

Battersea Matters

the newsletter of the Battersea Society SPRING 2012



Google knows where Battersea is – at last!

Philip Beddows outlines some major successes for the SW11tch Back to Battersea campaign

In the SW11tch Back to Battersea Campaign's seventh year we have achieved some notable successes in our efforts to save chunks of Battersea from being referred to as Clapham. 2011 was a particularly high profile year. We saw a second SW11tch by ASDA, after their mistaken rebrand back to 'ASDA Clapham'. They have now generously reverted to their previous rebrand of 'ASDA Clapham Junction, Battersea', with signage inside and outside, requiring a repaint.

The riots at the Heart of Battersea (aka Clapham Junction) put us front and centre of the UK and world media, who were reporting from 'Clapham' and 'Clapham High Street' ie St John's Road. Having joined the ranks of the Broom Army, we realized this was an important moment for our community.

In a flash we had over 300 stickers printed and given to the wonderful people who arrived to clean up Battersea. The stickers proclaimed (heart emblem) Love Battersea, Clapham Junction – the Heart of Battersea. People rushed up to ask for one – they quickly became a badge of honour and positive shared identity for hundreds of people, including Boris Johnson.

Sadly, journalists who had the location explained to them and sported Battersea stickers still ended up reporting from 'Clapham' and Boris fell into the same trap on TV (but sent us an apology afterwards).

Over the days following the riots we wrote to all major UK newspapers, the BBC and the Evening Standard and made direct contact with many journalists. One by one they began to SW11tch. The BBC, Channel 4,

and many newspapers corrected their online articles and the *Standard* has run an article on our campaign.

Debenhams' huge posters with big red hearts trumpeting 'We love you Battersea' were extremely helpful. We busily corrected the writing on the boards outside, flying the flag for Battersea, thereby fascinating international TV crews filming the scene!

Battersea love

The riots took us into the world of Twitter, which has been the most powerful method of spreading the word. We have gained new friends and supporters and connected with a far greater breadth of the local community, including many businesses. We now have almost 600 followers. Whenever we find Tweeters from Battersea referring to Clapham, we've showered them with Battersea Love and asked them to join the family. Many businesses and people have changed their profiles and addresses to promote Battersea including Party Superstores on Lavender Hill, and historic Battersea pub The Plough on St John's Hill, now rebuilt.

But the highlight of the year was still to come. In January 2010 we took on mighty Google, whose maps had Clapham located in the heart of Battersea, causing much confusion for businesses. After a hard battle, we have finally made a breakthrough after discovering the data was provided and controlled by UK firm TeleAtlas. We wrote to the CEO of



their Dutch parent company TomTom, who responded rapidly and positively.

Identity

The letter we received back provided details of action they would take and concluded with these words: 'I can assure you that Tom Tom are on board with your community's campaign to correct our maps to show SW11 as Battersea and give accuracy, clarity and identity back to the area'. Googlemaps was corrected six months earlier than expected just in time for Christmas. Clapham was moved out of Battersea and placed in its true home in Lambeth.

There's still more to do. Waterstones' head office is apparently rethinking its Clapham branding and we're inching closer to our 3 year campaign to erect a 'Welcome to the Heart of Battersea' sign over the exit from Clapham Junction Station. Huge thanks are due to many wonderful people and businesses, the Battersea Society, the Council and all our formal backers who have given tireless support.

www.lovebattersea.org.uk



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

From the editor

A plethora, a treasure-house, a *richesse*, a multitude of good things await us this spring and early summer. The big set pieces are the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the attendant celebrations – and of course the snarl-ups, the confused tourists, the traffic jams, the overcrowded tubes and buses and the risks of terrorism. Some residents will hurry to leave London, but I have my Paralympic tickets booked and I'm looking forward to the whole jamboree.

On page 8 you will read a description of the pageant and festival put on to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee. They sound splendid, but the royal event also gives an excuse for lower-key, local celebrations. I am sure there will be plenty of street parties in Battersea; the Council is offering free street closures and advice on organising a party is available on the Council's website. Or talk to one of your ward



councillors. There is also much information on www.thebiglunch.com

It's easy to bash the Council and I'm sure we all do it from time to time. But they do seem to be trying to live up to their aim to be a 'listening' council. Residents objected to plans to charge for the adventure playground in Battersea Park. The Council has scrapped those plans

and is planning to replace the equipment, allowing the playground to be open for longer hours, although unstaffed. As Robert Molteno discovered (Battersea Matters Winter 2011) the idea of charging for lollypop ladies seems to have been scotched by protests. And while many residents – not to mention library staff – may be anxious about the decision to put the library service out to tender, at least no libraries have been closed, unlike in some other boroughs.

Some more excellent news just in: the Lottery Fund has allocated £1million pounds to Clapham Junction/West Battersea as part of an exciting scheme to put decision-making into the hands of local people. And the Council is investing a large sum in regenerating its most deprived areas, Latchmere and Roehampton. We will be following up these stories in future issues. *Jenny Sheridan*
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The man on the Battersea bus

Mike Roden looks at art and audio guides

We took our four year old granddaughter to Tate Britain recently, as she wanted to see an art gallery.

It was a joy watching her take an interest in individual paintings and then to see her sprawled out on the floor drawing her own interpretation of an elephant sculpture, oblivious to the crowds coming in.

That of course is the beauty of our great galleries. You walk in and you look at what you want to; you have time and space to stare. Not so with the blockbuster exhibitions which turn up in London: Leonardo, Hockney, Picasso. Clutching your timed ticket, you enter the hallowed portal and the funereal shuffle begins – moving as slowly as the interval queue outside the ladies loo in any West End theatre you care to name. Of course the critics all wax lyrical about the joys of these exhibitions. How wonderful, says Brian Sewell, to have such a rare opportunity to examine the



The funereal shuffle? Leonardo da Vinci

tiniest detail on a Leonardo drawing. To that I say, fat chance, Brian! The normal punter is not afforded that press night luxury. In real life there's usually someone blocking your view as they stare intently at the picture in front of them, while listening in a kind of stupor to Dame Diana Rigg or someone equally mellifluous talking to them on their audio guide.

Painting, sculptures, ceramics are visual – what on earth requires you to have a voice in your ear telling you what you're looking at. This is

the rant of an elitist, I hear you say, not everyone has your knowledge, they need a helping hand with these things. Not true, I'm not an expert. But I maintain that the pleasure with visual art should be in the seeing. And that is my final word on the subject for now.

