

# Battersea Matters

the newsletter of the Battersea Society AUTUMN 2012



## Battersea volunteers help make the Games

### SENIA DEDIC

For six days during the Olympics I and my fellow London Ambassadors stood in our pink uniforms outside the V&A Museum, helping visitors from all over the world.

I got involved in being an Ambassador through Team London, the Mayor's volunteering challenge. Four years ago Boris Johnson invited people to volunteer to help at the Olympics. Thirty thousand people applied and 8,000 were picked to be ambassadors. Our role was to show visitors around, give out maps and leaflets, welcome them, and generally help in any way we could. We had a lot of training about security and customer service. The aspect I particularly enjoyed was the history of the area, which was known as Albertopolis as Queen Victoria's husband was so involved in getting the museums and the Crystal Palace established.

### Lucky

My five hour shifts were quite tiring but it was amazing being a hostess to the whole world. The tourists loved being in London. They loved the museums and quirky British designs. Many people said to me, 'You're so lucky to have the Queen.' People asked us about how to get tickets, bus routes, how to get to various shops such as Harrods, where to find restaurants. Luckily there are lots of places to eat in South Kensington. I speak six languages as well as English and I got to use four of them: French, German, Bosnian and Croatian.

Generally local people and visitors were very appreciative of what we were doing, though one man did get into a rant at how the Olympics should be paying staff

rather than expecting them to work as volunteers. However I felt privileged to be involved, I was proud to learn all these things about London and the Olympic Games and I felt appreciated. Learning that the Paralympics was started in this country in 1948 made me feel proud to be British.

### Brilliant rehearsal

Everyone loved the opening ceremony. As an Ambassador I was lucky enough to get a free ticket to a rehearsal. It was brilliant but of course there were no electronics – and no Queen! I'll be taking part in the Olympians parade on 10 September, as Boris wanted to thank the volunteers as well as the sportsmen and women.

There has been a lot of talk about the legacy of the Games. I hope in the long run it will be economically good for London, though the centre was very empty. Much of the infrastructure was paid for by the IOC and will be a heritage for our children. The huge 50 metre swimming pool at Stratford is such a present for our young people.

And the whole ethos of sport, such as eating and living healthily, will hopefully be taken on board. I hope we can invest in peace and in young people's physical and mental health.



### CAROL RAHN

Emerging from the house in my purple and poppy uniform, with the world's saddest, saggiest trousers, I was surprised to see another Games Maker

coming down my street. Naturally, as became common between strangers during the 17 most congenial days in the long history of this city, we struck up a conversation. My fellow volunteer, I learned, lives in Aldershot and camped out in her daughter's apartment in order to stand for hours in the Olympic Park, exposed to the full force of the elements, one of the now-famous multitude providing directions and answering questions with the enthusiasm and good spirits that proved infectious.

Many Games Makers toiled away far from any sight or sound of the Games, like those in the stuffy temporary huts where uniforms and accreditation were handed out. My own tenure as a volunteer started back in June 2011 when I began travelling once a week to the London 2012 Volunteer Selection centre at Excel to help interview and select 70,000 Games Makers from among the 240,000 who had applied. From my nine months' involvement, I can attest that Games Makers were drawn from absolutely every walk of life. Most were from London but a mobile team met candidates across the UK and we interviewed candidates by phone from all over the world.

We were looking for people who were enthusiastic about the Games and about being a volunteer, candidates we felt confident would go the extra mile to help members  
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Senia, left, and two other Ambassadors



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for regular updates on Battersea Society news, events and planning matters

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## From the editor



I was lucky enough to get tickets for the Paralympics, and what a great day I had! The sport was thrilling,

the atmosphere in the Aquatic Centre electric and the park was beautiful. And to cap it all, the sun shone. But above all, the volunteers created a warm and enthusiastic atmosphere that filtered through to all of us. I have never been in such a huge crowd that felt so full of bonhomie. No rowdiness, no pushing and shoving, nobody drunk, not even ordinary British grumbling. I'd like to thank Carol, Senia and Sara and all their colleagues for their contribution to the gaiety of nations.

It's a strange thought that this was happening just a year after the riots that shook Battersea and other parts of London (and which

must have made Seb Coe and LOCOG very nervous indeed). Over the next year we will be following some of the initiatives which have sprung up since then, including the Big Local (see *Cllr Tony Belton's article in the spring issue*).

Recently the government has announced its proposed relaxation of the planning rules for house extensions. This may - possibly - be good news for the construction industry, but it has an ominous ring for those whose neighbours may be salivating at the prospect of building an even deeper basement for their swimming pool/gym/cinema. The Battersea Society will be watching this development carefully.

According to the Evening Standard, Wandsworth is already one of the most 'generous' boroughs in London, approving 91 per cent of applications. Where you stand on this depends, of course, on whether one is the person desperate to add an extra bedroom

for a teenage son or daughter, or the neighbour who will have to endure the noise, disruption and lack of light and privacy that could result.

The Nine Elms development will bring a huge number of new homes to our borough. I wonder how many of them will be owned by wealthy people living overseas and using them either as an occasional bolt-hole or as an investment. Apparently 60 per cent of new-build homes in central London are bought by foreign investors, many of whom have no intention of living in them. This pushes up prices for local people and leaves swathes of the capital lifeless. Bermondsey MP Simon Hughes has proposed that parts of London should be 'off-limits' to such second homes. It's unlikely that this idea will last beyond the Lib Dem party conference, but it is one that many might applaud.

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## The man on the Battersea bus

Mike Roden celebrates being back in London

Well, what can you say, a great atmosphere, brilliant displays from performers of many nations, scenes of high drama, some almost unbearably heart wrenching moments, the rising tumult of applause and cheering filling the arena - we expect nothing less from the Proms.

The other big event of the summer wasn't too bad, either, was it? Gridlock didn't happen, for the most part the transport system coped. Team GB scooped up a few medals, and Andy Murray even managed to win at Wimbledon. And what a legacy we have to look forward to - we're going to be a happier, fitter, more caring and good natured nation from now on. Though I gather that we also all have to cry a lot more to show just how happy we are. But I'm glad I'm not back at primary school and facing two hours of PE and Games a day. An hour a week was bad enough for the sensitive soul of your correspondent.

Back in those dim and distant days I had a terrible tendency to blush at the slightest thing. The other day that memory came flooding back - as did the colour to my cheeks - when I took my watch to be fitted with a new battery.

### Bright red

The young lady in the jewellers glanced at it and handed it back, having miraculously got it started again. 'You must have been adjusting the time, 'she told me with kindly pity, 'And you didn't push the button back so of course the watch didn't re-start.' Then she asked if she could phone anyone to come and fetch me. I made that last bit up of course, but my face burned bright as I left the shop.

We've just returned from the deepest Cotswolds where once or twice a year we recuperate from the city strains while taking care of the house (and more importantly the cats) of holidaymaking friends. The village

is a traffic-, and virtually people-free zone and on some days the number of cars passing our front gate barely reaches double figures. Peace and tranquillity, surely the epitome of that England of warm beer and old maids cycling to evensong (©John Major). Well, there's no pub, and while I can't be sure about the marital status of the occasional lady cyclist I've seen, there is certainly no longer any evensong in the little Norman church - just one service a month.

