

Wandsworth Society

June 2015



Night and Day... the "brighter borough"...

The planning applications committee approved on 21 May the Council's plan to erect an 11.5 metre high illuminated advertising hoarding just west of 52 East Hill, in spite of the strong objections of local residents and the Wandsworth Society .

Planning News (as at May 2015)

Recently, the number of planning applications received by the Council has dropped off quite significantly. The opportunity to change the use of office buildings to residential without applying for a full planning consent may have something to do with this. We have been told that Wandsworth has "lost" nearly 500,000 sq ft of employment space through such changes. The time allowed by the government for this comes to an end in 2016 but this may well be reviewed and extended by the new government. Such change has allowed older buildings to be reused where substantial external changes were not required: this has added significantly to the availability of new residential space.

'Garratt Place' aka South Thames College and Council sites, Wandsworth High Street and Garratt Lane

This scheme has received all consents and is at the time of writing working through the Section 106 procedure. The site has been advertised by the Council for sale; we have no up-to-date knowledge of the sale process. There is a final opportunity to challenge the consent which will arise after the completion of the S.106 agreement which we are considering.

The Wandsworth Gyratory

TfL continue with their analysis of the initial consultations and are expected to report to the Council soon. We have been told that the Society will see the report at an early stage. Further public consultation is planned for the autumn.

Crossrail2

The Secretary of State has issued directions for the safeguarding of the proposed route that would run beneath Wandsworth Common. The Society has been involved, with others, in discussions with TfL and Crossrail about the 'areas of surface interest' that directly affect the Commons in our area of the borough. The two areas which were shown in the consultative document as required are not included in the directions, but suitable alternative areas will have to be found to comply with ventilation and escape requirements once the tunnel is built, to say nothing of the surface areas required during construction.

The Ram Quarter

A project meeting arranged for interested parties and local residents on 27 April was attended by several Society members. The main contractor for the ground works, Kier, has been appointed and piling works for the perimeter of the site have commenced. Once complete, works for the basement will start which will require the removal of 56,000 cubic metres of soil from the site. It is expected that this will all have to be taken by road as there is no other economic way of transporting the spoil. Discussions

are in hand with TfL on the routes which the lorries will take to avoid an increase in traffic through the High Street.

Advertising Sign, East Hill/St John's Hill

The planning group hope that all local residents had a look at this application (No. 2015/0507 – and see our cover). Many residents and the Society expressed strong objections. This enormous sign will dominate the east-bound carriageway by the slip road from Trinity Road. We wrote a second letter (available on our website), expressing strong objections to the sign's siting and size, when the committee report recommending approval was issued.

Pocket development, Mapleton Crescent

We have submitted our comments and objection to this application and a copy of our letter can be found on our website.

York Road, Battersea

Although outside our immediate area of concern, we have been alerted to two new applications on the Homebase and Prices Candles site. The latter proposal is for a building of 30 storeys, we are told, which completely flies in the face of the planning guidance for the site, where anything more than 9 storeys would be considered unsuitable. We await further detail, but this appears to be yet another example of the Council's very relaxed attitude towards their stated requirements.

Local Plan Review

We have submitted a request to attend the Local Plan Review in early July. This meets a statutory requirement for the review of the Council's policies for the next planning period. Wandsworth Council has been on top of the timetable set by statute and we congratulate them – many planning authorities are well behind with their statutory obligations.

Basements

As part of an ongoing review of planning procedures, the Council are required to review The Housing Supplementary Planning Document which includes consideration of how basements are dealt with. Thankfully, in Wandsworth, unlike Kensington and Chelsea and elsewhere, we have so far avoided multi-level basements. Even so, the disruption that can be caused locally to neighbours while work on a basement is under way can be substantial and distressing. We have considered the whole document (all 40+ pages!) and have made a couple of suggestions for improving the position of properties adjoining any such development.

If any member would like to attend the planning group's regular monthly meetings, please contact the writer.

Philip Whyte.