Some friends from the north were staying with us recently, and we were waiting near Victoria Station for a no 11 bus. On checking the TfL 'app' * which she has on her smartphone my wife announced that we faced an eleven minute wait for the next one. We started considering alternatives, much to the perplexity of our friends.

Where they live there's only one bus every thirty minutes, and if that one doesn't arrive you settle down for another half hour wait. In the end we waited, and still arrived in good time to get into the Leonardo exhibition at the National Gallery. Which brings me back more or less to where I started! Mind how you go. See you next time. **Even if you don't have a smartphone you can still check bus arrival times at your nearest stop by visiting <http://countdown.tfl.gov.uk>*

From the riots to the Diamond Jubilee

Jane Ellison, Battersea's MP, looks back over an eventful year and outlines some issues for 2012

We often say in my Parliamentary office 'Everything happens in Battersea' because this is such a bustling and constantly-changing constituency. We are getting quite used to big transport announcements or one of our iconic institutions being in the news or policy firsts happening here. However, none of us expected Battersea to hit the headlines in the way it did in August 2011.

Resilient

The disorder and the way it was handled provoked a strong response amongst my constituents and mobile communications meant people could email me as they watched events unfold. As you'd expect, people's reactions evolved as the weeks went by. There was no doubting the primary message from local people that they wanted law and order enforced on our streets, but there was also a positive response to some of the wider social debates provoked by those dreadful scenes. Other positive responses came from our resilient retailers and, of course, Battersea's 'Broom Army'. It was as much of a pleasure to be in its ranks 'the morning after' as it had been distressing to witness first-hand the scenes of chaos the night before.

Civic Awards

Two of the Broom Army's 'commanding officers' were honoured at the Borough's Civic Awards last November. As individuals they richly deserved it and, as I had argued to the Council earlier in the autumn, in a borough with many young and mobile residents few people will live here long enough to see a lifetime's achievement rewarded. We should therefore also be able to recognise those who, in a single act, can make us proud of belonging to our local community.

The ripple effect of the riots continues for me as an MP; I have taken a closer interest in evolving public order policing techniques and in understanding how to support troubled families in a way that tries to break cycles of crime and dependency. I am pleased



that Wandsworth is one of the pilot boroughs for some of this policy work. In my view Battersea was not generally typical of the areas affected by looting and disorder but it highlighted the very disparate nature of communities living in close physical proximity but otherwise worlds apart. For me, as a one-nation Conservative, the events of late summer 2011 focussed my mind more keenly on the things that can drive aspiration and opportunity for all my constituents.

Support for St Mary's

One of the big 2012 events which will, I believe, do that is the opening of the ARK Bolingbroke Academy this autumn and the level of interest shown by local families is encouraging for all involved. Another local school in the news has been St Mary's Primary, currently the focus of the *Standard's* extra volunteer reading support. There are no quick fixes when children face a range of social and educational challenges but access to quality schools will continue to be a huge issue for many parents who contact me.

St Mary's sits on the edge of central London's biggest

development area, Nine Elms. The east Battersea area will be transformed in coming years and the project has the capacity to improve the lives of the existing communities there.

Sinking feeling

November 2011 saw me donning a hard hat to hear positive news from the Chancellor about the Government's backing for bringing the tube to Nine Elms, one of the big initiatives that will drive that transformation. Only days later, I experienced the sinking feeling that longstanding residents will be familiar with as we heard that the current Battersea Power Station scheme was in dire financial straits. A debate about the future of the site has begun in architectural circles but this year I suspect we are all going to be challenged to think hard about a sustainable way forward for this much-loved London icon.

Public transport

Money will continue to be tight in 2012, for households and the Council alike, and much of my day-to-day work and that of my hard-working team will involve responding to this. However, I believe my rôle also requires me to look ahead and support initiatives that will improve the quality of life for my constituents. I am delighted that both river and rail links from Battersea are set to expand this year; good public transport is vital to the economic health of this area and the wellbeing of its residents.

If 8 August 2011 marked a low point for Battersea then 29 April 2011 hit a higher note as young and old alike thronged the streets to mark the Royal Wedding. We get to do it all over again for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June, with the celebrations even closer to home as the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant sets sail nearby and Battersea Park plays host to a huge Jubilee party. As I said, everything happens in Battersea.

www.janeellison.net

Get going!

The answer's not the gym,
but active travel,
says Susie Morrow

How active are you? The Department of Health is concerned that most people in this country are not physically active enough. This increases the risk of ill-health, with obvious consequences for the NHS as well as for us as individuals. Being as active as possible is good for us, whatever our age. For most Battersea residents, leisure-orientated activity such as going to the gym isn't the answer; most people simply don't have the time, even if this appeals. And people who do have the time may not have the money.

So, for most of us, this means building activity into our daily lives. 'Active travel' – defined as walking, cycling, or (for longer trips) walking or cycling in combination with public transport – is an ideal way to do this. For instance, a 1.2 mile walk from Battersea Park Station to Sloane Square will use a few calories, and take around 20 – 25 minutes – often quicker, and definitely more reliable, than some other transport options.

Invited to walk

A Battersea in which people of all ages feel 'invited' (to quote urban designer Jan Gehl) to walk or cycle would feel different. More people walking and cycling make our streets friendlier, safer places to be. It would also help address the health inequalities – differences in health – within Battersea.

Recognising the importance of active travel, the Department of Health has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce national guidance on local measures to promote walking and cycling.* This guidance flows from NICE's health promotion role, and reflects the fact that much ill-health can be reduced through changing the way we live. The Victorians understood the link between our environment and how healthy we are when Joseph Bazalgette was commissioned to create London's sewage system, and sometimes it feels as if we have to



Where cycling is the unremarkable normality: the forecourt of The Hague Central Station, Holland

rediscover this link. Air pollution, for instance, is now mostly invisible, but its detrimental effects on our health are increasingly recognised.

Battersea has assets in favour of active travel; it's mostly flat, it's high density, so shops and services are relatively short distances to travel, and generally it has good public transport. Opportunities exist too; enlightened development at Nine Elms could make walking and cycling a big part of local residents' travel mix; the arrival of 'Boris Bikes', will improve accessibility of shops, employment, education and other services, especially in north Battersea; and the growth of car clubs reduces dependence on private cars. Car clubs also free up road space for more creative uses of our streets, too many of which are car-dominated.

Child's eye view

Try looking at your own street from a child's eye perspective. The child as a 'salmon' – an indicator species of the health of our streets – is a powerful mental image described by Tim Gill* (<http://rethinkingchildhood.com/>), and another way to make our streets

more child-friendly is to introduce widespread 20mph speed limits. In Holland, where most streets have an 18mph (30kph) speed limit, people of all ages walk and cycle and there is a better safety record for pedestrians and cyclists than in the UK.