There's also no shop, no post office, no doctor, the nearest cinema and theatre is twenty miles away as is the nearest hospital, and buses are rare as hen's teeth. Peaceful and tranquil it may be, a good place to spend a couple of restful weeks, but it's also rather unreal. So although I'm not going to stop complaining about the din of helicopters, or worrying about the renewed interest in building a third runway, or fretting when the bus is a few minutes late, it's still good to be back in noisy, boisterous Battersea.

Mind how you go.

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of the public, who could deliver under pressure and who stood out from the crowd – distinctive in their achievements, contributions, the obstacles they had overcome, or simply the way in which they engaged. The oft-repeated message that the work of Games Makers made the Games possible and their demeanour would create the atmosphere also proved to be more than just the corporate line. And for all we may rightfully deplore the nutritional impact of McDonalds, McDonalds were instrumental in the process of selecting and training the Games Makers.

### Celebrity spotting

As a Games Maker, I was assigned to a team looking after those elusive foreign dignitaries. Yes, one day at Greenwich, I was directing spectators away from those empty seats reserved for the 'Olympic family.' They took it well. They took it especially well when William, Kate, Harry, Beatrice and Eugenie, with Seb Coe and Steve Redgrave in tow, all rocked up to watch cousin Zara compete. Overall, you'd have to give the Olympics a solid Gold for celebrity spotting.

Now, after all those years of planning, the Olympics are over in the blink of an eye. The ticketing was a real black eye; the Olympic Family is bloated and over-privileged; the brand policing is ridiculously over-zealous, the cost puts the host city at the mercy of broadcasters and sponsors. But the Olympics will always produce high drama, even for the sports-shy. And who could have been more surprised than

we were that we made such a good job of it and that all of us, residents and visitors alike, would share such a good mood and be so polite to one another?

As for me, I've applied the panel that turns my London 2012 Games Maker jacket into my London 2012 Paralympic Games jacket and I'm ready to go.

### SARA MILNE

My memories of the Olympics are slightly different to most Games Maker volunteers as I had very little interaction with the public. My role was as a driver, helping to provide a pool car service for IOC officials, visiting sports associations and sponsors.

Training included a mini driving test, along with radio protocol, safety procedures and navigation skills. The average shift time for a Games Maker was 6 – 8 hours, but drivers drew the short straw with a whopping ten hour shift. Much of the time was spent either waiting at a variety of Olympic venues, hotels and transport hubs or criss-crossing London to get passengers to their destination on time. My passengers were mainly Olympic officials – an Australian working at IOC headquarters, the head of the Danish Badminton Federation, a South African trainer – but a colleague hit the jackpot. On the Monday after the end of the Games he got to take Mo Farah to the airport!

The much maligned Games Lanes were a godsend, speeding up travel times and allowing us to navigate our way safely and speedily across the capital. There were 9,000 volunteer fleet drivers for the Olympics, and we had an amazing time. Everyone



was so upbeat and positive – even when traffic was a nightmare and the odd passenger got out and walked as it was quicker. And of course the BMWs were a dream to drive ... although keeping to the speed limit was a challenge at times.

### Hidden world

I had the additional bonus of cycling from Battersea to Excel and back each day which was a revelation. Half my journey was on the CS3 cycle route which runs from Tower Bridge to Barking and right past Excel. It showed me a hidden world of local communities living alongside the towers of Canary Wharf and Docklands. The Limehouse area in particular, where the Grand Union Canal and the Regents Canal meet the Thames, is hugely historic. It became known for its lime kilns in the 14th century and in the 1740s it became the site of England's first soft paste porcelain factory. Shipbuilding also thrived there from the 16th through to the 19th century and there are some warehouses (and pubs) that survived the Blitz and are still standing today.

It was great to be part of the Olympic Family and to feel that you were making the Games the very best that they could be ... although I am still not sure about the uniform!



**The Royal College of Art's Dyson Building opens on Battersea Bridge Road at the end of September.**

**Designed by Haworth Tompkins (also architects to the BAC) it will contain the printmaking and photography departments and the business incubator unit. It will also include a lecture theatre and public gallery.**

**Joining the existing painting and sculpture buildings, it will form the centrepiece of the RCA's Battersea campus.**

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## Planning Matters

The Battersea Power Station saga continues reports Monica Tross

### BATTERSEA POWER STATION

Another year, another owner, another set of acronyms – the saga continues. As most of you will know, it has been bought for a reported £400m by SP Setia, Sime Darby and the Employees Provident Fund pension fund. This Malaysian consortium, Battersea Project Holding Co. Ltd (BPHCL) have formed a company to develop the site: BPSDC (Battersea Power Station Development Co. Ltd).

New readers start here. Older readers, sigh a weary sigh and skip the next bit. BPHCL is, I believe, the fifth owner since the Power Station finally ceased working in 1983. The Power Station site was the subject of a competition in 1983/84 to develop future use for the power station. This was won by a consortium led by Sir David Roche and including John Broome. Broome took over control and developed ambitious plans for a theme park, approved by Wandsworth Council in 1986. John Broome bought the site for a reported £1.5m in 1987 and, on 6 June 1988, Margaret Thatcher fired a laser gun to signal the start of work – and the imminent removal of the roof. Work stopped in 1989 and in 1990 the Council granted planning permission for a new plan for a large hotel and shops. No work was started and eventually John Broome went bankrupt.

### Receivership

In 1993 Victor Hwang and his Parkview company bought the Power Station and the site from Bank of America for £10m. In 2005 plans were submitted for a mixed development of residential, retail, hotel and leisure. These were agreed in 2006 and shortly after Victor Hwang sold the site to Treasury Holdings for £400m. Treasury Holding's master plan was agreed in 2010 and estimated to cost £4 billion. They continued work on detailed plan development until they too went into receivership late in 2011.

BPSDC plan to implement the Treasury Holdings master plan for the 39 acre site and write that 'the Gross Development Value (GDV) of the 15-year project is expected to be

approximately £8 billion'.

It is this size and cost which lies at the heart of the problem. Over the years owners have bought up adjoining sites and increased the overall size of the project. They have,

to paraphrase a speaker at a recent seminar, 'planned in lush times, built (or rather not built) in hard times'. Successive owners have had to plan ever more densely to support the land cost, service borrowing and the conservation and re-use of an increasingly at risk Power Station.

However at the launch party the Mayor told us (in typically Borovian terms) that the new owners are 'heavyweights, flushed with cash'. The new CEO of the project, Rob Tincknell, told us that the reserved matters planning application will go to the Council next month with building starting in the second half of 2013. Plans for two new buildings were commissioned by Treasury Holdings and exhibited in 2011 and it seems likely that these, by architects Ian Simpson Ltd and De Rijke Marsh Morgan will form the basis of this application.

### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN NINE ELMS AND VAUXHALL

A new website has opened, [www.nineelmslondon.com](http://www.nineelmslondon.com) and plans are in hand for a further Expo at Market Towers (One Nine Elms) on 15 and 16 November.

