

THE BATTERSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity no 1103560

Chairman's report - April 2004 to March 2005

Background

1. The Battersea Society is registered with the Civic Trust and its constitution has been drawn up on the lines recommended by the Civic Trust and has been accepted by them.
2. In the Spring of 2004 the Society was granted charitable status by the Charity Commission. A number of amendments will be needed to revise our constitution to bring it into line with the requirements of a charity, and a working party of officers will be examining these over the coming year and bringing forward proposals for the 2006 Annual General Meeting.
3. This summary Annual Report covers the year April 2004 to March 2005 and outlines the key activities of Society over this period.
4. The Executive Management Committee (EMC) met at bi-monthly intervals through out this period. The EMC is comprised of the trustees and non voting members co-opted by the trustees, although as a charity, all decisions are taken by trustees. The general activities of the Society are conducted also by the various sub-committees (see para 13 below).
5. The area of operation of the Battersea Society is, broadly speaking, the area of the former Battersea Borough, which in turn followed the medieval parish. The boundaries range from the boundary of the LB of Lambeth at Nine Elms; the Wandsworth Road, including the western half of Clapham Common; along Nightingale Lane to the South; the river Thames to the North; and the boundary with Wandsworth towards Trinity Road in the West.

General Issues

6. As ever, the Executive Management Committee (EMC) has had to prioritise our activities. Financial constraints remain a limiting factor, while the skills and particular interests of our members determine our prime fields of activity.
7. Annual membership subscriptions remain at only £7 for an individual or £10 for an organisation or family. This is deliberately set at a low affordable level, since the objective is to encourage a large and representative membership, rather than a small elitist one.

Trustees and the Executive Management Committee

8. Since becoming a charity this year, the Trustees of the Society have been Tony Tuck; Peter Deakins (to July); Harvey Heath; John Garvan; Wendy Deakins; Cynthia Newman; Anita Jackson; Gloria Cottesloe; Christine Fremantle; Virginia Hillier (to Sept); John Johnson; Richard Jones; David Lewis; & David Rathbone.
9. In addition, Julia Matcham and Brian Newman have been co-opted onto the EMC.

10. In the course of the year, Peter Deakins decided to stand down as Secretary of the Society and Harvey Heath became the Secretary in the Autumn. Peter was the original energy behind the revival of the Battersea Society and has been the mainstay of the organisation since 1998. He has undertaken a variety of roles including that of Newsletter Editor. As Chairman, I would like to pay tribute to his many and varied contributions. Peter continues to represent the Society on a number of local organisations.

Finances

11. The Financial Report is on a separate sheet. The Society's only income is from the modest membership charge and any net profits from events that we stage. Our major expenditure is on paper, ink & postage. The amount of material that we produce is conditioned, in part, by the level of our income.

12. At the end of December 2004, our individual membership was below 200, though our Newsletter circulation is some three times that size. The EMC have set a priority for 2005 of increasing membership by 25%.

Activities

13. A number of sub-committees have been established to carry out the programme of the Society. At March 2005 these comprised: -

General Purposes: Tony Tuck
Events: Wendy Deakins
Finance: John Garvan
Exhibitions & Displays: Brian Newman
Open spaces: vacancy
Newsletter Editorial Board: Various
Planning & Developments: David Lewis
Thames Foreshore: David Lewis

14. Over the period of this report the Society has: -

- * produced and issued four Newsletters
- * supported the campaign to save the Zoo in Battersea Park
- * taken up numerous planning issues e.g. Ralph West Hall, Battersea Power Station, and gave evidence to the Lots Road Public Enquiry
- * organised a clean up of the Thames foreshore
- * run a series of events including a summer party, seminars on local issues, and illustrated talks
- * contributed to the Wandsworth Arts Festival with a talk on Turner
- * liaised with neighbouring Civic Amenity Societies & related bodies
- * maintained a vigilant watch on developments in Battersea.

15. The key objectives over the coming year are to continue the general thrust of activities over the past period but, in particular: -

- * to increase membership by 25%;
- * to maintain informative and relevant quarterly newsletters
- * to secure funding grants to enable better services for members, and
- * to continue our efforts in helping to make Battersea a more pleasing place in which people can live or work.

17th April 2005

Tony Tuck: Chairman

The objects of the Battersea Society

The objects of the Battersea Society are to protect, foster and augment the amenities of Battersea, particularly by: -

Stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Battersea

Encouraging good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance and use of open spaces;

Fostering the enrichment of communities in Battersea and seeking the abatement of nuisances;

Making appropriate and informed representations to the proper authorities on these subjects

The area of interest of the Society is the area that formerly constituted the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.

The Battersea Society not only strives to preserve the historic parts of Battersea but also makes its influence felt wherever changes are proposed or improvements needed.

Now that Battersea is no longer a separate Borough but is part of the London Borough of Wandsworth, it is even more essential to protect the interests of all who live and work here and to preserve and enhance the unique character of Battersea.