Wandsworth Society

June 2015

President
Shirley Passmore

Chairman
David Kirk
15 Aspley Road
SW18 2DB
020 8874 9167

Vice-Chairman
Philip Whyte
49 West Side, Wandsworth Common
SW18 2EE
020 8874 4745

Secretary
John Dawson
210 Beechcroft Road, SW17 7DP
020 8772 4282

Treasurer
Norman Holmes
Flat 7, Tiffany Heights
59 Standen Road, SW18 5TF
020 8877 9616

Membership Secretary
Gill Gray
Studio 8, Royal Victoria Patriotic Building
SW18 3SX
020 8870 4567

Other Committee Members

Sheila Allen
13 Earlsfield Road
SW18 3DB
020 8874 2341

Roger Bone
208 Chapelier House
Eastfields Avenue
SW18 1LR
020 8877 0208

Bruce St Julian-Bown
39c Heathfield Road, SW18 2PH
020 8874 6966

Iain Gray
Studio 8, Royal Victoria Patriotic Building
SW18 3SX
020 8870 4567

Harry Waddingham
61 Magdalen Road
SW18 3NE
020 8874 8784

Events Group

Valerie Taylor (020 8767 3814)
Wendy Cater - Diana Godden
David Kirk - Jenny Massey
Caroline Pook - Libby Spurrier

Other Sub-Committee Leaders

Open Spaces
Bruce St Julian-Bown

Planning
Philip Whyte

Roads and Transport
Harry Waddingham

Newsletter
David Kirk - Nigel

Distribution
Paschal Allen - Wendy Cater
Gill Gray - Iain Gray
Jan Passey - Charles Walton

It is a privilege to have been elected as your Chair. I shall do my best to serve the Society. If I did not know before how hard Philip Whyte, my predecessor, worked, I do now! All of us should be enormously grateful to him for his labours on our behalf and for keeping the Society ship on an even keel. I am delighted that Philip is 'staying on' as Vice-Chair and will continue to lead our Planning group, and that, following the Society's AGM, we have welcomed Roger Bone and Harry Waddingham as new Executive Committee members.

We are lucky that so many members are prepared to give up time for the Society in a variety of ways. I am very grateful right now to Celia Jones for all the effort she put into the production of our deservedly well-regarded Newsletter. Having just 'succeeded' her, if only temporarily, I have learnt how time-consuming that task is too! We rely on much voluntary work, from committee activity and organising events to fetching, carrying, delivering (Newsletters, chairs, IT ...).

There is certainly a rich diversity of current 'public' Society activities, as this Newsletter illustrates. But all organisations need infusions of new blood. We could, I think, do with some more. It is excellent that we already have several hundred members, but we could increase our numbers further. And we need more 'activists' and more 'feedback' from members. I know that many of you, particularly those working hard at full-time jobs, may have little time to spare. But we would really welcome views on how well the Society is doing - e-mail me (or another Society officer via www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk) or call or speak to one of us at a meeting.

Given the Society's concerns for our built and natural environment and local heritage - and our aim to raise community awareness - our interaction with 'local government' is of central importance. You may have noticed that, during our very long General Election campaign, we heard little about 'localism' or the 'big Society'. But these are still important issues. I did hear several candidates asked how they would influence local decision-making: the 'correct' answer, which most gave, is that there is usually little a local MP can, or should, do about matters properly the responsibility of councillors. But that is surely where societies such as ours should be playing a major role on behalf of the community.

If I am right about that, my first task might be to redouble our efforts to ensure there is constructive engagement between us and Wandsworth Council, its members and officers, and other 'powers that be' - on all issues (not just some, as at present) where we have concerns. Not everyone wants to be told "we're here to help", but, in an important sense, we really are.

Wandsworth Museum - An Update

My last article for these pages described the final days in the Museum's tenure of its home in the spacious and handsome West Hill premises and also included a short summary of the very varied, sometimes precarious story of Wandsworth Museum from Court House to West Hill.

You may have noticed a note at the end of the article stating that our new home, Battersea Arts Centre, had suffered from a devastating fire. It completely destroyed the Grand Hall and Lower Hall. Our move had taken place two days before the fire. All our office equipment was destroyed! The latest on the BAC situation is on their web www.bac.org.uk

The latest on our situation is that we are recovering from the shock and picking up the pieces although much of the move to integration with BAC is of necessity on hold. The Museum staff has had to work from lap tops in a variety of cafes although, as from last week, they have been given some office space and use of not yet fully reliable internet.

The Friends of Wandsworth Museum are actively seeking venues to hold their coffee mornings and have booked West Side church for another in their series of highly enjoyable talks (see page xx). They can continue visits to places of interest - Bletchley Park eagerly anticipated - and look forward to starting fundraising

events for the restoration of the BAC mosaics highlighting the bee motif - which conjures up prospects of bee hives on the roof, or am I too fanciful?