The plans for One Nine Elms, which include a very tall tower, have been approved. We are now waiting to hear if the Secretary of State will 'call in' these plans for further review. Outline plans for Covent Garden Market have also been agreed.

The appeal by the developers of the Kylun Tower at Vauxhall (within the gyratory) against the refusal of permission by Lambeth



### Brave new world? Developers' vision for Battersea

Council has been allowed and Lambeth are now working with the developers on detailed planning. Plans for a new Sainsbury's and housing on their Wandsworth Road site (backing on to Covent Garden Market) have been agreed.

### DIAMOND JUBILEE AND OTHER BRIDGES

Two new bridges are proposed for Battersea. The Mayor is lobbying for a pedestrian and cycle bridge at Vauxhall and this has led to opposition from both sides of the river followed by support from others. Unlike the Millennium Bridge there is no obvious start and finish point and it would add visual clutter to the river view and end up, we read in 'a dog park at the bottom of St George's Square'. We hear that a feasibility study will be carried out and that 'options are being explored'. The proposal for a Diamond Jubilee Bridge near the existing Cremorne Bridge seems to make more sense. You can see a sketch of this bridge on the Council's planning website, reference 2012/3860. What do you think?

### UPDATES AND NEW APPLICATIONS

Battersea Arts Centre are planning some changes, 2012/3740. The design and access statement on the website gives full details and includes a very interesting history of the building. Revised plans for

100 York Road were again refused by the Council (2012/1444). Plans for Elmwood Court, the Peabody building at the Queenstown Road end of Battersea Park Road (2012/2223) were approved. Back in September last year we objected to the granting of retrospective planning permission to a householder who had installed UPVC windows to the front elevation of a house within the Shaftesbury Park Estate Conservation Area. The Council agreed and refused permission, a decision against which the householder appealed. I'm happy to report that the Planning Inspector also supported the need to protect the character and appearance of the conservation area and dismissed the appeal.

New applications of interest include further plans for the Castle public house and an application to demolish, 2012/3400 and 3466. These do at least include a public house within the development but are otherwise unsatisfactory and we have objected. We will call for there to be no demolition until and unless work is due to start on agreed plans for the replacement building. The owners of 15 and 16 Bridge Lane have applied to merge these into one dwelling, 2012/2517. We have objected to this and to the loss of one garden to an extension. The owners of the triangular site at 575C Battersea Park Road have proposed a much smaller building but still with change of use to restaurant/take away. This is within

a residential area and there just does not seem adequate provision for the extra parking needed.

We hear that the Church Commissioners are applying to dispose of St Paul's Church, 92 St John's Hill and that details have been posted at the church, at St Peter with St Paul's in Plough Road and in York Gardens Library. This is to help fund the development of the Plough Road site, plans agreed in 2010 (2009/0699).

*Don't forget, we like to know what members think – so please do contact us if you have comments on any planning or transport matter – including new bridges.*

*planning@batterseasociety.co.uk*

## Restaurant review: Corelli's

Elaine Smith Dunlap loves the ambience

Absolutely one of Battersea's treasures is Corelli's Café, recognisable towards the east end of Battersea Park Road by its large fading ice cream cone sign. Ice cream is still sold and distributed from the premises, but it's the capacious and reasonably priced lunch servings that draw the fans ... that and some of the best espresso coffee in London!

### Worth waiting

Always filled to its tiny brim with locals, (and actually Tom Stoppard was once spotted in the front corner window), after 11:30 am it's a bit of a fight for space at one of the two rows of long tables, two smaller tables, tiny window tables or even the two or three al fresco tables on the street in front. But the congeniality of most everyone there makes any wait worth the time spent.

One can order pizzas or sandwiches from the long deli counter, but there is also an array of

at least five main dishes: fish, chicken, beef, pastas, stews or meatballs and then the REAL treat of a choice of at least seven vegetables all of which can be piled high on the plate. All this is then heated up, sometimes to the point of over-cooking the veg, in the ovens behind the counter. It's not gourmet cooking, but hearty and healthy and served by friendly staff who have been there for eons.

It's largely about ambience, Corelli's. Go for the interaction with the regulars, Italian men who have made it their local cafe in the European tradition, or to see the neighbours who go there frequently enough to accidentally meet each other at lunch.

### Linger

Better yet, take a friend or two, yourself, and linger long enough to catch the flavour of the place which



includes much more than just food.

Corelli's is open from roughly 7 am to 4 pm and prices range from £1.30 for espresso coffee to £1.60 for large cups of latte or cappuccino. Full lunches are between £7 and £8, sandwiches around £3.50. Also a variety of pizzas and full breakfasts are served and the once legendary loo has been transformed!

*132 Battersea Park Road  
Buses 344 and 44*

## New Member Events

These events have been designed to encourage new members to join the Battersea Society so we are asking any members who would like to attend to bring with them a non-member.

There is a special ticket price of £5 per person for New Member Events

### *Events to ink into your diary*

The Battersea Society pub lunch - 12.30-3pm Saturday 10 November at Duke of Cambridge, Battersea Bridge Road, London SW11

*Events to pencil into your diary, to be confirmed*

The Battersea Walk - guided walk through historic Battersea - 11am Sunday 14 October

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## A refuge in time of trouble

Lyndsey Dearlove describes the work of the Hestia Wandsworth domestic abuse service

Domestic violence is widespread and affects the lives of thousands of women and children. Shockingly, one in four women experience such abuse during their lives. Women and children in Wandsworth are not immune and there is a great need for refuges where families can be safe. Hestia Wandsworth Domestic Abuse Service provides such a service, of which I am the manager.

*Julia came to us last year after several years of domestic abuse. Her younger child, Sarah, is of school age and Mary, who is in her 20s, has severe learning difficulties. Mary is dependent on her mother for support, but most refuges do not accept adult dependants, and the family had been turned away from a number of other refuges.*

*The family spent over six months with us. Mary and Sarah both attended appropriate local schools. Julia undertook a number of training courses with Storm, a local charity, and began volunteering at Hestia. The family have now been re-housed in a neighbouring borough and are all doing very well.*

### Three refuges

Wandsworth Women's Aid was established in 1973, and the first refuge opened its doors in August 1974. It was immediately oversubscribed, and with Wandsworth Council's support a larger house was opened in the same year. In June 2011 Wandsworth Women's Aid became a subsidiary of Hestia Housing and Support, a London-wide charity, to ensure the organisation's longevity.

We now provide three refuges in Wandsworth. They include self-contained flats for women who have older children, sons over the age of 13, or children with learning difficulties or autism. We have space for 13 families and at the moment these include 18 children. Last year we supported 23 women and 32 children.

As well as the refuges we run the Butterfly Project, a support group, named by women to represent the freedom they feel after escaping

domestic abuse. This group provides emotional support and social and arts-based activities. It is run by former residents who have received training to become peer support volunteers; we look forward to launching this group in Wandsworth shortly.

A woman who is suffering domestic abuse can contact the National Refuge Helpline 0808 2000 247. We take part in the one stop shop which is based at Battersea Arts Centre on Monday mornings. This is an opportunity for victims of domestic abuse to receive free advice from ourselves, the police, Victim Support and solicitors.