Even the not-usually-radical *Times* newspaper now recognises the case for 20mph, as part of its 'Cities Fit for Cycling' campaign.

Investment

Aside from the costs to the NHS and society of sedentary lifestyles, there is much evidence to show that active travel generates economic benefits. Investing in the walking environment provides impressive returns: it supports local economies by increasing footfall, enhancing accessibility and attracting new businesses and events ('Making the Case for Investment in the Walking Environment', *Living Streets*, 2011). Studies worldwide repeat similar messages; in Denmark, the realisation that every kilometre cycled brings a net benefit to society of 30p has encouraged the government to actively promote cycling ('Value for Money: An Economic Assessment of Investment in Walking and Cycling', *Walk England* (2010)), while a recent study in Melbourne found that bike parking spaces are better at generating revenue than car parking spaces.

Reasons for this? A bicycle takes up much less space than a car, and parking can provide more opportunities for paying customers to park right at a business's front door <http://colabradio.mit.edu/changing-car-parking-to-bike-parking-in-melbourne>

Money freed up

More of the money that 'active travel' shoppers spend tends to stay in the

local economy, supporting small businesses and services. If you own a car, selling it means that the high annual cost of car ownership is freed up for other uses.

As one blogger puts it, at http://grist.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/ic_city_graph_large.jpg, What if you were able to do this, and spend some of that money locally, both enjoying yourself and contributing to your community?

Susie Morrow is a community member of the NICE 'Walking and Cycling' Programme Development Group and writes here in a personal capacity.

**On 22nd March Tim Gill will be speaking at a Wandsworth Living Streets open Meeting.*

Contact Susie Morrow sem@semorrow.com

** <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PHG/Wave20/84>*

Planning Matters: Transport

From the 44 bus to Network Rail, transport is the kernel of Monica Tross's report

CLAPHAM JUNCTION

Transport Matters might be a better title this time. Work on stage two of road improvements at Clapham Junction (the Exemplar scheme) is taking place. A third stage, to upgrade St John's Road, is now proposed, to start in October. Plans include removing all bollards, retaining the corduroy paving and imposing a 20 mph limit. There will be consultation about a further proposal, the use of this road by taxis, on at least a trial basis. The Council considers this will benefit taxi-hailing shoppers and compensate for the eventual removal of the taxi rank in St John's Hill to further up the hill. We would welcome your views on these new plans and, when they are finished, the benefits or any downsides of the current works.

Network Rail is upgrading the Grant Road side of Clapham Junction station to cope with the arrival of the East London Line later this year, something we have agitated for.

Additional stairways to and from platforms 1 and 2 are being installed, together with a lift, from Grant Road. In combination with the lift already installed from platforms 1 and 2 to the overbridge, that will give step-free access from Grant Road to the overbridge and thus to all the other platforms.

This is another improvement we have long campaigned for as a vital complement to the improvements on the south side of the station at Brighton Yard.

Closure of the Grant Road entrance is a short-term nuisance. It will be shut each weekday evening from 22.00, every weekend and the whole

Easter period, 30 March to 16 April. Work is due to finish in June.

VAUXHALL

Those of you who use Network Rail at Vauxhall will be glad to know that lifts to all platforms are being installed. There are long-term plans for lifts down to the Victoria line platforms at Vauxhall but I think these are currently more an aspiration than a target.

BUSES

Meanwhile, the 44 bus continues to suffer from long gaps in service often followed by two arriving in convoy. We have written again to TfL to report this. If you have problems with this, or any other bus route, to report, do please send an email and we will be happy to raise it. I can't promise immediate change but it is surely worth letting TfL know what we think.

POWER STATION

As you will have read, the Battersea Power Station site is now in the hands of the receivers. There are lots of rumours but nothing factual to report. Any new buyer could move ahead with the plans already agreed or start afresh. We have spent hours, if not days, trawling through plans for this and previous schemes so even though we didn't like the bulk and density of the latest plans, it is with mixed feelings that we contemplate starting over again.

MARCO POLO BUILDING

Building developments continue to take up much of the planning committee's time. The Council has approved the demolition of the Marco

Polo building and a new building in its place. We were generally happy with these plans but objected to the height of part of the building, as did many others.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The former Eltringham School (near the Trinity Road/Wandsworth Bridge roundabout) was approved for demolition in January and work has already gone ahead. We objected to demolition and to the plans submitted by the council for a new development on this site (2011/5632). It appears unlikely these particular plans will go ahead as the cleared site is currently being offered for sale. On a happier note, plans for what we (and many others) considered excessive development at 100 York Road were turned down (2011/2950).

The developer of a smaller scheme at 8A Battersea Park Road (next to Battersea Park Station) showed us pre-application plans. We liked what we saw and think this will improve the streetscape and open up a view through to the church and lady chapel. We may comment further when the final plans are submitted.

It is often a relief to take a look at smaller schemes and we continue to object where necessary, particularly where these affect conservation areas. Please alert us if you have concerns about an application in your own area. We do try to check out all applications which look worrying, but some can look innocuous if we don't know a particular area personally. Your help can be vital.

Contact us at: planning@batterseasociety.org.uk

A B+OOST to your health

Bernadette Kennedy outlines Wandsworth's falls prevention service

Have you had a fall in the past year or are you concerned about falling? If you answer yes to one or both of these questions, you may well be over 65. One in three people over 65 will fall and this increases to one in two over the age of 80. So is falling an inevitable part of aging? It is not solely the aging process that is responsible, but the risk of falling does increase as we get older. Many of the risk factors are age-related, including multiple illnesses, some medications, certain behaviours including not being very active and other factors such as the environment and reduced vision or hearing.

Prevention

Fifty per cent of those who fall and fracture a wrist or upper arm sadly go on to break their hip at some point in the future. That is why the Integrated Falls Service will be directing our prevention work among these people. Even though we only have 25,000 older people in Wandsworth, falls and fractures represent a significant health problem in the borough.

The Integrated Falls Service is based at St John's Therapy Centre on St John's Hill. This is a team of health professionals (including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and specialist nurses) and exercise instructors who take Satellite Falls and Bone Health Clinics out to

community venues so that the service is easily accessible to the people who need it.

These clinics offer free NHS assessments of falls risk and bone health - an assessment that is often referred to as "an M.O.T" by users as it involves blood pressure measures as well as assessments of balance, mobility and strength. Following the assessment attendees are sent a letter to explain what was found and what would be the best suggestion for intervention (this letter is copied to the GP for reference).