What we can't proceed with are the many elements of governance which have to be thrashed out in committee at board level and which have been somewhat overtaken by events. We still aim for full integration with the BAC by September 2016 and the staff is working hard to continue the Museum's involvement in education and participation in the Heritage and Arts Festivals.

The mood, however, is positive. BAC has scarcely skipped a beat and it's business as usual in the front section of the Centre, with Bar and Café fully functioning, as are the many productions and education programmes. A huge moral boost, in the form of a million pound donation to its restoration fund from the government, not to mention very generous help from local people and businesses large and small, will help achieve the goal of "rebuilding brick by brick." The Royal Festival Hall gave its space free for a terrific fund-raising concert recently, which must have added handsomely to the coffers. All seems set fair for a complete renewal of the building and achievement of the "Wandsworth Museum Collection at BAC" vision.

Sheila Allen



General Election Forum - 9 April 2015



Something made them smile! From left to right: Dan Watkins (Conservative, Tooting); Christopher Howe (UKIP, Battersea); David Kirk (chairing the forum); Chris Poole (Green, Putney); Sheila Boswell (Labour, Putney); Philip Ling (Lib Dem, Tooting) Picture: Jenny Massey

Five local General Election candidates (see above) had been randomly selected, one for each of the five main parties, from the borough's three parliamentary constituencies which the Society straddles. There was an almost full house to pose Wandsworth Society members' questions and join in the debate.

Each candidate was invited first to tell us their aspirations in four minutes each (!), a time limit which all managed to adhere to – under the able chairmanship of David Kirk, who directed operations in true Dimpleby style, declining to remove his glasses to alleviate alleged microphone interference! The Chairman then invited the audience's questions.

First (quick fire) question – answer in one sentence): the most important issue facing the UK? A range of answers: housing, the economy, standing up for ethical issues, 'sovereign diplomacy'... But no answers in one sentence!

Break-up of the UK? Not much enthusiasm for British government by coalition; none for the break-up of the UK; 'stronger together in Europe' (not UKIP of course); 'united we stand', but SNP may of course have other ideas – watch out!

Support the replacement of Trident? Wide range of responses, most with some reservations – Green and Lib Dem opposed, arguing that current terrorist threats and Russian interventions are not countered by Trident.

Air travel – reduce the number of airport runways or add another at Heathrow? No-one dared to be as radical as to support a reduction in runways. Even with the rise in facilities such as web-conferencing and Skype, businesses still prefer personal contact. Limited enthusiasm for another runway at Gatwick; all opposed a Heathrow solution.

Why so many A&E emergencies, particularly at weekends? Support repeal of the Health and Social Care Act and introduction of the NHS Reinstatement Bill? Many contributions on this subject, although some unfamiliarity with the Act and the Bill. General agreement about the importance of the NHS and need for more funding; suggestions about A & E included the reinstatement of Walk-in Centres and more GP early intervention. Mental health issues were also stressed as a major NHS issue (with Springfield in mind).

New housing developments in Wandsworth are unaffordable for the average resident. And what influence can an MP bring to bear on local councils? Responses from the panel ranged from "define affordable" to "scrap the system" and build more. General view that MPs have little power over local authorities but, through hard work, can rally local people and make a difference. Discussion about the mansion tax also produced, unsurprisingly, a range of comments - for and against.

We were fast running out of time when a voice from the floor noted that no one had mentioned, or asked a question about, education. But, all in all, it had been a wide-ranging, challenging and informative evening for both the audience and the panel members who all deserved our thanks. We went home with plenty to think about as the General Election approached.

Jennifer and Trevor Grubb



Picture: Aviva Walton and the MAC

Managing Wandsworth Common

Wandsworth Council has managed our Common since 1968 and, on the GLC's demise in 1986, became its owner. The Council soon saw the need to communicate with Common users and invited the Wandsworth Society to establish a Management Advisory Committee. As a conduit of information, ideas, opinions and advice between users and Council, the MAC's constitutional role is "to help to achieve a balance between facilities for formal and informal recreation on the Common, the protection and development of plant and animal life, to retain and enhance its natural character and to promote public interest and participation in the protection and appreciation of the Common." This the MAC (autonomous of the Society) has been doing for 29 years. I have been privileged to be its Chair for the last six. Shirley Passmore, the Society's President and a founding MAC member, represents the Society.