### Traumatic

We support around 35 children each year in our Children and Families Services in Wandsworth. Witnessing violence in the home is highly traumatic for children, and in addition 70% of children in UK refuges have been abused by their father. This can lead to emotional, developmental and behavioural problems, and damage their bond with their mother. For Hestia, supporting these children is a priority.

We have two Children and Families workers who provide the children with one-to-one support. We have also been fortunate over the past few years to secure funding for family drama and art therapy. Zahra, whose children attended the therapy, says, 'The sessions have been really helpful. Both children seem a lot more confident, settled and less attention seeking. They follow boundaries and listen more.'

Unfortunately our Children and Families Services rely on independent grants and we are faced with losing one of our specialist workers and the drama and art therapy. Our drama and art therapist believes the benefits of the therapy are clear, saying, 'The sessions provide a safe and consistent space for children to process and make sense of the trauma they have experienced.'



The playroom at our main refuge

They provide scope for mother and child to repair and nurture their relationship. The mother builds confidence in her parenting skills and enjoys and develops the bond she has with her child.'

### Welcome packs

We have received a number of donations from the local community for which we – and our clients – are very grateful. Many of our residents arrive with very few personal belongings and the support of local people has enabled us to create welcome packages which contain basic toiletries, towels and toys. Donations also provide small Christmas presents for the children, and clothes for women who arrive with only the clothes on their backs. Without support from the local community we would be unable to provide these vital services to our residents.

We welcome support from volunteers, either for administrative help or for work with clients on work-related skills or crafts. If any readers are interested, please contact Lesley at Hestia on 020 8532 82940

*\* All names have been changed to protect residents' identities.  
www.hestia.org Wandsworth  
Domestic Abuse Advice Line 0208  
871 2664  
Registered Charity 294555  
www.justgiving.com/hestia (please  
mark any donations for Wandsworth  
Womens Aid)*



## North Battersea: finding the way forward

Mac Downes calls for community audit volunteers

We all have views of the area we live in and how it could be improved. But how can these views be brought together, in a democratic way, through consultation, and how can any way forward be implemented? Consultation has become almost a dirty word; people have become quite cynical about public bodies asking their opinions and promptly ignoring them. But it doesn't have to be like that.

One way forward is through community audits. A community audit means studying the social needs in a defined geographical area and identifying potential actions which may be taken to improve social conditions.

Wandsworth Care Alliance (WCA) has been commissioned by Wandsworth Public Health to conduct a community audit in north Battersea.

The study will concentrate upon the following estates: Winstanley, Surrey Lanes, Doddington & Rollo, Savona, Patmore and Carey Gardens although other areas will be included as necessary. Debate has already begun about where north Battersea begins and ends and what geographical areas should be included – we rely upon Battersea Society members to contribute to this debate!

To ensure this study is rooted in the local area we are looking for volunteer auditors and members of the Community Audit Steering Team (CAST)

Volunteer auditors will directly assist with the project. The selected volunteers will:

- Collect statistics relating to the

area and carry out a physical street by street exploration of the area and interview local people and organisations.

- Note physical community assets or initiatives that may exist or are being planned.
- Develop and analyse options for possible social action within the area or nearby
- Help produce a written report and present it to the community and public service providers including health agencies, police and the council.
- Help plan and take part in an event to publicise the audit findings and celebrate the whole process.

Are you interested in becoming involved as a volunteer auditor, but daunted by the enormity of the task? No need – volunteers will be offered training in a variety of areas together with ongoing support from the Community Audit Team at WCA.

Training will take place for selected volunteers in September. The audit is planned to take place from October to November with time to help write up and present the report early in the New Year. It will include the following elements:

- Observing the local environment
- Accessing and interpreting data
- Persuading people to contribute
- Interviewing skills- face to face; by telephone; vox pop; group discussion

- Questionnaire design, distribution and analysis
- Understanding how public services function at macro and micro levels
- Working within a team – reporting to the team
- Report writing, including desktop publishing
- Presenting the final report
- Contributing towards the legacy of the report

CAST members, once selected, will meet with the Community Audit Team and public health commissioners to help guide and oversee the community audit. They will meet as a steering group to:

- Agree methodology and plan.
- Take into account any constraints
- Agree timescale and frequency of Community Audit Team reporting sessions.
- Agree draft and final report and scope and method of presentation of final report.
- Where appropriate assist WCA with promoting the final report to interested bodies in the local community and with public service providers.

*If you are interested in becoming a volunteer auditor or a member of the Community Audit Steering Team (CAST), please contact Sarah Ellison on 0208 516 7716 or sarah@wandcareall.org.uk*

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## Great Bus Journeys of the World No 4

Mike Roden travels from Victoria to Roehampton on the 170 bus



If you wait long enough for a bus from the stop on the cramped and narrow pavement on Buckingham Palace Road, just outside Victoria Station, the whole world will eventually drag their wheeled suitcases over your feet. One day it will be different perhaps, once the station refurbishment is complete, but for now this is where you need to catch the 170 bus to Roehampton, Danebury Avenue.

### Art deco

Thankfully the single-decker bus arrives promptly, and we're off, past the Art Deco frontage of Victoria Coach Station opened in 1932 by London Coastal Coaches Ltd, before turning right onto Ebury Bridge Road and into Pimlico the home of expensive antique dealers, and Lord Linley's upmarket version of Habitat. Today is not Saturday so the stalls of the weekly farmers' market are not obscuring the elegant statue of a youthful violin-playing Mozart. He lived with his family on nearby Ebury Street.

Just beyond Chelsea Bridge Road is the Chelsea Royal Hospital, commissioned by Charles II in 1681 to provide 'for the succour and relief of veterans broken by Age and War'. It was completed in 1692 in the reign of William and Mary. Well worth a visit – especially the Chapel, and the little museum.

At the next bus stop a couple of Chelsea Pensioners get on, wearing their normal day uniform. We're close to the National Army Museum which concentrates very much

on the life of the ordinary soldier. Nearby is the Chelsea Physic Garden which was established in 1673; only Oxford's botanical garden is older. It's open to paying visitors most afternoons, apart from Monday and Saturday. Now the bus heads onto the embankment and towards Albert Bridge, with a good view of Battersea Park's Peace Pagoda over the river.

### Medieval building

Sir Thomas More's statue sits outside Chelsea Old Church. His house near Beaufort Street has long gone, but what remains of his private chapel can still be seen in the church. This is not the original building, which suffered catastrophic damage during the Blitz, and was completely rebuilt after the war. Crosby Hall, at the end of Danvers Street is apparently the most important surviving secular domestic medieval building in London. It was moved from its Bishopsgate location in 1910 and since 1988 it has belonged to the financier Christopher Moran who has added a handsome neo-Elizabethan mansion fronting onto the Embankment. For many years it has been caged in with scruffy, rusting security fencing.

The bus crosses the river via Battersea Bridge, and turns down Battersea Church Road, once the home of the Morgan Crucible works. The inhabitants of Morgan's Walk, the estate built on its site are reputedly those who asked for this part of north Battersea to be designated New Chelsea. A flour mill once stood on the site of Richard

Rogers' Montevetro building – right next door to St Mary's Church, which needs no introduction to most members of the Battersea Society.

