

The Battersea Society

Registered charity Number No: 1103560

Chair's Report for 20010/2011

The Battersea Society continues to work hard to represent the main issues facing the communities of Battersea. At the same time we seek to provide a service to members by informing you of these issues and also to entertain and enlighten you with a diverse series of events.

Our various committees have devolved budgets and manage their issues independently. The management committee, which is made up of officers, trustees and other members, meets bi-monthly to provide an overall framework for the Society's work and programme. The Annual General Meeting is the opportunity for all members to hold these people and committees to account and to suggest areas for fruitful future development.

Although this Review necessarily largely looks back over the past year we are always seeking new members both for the management committee and to participate in our range of other committees. If you have only a smidgen of interest in joining in our activities then do please get in touch with either myself or the contact person for the committee whose activities arouse your active interest.

The Chairs of the various committees report on their activities over the past year below.

Communications & Website Report

Website: Visitor numbers remain fairly static – between 70-100 people a day look at one or more pages on the site, with the news and events pages being the most popular. The website visitors come from all corners of the planet. Most, of course, are from the UK, but Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden have shown interest in the Battersea Society over the last year. Also, although they numbered in single figures, it's intriguing to know what our handful of visitors from Iran, Yemen, Bahrain and Oman made of the news from Battersea. There are continuing plans for new developments in the site. There will definitely be improvements in and additions to our photo galleries, and hopefully a chance for members to contribute their own photographs. As ever, watch this space.

Communications: The email newsletter goes out most months, and members' feedback shows that it is appreciated. So far nobody has 'unsubscribed' from the email list, which now contains more than 200 addresses. A Battersea Society group has been set up on streetlife.com (formerly streetbook) which enables Society news to be passed on to non-members. At least one new member has joined as a result of this venture. A Twitter page has also been set up for the Society, which also helps in spreading the word about forthcoming public events, or issues close to the Society's heart.

Contact: Mike Roden

website@batterseasociety.org.uk

The Planning Committee Report

This past year has seen the need for the Society's Planning Committee to continue reviewing the bulky documentation produced by the Greater London Authority, Wandsworth Council and individual developers as planning for the Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea Opportunity Area progresses. The planning inspector has broadly accepted the Council's **Core Strategy for Wandsworth Local Development** and council officers gave members of the committee a very useful briefing on the changes made as a result of the examination process. Further documentation such as the Site Specific Allocations Document continues to be published and the committee comments on this.

Treasury Holdings continued to produce extensive additional material as their plans for the **Battersea Power Station** site came together. This required detailed study despite the overall size and density of the scheme remaining unchanged. As predicted, plans were agreed in October although we are uncertain when work will start on site. Approval was subject to lengthy conditions and these, together with any applications for changes to the plans, will certainly take up time over the coming years.

Members of the committee took part in the consultation process for developments for the Tideway site (now approved), Ballymore's Embassy Quarter, the Royal Mail site, Sainsbury's Nine Elms development, the Marco Polo building and, most recently, the Covent Garden Market development. We are looking forward to hosting a presentation for Society members and their guests on **Nine Elms** on May 25, during which Cllr. Ravi Govindia and his team from Wandsworth Council will share their vision for the Nine Elms Area and provide a forum for debate on key aspects of these plans.

At the end of last year Thames Water presented outline plans for the **Thames Tideway Tunnel**. (The Thames Tunnel is a new wide and deep sewer due to run for 20 miles along the route of the River Thames.) These outline plans lack much in the way of detail and the Society's response concentrated on just how much more information is needed. We believe the work is necessary, but the sketchy nature of the planning is not acceptable and lends no confidence that the work will be carried out with the least disruption, nor that the built legacy will be acceptable.

We responded to the Council's Local Implementation Plan for Transport and took the opportunity to express, yet again, our concern about the shameful neglect of **Clapham Junction Station**. We made the point that conditions could be improved even within the current spatial constraints and we aim to press for some improvements in the coming year. Plans for **traffic management** elsewhere are in outline at this stage and we have stressed the need for all in Battersea to be involved in the detailed plans as they are developed.

The committee continues to monitor planning applications and to attend meetings with councillors and council officers including those of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and the Community Planning Forum. The committee contributes a planning update to each issue of Battersea Matters and is always happy to be alerted to individual applications of concern to members.

Contact: David Lewis & Liz Walton: Joint Chairs planning@batterseasociety.org.uk

Membership Report

At the end of 2010 our members numbered 279, which comprised single and family members, several organisations and businesses and residents' associations. This level of membership is fairly consistent with recent years since, while we have new members regularly joining, we lose some – by moving from the borough, resignation or non-payment of subscription (especially in these hard economic times) and sadly by death.

It is now possible to join the Society via our website and pay the subscription on-line via PayPal and we have gained several new members by this method, as well as by canvassing at the Battersea Square Fete, St. Mary's Church Annual Fete and our talks, open meetings, etc.

We continue to endeavour to provide interesting visits, talks and topical discussions for our members to which you are most welcome, and if you would like to become more involved by joining one of our Committees or helping out at an event (e.g. the Summer Party, talks, etc.) please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contact: Maureen Larkin membership@batterseasociety.org.uk

Marketing Report

Marketing has been busy this past year with a number of initiatives aimed at trying to increase our membership. We have had visiting cards printed as a visual reminder for potential members on what we do and how to join. Our Christmas cards are proving popular with members, who are asked to send a couple out to friends and family that may be interested in joining.

We have had a series of adverts in The Friends of Battersea Park newsletter and have promoted the Society at other Battersea events that have taken place over the year. For 2011 we will be developing a 'corporate' identity for the society and introducing a general information leaflet and will continue to come up with creative and cost effective ways of promoting The Battersea Society to a wider audience.

Contact: Sara Milne marketing@batterseasociety.org.uk

The Events Committee Report

Once more throughout 2010 the various visits, talks and social events have proved popular. Three of the talks contributed to the knowledge of our local history. In June, Jon Newman, archivist, provided us with an excellent illustrated talk on the history of Price's Candle Factory - one of the main local employers of the 19C and , for its time, an enlightened employer with a basic welfare system in place for its workers. In September we heard about the wonderful flora and fauna of 18th century Battersea, through an illustrated talk about

board by national and local government has largely yet to be felt in practice by individuals and families.

Many of the issues lie beyond the remit of any civic amenity society. Nevertheless, the Society has a watching brief on the wider developments on education and health in the community and seeks to input reasonable and practical views where the opportunity rises or is needed.

Contact: Tony Tuck

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Contacts

We are of course delighted that so many members come to our events, but we would welcome more members coming forward to help at all events or partake in our deliberations in the various committees.

Contact details are:

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20th March 2011

Tony Tuck
Chair: The Battersea Society