One of the interventions is B+OOST (Balance and Other Opportunities for Stability Training). These weekly one-hour exercise classes address group members' strength, co-ordination and balance. They are again delivered where people request them - such as community centres, health centres, church halls or rooms in sheltered accommodation. Research shows that many of the factors that cause falls are reversible. If we address these with the right exercises we can prevent further falls as well as encouraging and supporting an active and enjoyable lifestyle.

So what do you need to do? If five or more people are interested, both the bone health clinics and B+OOST can be delivered at your request to community venues - just let the

Integrated Falls Service know where you would like them to send the team. Or you may prefer one of the team to come and speak with a group of people prior to a clinic. Or individuals who need to be seen at home will be visited individually for an assessment if they are unable to get out.

Quality of life

International studies have identified that falls are grossly under-reported. With this in mind and acknowledging that falling is the leading cause of death from injury in adults aged over 75 years* our service aims to proactively seek out people who are at risk, and help reduce that risk via support from the relevant clinical and non-clinical agencies.

The Integrated Falls Service states that 'we seek to improve the quality of life for older people in Wandsworth and reduce the high NHS costs linked to accidental falls and femur fractures in older people'.

If you want to know more, please contact the Integrated Falls Service on 020 8812 4079 or email us bernadette.kennedy@stgeorges.nhs.uk

**Nuffield Institute for Health & NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. Preventing Falls and Subsequent Injury in Older People. Effective Health Care Bulletin. 1996; 2 (4):1-16 Foot Health*

Exercising can improve stability



What is public health?

Dr Houda Al-Sharifi, Director of Public Health Wandsworth, explains



I am a mother of two young men and the daughter of a wonderful father in his late eighties. I want my boys to live a healthy

long life, protected from illness, to drink moderately, have meaningful relationships and prosperous careers. I want my father to control his diabetes better (he loves his food!) and to have his eyes checked so that he doesn't trip and stop doing the things that keep him active. I worry about his loneliness since my mother passed away, he is very proud of caring for her with dignity.

This is what public health is about – most of us will hopefully live into old age and unfortunately many of us may experience some disability. Public health puts in place the necessary measures to help all of us to live longer, to be free of disease and disability as long as possible, protected from harm and to enjoy a decent quality of life.

Causes

People in Wandsworth already use public health services such as immunisations and cancer screening. Public health also works behind the scenes advising various professionals on controlling infectious diseases from nits in schools to meningitis outbreaks. We also have to look at what health needs people have in an area, we call this 'needs assessment'. We try to understand the local population and look in depth at diseases and what might be causing them.

We work with GPs, hospital doctors, nurses and other professionals, the local authority and the voluntary sector to decide on how we can prevent the diseases identified and care for people with them.

Our health needs assessment of Battersea has shown that the majority of people living here are young and well educated, however the area is varied:

- Battersea includes some of the most deprived wards in Wandsworth, including Latchmere and Queenstown.
- At present, a boy born in Northcote is expected to live seven years longer than a boy born in Latchmere. Reducing health inequalities is very much part of our remit.
- Roughly one in four people in Battersea smoke compared to one in five in the rest of Wandsworth.
- Latchmere and Queenstown have the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the borough and the highest number of problem drug users in Wandsworth.
- A lot of people are walking around with undiagnosed long term conditions, for example, 67% of people with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which some people recognise as emphysema) and 18 % of people with diabetes don't know they have the disease.
- Cardiovascular – broadly speaking stroke and heart disease – and cancer are the major causes of death.

These areas are our priority over the coming years as well as some of the issues behind them. There are so

Big life expectancy differences between areas in Battersea: a mural at Doddington and Rollo Children's Centre



many examples of how everyone in Battersea works together to tackle these issues that I have attempted to include just a few here:

In Battersea we run stop smoking clinics from most community pharmacies and a drop-in clinic on a Friday afternoon at St John's Therapy Centre. On Tuesday mornings at the Katherine Low Settlement midwives and experienced breastfeeding mothers run a support group for new mums to help them with breastfeeding and weaning issues. Community pharmacists can refer customers to GPs if they are buying certain medications that might show they are having problems with their bowels; this can help with early diagnosis of bowel cancer.

There are sexual health clinics for young people only at Stormont Health Centre on a Monday and Thursday night and we run workshops in local schools with young women at risk of getting pregnant. A final example is the outreach service working on the streets with drug users, which as well as being a benefit to this group of people, also helps to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Changes

Structural changes are occurring in public health. From 2013 it transfers from the NHS to local councils. This April, public health staff will move into Wandsworth Town Hall and act as a 'shadow department' at the local authority. We are already way ahead of other boroughs with our plans to work with many of the council's departments, as well as local NHS colleagues. I will be the lead officer for health in the local authority and will be directly accountable to our chief executive. From now on, tackling the public health and healthcare problems in Battersea and the rest of the borough will be a shared responsibility between local people, the NHS and Wandsworth Council.

For more information 'Like' our Facebook page [Healthy Wandsworth](#) or visit www.southwestlondon.nhs.uk/yourhealth

A summer of festivals

Whether you want to wave to the Queen on her royal barge or dance to world music, Battersea Park has it all, says Sara Rackow

We are promised an *embarras de richesse* this coming summer (that's if you are not a sports-hating republican). On Sunday 3 June in the afternoon at high tide, the highly anticipated Diamond Jubilee Pageant will take place along the Thames from Putney to Tower Bridge. It will be one of the largest processions of boats ever assembled on the river.

Chimes

One thousand boats are expected to sail, row or motor past Battersea Park, in a unique spectacle which will take ninety minutes to pass. This amazing flotilla will be over seven miles long and include 20,000 participants on the water, celebrating 60 years of the Queen's reign. The pageant will incorporate barges playing music, boats spouting geysers and floating belfry chimes which will be answered by churches along the riverbank.

The armed forces, fire police and rescues services will be represented along with boats from UK ports and Commonwealth countries. Traditional Thames historic boats, wooden launches, steam boats, sailing boats and other exceptional vessels including passenger boats carrying the general public waving flags will make their way past the park. All the pleasure vessels will be dressed with streamers and union jacks. This spectacular sight is expected to attract a global audience of half a million people.

Perhaps the most highly anticipated attraction is the royal barge, the Spirit of Chartwell, a Thames river cruiser with opulent interiors. The boat is owned by Philip Morrell, a one-time Barnardo's boy who went on to influence China's tourism industry and to found the travel company Voyages Jules Verne. He has donated the vessel to the Queen for the pageant, after which it will go back to its original function as a luxury Thames cruiser.