### Oldest bridge

The name of Battersea Square – once the historic village centre – vanished from maps sometime during the twentieth century. In 1990 Wandsworth council set about restoring the square, and revived the name. On Vicarage Crescent we pass Old Battersea House which dates from the late seventeenth century and was until recently the UK home of the Forbes family. The building has recently been sold. A few moments later we pass under London's oldest railway bridge – the height of which is the reason that this route is served by a single decker. Nearby is the Hotel Rafayel which styles itself as being on 'London's left bank', a marketing idea whose time has apparently not yet quite arrived.

On York Road we pass the site of Price's Candle factory, the subject of a planning application which will add more flats to the Candlemakers' development behind it, and then we turn down Plough Road, past York Gardens, on our way to the new Grant Road entrance to Clapham Junction station.

We're soon passing the recently revealed new Travelodge on Falcon Road, and after a short wait at the much improved junction, the bus turns onto St John's Hill. At the stop opposite the station the two Chelsea Pensioners (you probably



thought I'd forgotten about them) disembark. I daresay they find the shopping opportunities here more congenial (and affordable) than on the King's Road.

Continuing up the hill past the new station entrance on Brighton Yard we reach the other end of Plough Road, and here take a quick look at the Grade II \* listed Transformation House, opened in 1937 as the Granada Cinema, and now a very upmarket conference centre which includes an auditorium capable of seating 2,500 people. An ideal place for a Battersea Society meeting perhaps, except that daily hire costs £14,000 (plus VAT). Just beyond the St John's Therapy Centre is the site of the old Union Workhouse, now a residential estate. After crossing Trinity Way, the bus trundles down East Hill into Wandsworth.

### Huguenots

There are several references here to the Huguenots in street and building names. Many of them fled here from persecution in 17th century France, and their old burial place (known as Nod Hill) which closed in 1854 is nearby.

The Town Hall was opened by Queen Mary in 1937 – across its whole façade is an ornate frieze depicting events from the town's history. Along Wandsworth High Street we avert our eyes from the blue and white Lego structure which is the Southside Shopping Centre and continue up West Hill past Wandsworth Museum which

shares its home with the De Morgan Centre (whose treasures were once housed in Old Battersea House).

The most impressive sight as we turn left onto this part of the busy A3 is the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability which was established in Carshalton in 1854 by philanthropist Andrew Reed as 'The Hospital for Incurables'. With aid from supporters like Charles Dickens and Florence Nightingale it eventually moved in 1863 to its current site, formerly part of Lord Spencer's estate. It's now the oldest independent hospital and medical charity in the UK.

### Duels

The bus reaches Tibbet's Corner, and begins the steep climb up Putney Hill to Putney Heath and the Green Man. This inn (which probably dates back to 1700) featured in War of the Worlds by H G Wells when the narrator – fleeing the Martian invaders – breaks in looking for food. It's said that the pub was often a refuge for those who had taken part in the duels which were fairly commonplace on the heath, including one (bloodless) 1798 encounter between Prime Minister William Pitt and William Tierney MP. Thomas Cromwell – the nemesis of Sir Thomas More whom we met earlier on the trip – was born nearby.

### Sights to see:

**Victoria Coach Station, The Royal Hospital and statue of Sir Thomas More, Chelsea, Mount Nod cemetery, Wandsworth, The Green Man pub, Putney and former LCC housing in Roehampton**

And that's nearly it. We ride alongside Putney Heath for a few minutes, and then head down into Roehampton. As we approach there are faint traces of the country village it once was – a few small cottages – but the rest is a far cry from the wealthy neighbourhood we passed through at the start of our travels. Journey's end is at Minstead Gardens on Danbury Avenue. It's spitting with rain, but we take the ten minute walk to Richmond Park via the Roehampton Gate, and enjoy a well-deserved coffee and muffin to fortify us for the trip home on the 170.



## Vauxhall, sex and entertainment

Long before New Covent Garden, Penelope Corfield shows that Vauxhall was a popular flesh market

Sex was the obvious ingredient to add into my 2008 pamphlet on Vauxhall's Pleasure Gardens, with a new chapter on that theme. Readers, I took that decision not through any base desire to boost sales but because that aspect has been underplayed in the existing literature. Vauxhall set the standard for all fresco commercial entertainment during the long evenings of the summer season. Its name became synonymous with sexualised leisure.



The layout of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in the 18th century

### See and be seen

And it was copied by pleasure gardens around the world. So in late eighteenth-century Paris, for example, there were as many as ten rival 'Wauxhalls', where people went to enjoy concerts, to wine and dine, and to promenade in their finery whilst eyeing their fellow revellers who came to see and be seen.

Vauxhall's glamour was fostered by the first Master of Ceremonies, the entrepreneur Jonathan Tyers. He provided an ever-varying programme of concerts and entertainments, plus an efficient catering system. His special Vauxhall Punch (plentifully laced with rum) contributed to the jollity. Added to that, Tyers employed a designer of genius – probably the young William Hogarth. The garden walkways, with their arches, statues and alcoves, were laid out with long vistas, as though in an aristocratic park. Visitors were serenaded under trees lit with special Vauxhall lamps. 'The whole place is a realisation of Elysium', gasped one dazzled onlooker.

Yet there was more. Vauxhall was especially popular with lovers – in this case, heterosexual ones. (Eighteenth-century London's gay population frequented other venues, in parks and private clubs). Respectable families came to enjoy

the relative social openness of the Gardens, where young men and women (and indeed lovers of all ages) could meet, flirt, and test the market. Keats once wrote a poem to the romantic possibilities of Vauxhall.

### Pick-ups

Meanwhile, others came for active sexual pick-ups before going elsewhere for consummation. Vauxhall was already known as an informal meeting-place, even before the Gardens were formally established. One example was recorded in the diary of a Virginian planter. William Byrd, then a forty-four year old widower, visited Vauxhall with a male friend in June 1718: '*We ... picked up two women and carried them into the arbour ... and about 10 o'clock we carried them to the bagnio [commercial bath-house], where we bathed and lay with them all night and I rogered mine twice and slept pretty well; but neglected my prayers*'.

Jonathan Tyers was no clergyman. He left both enjoyment and repentance to the revellers. But he strove to maintain Vauxhall's reputation for erotic opportunity, without letting the Gardens become so notorious that smart society was deterred from attending. Half the Gardens were brightly lit and

sumptuous in appearance. The other half was left unlit and densely wooded, with mature oaks, elms and sycamores, which were survivors of an early seventeenth-century manorial plantation. Here were the famous – or notorious – Dark Walks. Lovers strolled unsupervised under the trees, and there was a degree of sexual horseplay directed at young women who wandered there alone.

With their lamps, decorations, and clustered tall trees, the Gardens thus stood out like an entertainment beacon among the generally low-lying marshland along the south bank of the Thames.

### Competition

Well, the erotic magic was hard to sustain for ever. Vauxhall Gardens were great in their heyday. Over time, however, they began to face fresh competition. In Victorian London, there was an apparently endless supply of many new venues for commercialised entertainment, like the indoor and year-round music halls. By the time that Vauxhall Gardens closed for good in July 1859, most of the old trees had been felled and the lovers had gone elsewhere.

A journalist wrote, unkindly, that the last-night party was like saying farewell 'to the ghost of an old friend who has been dead for some years'.

Vauxhall's rise and eventual fall reveals much about the commercialisation of leisure and its vicissitudes. And, above all, it highlights the continuing power of sex to add erotic allure to mass entertainments.

*The expanded edition of Vauxhall, Sex & Entertainment: London's Pioneering Urban Pleasure Garden (History & Social Action: London, 2012), price £5.00, is available from p.corfield@btconnect.com and sean.creighton1947@btinternet.com.*

## Open House Weekend 22 – 23 September

Mike Roden casts his eye over some local attractions

Open House London does what it says on the tin. For one week-end each year hundreds of buildings of all types and periods across the capital open up their doors to all, without charge. I've chosen just a few of this year's highlights (in Battersea or nearby).

In the unlikely event that you've never ventured inside **St Mary's Church** on Battersea Church Road, this is your chance. On Saturday it's open for visitors from noon until 5pm, and on Sunday from 1pm-5pm.

Further along the river, beyond Battersea Bridge you'll find the **Foster + Partners Studio**

Built in 1990, this single-space, double-height purpose-built architects' studio is 60 metres long. It has great views up and down the river. Open on Saturday 10am-5pm.

Go back to Battersea Bridge Road, and you can catch a bus to Clapham Junction, where on Saturday the Battersea Arts Centre on Lavender Hill is offering guided tours of the former **Battersea Town Hall** from 10am – 2pm.

On Saturday afternoon from 2pm – 4pm you can visit **Emanuel School** on Battersea Rise, and enjoy the high Victorian style of this

former Royal Patriotic Orphanage, which is set in 12 acres.

While it looks from the outside like a commonplace Victorian villa, once you step inside **Skinner-Trevino House** (67 Santos Road SW18 1NT) you enter another world. The original interior has been almost completely gutted, filled with light by a glass extension on the ground floor, and a glass box extension into the roof accessed by a glass staircase. It's open on Sunday between 10am – 5pm (closed 1 – 2 pm).

Just across Battersea Bridge, you have a rare opportunity to see beyond the elegant 17th century frontage of **Lindsey House** (100 Cheyne Walk SW10 0DQ). It's only open on Saturday between 2 – 4pm and the queues are usually very long. Not far away is the award-winning **Chelsea Academy** (Lots Road SW10) which is running hourly tours from 10.30am – 3.30pm on Saturday.

On Saturday and Sunday between 12pm and 5pm you have a chance to see behind the scenes at Peter Jones on Sloane Square. **The Sloane Room** has an amazing view over Chelsea and beyond. The thirty minute tours start on the hour, and include complimentary coffee and biscuits.



The Ismaili Centre, South Kensington

The Art Deco **Institut francais du Royaume-Uni** on Queensberry Place contains a classic cinema designed by architect Stefanie Fisher, conference room, multimedia library and bistro. There will be guided tours, together with screenings of historical documentaries on Saturday from 10am – 10pm and on Sunday from 11am – 5pm.

Nearby you'll find **The Ismaili Centre** (1-7 Cromwell Gardens SW7 2SL). Opened in 1985, this oasis of calm is the first religious and cultural centre to be specially designed and built for the Ismaili community in the West. From the serenity of the entrance fountain to the remarkable roof garden it draws upon Islamic traditions in architecture and design. There are regular tours on Sunday from 10am-4pm.

But that is just the tip of a very large iceberg.

*You can find details of all open properties on the Open House website (<http://events.londonopenhouse.org/>).*

## Bolingbroke Academy opens, but in Tooting

Work on the new school is behind schedule, says Jenny Sheridan

Fifty-five new free schools are opening this term. Among them is the Bolingbroke Academy – but it is not opening, as planned, in the former Bolingbroke Hospital.

In July Claire Edis, the school's principal, said that some classrooms were almost finished and that Carillion, the builders, were confident that the new school would be ready in early September 'in time for us to welcome our pupils on 17 September'. But in a letter to parents dated 23 August, Ms Edis was forced to admit that the school was not ready and pupils would not, as its website still promises, be welcomed to the new school this term.

Wandsworth Council have offered ARK, the sponsors of the academy, use of new buildings at Burntwood School, a mile and a half away in Tooting, for the first half term of the school year.

So 120 year 7 pupils will start in unexpected surroundings, supported by Burntwood mentors, and will have to learn the way round their Battersea home in November.

The plan for the academy is that 120 year 7 children will start every year until the school is fully subscribed with 600 pupils in 2018. Twenty-eight staff have been appointed, including three music teachers.

Free schools are schools that are set up by groups of parents, faith groups or other organisations, such as ARK. The schools are funded by the state but are relatively free of local authority input. They have more liberty to vary the subject they teach and other issues including teachers' pay.

There has been widespread controversy about free schools in general and about the Bolingbroke Academy in particular. Opponents doubted the need for a new secondary school in this area and claimed that the new school would be targeted at the affluent families who live in the neighbourhood. After debate and consultation, Falconbrook primary school, which has a high proportion of children on free school meals, was added to Honeywell, Belleville, Wix and Highview as a feeder school.

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# The neighbourhood hasn't changed a bit

Jennifer Garner compares her street in 1911 and 2011

With my new job in London came a move across the river from Chelsea to Battersea. I have given up a tiny flat off the King's Road for a 19th century Victorian terrace house in Ursula Street. When Battersea was farmland growing asparagus and lavender, wealthy families owned large tracts of land here outside the city limits. One such family, the Shuttleworths, sold their land to developers eager to turn a profit from building affordable family housing in the latter part of the 19th century. The neighbouring streets are all named after Mr Shuttleworth's daughters. I walk to the train each day past Ursula's sisters Octavia, Edna and Orbel. While I find the street names quaint and the tree-lined streets something out of history, perhaps this neighbourhood has not changed so much since it was built in 1880. Were the lives of the residents of Ursula Street 132 years ago very different from mine?

## Coal delivery

After my one bedroom flat in Chelsea, the three bedroom house in Battersea is a spacious home remodelled for 21st century living with a large double reception room, newly added sunroom off the kitchen and a narrow laundry room running the length of the house. After a neighbour told me that the laundry room and front storage shed were made by enclosing the alleyway that was formerly used by the coal deliveryman, I became curious about my new house and its past inhabitants. It turns out that, just like me, they lived next door to neighbours who had to pay the rent and went out every day to toil in the City, factory, shop or firm.

The late 19th century saw an explosion of wage earners with steady income from the huge textile and manufacturing industries churning out the goods of the Industrial Revolution. The supporting finance



**Jubilee weekend street party.**  
*Photo: Chris McCracken*

and legal professions created the need for thousands of clerks and civil servants to push the papers required to support the British Empire and her growing economy. A clerk earning £230 a year (£21,310 in today's terms) could have paid the rent on my house with the luxury of a kitchen, two rooms downstairs and three bedrooms upstairs. The latest in Victorian plumbing afforded an outdoor toilet attached to the back of the house and connected to Joseph Bazalgette's new London sewer. Every home would have had gas for lighting by this date. Public transport on the newly opened Circle Line carried workers across London on the Underground for a penny.

