

FRIENDS OF BATTERSEA PARK

REVIEW

Trustees' Report
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BBQ
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Issue 113

Summer 2019

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office is ranked
No.1 for Lettings

(Source: Zoopla, Lets
agreed 1.1.19 - 31.3.19)

Douglas
&Gordon
HOMES & PROPERTY



Review

Summer 2019

Editor Frances Radcliffe
Production Karen Horan



friendsofbatterseapark.org

Registered Charity 802905



Subject to the outcome of voting at our AGM on 2 July, the Friends will have a new Chairman! I am delighted to report that the Committee is proposing that Garon Watkins takes over from me. Garon recently retired from Wellington Management Company LLP, a large, Boston based, global asset management company where he was a Managing Director involved in relationship management and business development for major UK pension funds and asset owners. Most importantly, he knows and loves the Park, and with a new puppy to join his family, he is looking forward to spending even more time enjoying it.

I will remain on the Committee and continue to edit this magazine for a bit longer but am looking for a successor in that role too. Any offers?

When I took over from Philip Wright in July 2008, he and his predecessor Brian Botting gave me invaluable advice and I would like to take this opportunity to pay

tribute to them and to Elizabeth Hood who was our Secretary from 2003 until last year. Elizabeth, who was an ever present wise and steady influence, is stepping down from the Committee, but we will still be able to call on her for guidance after so many years of devoted service.

It seems extraordinary that eleven years have passed since I became Chairman. During this time, there have been inevitable changes and it was a pleasure to work with such a supportive Committee

Special mention must go to those who manage the Park: Enable since October 2015 and previously Wandsworth Council. I'm grateful for Douglas & Gordon's willing sponsorship of the launch of Jennifer Ullman's history of Battersea Park in 2016. They generously put additional effort into making this year's barbecue such a success, with delicious food by the Smart Group, who have supported us for the past twelve years and much appreciated help from Enable, who put up extra gazebos at the last minute so that those in wheelchairs were under cover.

Our next event is the Autumn Lunchtime Lecture on 21 October by Dave Webb from the Environment Agency on fish in London lakes. I hope that he knows about Ghostie, our prize light-coloured carp and I look forward to seeing you there!

Cover Image: Balloons launching over our Park for The Lord Mayor's Hot Air Balloon Regatta. See Page 5

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020 3959 0013

Parks Police

Non-emergency incidents 101

Patrolling mob: 07500 959442

General Enqs. 020 8871 7532

Parkwatch

Russell Page Garden

Well done Head of Parks, Neil Blackley! The inappropriate new bright grey coping stones in the Russell Page Garden have all been replaced by stones that are much more harmonious. This makes all the difference. What looked like a bodged job is now a sympathetic, almost unnoticeable restoration.



Maybe the hairy topiary yews will have been trimmed by the time that you read this.



Trees

Two large ash trees were removed in May. One was between North Carriage Drive and the River Walk, east of the Pagoda, and the other even larger tree was close to the shelter at the north east corner of the all-weather football pitch. The latter was almost completely hollow. It is impressive to see how quickly and neatly such trees are removed. Every removal underlines the importance of planting new trees.



Fountains and Mirror Pools

It has been disappointing that all three pools have had their problems.

The Fountains Pool has been repainted and refilled having been empty since well before Easter. It is glorious to see its magnificent fountains back in working order.

In late May, a young visitor may not have been able to enjoy the traditional soaking from the fountains, but she was entranced by the game of football.

Work is also being carried out on the Mirror Pools at the bottom of the Vista Steps.

Planning

There is an important planning application (number 2019/2488) for a new temporary building on the British Genius Site up to a maximum height 9.5m for a period of four years ending on 1 October 2023. It would be used, as now, for a variety of events in the Park. The Friends have only just seen this application and will be looking at it closely. If you have views please let us know at media@friendsbatterseapark.org or submit them directly to Wandsworth Council.

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

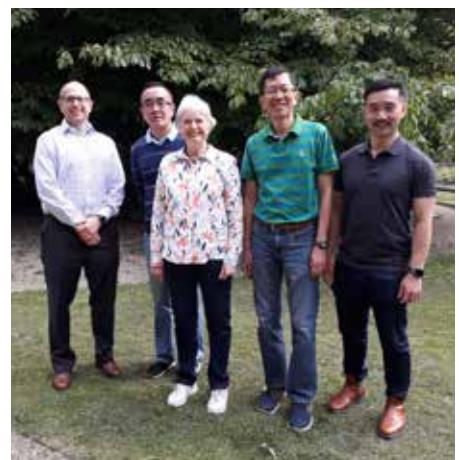
FPNs were introduced in Battersea Park on 20 May. The Friends have supported this change which will mean less bureaucracy and more time for police patrols. Inspector Steve Biggs has emphasised that in most cases of anti-social behaviour or bylaw offences, all that is needed from

his team is a quiet word. This approach will continue, but on-the-spot fines of £80 (£50 if paid within 14 days) offer a quick and effective alternative to prosecution for those who persist in offending. Any money generated will go into the Parks Police budget. Anyone who wants to take their case to the Magistrates' Court can still do so. In the first four weeks, 14 FPNs have been issued in Battersea Park, all for unauthorised cycling.

Swans

The swans moved to a better nesting site and are raising four cygnets.

Visitors from Singapore



Singapore National Parks is the lead agency for transforming Singapore into a Biophilic City in a Garden (interesting information on the web). Staff visiting the UK wanted to 'learn more about the history and community aspect of the Park'. Committee member Sally Orman



joined Enable in helping to meet this request. The visitors were impressed by the appearance and cleanliness of the Park, the range of habitats and activities available, and the large number of people in the Park on a weekday afternoon.

Parkrun

The Friends have been advised that:

‘The Council and Enable have both been fully engaged in exploring the possibility of introducing parkrun to Battersea Park. However, and unfortunately, it has been determined that it will not be possible at this time because it is impossible to offer a regular weekly slot on a Saturday.