The MAC is actively involved in all aspects of Common management. An Enhancement Sub-committee was formed last year as a vehicle for fund-raising for special projects and to engage with the wider public. Currently, Crossrail2 is a major concern. The MAC has been at the forefront of discussions with TfL, Crossrail2 and the Council. Further consultation will begin this autumn, with the MAC involved as the accredited consultative body.

The MAC is, I believe, an excellent example of co-operation between a local authority and the community. Council officers, police and contractors attend our meetings (six a year, including an Annual Public Meeting). We have an open, cordial and constructive dialogue. This relationship is especially important as the Parks and Leisure Department moves towards the private sector.

All local residents are invited to our next APM to hear MAC reports, have their say and elect MAC members (currently 20) for the next year. It is at 7pm on Monday 15 June at the Fitzhugh Community Centre, Fitzhugh Grove, SW18 3SA (off Trinity Road). I look forward to seeing you there. You might also like to consider joining the MAC and/ or the Enhancement Sub-committee.

Charles Walton

Wandsworth Common

'our own piece of countryside'

Did you know?

- Wandsworth Common is classed as a 'site of borough importance' Grade1.
- 12 sections of the Common, each with their own character, make up 177 acres of unenclosed natural open space.
- The Common has ecological and natural habitats (especially The Scope), lakes, open spaces, grassland, trees, woodland, sports pitches, tennis and bowling, fishing, a 'trim trail', children's playground, café (The Skylark) and nature centre.
- Bare patches of earth in the grassland have an important function. The soil warms and nurtures insects. Solitary wasps and bees live in tiny holes in the ground. The natural grassland provides a perfect habitat.
- Natural wildlife grasslands thrive and evolve on poor soil – seed sown meadows need rich soil and high maintenance.
- The Scope was named after an enormous telescope (once the largest in the world) constructed near Lyford Road in 1852 by Rev. James Craig.
- The Windmill (1834), which has a Wandsworth Society plaque, was used to pump water out of the new railway cutting into the 'Black Sea', a disused gravel pit and reservoir (on the other side of Windmill Road) adjoining the home of the Wilsons (Price's Candle Factory owners) in Spencer Park.
- Management of the Common is a balancing act: balancing a heritage landscape and bio-diversity, and use by an ever increasing number of people for a variety of formal and informal recreational activities.
- A Common is always owned by someone, but other people can use it in specific ways. Wandsworth Common is currently owned and managed by our borough council.
- You and I have a right to roam and do things like picnic, run, exercise, relax and bird watch – but not camp, light fires or have barbecues, or hold a festival or event, or conduct a business, without Council permission.
- The Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum was built in 1857-59 on Wandsworth Common land to house, educate and train orphan daughters of soldiers, seamen and marines who died in the Crimean War.
- The 1860s was a defining period for the Common, then open land owned by the Earls Spencer. The railways, the expansion of London and the 4th Earl Spencer's selling off of the Common led to a ground-swell of public opinion to preserve it – and the Wandsworth Common Act 1871 secured its future.
- The Commons Act 2006 is the best subsequent statutory safe-guard the Common has had.
- Thomas Hardy (1840-1920), novelist, lived in Trinity Road for 3 years and David Lloyd George (1863-1945), Prime Minister 1916- 1922, in Routh Road for a period – look out for the Blue Plaques!
- During the First World War, the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum was used as a hospital, with numerous additional huts and tents on the Common. In the Second World War, it became an internment camp for aliens and an interrogation centre for refugees from Europe.
- In 1986 Wandsworth Borough Council became the owner and manager of the Common.
- Soon after that the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (MAC) was formed. It consists of local residents with the interest of the Common at heart and represents the views of Common users.
- In 2013 the Wandsworth Common MAC Enhancement Sub-committee was formed to engage with the wider public and raise funds for special and appropriate projects to enhance the Common.

If you would like to know more or get involved
email: wandsworthcommonenhancement@hotmail.co.uk
Or follow us on Twitter@[wwcommon](https://twitter.com/wwcommon)

Our Roads & Transport

The Roads and Transport committee would welcome new members, to fill current 'vacancies'. I wrote in the Newsletter about the group's 'mission' a couple of years ago and will repeat now what I said then:

Roads and transport affect us all, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike; indeed most of us are all three at some time, although the requirements of each group are not always the same and often conflicting. It would be utopian to expect that each group could have exactly their hearts' desire - we live in the Wandsworth of 2015, an increasingly crowded borough with an essentially 19th or very early 20th century road system governed by Victorian and Edwardian buildings which few would like to see disappear, and the problem is compounded by the fact that the Council is constrained by a greatly reduced budget.