## Seeking work

A search of the 1911 London census revealed that James and Louisa Jones and their five children lived in my house and paid the rent through James' work as a bricklayer. Two daughters were still in school and the three sons aged 20, 19 and 15 were employed as a plumber's apprentice, typist and fitter's mate. Next door at number 28 lived Albert Orchard, a clerk, his wife Harriet and her widowed mother. One street over at 26 Edna Street William Haywood,

a milkman, lived with his wife Louise and their daughter Maria, 17, who worked in the office of the dairy. None of the neighbourhood wives worked outside the home and most of the children were born locally. Many of their parents had come to London from rural areas in search of work and better wages.

Like them, I am not from London and have come here seeking work and a different life. Unlike these women, I am not married and work in

a profession unimaginable to the 1911 census taker. I don't think the Haywood or Jones family would have known what to make of my housemate – a female priest – either!

While the coal alleyway has been closed in, and we store our suitcases in the old outside toilet, the fireplace that once burned coal is still there and the tiny back garden, which Mrs. Jones would have viewed from the window over the sink while doing the washing up, still blooms.

## Corner shop

I watch for the early buds of spring as she did. I go to the shop around the corner for milk and budget for the month's groceries, just like the wives on Ursula Street in 1911. Just like those women, I hope for better days and give thanks for the job that keeps the roof over my head. Like the men who earned the rent money then, I commute to work on the train every day, now paying £1,000 a year for the privilege on Southwest Trains.

Four generations have moved through Ursula Street since the 1911 census, but perhaps they weren't so different from me after all. As Ursula Street celebrated the Diamond Jubilee with a street party, I met my neighbours and shared an afternoon together in a spirit of patriotic loyalty and friendly neighbourhood fun. I think the Jones family would have done the same.

## Community gardens: Ethelburga

‘Four times a year the council’s slash and burn team arrive and cut everything – every shrub – down to a square, four feet wide. It’s crazy!’ Peter Rae and Peter Lanigan-O’Keeffe of the Ethelburga Estate Residents Association (EERA) are not fans of the council. They have negotiated with Wandsworth to set up a Local Management Agreement (LMA) which means that the residents have taken control of the gardening service, with the same budget (£20,000) as the council spent but employing their own contractors. The EERA is going to use Blue Sky, a social enterprise which employs ex-prisoners in grounds maintenance work and which has a reputation for reliability and conscientious work.

‘In the long run the LMA will represent far better value for residents,’ says Peter R. ‘We will be able to remain below council costs and deliver better quality. We want it to be lush and green and perfumed. We want to have trailing plants to hide the bunker-like raised beds.

### Potential

‘There’s so much potential for beauty. We must have about four acres of open space here and we’ve got some fine trees – sycamore, lime, birch, acacia. All the frontage along Battersea Bridge Road could be a mass of colour. But the council gardening staff don’t have the imagination let alone the skills. They don’t even pull out the bindweed. The LMA will mean that we can make an agreement with a company and treat each other as intelligent beings. We can have the grass cut the length we want it and prune the shrubs in a natural way without it costing any more than at present.’

### Complex

Setting up and managing the LMA has been complex and time-consuming; Peter R says he has put his life on hold and has worked for the RA five days a week ‘because the local authority doesn’t have a clue. I’m an ex-military man and a former banker. If I was in control of the council I’d fire



above Ethelburga Community Garden drowning in weeds, the potential vegetable plot, and – an inspiration for the future? – harvesting potatoes at Doddington Community Garden

75% of the staff. It’s grotesquely over-staffed and full of bureaucracy.’

Pointing to a raised bed outside the community centre, Peter Lanigan-O’Keeffe says that it took them two years to persuade the council to remove concreted-in signs and to kill the perennial weeds.

### Grow your own

Many residents are eagerly looking forward to growing their own food and the RA has identified a suitable space, with water and potentially electricity. At present a grim and empty site (illustrated) they see it as a busy and productive community vegetable patch. There is now a separate Grow

Your Own section of the RA, which has had grants from Capital Growth and WREF (landfill fund). As in other community gardens, growing food is seen as a particularly good way of bringing neighbours together. Fruit trees will, they hope, make an aesthetic as well as a productive addition to the grounds.

### Community centre

In order to set up the LMA, the residents association had to show the council that the residents, 80% of whom are leaseholders, had the skills to manage it and supported the idea. The RA has also taken over the management of the community centre, which it hires out for classes, parties and weddings.

Frustratingly for the EERA, by August they had still not managed to agree a timetable with the council for the handover of the garden management.

They hope to start in October, when they have been promised support and advice by the Royal Horticultural Society.

### The Battersea Society

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**Secretary** Harvey Heath  
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**Membership Sec** Maureen Larkin  
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#### Committee Chairs

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**Website**  
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Registered charity no.1103560

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## Community gardens: **Spencer Park**

### **SPENCER PARK**

Most community gardens, like the Doddington (summer 2012), grow out of a residents' association (RA). But in Spencer Park it was the garden group that sowed the seeds of the association. Francois Josserand moved into a flat on the small estate facing Wandsworth Common six years ago. Although his own flat had a garden Francois was frustrated by the untended jungle-like state of several of the other gardens.

It took long and persistent enquiries with the council to unearth the ownership of two of the offending gardens – and in the end one of them turned out to be the council itself. Francois and his neighbour Stella Moni met with the relevant council officers. They were told that the best way to succeed in accessing grants and developing the garden was to form a residents' association. Out of this grew not only the garden but a bike shed, better bin storage and improved neighbourly relations.

The RA bid for and got a £7,500 council grant to develop the garden. The area was cleared of its forest of weeds and invasive trees, a membrane was put down and gravel was spread. Council workers installed raised beds, and filled them with good compost. The mayor of Wandsworth opened the garden in June 2011.

### **Lottery**

Then it was over to the residents. Fifty flats and space for only ten garden plots: what to do? They decided a communal free-for-all might end up in one or two keen gardeners taking over. So they held a free lottery and marked out spaces for the ten lucky winners. The 2011 gardeners have sown, grown and eaten their produce. In 2012, the plots are a little larger and there are just six of them.

The residents have their eyes on another plot, a jungle of pretty but pernicious blue alkanet. They have tracked down the leaseholder, who lives overseas, and have won his

agreement to clear the site and plant it. Another garden space, concreted over as a drying green, will also be turned over to garden space if they are successful in raising funds.

The garden has been funded by grants from the council and from Capital Growth and Garden Organic, which paid for a shed, compost bin, water butt and a shredder.

This garden, though very much a community project, is not fully communal. It is more like a group of mini-allotments, although tools and equipment are shared (the tools are old ones refurbished by Wandsworth prisoners). But it is helping a new community spirit to flourish. Neighbours meet over a barbecue or the compost bin, a previously reserved couple have swapped seeds with Francois and have started to attend residents' meetings. When I visited it was clear that residents feel a sense of pride in achieving their growing space and a convivial feeling of neighbourliness.