To help keep families entertained, Battersea Park will host a day-long festival including a funfair,



A river spectacular for the the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

competitions, games, food and cookery, fashion, storytelling, and live music through each of the six decades of the Queen's reign. The jubilee entertainment and provision for visitors to watch the flotilla from the Thames walkway have been arranged by Hemingway Design and artist Clare Patey.

Free music

The next grand local event will be on 21 – 22 July 2012, again in Battersea Park. Six venues across London will celebrate the arrival of the Olympics and Paralympics with a weekend of free live music from around the world.

Battersea Park has been named along with five other venues along the river that are set to host the musical events which make up the BT River of Music, representing all the nations taking part in the Games. Stages will portray different continents, with Battersea Park stage representing Asia, Jubilee Gardens representing Africa, Trafalgar Square and Somerset House in Europe, The Tower of London portraying the Americas and Greenwich Old Naval College representing Oceania. Artists performing will include Scissor Sisters, Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis,

Naturally 7, Baaba Maal, Angelique Kidjo, virtuoso tabla player Zakir Hussain and Andy Sheppard.

The weekend will feature performances from a host of artists, leading international musicians and emerging British talent which will include young people and groups from specially produced performances from across the U.K.

The festival is free but some sites will require ticketed entry. Ticketing information will be announced in May 2012 and residents can sign up now at www.london2012.com/festival for information and news.

Half a million people are expected to attend across the whole festival.

This weekend of live music in Battersea Park means local people can experience the spirit of the Games and the amazing atmosphere they will bring to the capital while creating their own personal memories of the 2012 Olympic event.

BT River of Music is created and produced by Serious for the London 2012 Festival with funding from the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor, Arts Council England and the British Council, with additional funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation and City Bridge Trust.



Tabla player Zakir Hussain

Neolithic adzes, a fish trap and a cat's skull

Pamela Greenwood celebrates fifty years of local archaeological research

What brings together a physicist, a botanist, a retired engineer and a Parks Department employee on a chilly Thames foreshore? Answer: they are all members of the Wandsworth Historical Society's Archaeology Group, which this March celebrates 50 years of excavation and research in the Borough of Wandsworth.

Inspired by the exciting discovery of Roman burial urns in a Putney garden, some like-minded members of WHS formed a group to investigate local archaeology and carry out rescue digs before sites were destroyed by redevelopment. The first excavations were carried out in the area of Roman Putney when sites became available in September 1962.

Most of the excavations have been in Putney, revealing a fairly large and prosperous Roman riverside settlement with roads and burials – all previously unknown. Beneath this is evidence of prehistoric activity and settlement from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. Medieval farmland and eventually grand houses and their gardens, modern housing, and industrial activities covered the Roman site.

Witch bottle

Other areas have been investigated too. The 1972 Battersea Square dig found some stray Roman and medieval objects, but perhaps its most memorable find is of a 17th century witch bottle, buried together with a cat's skull. The bottle was broken (this may have had ritual significance) and its purpose was to ward off evil and protect the house. Similar bottles found elsewhere contain pins, hair, fingernail clippings and urine.

Investigations on the site of the Southside shopping centre uncovered the remains of one of the three flour mills on the Wandle as well as medieval and Tudor dumps, including discarded shoes.

Recording foreshore archaeology began in 1964 and continues to this day. Some of the earliest expeditions were to the foreshore in front of



Battersea Park, where Roman and medieval objects were found in 1968. A very important discovery in 1971 was a Late Roman or Early Saxon fish trap close to the Putney/Wandsworth border. This dates in the range AD 410-620 and still can be seen from the foreshore at certain low tides. Smaller in scale, but just as important, are the discoveries of Mesolithic flint scatters in the same area, dated 8000-6000 BC, and evidence for an early Iron Age site dating around 800 BC.

Burials

Research on the Roman lead coffin and burials dug up in 1794 from fields that are now Battersea Park and on other Roman finds nearby updates what was known about Roman Battersea. The site of the related Roman settlement, though, is still elusive.

The outstanding achievement of the past 50 years has been finding previously unknown sites and being able to begin to write the early story of this area. Evidence spans the last

top Digging Roman Putney in the 1960s. *WHS archive.*

above left A child's shoe dating around 1500 from the site of the Southside Shopping Centre. *WHS Collections*
above Three Mesolithic flint adzes found on the foreshore: the first and third are from Battersea, the other from Wandsworth. *WHS Collections.*

10,000 years, much of it unknown before 1962. We can now say more about the daily lives and possessions of local people in the past. Without these digs and research Neolithic and Roman Putney would still not have been found, as well as other smaller, very important pieces of evidence.

The Archaeology Group carries out regular surveys of the foreshore, recording timber structures and other archaeology as the erosion of the foreshore increases. To take part in this and other activities, please contact Pamela Greenwood at pamela.greenwood@btopenworld.com or by phone at 020 8874 9588 Pamela Greenwood is vice-chair of the Wandsworth Historical Society.

Great Bus Journeys of the World No.2

Mike Roden takes the 49 from Battersea to White City.



There was a time when to ride the 49 bus from its terminus, the intrepid traveller would need to make their way to Crystal Palace. Luckily, these days the starting point is on Battersea Rise.

So off we go, turning left onto St John's Road. This street saw the worst of the SW11 disturbances and looting last year and the Party Shop on Lavender Hill is still boarded up after the disastrous fire. Luckily it soon found a temporary home in Debenhams (which of course will always be known as Arding and Hobbs by older locals).

Lost river

This road junction is particularly chaotic at the moment because 'improvements' are taking place, and things aren't helped by the new Travelodge taking shape behind its yellow fencing. Eventually the lights change to let us across onto Falcon Road where we pass the Falcon Inn, a reminder that this road follows the course of one of London's 'lost rivers'. The Falconbrook begins as twin streams in Tooting and Streatham, merging not far from Clapham Common and heading north to Battersea. At Ingrave street the hidden stream turns westward, and probably emerges into the Thames near Cotton Row.

One side of Falcon Road reminds us how much was swept away in post-war clearance, dominated as it is by the Winstanley and Kambala Estates. To our right it's mostly cafés, takeaways and hairdressers. Wetherspoons Asparagus pub on

the corner harks back to the famous 'Battersea bundles'.

Turning right onto Battersea Park Road we find ourselves on another street with limited shopping opportunities: takeaways, a few charity shops, a Sainsbury's local and two chemists. Things are redeemed a little by the famous Antipasto, whose half price nights ensure that every table is taken, and where you're almost certain to bump into another Society member. And a couple of doors away is the Latchmere pub, with its award-winning Theatre 503, (see page 13).

Left on to Battersea Bridge road now, and almost at once we pass the flats which stand on the site of the Bridge Lane theatre. This provided a home in its final years for a theatre group run by Corin and Vanessa Redgrave. Perhaps a good place for a commemorative plaque.

Royal College

Just before we reach Battersea Bridge we see the magnificent new Royal College of Art Dyson building, to be opened officially in the autumn. The public face of the building with its large ground floor exhibition gallery should go a long way to help revitalise this part of north Battersea.

Up and over our wonderful river and into Chelsea and along the King's Road following for a few minutes the same route travelled by Jenny Sheridan on the 19 bus (*Battersea Matters* Autumn 2011). Turning up Sydney Street, we pass St Luke's church, built in 1820, to replace the

then parish church – now known as Chelsea Old Church – which was too small for the area's growing population. Among other claims to fame, Dickens' ill-fated marriage to Catherine Hogarth began here in 1836, and I'm told that St Luke's has the tallest tower of any London parish church.

Gallic

Onwards to South Kensington station, gateway to the museum quarter. There is a Gallic flavour to many of the shops and restaurants here – the French consulate is nearby, and on Harrington Street we pass the Institut Français, which incorporates Ciné Lumière. Bute Street opposite has a farmer's market every Saturday – particularly good for vegetables.

It's always busy round Gloucester Road station, the traffic is very heavy and the going is slow but it does give us a chance to consider Gloucester Road. Although it has its fair share of bars and bistros, the street still retains a London village feel, with useful things like dry cleaners, a hardware shop, and a large newsagents and stationers.

At Palace Gate we have a very good view of Kensington Palace through the winter trees. Of course it will forever be associated with Princess Diana and that strange week after her death when the area in front of the palace was buried under a vast mound of more than a million bouquets of flowers.

Lunchtime is approaching, and the shops along Kensington High Street



are getting busy. The flagship store of Derry and Toms has long gone of course, but the 1930s Art Deco building remains, with Marks and Spencer taking pride of place. The famed Roof Gardens are still there too, with over 70 full size trees, a flowing stream stocked with fish and three resident flamingos. Well worth a visit if you get the chance.

There are few other points of interest here. George Gilbert Scott designed St Mary Abbots church, on your right, which was completed in 1869. And the Commonwealth Institute in front of Holland Park, abandoned for more than a decade, will soon be given a new lease of life as the new home for the Design Museum, if an £80m scheme goes ahead.

Bedsitland

We are now almost at our destination as we turn right up Holland Road which is very long, and frankly very boring, apart from the odd glimpse of the Olympia conference centre. This is bed-sit land with a vengeance – large houses which need a lick of paint, a few convenience stores, and here and there a cheap hotel.

The bus used to turn into Shepherds Bush Green at this point and circle round for the return journey but now it heads inexorably towards the Westfield shopping complex.

Do take the trouble to go right to the end of the line, and take a look at the White City bus station, especially the bus garage. This impressive building was originally a generating

Sights to see:

The RCA Dyson Building, Chelsea Old Church, Gloucester Road village, Kensington Roof Garden, Westfield Shopping Centre, the restored White City Bus Garage

station for the Central line, but eventually fell into disrepair. It has now been lovingly restored as an overnight bus depot, with its glazed cream, green and brown bricks, typical of London Transport colours of a century ago.

It's just a short walk back to the Westfield centre for a cup of coffee, and as this whole journey took nearly an hour, we make our way to Shepherd's Bush station and take the Overground back to Clapham Junction.



Theatre review: An epic evening

Terry Barber joined a Society outing to BAC to watch the Odyssey in music and live animation



It's not every day you get to spend 80 minutes completely enthralled by an illustrator, puppeteer, violinist, guitarist and piano player all doing their own thing at the same time. So clever was this production by The Paper Cinema that the hugely talented people weaving their magic to make Homer's Odyssey come alive on the screen were as fascinating to watch as the screen itself. Quite exhausting, in fact, as they recreated Odysseus' epic struggle to get back to his faithful wife Penelope via stormy seas, the terrifying underworld, jealous sirens, a vengeful Poseidon and giant cyclops with a flurry of illustrated cut-out

characters and scenery accompanied by a haunting original score. The musicians were no less industrious and versatile as they switched between a range of instruments, percussion and sound-effect trickery to recreate the crashing of waves, thunder and howling wolves. It was, quite simply, one of the best things I've seen. If you missed it here – the run was sold out, so we were lucky to see it - catch it when it tours in the autumn. The production will be going to Leeds, Cheltenham, Bristol, Colchester and Brighton – worth a trip to the seaside from Clapham Junction. www.bac.org.uk

Recipe: Diamond Jubilee Chicken

There are likely to be a lot of street parties to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee in early June. If you are cooking for a party, what better than an updated version of Coronation Chicken?

This was a dish devised by cook Rosemary Hume for the coronation in 1952. I have substituted mangoes (then unobtainable) for apricots and lightened the sauce.

1 chicken, jointed

1 litre chicken stock, or water flavoured with a glass of white wine

1 large pot Greek-style yogurt (best to buy two)

1 jar mayonnaise

4tbs curry powder or paste (you may need more or less depending on the strength of the mix)

2 tbs coriander seeds

3tbs mango chutney

1 red pepper (optional)

1 large ripe mango

Salt and pepper

To decorate:

1 large mango

Bunch coriander leaves

These quantities make enough for a large dish for a party, serving about ten people as part of a buffet. If you prefer to buy chicken breasts rather than a whole chicken, poach for only 20 minutes.

The dish can be made the day before the party. Only the garnishing needs to be done at the last minute.

Poach the chicken gently in the stock or water. It may be easiest to bring it to the boil on the hob or stove-top then transfer the dish to the oven. It will take about 40 minutes.

Let it get cold in the liquid then remove it, take the flesh off the bones and remove the skin. (These will make a delicious rich stock). Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces – no need to be tidy as they will be masked by the sauce.

Meanwhile, make the sauce. Mix the yogurt and mayonnaise – you may need more yogurt. Toast the coriander seeds in a frying pan till they smell nutty and add them.

Add the curry powder or paste and the chutney and salt and pepper.



Taste as you go along and adjust accordingly. It should taste quite hot and quite fruity – the chicken will make the taste milder.

Peel the mango and cut into dice. Dice the red pepper. Mix with the chicken. Add the sauce and turn it all over till well coated. Taste again.

Arrange on a large dish. Before serving, decorate with chopped coriander and thinly sliced or diced mango. If you have an artistic flair, you could arrange the mango into a crown or EIIR.