Over the last few years the Roads and Transport committee has sought to uphold its mission statement: 'To monitor, investigate, inform and campaign in the context of local road and transport issues'. Each member has taken on a specific area of responsibility, be it road and pavement condition, public transport, aircraft noise, public behaviour and the effects of building developments.

We also investigate complaints brought to us by local

residents, and have created excellent working relationships with senior members and officials of the Council. The committee has for example been engaged in detailed surveys of the condition of various streets, in particular Magdalen Road, Garratt Lane, Wandle Road, Ritherdon Road and Melody Road, and our findings have been shared and discussed with appropriate Council executives.

For the borough's transport system to work at all effectively, it is essential for all users to work together and respect each other: motorists must be aware of and allow for the inherent vulnerability of pedestrians and cyclists, who in turn must be equally aware of and make due allowance for that same vulnerability. Cooperation is all. Our Roads and Transport group will continue to play their part in helping to make the borough safe and enjoyable for all.

We meet four times a year in the County Arms (Trinity Road) at 6.30 pm on Mondays, the next two meetings being on 20 July and 19 October. I would be happy to have a word with any Society member who would like to come along to a meeting (all welcome) - and perhaps then join us. Knowledge or experience helpful, but we all know a bit about roads and transport!

Harry Waddingham (020 8874 8784)

And down the road from us... Vauxhall Bus Station

Just over ten years since the dramatic structure of the Vauxhall bus station was unveiled, Lambeth Council and Transport for London are contemplating plans for its demolition and replacement. Linda Ulrich, a Society member, former secretary of our Roads and Transport group and member of the Executive Committee, has asked us to publicise the Vauxhall Society's campaign to save what is now something of a 21st century South London architectural monument, as well as a popular public transport hub. You can find out more - and you can sign the petition - at www.vauxhallcivicsociety.org.uk.



Vauxhall bus station in 2014 <http://thebeautyoftransport.wordpress.com>

Society Walks



Eltham Palace

Recent Walks

Our series of Winter Walks has continued through the Spring. In March we set out for Enfield to explore the surrounding countryside and visit Forty Hall. Unfortunately, between the earlier walk planning and the date of the walk the Hall moved to closure on Mondays (the day of our visit), but by good fortune, nearby Myddleton House Gardens were open and in full flower - pictured. This was the home until his death in 1954 of E.A. Bowles, a well-known gardener, artist and botanist so the gardens - now part of the Lee Valley Regional Park - have been maintained to protect the collection of rare plants. There is also a small exhibition interpreting his work - and a small teashop to complete the outing!

In April a larger group, tempted perhaps by the well-publicised re-launch, walked five miles of the Green Chain Walk to Eltham Palace. The house is a curious mixture, part medieval and Tudor Royal palace used as a hunting lodge, and part 1930s millionaire's mansion. After centuries of neglect, Eltham was leased to the Courtauld family who turned it into a modern (1930s) country house. They also developed the interesting - and enchanting - garden, using the mediaeval remains and the moat. The recent renovations include a new restaurant on the edge of the site so, once again, we were well catered for!

Forthcoming walks

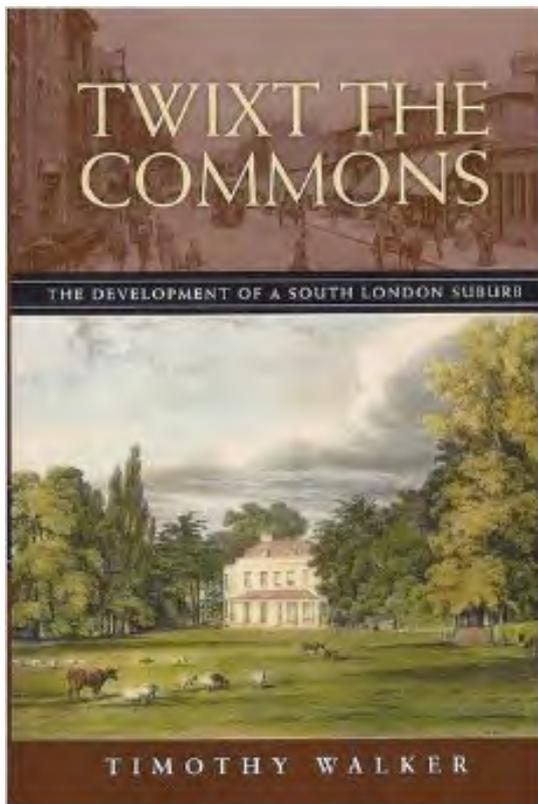
Friday 19 June. A 7-mile walk along the River Pinn which runs from Pinner (attractive timbered High Street) towards Yiewsley, with a couple of diversions including Eastcote House Gardens along the way. Meet at 10.00 am outside M&S in Clapham Junction Station.

