the period and how later this was reversed not only to France, but to large parts of the world much influenced by the English life.

She described the social importance of dance and dance movements in courtly dancing. Steps and the correct use of the feet for both sexes were of major importance in getting noticed in social situations and as a result, perhaps leading to the growth of relationships and to marriage. As a former ballet dancer herself, Françoise was able to demonstrate some of the dance movements to great effect.

The role of the dancing master in society was stressed, so that in society or at court the dancing was of a very high standard. Indeed, she pointed out how men and women were attracted to each other both by their beauty/handsomeness and their skills as a dancer. Life then was so different from today and the dances that were held were one of only a few social opportunities where couples could meet. The “coming-out”



balls at the London or Bath seasons were major occasions.

Country dancing played a major role in the social life of the country. Morris dancing flourished across the country as did many other dances and brought people together dancing in lines – perhaps the 18th century equivalent of line dancing - or in pairs for the minuet.

The Minuet was arguably the most popular dance of the period and many composers wrote music for the minuet in serenades used for such social occasions. However by the 19th century the graceful minuet was being replaced in popularity by the waltz across Europe and at that point Françoise brought her fascinating talk to a close.

Françoise illustrated her talk not only with movement but also with a set of slides showing works of art by leading artists depicting dance and with extracts from literature of the period.

This was a superbly researched talk which gripped the audience throughout its 90 minutes. We are fortunate to have such an expert in our area and we can only hope that she returns to talk about dance in the Victorian period before too long

Young’s Archive

When Young’s were still brewing in Wandsworth, there was a museum on site, which alas I never visited but which apparently included their archive.

They left Wandsworth six years ago, but the archive still exists somewhere, possibly still in Wandsworth, though no-one but Young’s seems to know where. The Council, I infer, has had contact with Young’s and say that the matter is “in hand”, but nothing has happened. There are rumours

that the archive has been promised to Wandsworth Museum but again, no-one there is aware of the present state of ‘negotiations’ - if indeed there have been any. The present Young’s management is uncommunicative, and appears apathetic on the subject.

Whilst I am unaware of what the archive contains, it is reasonable to suppose that a potentially valuable local resource, and a significant chapter of Wandsworth’s history,

is mouldering away somewhere. Is it not time something was done about this? With, for example, documents and photographs being entrusted to the Local Studies Library in Lavender Hill and any artefacts to Wandsworth Museum.

How can this situation be progressed?

Philip Evison

The Wandsworth Society Talks

Thursday 20 September 2012

7:45 for 8:00 at the West Side Church, at the corner of Melody Road and Allfarthing Lane

Who are the Wandsworth Citizens?

a talk by Jonathan Cox, Community Organiser



CITIZENS UK is the national home of community organising - "unlocking the power of Civil Society" Their goal is to build the power of communities who work together for the common good

Frustrated by overly simplistic responses to the riots and worried by a sense of complacency, Wandsworth CITIZENS launched the 'Brighter Futures' Community Listening Campaign and Youth Leadership Programme in November 2011 as civil society's response to last August's disturbances.

"The welfare of everyone in the borough must surely concern all of us."

Thursday 18 October 2012

7:45 for 8:00 at the West Side Church, at the corner of Melody Road and Allfarthing Lane

What's happening to the NHS in Wandsworth?

Dr Nicola Jones chairs the Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group, and will explain

Once upon a time there were doctors and nurses who cared for us when we were ill.

Things have changed.

Now we have Clinical Commissioning Groups, Pathfinders, South West London Clusters, Practice Based Commissioning, Performance Steering Groups, Clinical Commissioning Executives, a QIPP – and more

Does your heart sink ?

Fear not, we still have doctors, nurses and hospitals who will care for that sinking heart, come along, and be heartened !

Forthcoming events

further details to follow



Thursday 22 November

at 7.45 NOT 8 pm, at Westside Church Hall.

Jenny Jones will talk about the GLA and how it works, her own role, and how she can influence decision making. Not so much a political talk but more a way of members understanding how the GLA operates and how one member of the Green Party can make a difference.