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## **Recipe: Pheasant**

*Autumn is almost upon us, and the game season. The pheasant shooting season starts in early October. Pheasants are one of those luxuries that turn out not to be so expensive after all. Outside London they can cost as little as £3 each and even in the supermarket they shouldn't be more than about £5. A large bird will give you the basis of three meals for two people. Here's how.*

### **Casserole (day 1)**

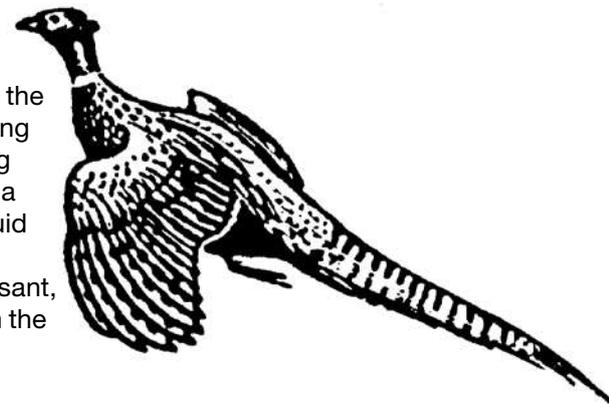
Brown the pheasant all over in a casserole on top of the oven, using a light oil. Turn down the heat and add a chopped onion, a peeled, thickly-sliced eating apple and a handful of pancetta cubes or chopped smoked streaky bacon. Add a large glass of white wine – not too dry – or cider or apple juice and a dessertspoon of redcurrant or apple jelly. Cover the casserole and put it in the oven at a low to medium heat (eg gas 3, xxxC) for 40 minutes. Now add a tablespoon of dried mushrooms that you have soaked in hot water for 20 minutes. Keep the soaking water.

After one hour's cooking, remove the bird and most of its bits to a serving dish and keep it warm by covering with foil and a tea towel. Add half a carton of crème fraiche to the liquid in the casserole, taste and adjust seasoning. Ladle it over the pheasant, leaving some of the bits behind in the casserole.

Carve and serve with braised chicory and rosemary potatoes. Allow one medium-sized potato per person. Make deep slits and put a tuft of rosemary in each. Put on a lightly oiled baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Scatter with salt. Cook in the oven below the casserole for the same amount of time.

### **Risotto (day 2)**

Tear or cut any fragments of meat off the bird's carcass. There will probably be plenty but if not supplement it with bacon. Make a risotto (follow any standard recipe and use the mushroom soaking water, avoiding the grit at the bottom of the bowl) and add the meat towards the end of cooking. Fry a thinly sliced shallot



or onion in hot olive oil till crispy and sprinkle it over the risotto, followed by Parmesan.

### **Soup (day 3)**

Make a stock from the carcass plus an onion and bay leaf. Strain, and add any sauce and bits remaining in the casserole.

Gently fry a chopped onion in duck fat or olive oil. Add about 150g yellow split peas and a tablespoon of coriander seeds and turn till coated in fat. Add the stock and simmer until the peas are cooked (about 40 minutes). Remove a ladleful and liquidise in a food processor then return it to the pan and finish cooking. Serve topped with coriander leaves.

## Battersea Society events

### TIDAL THAMES PROJECT

Talk and discussion on the river – what are your concerns? What do you love? What improvements would you like to see? Your views will help shape future plans. Jointly organised by the Battersea Society and Thames 21. Thursday 27 September, 7 for 7.30pm. St Mary's Church, Battersea Park Road.

### BATTERSEA SOCIETY

#### OPEN MEETING

Health service changes in Battersea  
Your opportunity to hear from the local NHS staff who are carrying out the government's changes and to find out what they mean for you. Key speaker Dr Rod Ewen, Battersea locality lead clinician.  
31 October 2012, 7.30pm  
Ethelburga Community Centre, Ethelburga Estate, Worfield Street (between Battersea Bridge Road and Albert Bridge Road).

## Planning for a healthier Wandsworth

**How healthy is Wandsworth? In 2011 the council and the local NHS published a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), described as 'a snapshot of the population of the borough and the health and well-being of its people.' It will be used to help plan future health and social care provision. Among the issues it uncovers are:**

- Wandsworth has a very mobile population: thirty per cent per cent of the population changes each year. This adds to planning uncertainties.
- Geographic variations in health within the borough reflect levels of poverty. There is a seven year gap in life expectancy between the most and least affluent areas and people in poorer areas suffer

many more years of ill health.

- Over one third of households contain only one person. The proportion of people over 75 living alone is expected to rise.
- The Nine Elms development will bring in around 30,000 new Wandsworth residents.
- There is a higher than expected rate of death from cancer and circulatory diseases.
- Fractures after falls result in a high rate of admission to hospital (see *Battersea Matters Spring 2012 for the NHS falls prevention programme*).
- Childhood obesity is a major concern, though rates are slightly below the average for London.
- Alcohol-related admissions to hospital rose by 36% between 2005 and 2009.

To read the full JSNA, see [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/observatory](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/observatory)



*Demolition of the Morgan Crucible Factory in Battersea, 1979, by Sarah Wyld who will be showing photographs (1970s to the present day) during Wandsworth Artists Open House 2012*



## Fresh and wild

An exhibition shows Battersea in a new light

Pastoral landscapes, bucolic riverside pubs – could this be Battersea? Wandsworth Museum’s forthcoming exhibition features watercolours from the 18th to the 20th century, taken from its own collection.

Visitors will be able to trace the transformation of the borough from a series of villages to an urbanised and industrial suburb, from

woodland and meadow to housing and railways. Highlights include paintings of the mills on the Wandle and Battersea’s Red House inn.

*Painting Wandsworth: watercolours 1770-1925. 21 Sept 2012 – 24 Feb 2013. Wandsworth Museum West Hill, SW18 1RX*

above **Battersea from the river. c 1889**  
 above left **The Red House, Battersea. c 1849**  
 left **Thames at Battersea. c 1800**  
 All ©Wandsworth Museum

## Wandsworth Artists’ Open House

Artists’ studios will be thrown open for two weekends in October

Wandsworth Artists’ Open House 2012 takes place over the first two weekends of October. This is a fantastic opportunity to visit artists in their own home or studio, find out more about their work and maybe purchase something unique and hand crafted by a local artist.

There will be a plethora of arts and crafts on display, from painting to printmaking, sculpture to jewellery, with something to suit all tastes and budgets. Details of all exhibiting artists can be found at [www.wandsworthart.com](http://www.wandsworthart.com) where you can view artist details and create a personalised trail around your favourite venues.

For a taste of what you can see during Open House, Battersea

artists are holding a group show at Northcote Library. The exhibition opens on 29th September and runs until Christmas. The opening Saturday will see all artists in attendance, with workshops and demonstrations throughout the day.

*Battersea artists’ exhibition, Northcote Library, 29th September – Christmas*

*Wandsworth Artists’ Open House 6th – 7th October and 13th – 14th October*

**Clifford Pearcey:**  
**Red Stripe, 2010**  
 Golf club, paintbrush and beads.