Tuesday 7 July. We stray from river walks to go to the Watts Gallery (and Richard Dadd exhibition), as a follow-up to the Society's meeting in May. We plan to walk the 4 miles as a group from Guildford Station and then visit the 'artists' village' independently. If you wish to take a tour round the gallery, please book yourself on www.wattsgallery.org.uk (but don't book a tour before 12.30, to allow time for the walk). Entry to the Gallery is £3.75, free to Art Pass holders; there are extra charges for tours. Return to the station by foot or bus (leaving hourly). Meet at 9.40 (for 9.52 train) at Clapham Junction Station outside M&S, or on the platform. You will need a day return ticket to Guildford.

Thursday 10 September. A 7-mile walk along the River Brent (the Brent River Park Walk) to the Grand Union Canal and on to Brentford. Meet at Hanger Lane tube on the Central Line: meet on Platform 1, Clapham Junction, for the 9.46 Overground to Shepherd's Bush.

Caroline Pook

'New Wandsworth ?'



After our AGM on 12 March we were stimulated and entertained by a talk by Timothy Walker, the author of "Twixt the Commons". He gave us a fascinating account of the housing developments of the 19th and early 20th centuries in the area between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons, now bounded by Nightingale Lane, Bolingbroke Grove, Clapham Common West Side and Battersea Rise.

For over a century, beginning in 1787, the substantial acreage of five substantial mansions, built on what was largely Spencer land, was progressively sold off, in increasingly smaller plots of land on which property speculators built new houses and terraces, to form, by the late nineteenth century, the neighbourhood now dubbed by estate agents 'twixt the Commons'. The pattern of land sales dictated the sometimes eccentric pattern of new streets. The major owner of the ground rents by the 1890s was the Church Commissioners, who placed covenants on the properties to control their use by new owners – to prevent, for example, properties being used as businesses and/or to ensure proper "standards" for the neighbourhood. Tim gave us examples of these concerns in the area between Nightingale Lane and Thurleigh Road and discussed early 'nimbyism' (also in evidence when the

building of the Prison was first proposed). Then, as now, new owners were concerned about any threats to the value of their properties – which rose and fell, and rose again more recently. Smart middle class owners in the early days raised questions about the appropriate naming of a 'modern' new area – but 'New Wandsworth' (to avoid any association with working-class Battersea) did not last.

Tim's book – available from local libraries and good bookshops – is clearly an impressive study of local social history, which should prove, for the general reader, as interesting and entertaining as his talk. We hope to be able to persuade the author to repeat for the Society his walking tour of the area!

Valerie Taylor

Also of Interest

Friends of Wandsworth Museum event: Diana Darke talks about her Syrian house and Syria

Diana Darke is well known as an authority on Syria. She will talk about purchasing a beautiful house in the Old City of Damascus, but also about the country's complex history, different communities, politics and current situation, from the unique perspective of an Arabic-speaking English woman who has known the Middle East for many years. All are welcome. Charge of £6 a head, to contribute to Museum funds, payable at the door. Copies of Diana's book, *My House in Damascus: An Inside View of the Syrian Revolution*, will also be on sale. Thursday 11 June, West Side Church, 7 for 7.30pm

Commemorative plaques...

It is good news that the Wandsworth Heritage Service is planning to install some new green plaques (more about the scheme on the Council's website). 'First up' will be a plaque in Hazelhurst Road, SW17, commemorating the victims of a V2 rocket attack on 19 November 1944 which killed at least 34 people (including 14 children) and injured over a hundred. The plaque is to be unveiled at 4pm on 6 June. The Society itself has erected several plaques of its own in the past and we are thinking about some more, to promote interest in local heritage. As they say, 'watch this space'. If you have suggestions or would like to get involved, contact our 'Commissioner of Plaques' (Peter Farrow) at wandsworth.society@mac.com.