Theatre503, a powerhouse of new writing.

Lucy Pattison describes a theatre that punches above its weight

When I started as assistant producer at Theatre503, I really didn't know what to expect. Theatre503 prides itself on being the home of fearless, irreverent, brave and provocative new plays. It is, indeed, a powerhouse for new writing and I don't think I have come across another venue with such passion and energy. Theatre503 is a registered charity, and its main body of employees are volunteers, who work for the love of the job rather than for financial gain. I wanted to be part of a company which produces work of the very highest standard, always pushing the boundaries of what has gone before and relentlessly looking for new work to stage.

In 2002 the theatre above the Latchmere pub in Battersea was re-launched as a home for new writing. A name change to Theatre503 led to the premieres of over 50 of the most exciting writers of their generation, including Dennis Kelly, Phil Porter, Duncan Macmillan and Rachael Wagstaff. It went on to win the Peter Brook Empty Space Award and was nominated for a *Time Out* Live Award in 2006.

Olivier Award

In November 2006 Tim Roseman and Paul Robinson were appointed artistic directors. Their vision is to develop 503 as a crucible where writers, directors, actors and designers think better and bolder than they would expect. 'We seek out, nurture and promote work of uncommon and exceptional promise from artists both fresh off the boat and weathered with success'. Since 2007 we have striven to become the most important theatre in the UK for first-time playwrights, providing that vital launchpad into public performance. *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall started life at Theatre503 before transferring to the West End where it won the Olivier Award for Best New play, the only time a theatre our size has ever been recognised this way. And in 2011 it opened on Broadway, starring Samuel L Jackson and Angela Bassett.

Theatre503 has continued to live up to its aims. Over the past



The Girl in the Yellow Dress, opening in March

month, the team have read over 800 new play submissions in order to put together the '503Five'— five emerging playwrights who are looking to get their work produced on the London stage. Astonishingly, this was four times the amount of applications received in previous years, demonstrating that we really are 'arguably the most important theatre in Britain today' *The Guardian*. The writers will be nurtured by 503, given support, encouragement and feedback to develop their work and the opportunity to work with producers and directors to shape their production.

Names to remember

The theatre industry is a tough one, so it is good that there are still companies supporting young artists and helping them find their way on a very difficult journey. We are excited to announce the final five are: Brad Birch, Jon Brittain, Gemma Langford, Charlene James and Chris Urch. Remember these names, you may not know them now but they are set for great things! We are really looking forward to working with them and we hope you enjoy their work too. Our

March production is directed by one of our artistic directors, Tim Roseman. *The Girl in the Yellow Dress* transfers from the Salisbury Playhouse. It is a love story with a twist, set in Paris: 'You're beautiful, clever, rich. Most of all you're white. You can go anywhere.' In the sultry Parisian summer, French-Congolese student Pierre begins learning grammar with young English tutor Celia and the seeds of an unexpected, erotically-charged relationship are sown. A heady mix of sex, language and racial tension, Craig Higginson's *The Girl in the Yellow Dress* explodes the taboos of love, innocence, and lust.

As SW11 residents, you can see all our main plays for just £2 the first time you visit, and then for any subsequent visits you are entitled to '2 for 1' on all tickets. On Sundays we run 'pay what you can' in the theatre, to encourage people to visit even if funds are tight. Most main meals in the pub downstairs are just £7, so you can have a night out for less than £10. We'd love to see you here at Theatre503.

To book tickets call 020 7978 7040 or book online at www.theatre503.com

Battersea girl goes east

Jessica King discovers Mongolia



What's a local Battersea girl doing in Ulaanbator in the depths of winter, you may be wondering. Well, in my quest to gain experience in the field of media and journalism, I came across Global Nomadic, a company that offers a wide range of volunteer posts abroad, from medical placements in Africa to radio training in South America to journalism internships in Mongolia.

The placement in Mongolia instantly appealed to me as it offered the opportunity to work on a genuine newspaper – experience practically impossible to come by in the UK. With a 'there's-no-time-like-the-present' attitude, I found myself at Heathrow Airport on an early January morning, with a plane ticket heading east in my hand.

After a twenty hour journey, I was glad to finally touch down on Mongolian soil, despite the overly cheery airhostess informing the passengers it was minus 28 degrees outside.

Freezing

Truthfully, week one was a shock. It was absolutely freezing, it was difficult to stay upright on the lethally icy pavements and my limited grasp of Mongolian left me in countless tricky situations, generally with shopkeepers and impatient bus conductors. Battersea Park, Northcote Road and my local pub, The Lighthouse, seemed very far away.

Ulaanbaatar (UB), where I am based, is the capital and largest city of a country bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south, east and west. The official language is Mongolian, the predominant religion

Buddhism, and the currency is the tugrik, one tugrik being divided into 100 mongo (sounds like something out of Harry Potter, doesn't it?)

Roughly 45% of the 2.9 million population live in the bohemian madness, which all stems from one long street running east to west - Peace Avenue.

Mongolia is a rapidly developing country. The recent economic boom, due to plentiful resources of minerals such as copper and gold, is set to make the country increasingly richer in the coming years. Coupled with many expanding industries, such as the export of cashmere and agricultural produce, Mongolia appears to be on the



brink of vast progression.

The wealth is beginning to show; blacked out Hummers career down roads and up-market western restaurants fill up on weekends, despite high food prices. Cafes, restaurants, bars and karaoke clubs are thriving, and new venues pop up daily.

One can shop at the State Department Store (the Peter Jones of UB...nearly) or watch a plethora of international films (in English) at one of the huge cinema complexes. There are ice-skating rinks, bowling clubs, and a number of excellent museums, art galleries and old monasteries

Of course, this is juxtaposed with old Lada cars, crumbling buildings and many serious social issues, including widespread alcohol abuse. Poverty is unmistakable too.

There is a lot to see, including the enormous main square in the city centre, Sukhbaatar Square, which is

truly breath-taking. Walking across the vast paved area at night when the whole city is lit up with neon signs and flashing lights is quite incredible, especially at this time of year, when the snow adds a mystical, magical air.

Ghengis Khan

The State Parliament buildings impose on the north side of Sukhbaatar, and two huge statues loom large. One is of Genghis Khan (the founder and emperor of the Mongol Empire) and the other of Sukhbaatar himself (a military leader, remembered as a major figure in Mongolia's struggle for independence from China in the early 20th century).

Although not a particularly attractive city, (the Soviets knocked down most of the beautiful old buildings) or that easy to navigate (Mongolians are not big on street names or building numbers), it is surprisingly painless to locate the various sights, shops and restaurants and to feel at ease walking along the lengthy avenues.

I am living in the south district of UB, a twenty-minute bus ride from Peace Avenue, with a charming Mongolian host family. The Mongolians I have met have been wonderfully kind, friendly and funny, but en masse they don't seem to pay too much attention to foreigners.

The ex-pat community is a lively one, with weekly events and trips organised for the (predominately) Americans and Australians, who come here for mining, banking or volunteering positions.

There is something about UB that draws you in. Perhaps it's the fact that, despite the heavily polluted city air, the sun is always shining. Maybe it's the Mongolian dry sense of humour, or it could even be the smell of freshly steamed *buuz* (mutton dumplings).

Whatever the reason, there is a national pride amongst citizens and a great fondness from ex-pats for this unique country. People just like it here, and I can honestly say I have grown to love it too.

Battersea bulbs bloom in the rain forest

Judith Vandenberg Green traces her ancestors' horticultural history

Battersea was well known for its market gardens in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1767 two local gardeners, John Rutter and Daniel Carter, wrote an influential book, *Modern Eden*, implying that newly imported plants and both new and experimental methods of horticulture turned gardens into contemporary paradises. The book's title page describes it as 'the gardener's universal guide: containing plain and familiar instructions for performing every branch of gardening, whether relating to ornament or utility ... For raising all the products of the kitchen and flower garden, and the training, pruning and entire management of fruit trees. ... With many useful and curious experiments which have been repeatedly practised and proved, not only by gardeners, but by the virtuosi in general.'

Rutter, who worked in Wandsworth, and Battersea-based Carter believed

that the introduction of exciting new plants from Asia, Africa and America turned Battersea's traditional gardens of asparagus, cabbages and turnips into a Garden of Eden. One of these exotic plants was the pineapple. Two chapters of the book are devoted to the propagation and cultivation of the 'proliferous pineapple' in stove-heated greenhouses. Presumably these fruit were grown in Battersea.

Market garden

Daniel Carter gardened on a large tract of land in York and Falcon Roads leased from Lord Spencer. He also owned several houses and the Nag's Head alehouse in York Road. When Carter died in 1787 he left the Nag's Head and a large market garden to his son, also named Daniel. The younger Daniel Carter moved to Little Chelsea (now west Chelsea), leaving his son Thomas to garden on 80 acres in and around Battersea Rise. We know of

the crops he grew from his appeal against a tax assessment in 1823. He was growing oats, beans, turnips, potatoes, parsnips, onions and – of course – asparagus. Thomas left the market garden to his son, Thomas Daniel Carter, who lived at The Elms, Falcon Road until his death in 1869.

Daniel Carter of Little Chelsea became well known for his work in hybridising multi-petalled flowers. He also developed a method of forcing bulbs into early bloom.

Daniel and his wife Charlotte emigrated to Australia in 1854 and established a farm in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Charlotte planted Battersea bulbs in her garden, creating another 'Modern Eden'. Every spring Daniel Carter's multi-petalled daffodils still bloom among the orchids and ferns of the Australian rainforest.

Judith Vandenberg Green is Daniel and Charlotte Carter's great granddaughter.

Living in New South Wales she must be one of our most far-flung readers.

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Forthcoming events

Battersea Society events

Sunday 29 April Annual spring lunch at The Thai on the River.

Thursday 3 May Talk by Dr Paul Thompson, rector of the Royal College of Art, on the RCA's new departments based in Battersea, including examples of students' work. St Mary's Church, Battersea Church Road.

Thursday 10 May Guided walk of the Waterloo area, led by Blue Badge guide and Battersea Society member Stephanie Tickner.

Thursday 24 May Talk on the Victorian artist Richard Dadd. St Mary's Church, Battersea Church Road.

Thursday 29 May AGM (NOTE NEW DATE). Plus talk on Roman remains in Wandsworth by Dr Pamela Greenwood (see her article on page 9). All Saints Church, Prince of Wales Drive.

Tuesday 12 June Guided tour of Brompton Cemetery.

*For information or to book for these events, contact Maureen Larkin
membership@batterseasociety.org.uk*

Other events

Thursday 8 March Talk on philanthropy in the 19th century. Part of Battersea Arts Centre's investigation into ideas of 21st century philanthropy as a creative grassroots activity that strengthens neighbourliness. BAC 020 7223 2223.

Friday 9 March Thames 21 foreshore clean-up near Battersea Bridge on one of the lowest tides of the year. Messy and fun, wellington boots provided. alice.hall@thames21.org.uk

Saturday 24 March West London History Conference. Includes a talk by Dr Colin Thom on Victorian and Edwardian housing in Battersea. Neil Robson ngrobson@tiscali.co.uk

Thursday 19 April 8pm Hustings organised by the Putney Society. Speakers: London Assembly candidates Richard Tracey (Conservative), Leonie Cooper (Labour), Lisa Smart (Liberal Democrat) and Roy Vickery (Green). Brewer Building, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge.

26 May – 10 June Wandsworth Heritage Festival.

2 – 5 June Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. See page 8

Wandsworth Design Awards 2011

Battersea reaches high standards

Battersea did well in the 2011 Wandsworth Design Awards.

Three of the eight awards were in our area, the others being in Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth. The awards, run by the council since 1998, aim to promote awareness of good design and architecture and to give public recognition to good projects.

In 2011, 44 projects were nominated by residents, civic societies – including the Battersea Society – and other local organisations. Eight projects received awards, and nine were commended. The Battersea awards are:

- **23 Mallinson Road**

‘An imaginative scheme with a high standard of architectural detailing’.
(illustrated)

- **Thomas’s School, Battersea High Street**

‘A pleasing and well-mannered



23 Mallinson Road, view from the back garden

addition to this Grade II listed building’.

- **26 Eversleigh Road**

Sustainability award for ‘an exemplary retro-fitting of a conservation area building to produce 80% carbon reductions while maintaining its historic character and appearance’.

Nine projects were commended:

- **New entrance to Brighton Yard, Clapham Junction Station**

‘Contribution to improving access for people with disabilities’.

- **102 Salcott Road**

‘A well-considered extension to this residential property’.

- **445 Battersea Park Road**

‘A high standard of restoration of this pair of grade II listed buildings previously on the Council’s Heritage at Risk Register’.

- **29 Oberstein Road**

‘A contemporary solution to this infill site in the St John’s Hill Grove conservation area’.

- **Energy Centre, Doddington Estate**

‘Makes an important contribution to the sustainability of the estate’.



The handsome and useful new entrance to Clapham Junction Station at Brighton Yard won an award