Battersea Park is one of London’s busiest with more than four million visitors a year. It hosts dozens of annual activities including charity events, fun-runs and walks, and millions of pounds are raised for good causes as a result. With such a diverse range of uses of the Park, with so many pre-existing and long-standing commitments, it is regrettably not possible to guarantee a slot for parkrun on a majority of Saturday mornings.

There will be a series of free family running races at Battersea Park this summer as part of the Council’s Love Parks Wandsworth campaign. The 2km route can be walked or run. Any ability is welcome and there will be plenty of volunteers to cheer you along the way! The family fun races will start and finish at Battersea Park’s Millennium Arena. These free family friendly runs will take place on Sundays 30 June, 28 July and 25 August, 11am at Battersea Park’.

Events run by Enable in June

Enable organised activities in the Park every Saturday and Sunday in June. These were concentrated around the bandstand and the bowling green, above, which was helpful in preserving tranquility elsewhere. They seemed to be well received. It is always a great pleasure to see the bandstand being used for its proper purpose and on 15 June, at one point, people were dancing in true Glastonbury style. A limited number of events which arrive and depart quickly and are relatively small in scale work well in the Park. Again, any feedback would be welcome at media@friendsbatterseapark.org

Thrive Photo Frames

Thrive gardener in the frame for Chelsea Fringe.



Proposed Drinking Water Fountains

The Friends’ Committee have been discussing whether some of the remaining Formula E funds might be used to construct more elaborate drinking fountains than those on offer from the Mayor of London which are purely functional. We

envise two or even three fountains which would need to be close to the current drinking water supply. Ideas as to where they should be sited and what they might look like would be very welcome at media@friendsbatterseapark.org

Leisure and Culture Contract

Enable’s current contract with Wandsworth Council is due to end on 31 March 2020. The work currently undertaken by Enable has been broken down into three lots, or any combination of lots, except that the arts service is being taken back in-house. The Friends are pleased that some allowance will be made for the quality of the bids rather than just going straight for the lowest price. We are also pleased that the once separate lot for filming has, as we requested, now been combined with Lot 1 which covers the management of parks and open spaces, playgrounds and events. (Lot 2 covers leisure and sport; Lot 3 bereavement).

The process of seeking detailed offers against the specifications for the new concessions is, or is about to be, underway. We understand that final decisions on awarding contracts will be made in November.

Hot Air Balloons

Our splendid cover photograph was taken by Karen Horan from her flat above the Sun Gate on 9 June when 46 hot air balloons left Battersea Park at 5.30am to raise awareness of and funds for the Lord Mayor’s Appeal. This balloon regatta is ‘the aerial extension’ of the City of London’s Lord Mayor’s Show.

Friends' Annual BBQ 2019

We were extremely lucky! Our barbecue was on Tuesday 11 June. Had it been the day before or the day afterwards, it would have been a real test of fortitude. On both those days, there was torrential rain all evening.

On Tuesday evening, it was cool (there is no denying that) but dry until about 8.30pm when we were bringing things to a close anyway.



As the photographs show, the party spirit was strong in SW11 as we all enjoyed delicious food and the usual friendly and relaxed atmosphere.



We were joined by our MP, Marsha de Cordova and Councillors Kim Caddy and Paula Walker, as well as the Revd Nagase.



We also had not one, but two bands this year.



The Thomas's Battersea Jazz band played beautifully to welcome us in and Los Soneros played and sang their hearts out for the rest of the evening. Compliments abounded for both bands.



It was a huge improvement to have them in a more central area, the zoo staff having helpfully moved the children's rides to the back of the carousel. It also gave us more room which was handy as we had a record attendance.



The silent auction, the tombola, the raffle and the children's games all did a great trade.



The tombola not only offered some splendid bottles of wine, spirits and olive oil but also some fantastic prizes hidden inside brightly coloured envelopes.

Look opposite to see the huge range of local businesses that made generous donations.

We would particularly like to thank Anton and Philipp Mosimann for their silent auction prize which has raised thousands of pounds for the Friends over many years.



To round off the evening, it was splendid to see Enable's Ian Mitchell and Gemma Bechervaise take to the floor with a high standard of spirited dancing. They illustrated what a good party it was!

BBQ Thanks!

The Friends of Battersea Park would like to thank the Heap family for once again so generously allowing us to hold our fundraising barbecue in the Children's Zoo, for their raffle prize of season tickets to the Zoo, for the opportunity to bid to be a junior keeper for the day, and for the chance to feed the meerkats on the night.

We are very grateful to our supporters below who made our 14th annual barbecue on 11th June such a success. Not only did around 400 of you brave the chilly weather but many local organisations supported us with their generous donations.

For the Silent Auction: Lord Addington, Battersea Power Station, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, the Bright Emporium St John's Hill, The Power of Boxing and Carney's Community Gym, Lambeth Palace, artist Michael Warren, Mosimann's Belgravia, Nicola Kurtz Woodland Scarves, Pestana Chelsea Bridge Hotel & Spa, Phene Cakes, Riverside Radio, Vivienne Westwood.

For the Barbecue: Kim Laley and Hannah Grozier of Smart Hospitality for the delicious food and cheerful and helpful service, led by Smart's boss Greg Lawson and his office team.

For Puddings: Battersea WI, Stephanie Braun, Nikki Clack, Capitan Corelli, Edible Food Design, Celia Greetham, Claire Jolie, Simon Townsend, Cathy Park, Asa Palmstierna, Pear Tree Café and Henrietta Wright.

For Wine and Beer: Douglas & Gordon and Sambrook's Brewery Battersea.

For Music: Los Soneros sponsored by Hodders Law and Thomas's Battersea Jazz Band.

For Face Painting: Laura from Miss Dee-Faced.

For Teddy Tennis: Josh Dawson

For Flowers: Thrive

For Generous Donations:

Animals: Barking Betty Dog Grooming, Battersea Park Dog Walker, Medivet Battersea, Puppy School, Pupsicle.

Arts, Tours & Culture: Battersea Society, Enable for Fireworks in the Park, FoBP Autumn Lecture & Subscription, Garden Museum, St Mary's Church Battersea, Theatre503.

Children: Fencing School, Monkey Music, My Gym Battersea, Sally's Children's Hair.

Food, Drink and Restaurants: Anson & Curtis, Bayley & Sage, Brindisa Tapas, Cinnamon Kitchen, The Cross Keys Chelsea, Exmoor Caviar, The Draft House Westbridge, Ego Sum Olive Oil, Holy Cow Indian Food, L'Antipasto, The Lighthouse (Battersea), Lost Society Battersea, The Mason's Arms, Oddono's Italian Ice Cream, The Oak SW11, Park

Road Kitchen, PizzaExpress Battersea, The Prince Albert, Rose Prince, Suzette Battersea, Tesco Battersea, Vagabond Wine Bar, Wright Bros Fish Restaurant.

Flowers: Battersea Flower Station, Moyses Stevens, Rocco Flowers.

Hair, Beauty and Health: Battersea Back Clinic, Body Logic Health, Eighty-8 Nail Studio, Elegance Nails & Spa, Hari's Hair & Beauty, Laura Boscawen Acupuncture, Liz Earle Wellbeing, Lux Nails & Beauty, Ramey Barber, Team Work Hair & Beauty Salon, Thai Charms & Spa, Uffizi Hair Gallery.

Household: Battersea Design Works, Boden, Bridge Dry Cleaners, Fantasy Cleaners, M&G Autos, New Vintage Furniture.

Leisure and Recreation: Battersea Yoga, Blue Bird Battersea Boat Trips, Embody Wellness, Flying Fantastic, Go Ape, Latchmere Leisure Centre, Nuffield Health Fitness, Pi Studios, Putt in the Park, Stars Gym Battersea, Urban Studio Sessions, Wendy Jardine Pilates.

On the Night: The Douglas & Gordon team, led by Kesha Foss-Smith, with Roberto Albrecht, Hattie Brandon, Xander Dawes, Victoria Lear, Sasha Ogilvy, James Philips and Jon Woods.

Cara Gibson from Enable, Inspector Steve Biggs from Wandsworth Council's Police Service, Jeremy the Gorilla from Go Ape, and Fiona and Darren and their colleagues, including Sophia the Parrot, from the Zoo, for all their friendly and willing help.

Finally, special thanks to the Barbecue Committee, Friends, friends and family who helped on the night.

For contact details for any of the above, email info@friendsbatterseapark.org



Interview with Ed Heap

Michèle Marriott

Ed Heap is the co-owner of Battersea Park Children's Zoo, along with his parents, Carol and Roger. Born in Buxton, Derbyshire, he has devoted his life to the conservation of wildlife and is passionate about educating the next generation on the subject.

When did you first become interested in wildlife?

I was born and brought up in a rural, hill-farming area in Derbyshire and when I was four, my parents acquired a pair of Asian short clawed otters. I learnt to swim with them in their enclosure at the end of the garden and my passion was born!

What sort of childhood did you have?

Idyllic. My father bought an old hall in a ruinous state, which he renovated, and my brother and I grew up with the best gift you can give to children—freedom. We had a pack of dogs, our otters, two tawny owls and were completely surrounded by nature. The whole family became immersed in the conservation of the countryside and particularly, native wildlife. When I was ten, my parents opened the Chestnut Conservation and Wildlife Centre in Derbyshire and our passions became a reality.

What did you do when you left school?

I travelled extensively abroad for a few years and spent seven months in the Himalayas—in fact, Nepal made me what I am today. I saw and learnt so much on my travels, which only served to strengthen my ambition to work with endangered species, especially having seen them in their natural habitat.

What happened on your return to England?

On returning to Blighty, we acquired the New Forest Wildlife Park. I relocated to Hampshire, to manage and develop the Park.

How did your family become involved in Battersea Park Zoo?

Fifteen years ago, my family were approached by Wandsworth Council, who owned the zoo at the time, with a view to taking it over. Initially, we thought of turning it into another wildlife park, but then realised that it wasn't an appropriate space; besides which it had always been a zoo for children and we decided to honour its history. We closed for nine months' renovation,

can't live in a city, I have to be in the countryside. I had also met my wife, Clare, by this time, who is a vet and was commuting to her practice in the New Forest. We eventually moved back to Hampshire, where we had our two sons. They are lucky to be growing up surrounded by animals, as I was, though unfortunately, not with the same amount of freedom.

Clare looks after all the animals in the New Forest Wildlife Park and Battersea Park Zoo, as well as working for a local veterinary practice. She is an incredibly tolerant woman!

What are your future plans for the Zoo?

Our vision is twofold. The first is to make the Zoo a place where children feel safe, but are stimulated at the same time—naturally, not by technology. We are constantly striving to improve our educational programme, so that they are engaged and learning without realising it, ideally creating future conservationists. Our second objective is to add more endangered species, especially native ones, to ensure their continued existence.

Are you involved in any particular wild animal conservation at the moment?

I am currently involved in a project for the conservation of wildcats in the North West Highlands. In fact, we have a pair of very rare Scottish wildcats at the zoo, which have bred and whose progeny are vital to the future survival of the species.

And your personal plans for the future?

I would love to go travelling again, with Clare and the boys. I think it is so important for children (and adults) to see and experience other countries and cultures. It makes you realise how lucky we are, what an amazing planet we live on and why we should do everything in our power to conserve it and every living thing on it, for future generations.



during which time I had the opportunity to indulge my love of designing habitats for the incumbent species. Taking over the Zoo gave us a chance to create a zoo exactly the way we wanted it—turning it into an opportunity for youngsters to enjoy, respect and learn about the animals with which we share our planet.

Whilst we were doing the renovation, I lived in London, which I loathed—I

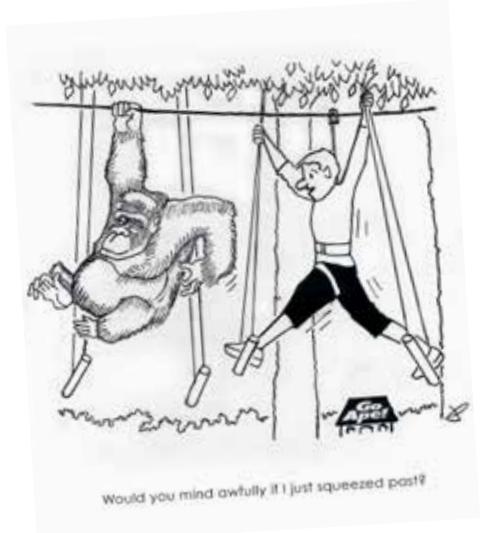
Philip Wright

Farewell and Thanks

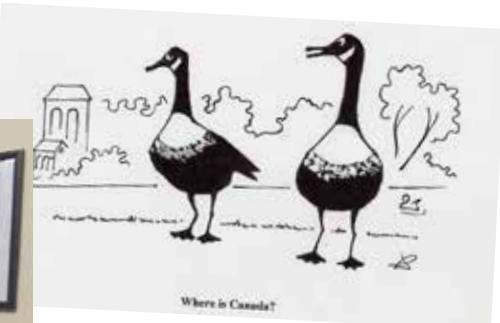
Philip has delighted readers of Review with his cartoons for many years. Here is a selection of our favourites as he lays down his pen. Thank you, Philip!



On the opening of the Pear Tree Cafe in the Park, Philip drew a cartoon to mark the occasion, which was published in the Autumn 2016 Review. The original was sent to the Cafe's owner, Annabel Partridge and on a lunchtime visit with friends, Philip was invited to see it hanging in her office.



I understand that Vivienne Westwood was involved



Jerry won't shake off the Friends that easily

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2019

During the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, there were seven meetings of the Committee and 64 new members joined the Friends.

On 7 June, as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival, the Friends arranged, in collaboration with the Battersea Society, for Jennifer Ullman to give a talk on the history of the Park. On 9 June, the Friends had a stall at *Live at the Bandstand*, a music, arts, crafts, food and drink event organised by Enable. On 17 June, we had a stall at the Chelsea Bridge Wharf Summer Party. At all three events, new members joined the Friends and a good number of copies of Jennifer Ullman's *History of the Park* were sold.

Our annual fundraising BBQ took place on 12 June at Children's Zoo. Sally Orman and her Committee worked extremely hard to raise a splendid total of £5,655 after expenses. There were some unnerving black clouds late in the afternoon, but the BBQ was rain-free and better than ever. For the first time, children were able to feed the meerkats from within their enclosure. There was the usual relaxed and happy atmosphere with music, dancing, delicious food, a silent auction, a tombola and a raffle. Games for the children were particularly successful. As ever, the Friends benefited enormously from generous donations by individuals and local businesses which were much appreciated.

The Battersea Park Dog Show took place on 24 June. Wandsworth Council's Parks and Events Police Service kindly gave their record profits of £770 to the Friends. We were extremely grateful for this generous donation.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 10 July at All Saints Church, Prince of Wales Drive. It was attended by Simon Ingony, Executive Director Parks and Leisure from Enable, which manages the Park on contract to Wandsworth Council; Neil Blackley, Enable's recently appointed Head of Parks; Inspector Steve Biggs from the Council's Parks and Events Police Service and over 30 Friends. Issues raised after formal business included the need for an increased police presence in the Park; litter collection and recycling; coaches with engines running; large events in the Park particularly funfairs;

the Parks Charter and dangerous cycling.

The first Monday in September is usually reserved for our annual Sculpture Award. Now that Steve Bunn has retired from the Committee, we need somebody else to make the necessary arrangements, so sadly, there was no award in 2018.

Lunchtime Lectures organised by Annabel Stein continued with illustrated talks by Liz Rawlinson on garden designers, especially focussing on Russell Page, on 29 October and by Margaret Murdin on bees on 25 March 2019. The latter was particularly well attended. These lectures made a profit for the Friends and provided an opportunity for them to meet each other.

Dan Pearson's annual review of the Winter Garden took place on 7 November. The replacement planting that he recommended was completed in early 2019 except for the grasses which were not planted until May 2019.

On 14 February, the Friends finally paid £19,037 for the refurbishment of the Russell Page Garden rose beds. This expenditure was agreed in the last financial year but payment was delayed pending some additional work.

The Chairman continued to represent the Friends at meetings of the Wandsworth Conservation Area Advisory Committee and the Battersea Power Station Community Forum.

The Friends continued to monitor planning matters related to the Park.

Karen Horan produced three editions of Review magazine filled with information about the Park. Thanks go to her, contributors and advertisers and also to Elizabeth Hood and Angela McDonald for their work as Secretary, Adrian Flook for his work as Treasurer and Annabel Stein for her work as Membership Secretary.

We also thank Virginia Darbyshire who has examined this year's accounts.

As ever, we are grateful to those Friends who have continued to deliver Review by hand to save substantial postage costs.

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Spring Lunchtime Lecture on the Life of the Honey Bee

Elaine Smith Dunlap

Spring's begun, the sun is shining, the trees are blooming and it's time to think about the birds and the bees. On the 25th March, we did just that when the Friends of Battersea Park welcomed to our Spring Lunchtime Lecturer, the esteemed Margaret Murdin, President of the British Beekeepers Association. Her lecture, focusing on the life cycle of the honey bee, was clear, humorous and filled with wonderful comparisons with our own human bodies, making it easy for us to see the similarities and the differences.

The entire hive is one body-like entity with the all-important queen as one big ovary. From the moment she is born, or rather selected, as her existence depends on being chosen to receive special nutrients, her one and only function is to produce eggs. Those unfertilised become drones—males whose primary function is to mate with the queen—which once accomplished, results in their instant death. The drones left at the end of summer obviously have not mated and thus, being useless, are cast out of the hive to die.



The fertilized larvae become females who cannot breed due to a pheromone given off by the queen, which inhibits their glands. Their function is to be worker bees, making wax, feeding larvae, and foraging for nectar and pollen. Their average life span is six weeks. All-importantly, in the event that a new queen is needed, it is they who do the choosing, by

deciding which female will receive the royal jelly. This contains ten times as much sugar and vitamins and is administered ten times more frequently.



There are about 60,000 bees in a hive. It takes two million visits to open flowers like dandelions, (daffodils are poison) to create one pound of honey. A hive will average 60-100 pounds of honey a year. Bees don't forage when it is raining or cold. The queen, being essentially one big ovary, has a large body, poor eyesight, glands to control the colony plus a large spot on her thorax placed there by the beekeeper so that she can be easily identified. She can lay up to 2,000 eggs in a single summer day.

Drones have large eyes, to find the queen, big muscles, a life span of less than a season and NO STINGS!

Every season, new larvae are generated and the unfertilised males fly to a drone congregation area—there's certainly at least one in Battersea Park—where the queen will select her new drones, never ones from her own hive. No one knows how the drones create the congregation sites or how the queen finds them.

Scout bees communicate through waggle dances. They can tell other bees in the hive exactly how far away, in which direction and of what quality is the source of the nectar that they have found. Although no one knows for certain exactly how they do this, it is thought they use the geometry of magnetic waves in relation to the hive and the position of the sun. They

can even determine how much energy will be needed to get to the source.

It's all over by September. The life of the queen, as with the aging of all bees, depends on how much work she does. She can live for three to five years.

There are differences, of course, between honey bees, bumble bees and wasps. Bumble bee queens will forage, and they look for new locations for their hives by themselves, after the rest of their hive of bees dies in the autumn. Wasps are meat eaters and even go after bees. Solitary bees lay eggs AND the food to feed them—little wooden bee houses are good for them.

Swarming bees—a successful hive moving house—will not sting. They are too full of food.

What most endangers our bees? Loss of habitat due to intensive agriculture, too many closed flowers, building sites and urban areas without plants, and of course, insecticides are all to blame.

Informed by such a delightful lecture, we should all be looking at our Park with entirely new eyes.

Friends of Battersea Park Committee

Frances Radcliffe OBE Chairman

Mike Bates (Archive)

Russ Coffey (Web)

Inge Darling (Children)

Chris Davies (Dogs)

Claire Elliot (Thrive)

Adrian Flook (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Hood (Advisory)

Karen Horan (Review Production)

Peta May Law (Distribution)

Michèle Marriott (Events)

Angela McDonald (Secretary)

Andrew McKay (Planning)

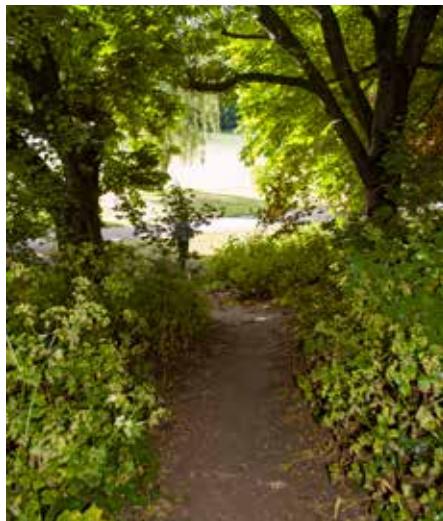
Sally Orman (Advertising)

Annabel Stein (Membership)

Annabel Osborne joins . .

Valerie Selby, Parks Development & Biodiversity Manager, Enable

Given the recent retirement of Kevin Freed from my team and the imminent arrival of his replacement, Annabel Osborn, I thought it might be useful to explain a little more about what the 'Parks Officer Biodiversity' does. The key aspect of her role will be to "practice what I preach", turning biodiversity policy into practice across the sites we manage. Some have said that I talk about it, but the person in Parks Officer Biodiversity post makes it happen. This is achieved through the day to day management of the biodiversity function of the Parks Maintenance Contract with Idverde across all of Wandsworth's parks, commons and open spaces. Additionally, but no less crucially, we work together to set objectives for habitat management, creation and enhancement, which involves considering a huge array of issues including biosecurity, mitigation techniques and resolution of conflicting constraints.



Annabel will supervise Idverde's routine maintenance of Wandsworth's open spaces or 'core' tasks by ensuring compliance with contract specifications, for example the regular cutting back of overhanging vegetation from either side of footpaths through the Wilderness (the

wooded area along the eastern edge of the Park). Her work can also involve setting and supervising specific tasks via 'works orders' for the more specialist aspects such as cutting annual wildflower grassland; work to monitor water quality and fish management in the lake; or work to improve diversity in woodland areas in both the Wilderness and the Meadow (just south of road into the Park from Chelsea Gate). She will also offer habitat management advice to other land managers, for example those in Wandsworth Council's Housing Department, outside agencies and other key landowners within the Borough, such as Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, to ensure effective consideration of biodiversity, appropriate habitat management and to support collaborative working e.g. on connectivity between sites for key species.

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. . Enable's Biodiversity Team

To underpin this work and to ensure that we are managing habitats to achieve clear benefits for biodiversity, Annabel will work alongside me to maintain an up-to-date evidence base of the habitats and species across the entire (geographical) Borough in particular protected sites, protected and priority species and priority habitats. This will no doubt involve working to encourage, train and support more volunteer biological recorders as this is an area where we hope to expand our work. It will also result in the production of habitat improvement plans demonstrating what we would like to achieve for wildlife in the future and identifying sites with the scope to accommodate this.

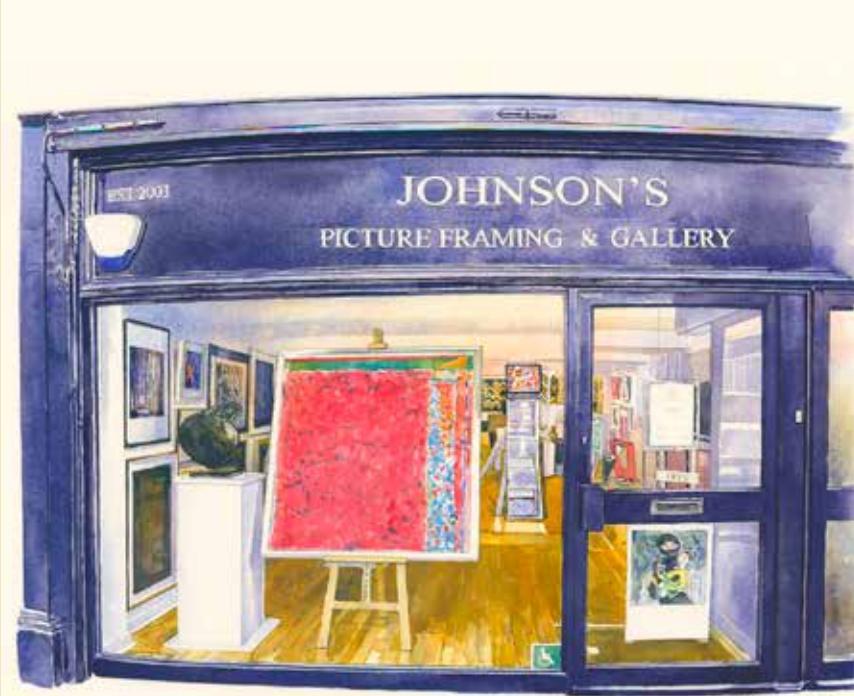
Annabel will also work alongside colleagues in the Parks Development team to respond to requests for information on wildlife from members of the public and to improve what we can do to make you aware of the biodiversity in the Borough and what we are actively doing to manage and enhance it. We want to promote greater awareness of different habitats across Wandsworth, the



sites you can visit to experience them and the protected and priority species that share these spaces with us. If there is something that you would particularly like us to have information on, please email us at biodiversity@enablelc.org so that we can get cracking.

Editor's note: Readers might like to know that both the Wilderness and the Meadow are classified as Local Nature Reserves, described as follows:

The Wilderness is a linear plantation with four glades and a pond. The Meadow has a circular belt of mixed woodland and scrub surrounding a managed meadow area. Both sites support a range of woodland bird species including blackcap and bullfinch. Invertebrates include 20 species of butterfly including white letter hairstreak. Stag beetles and lesser stag beetles can frequently be seen in May.”



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The Brown Dog Statue . . .

Ian Mursell

Just yards from the splendid Peace Pagoda you might stumble across a diminutive bronze statue to an anonymous brown dog which lived and died in London in 1906. Installed in the Park in the same year as the Pagoda (1985), both were commissioned by the GLC shortly before its demise, and both were inaugurated in front of a large crowd. Yet whilst the Pagoda has grown in stature, becoming an iconic landmark, the opposite has happened to the statue: it's looking very much the worse for wear with its inscriptions ever harder to read. It also suffered the indignity of being removed from its original, prominent location near the Pump House, dumped in a hangar for two years, and then relegated to a dark, obscure corner of the Park, in the woods near the Old English Garden. So secluded, in fact, that when heritage expert Peter Matthews chose to include it in his book *London's Statues & Monuments* (2012), he couldn't find it!

This shouldn't be. In these days when the Park is enjoyed by so many dogs and their owners, the statue tells a poignant story that is well worth recalling: about Battersea, a nameless dog, and an inscription that provoked riots in our local streets. Extraordinarily, it appears near the top on the BBC Travel website's listing of the most controversial memorials in the world! One word explains all—vivisection.

At the turn of the 20th century vivisection was both common and widely accepted. One writer captures the spirit of this new age: "animals were something to be carved and taken apart, in search of the secret of life". Science had become the new religion, scientists a new kind of priesthood, and animals had to be 'sacrificed' for the good of humanity.

Gratuitous cruelty was also very much the norm; to give just one example: dog carts were common in their thousands in London up until 1854. It was Flemish gardeners who introduced working dogs to Battersea Fields, where dogs regularly hauled carts loaded with fruit and vegetables. But as Garry Jenkins (*A Home of Their Own*) has written "the worst abuse of dogs was reserved for those that pulled carts carrying humans. At weekends the carts were transformed into carriages and were routinely filled with two or three people, being taxied to and from the fairgrounds and drinking dens. The dogs were worked so hard that they often died on the street".

By the second half of the 19th century, vivisection was increasingly questioned, and by the 1870s, anti-vivisection had become a crusade. Attitudes towards animals were changing as pets gradually replaced livestock in the urban environment. Queen Victoria herself had several dogs and was a fervent supporter of the anti-vivisection movement. With the Victorians came sentimentality backed up by changes in popular culture. A whole generation grew up reading Black Beauty, published in 1877. The 19th century saw women come to the fore not only in struggles for suffrage, but also in social activism, the establishment of charities, and the fight for animal rights. In 1870, women took leadership of the RSPCA; in 1860 Mary Tealby established the Home for Lost and Starving Dogs in Islington (later to become Battersea Dogs & Cats Home); and the Irish feminist writer and social worker Frances Power Cobbe established the National Anti-Vivisection Society followed by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

Our story really begins with Louise Lind-af-Hageby and Leisa Schartau—two young Swedish feminists. In 1902, they enrolled at the London School of Medicine for Women. As part of their course they attended the vivisection at University College London of a large brown dog that had been operated on previously without sufficient anaesthesia. This was against the law on two counts. They wrote up what they had seen in a 200-page diary, which they showed to the honorary secretary of the NAVS. The whole issue was brought to trial in November 1903. The NAVS lost, but by then the story of the brown dog was widely known and within days, Anna-Louisa Woodward—a woman determined to keep the memory of the brown dog alive—commissioned a large marble drinking fountain standing 7'6" high, crowned by an 18" high green bronze statue of the brown dog. Nothing controversial here, you might think. But it was the inscription that caused trouble. Dedicated to the memory of the 'Brown Terrier Dog Done to Death' and

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. . . in Battersea Park

to the 232 other dogs vivisected at UCL in 1902, it ended provocatively “Men and women of England, how long shall these things be?”

Known nationally as a ‘hotbed’ of radical politics and in particular as an ‘anti-vivisectionist’ borough, it was the local council of Battersea that agreed to ‘host’ the monument, at the centre of the brand new Latchmere council estate, one of the country’s first. Battersea was already home to the much-loved Anti-Vivisection Hospital (later Battersea General) and Dogs Home, which openly rescued stray dogs destined for vivisection. The Brown Dog memorial was finally unveiled in the Latchmere Recreation Ground on a wet Saturday afternoon in September 1906, in front of about 100 people. Amongst the dignitaries who spoke was my great-great uncle, Rev. Arthur Mursell, president of the Surrey branch of the BUAV.

For the first year, things stayed quiet. But storm clouds were brewing. The medical establishment began to mobilise against it, first peacefully, then by direct action—one foggy night in November 1907 a group of students arrived at the Estate armed with crowbar and sledgehammer, determined to damage the statue. This triggered a series of mass protests by London’s medical students, escalating into stand-offs with the police and pitched battles with local residents, determined to protect ‘their’ dog. These came to be known as the Brown Dog riots. By now the memorial needed round-the-clock police protection, the cost of which began to hurt, and with pressure on the council growing daily, three public meetings were held in January 1908 at Battersea Town Hall as a consultation exercise. Given overwhelming local support the statue was saved, temporarily. Following local elections in 1909 the incoming Conservatives resolved to rid themselves of the statue, a symbolic reminder of the outgoing council’s left-wing policies, and in the dead of night on 9 March 1910 council workmen lifted the entire monument onto a lorry. Most think it was destroyed a year

later by council staff.

Within days, 2,000 people marched to Trafalgar Square to protest. It was too late; the Brown Dog had gone forever. What it HAD achieved, though, was the raising of mass awareness of vivisection among the general population: opposition to animal experiments grew strongly during the Edwardian period. The women’s suffrage movement rallied round the brown dog as a symbol and local people proudly found in the dog a potent symbol of their daily struggles against authority.



In 1985, 75 years later, the GLC commissioned the Peace Pagoda AND … a new statue to the Brown Dog! As its sponsors, the NAVS and BUAV chose a local sculptor, Nicola Hicks, who designed a gentler bronze statue, without the fountain but carrying both original and updated inscriptions. Ironically, the new statue again provoked the wrath of the medical establishment. The BMJ barked in its 8 March 1986 editorial: “The next authority responsible for Battersea Park should remove this degrading, libellous and offensive memorial …”.

In a strange twist of fate, the new Conservative-run Council quietly removed the statue in 1992—probably hoping it would be forgotten. It wasn’t, and two years later by popular demand it was returned to the Park, but hidden away in the woods—reminiscent of the fate of the statue to John Brown, Queen Victoria’s servant, which was ignominiously sited in an obscure part of Balmoral estate on the orders of King Edward VI after her death.

Regular Park users will know the obscure site of our Brown Dog, south east of the Old English Garden on the path through the woodland.

Editor’s note: The plinth of the brown dog statue has recently been cleaned but Enable has been advised that it is not possible to improve the lettering.

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Events

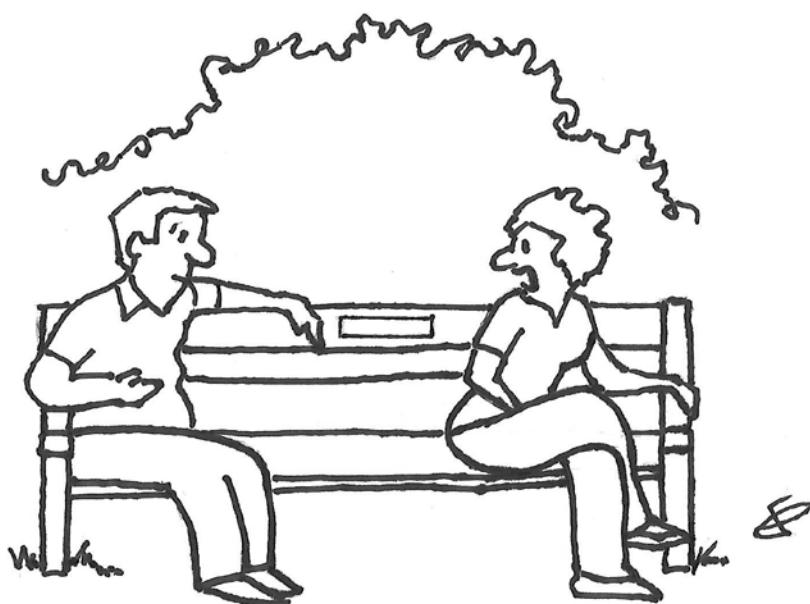
JULY	Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 6.45pm Vehicle Gates closed 6.15pm to 9pm	JP Morgan Corporate Challenge Beware: 30,000 runners
	Thursday 11	Thrive Volunteer Taster Session Pre-register attendance to ellen.hill@thrive.org.uk
	Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 Pump House Lawn	Wimbledon Finals On big screen
	Saturday 20 Children's Zoo	Teddy Bears' Picnic
	Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 Battersea Evolution	Egyptian Festival egyptianculturalfestival.com
	Week of Monday 22 Main Garden, East Carriage Drive	Thrive's Sensational Summer Festival Nature-based sensory experience for children with special educational needs and disabilities
	Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 11.30am to 4pm Millennium Arena	Battersea Summer Scheme Sport in the Park. Sports, workshops & activities for young people. 020 7978 5865
	Thursday 25 Children's Zoo	Pi-Rat-es of the Thames.
	Saturday 27 7am to 5pm Bandstand and Pump House Lawn	Wanderlust Triathlon, yoga and guided meditation tickets from Eventbrite
	Tuesday 30 Children's Zoo	Pig Day
AUGUST	Thursday 1 Children's Zoo	Camouflage Day
	Saturday 3 Children's Zoo	Sheep Day Watch and learn why sheep are shorn
		
	Monday 5 to Friday 9 Children's Zoo	BIAZA Big Bug Bonanza Week
	Friday 9 at sunset Peace Pagoda	Nagasaki Day Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral at 7.45pm to the Park for Floating Lantern Ceremony
	Tuesday 13 Children's Zoo	Wallaby Day
	Thursday 15 Children's Zoo	Monkey Day
	Thursday 15 to Tuesday 27 12 to 8pm Boules area	Drakes Family Fun Fair
	Wednesday 14 10am to noon Main Garden, East Carriage Drive	Garden Tour of Thrive Battersea Pre-register attendance to battersea@thrive.org.uk
SEPTEMBER	Monday 19 to Friday 23 Children's Zoo	Native Species Week
	Tuesday 27 and Friday 29 Children's Zoo	Silent Forest Bird Day
	Sunday 1 9am to 5pm Boules Area	Segway Experience
	Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 'Doors' open 6pm 7.45pm Pump House Lawn	Luna Cinema with The Breakfast Club; Bohemian Rhapsody; First Man. Ticketed: 0844 858 6767 or thelunacinema.com Food and bar on site, or take a picnic
	Wednesday 4 Expected to finish at Cadogan Pier from 2.15pm	Doggett's Coat and Badge Race

Events

SEPTEMBER Contd.	Thursday 12	Thrive Volunteer Taster Session Pre-register attendance to ellen.hill@thrive.org.uk
	Saturday 14 From approximately 12.15 past the Park	Great River Race from Millwall to Richmond. Part of Totally Thames, throughout September
	Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 9am to 5pm Boules Area	Segway Experience
	Friday 20 to Sunday 22 Battersea Evolution	Daily Telegraph Travel Show
OCTOBER	Tuesday 1 to Sunday 6 11am to 8pm Battersea Evolution	Autumn Decorative Antiques and Textiles Fair
	Saturday 12 and Sunday 16 9am to 5pm Boules Area	Segway Experience
	Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 11am to 6pm Battersea Evolution	Affordable Art Fair
	Monday 21 Doors open 12.15 Lunch and Lecture from 1.00 to 2.00pm Ethelburga Community Centre 60 Worfield Street, SW11 4RA	The Friends' Autumn Lunchtime Lecture Dave Webb, Fisheries Biodiversity & Geomorphology Team Leader with the Environment Agency will talk about Fish in London Lakes—Population and Habitat Management. Full details on grey flier.
	Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 Battersea Evolution	Ski and Snowboard Show
MAR NOV	Saturday 2	Fireworks in the Park—ticketed event
	Monday 23	The Friends' Spring Lunchtime Lecture

For information on events in the Children's Zoo, visit batterseaparkzoo.co.uk/your-visit/events/
 For all other Park events: enablelc.org/category/events/#

Cartoon by Philip Wright



You'll be lucky if you get a memorial deck chair

Viva L'Italia

Annabel Stein

Having recently wandered around the V&A's revamped Cast Court and gazed up in awe at Giambologna's Samson slaying a Philistine, Vincenzo de Rossi's Pluto & Proserpina, Francavilla's Zephyr and Michelangelo's David, I suddenly became nostalgic for Italy and the world of Mamma Mia. Then I spotted an equally mesmerised visitor sporting a canvas bag bearing the logo 'Eat-ily' and that capped it. I thought, thank you Signora for the tip, I shall. I shall also crack open a bottle of rosato, now that summer has arrived, and raise a glass to these talented sculptors.

Equally celebratory is an incentive to step up a gear, clothes-wise, before going out to dine. And this is exactly what four of us did when we met at The Oak SW11 for dinner.



This upmarket marble-clad eatery—the fourth in The Oak franchise—has taken over the premises of the Butcher and Grill though retained some of its layout. We ate upstairs and shared as suggested a wide selection of cicchetti (tapas to me!) including crunchy squid, padron peppers and zucchini fritti. For our mains, we had the tuna pappardelle, lamb breast, orange brushed lonzino and a pizza Stagioni. Two of us abstained from pudding whilst the other two couldn't resist the chocolate brownie and

sticky toffee pudding with salted caramel ice-cream. We all thoroughly enjoyed our choices and time there, so much so that I returned, this time for lunch. It's a great place, with a lively bar, outside drinking area, friendly staff and a happy ambiance.

The Oak SW11, 30–41 Parkgate Road, SW11 4NP. 020 7924 3999.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from approx midday to 11.30 pm, Monday 6pm to 11pm and brunch at weekends from 9.00 am. Prices from £3.50 per Cicchetti, £20 for Big Plates, £9 for Small Plates and £14 for Pizzas.

On another occasion the golfer and I strolled along to Angoletto Trattoria Italiana for an early supper, and thus had the knowledgeable waitress to ourselves as she helpfully discussed the menu and wines in great detail. After deliberation, the golfer chose whitebait followed by risotto funghi e chorizo, and I chose the speciality of the day, sea bass, preceded by fresh calamari al limone. We were full of praise for the freshness of the food, the generous glasses of wine and the attentive service.



It's a good simple 'local' Italian with a relaxed atmosphere, tables sparsely arranged, and a room downstairs which can be reserved for private parties.

Angoletto Trattoria Italiana, 50 Battersea Park Road, SW11 4JP. 020 7978 2231. Open Tuesday to Friday from 6pm to 11pm, Weekends from midday to 11pm and closed on Mondays. Prices range from £6 for Antipasti, £10 for Pasta, £20 for Mains.

To my chagrin, I'd never eaten in L'Antipasto even though I was living in Battersea long before it opened in 1984. I was delighted therefore when a friend invited me to join her for lunch a month or two ago and introduced me to the friendly staff and they in turn introduced me to their extremely generous portions.



When my younger daughter and I met there for lunch one Saturday, we were full of admiration for the way the waiters weaved in and out of the tables full of families, serving dishes, collecting plates, whilst still having time to interact with the children in true Italian style. As said daughter is trying to keep on the right side of the scales, she ordered the carpaccio di manzo with a side order of tomato and onion salad. On asking if this antipasto choice could be enlarged somewhat the waiter assured her, correctly, that she'd be surprised how large this starter was. I was dining that evening, so much as I'd have liked to have tried one of their specialities of the day, or my all-time favourite, linguine frutti di mare, I chose the prosciutto, mozzarella affumicata con rucola. Virtuous or not, both of us were pleased with our choices and whilst everyone around was quietly enjoying a glass of wine, we stuck to sparkling water and their delicious coffee. I can see why L'Antipasto is so popular and certainly expect it to be open for another 35 years. **L'Antipasto, 511 Battersea Park Road, SW11 3BW. 020 7223 9765. Open Monday to Friday midday to 2.30pm, then 6.00pm to 11.00 pm, Weekends midday to 11.00pm. Prices from £5.50 for Antipasti, £8.50 for Pasta, £14 for Carne e Pesce and £4.50 for Dolci.**

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