Our Spring Soirée with the Goodman Quartet



The picture shows, from left to right, Chris Goodman (clarinet), Vanessa Howells (oboe), Hannah Grayson (flute) and Sophie Crawford (bassoon). Jessica Lowe stood in for Hannah Grayson when the quartet performed at 14 Patten Road on Sunday 15 March. Chris we had met a year ago when he presented to us a delightful programme of clarinet and piano music with the pianist Timothy End. We had been keen since then to book the Goodman quartet for our first excursion into chamber music at the Byrons' home. It proved a great success.

The programme:

Jean Françaix - Quartet
Mozart - Marriage of Figaro
Eugène Bozza - Trois Pièces
Mozart Fantasia in F Minor

Debussy - La fille aux cheveux de lin
Frank Bridge - Divertimenti (part)
Eugène Bozza - Sonatine (part)
Claude Arrieu - Suite en quatre
Mozart - Menuetto (from Symphony no.40)
Richard Rodney Bennett - Travel Notes 2

Interval

This was an evening of musical delights for a 'full house'. A pleasingly varied programme, beautifully performed by the four talented young musicians, ranged from Mozart to the twentieth century. Each piece was given an interesting introduction by one of the performers. The quartet met whilst studying at the Royal College of Music, where they discovered a shared passion to "bring the unique sound of the woodwind quartet to light, a blend so often overshadowed by the wind quintet". Since then they have established a national 'name' and have received much acclaim for exploring new and innovative projects, including collaborations with composers and artists working in other forms. They are on the impressive Live Music Now scheme, with whom they give interactive performances, as well as holding longer term residency projects in care homes and special needs schools across the UK. The four are all active freelance musicians, working with top UK orchestras and ensembles. We hope to hear more from them in the future.

Huguenot Summer and Mount Nod

Many of us know Mount Nod, the charmingly named Huguenot cemetery tucked away behind 'Book House' – that rather fine late Victorian former municipal building (about to become flats) standing between East Hill and Huguenot Place. It is very welcome that the Council is planning to restore the cemetery. An early event in the Huguenot Summer festival, on Wednesday 3 June (3 pm) is a tea-time talk at the Spitalfields House by the Council officer responsible for the project (£12.50 charge). The talk will be followed up on Saturday 6 June (11am start) by a guided Wandsworth walk around Huguenot-related sites (£10) – meet at the Huguenot Rendez-vous café, Huguenot Place (perhaps book in advance). The walk will be 'repeated' on Saturday 22 August.

David Kirk

Calendar of Wandsworth Society events – and some others

Wandsworth Society meetings will be held at West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ (corner with Allfarthing Lane). For latest details of all Society events, go to www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk.

Wednesday 3 June, 3pm, and Saturday 6 June, 11 am (associated events) – see page 11.

Huguenot Summer: talk on Mount Nod, and Wandsworth Town walk

Thursday 4 June, West Side Church, 7.45 for 8pm

Society meeting – Plots, plans and goings-on beneath London – illustrated talk by Michelle Welbourn (Wandsworth Museum) on events ‘beneath our city’ and impacts on our life today. Our contribution to the Wandsworth Heritage Festival.

Thursday 11 June, West Side Church, 7 for 7.30pm – see page 10.

Friends of Wandsworth Museum event: Diana Darke on a house in Syria

Monday 15 June, Fitzhugh Community Centre, Fitzhugh Grove, SW18 3SA (off Trinity Road), 7pm

Wandsworth Common MAC – Annual public meeting – see page 6.

Friday 19 June

Society walk along the River Pinn - see page 9.

July – some mid-week evening tba, at Brady’s Bar and Restaurant, 39 Jews Row, near the river

Society social: jazz, conversation and fish and chips at Brady’s
‘Expressions of interest’ to our membership secretary (e-mail via website): first come, first served!

Thursday 7 July

Society walk from Guildford to Watts Gallery (‘Artists’ village’)

– see page 9.

Thursday 10 September

Society walk: Brent River Park – see page 9

Thursday 17 September, West Side Church, 7.45 for 8pm

Society meeting: Local planning forum - details tba.

Thursday 8 October, West Side Church, 7.45 for 8pm

Society meeting: Buying, growing, eating local:

Why local food is important, how ‘buying local’ is better and where to get tasty, healthy local food in Wandsworth. EcoLocal will talk to us about their ideas. (Website: www.ecolocal.org.uk.)

Want to join the Society? Visit us at www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk.