

BATTERSEA PARK
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL
newsletter

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Volume 7, Number 5

This e-Newsletter contains no confidential information and should be passed on to all your residents and anyone else whom you think might be interested.

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BATTERSEA PARK WARD

OUR TEAM

Sgt Steve Hales

PCSO Anthony Ioannou

PC Shane Lyons

PCSO Adrian Olivares-Nunez

PC Lysander Code

Mail box: BatterseaPark@met.police.uk

0208 247 8691

For crime prevention advice visit

www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

REPORT A CRIME via the met website here

<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL 999

NON-EMERGENCY POLICE ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL 101

Current Ward Priorities

Violence and Robbery

Drugs related Anti-Social Behaviour

Vehicle Crime

Upcoming Events

If there are any community events that you would like us to attend, please contact us (details above)

Ward Panel meeting, 17th July 2024 at the DRCA, Doddington Estate, 6:30pm.

Security Bike Marking, Battersea Park near Pear Tree Café. 12midday-3pm. Friday 19th July 2024.

Coffee with a Coppa, 3pm-4pm in the Pear Tree Café, Battersea Park. Thursday 25th July 2024. To discuss any issues.

Security Bike Marking, Battersea Park near Pear Tree Café. 1pm-4pm. Saturday 10th August 2024.

Keep up to date with what the SN Team are doing

WhatsApp Channel

This group is to connect the residents and communities of Battersea ward to their local policing team, engagement events and as a virtual noticeboard to keep you all updated with matters of interest within your local area. This channel operates as a broadcast channel only and cannot be used to report crime or related incidents.

It's secure and easy to use providing you are a smartphone user with WhatsApp. No one will see your mobile number, not even the police. Use this link on your phone and you can see more information before deciding whether or not to 'follow' the team - I do hope you will.

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaOqc6v9cDDYCd2d2m0N>

SCAMS

USEFUL HELP

Try this **The Little Book of Big Scams - now in its Fourth Edition**

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/thames-valley/fraud/little-book-big-scams.pdf>

Or this

The Little Book of Crypto Crime is a crime prevention booklet designed to raise public awareness of digital asset crime, how to report offences and practical measures to keep yourself safe. It can be downloaded from

met.police.uk/littlemedia/#CryptoProtect

Or this, from Which

Below is a link to a new, very useful and free service run by Which. Get notices of the latest scam to your computer or mobile

<https://act.which.co.uk/page/103781/data/1?eatracking.id=scam-alerts>

DOORSTEP THEFTS

What the Met say:

Here are some things you could do to reduce the risk of doorstep theft:

- track your parcel to ensure you or someone else is at home for the delivery
- install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile, so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and is easier to install than a full CCTV system.
- install a security light
- arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour, or other family members who will be at home; if you live in a flat, is there a concierge who could accept the parcel for you?
- use an off-site locker service for frequent deliveries, or for expensive items; these parcel boxes are more likely to be in busy, safer locations - such as supermarkets - rather than secluded areas which could be targeted by thieves

What Sgt Steve Hales says about reporting and what you may or may not do, and why. Following the arrest of a prolific parcel thief, I print below extracts from Sgt Hales's recent letters to those in the area which had been affected.

• Please report all parcel thefts, if you can name the individual please do when reporting. Your frustrations and our data do not align as we do not see the true impact that this person, and potentially others, are having to you and your neighbours. We want to prosecute our prolific offenders for all of their offences not just some this will then communicate clearly to the courts that true impact he and others may be having on you.

• If you see him, call us; 101 or report it to us online, www.met.police.uk/ro/report or send us an email and we can generate that into an intelligence report and start building a picture of his whereabouts on days, dates, times and places. Please also include

descriptions of him and clothing as responding officers may not know him by name. We want to disrupt his behaviour as much as we possibly can.

- If you see him commit an offence or you see him with parcels, please call 999 and explain to the operator that you have seen a prolific offender on your street committing a crime and if you know his name, please name him.
- Please do not approach him. We don't know the extent of his capabilities; he may react aggressively and violently.

The impact of his behaviour on your and our community was obvious with the turn out this evening and we really appreciate that further understanding. We will continue to conduct both proactive visible patrols and plain clothes patrols, we will also take over any new offences that get reported regarding this individual to better join the dots as this is a particular issue that has clearly been identified with multiple officers in charge of investigations.

Regarding the signs, I am seeking additional advice on this to ensure there is no impact on current cases. We would like to return these pending that further advise but of course there are concerns around his reaction to them and whether this would be a cause of concern. We will speak to the originator of these signs separately to discuss further.

Editor adds:

Concerned residents had taken action by distributing posters with an image of the man concerned. Sgt Hales had this advice to give:

Whilst I appreciate the frustrations that an individual has been targeting your area to commit thefts specifically parcel thefts, we do not condone the distribution of posters with an image of a male along with a QR code. There are many reasons for this and specifically regarding public safety and the criminal justice process. This type of activism can incite anger amongst the community and potentially the individual themselves. We understand the issues and we, as your local police, are taking action to address them specifically a suspect was arrested and charged with a further 5 offences just yesterday which I know has since been communicated out to you. We have conducted patrols in the area, distributed letters and organised a street briefing for this coming Monday. We have provided advice on what to do if you see someone behaving suspiciously or in the act of committing an offence. It is important for any investigation that these get reported as per our advice without the need for posters being put up.

There are various legal issues regarding the distribution of these posters namely identification with regards to the subject of the posters and offences attributed to him and other offences potentially being committed by other individuals who people may consider to be the same person when in fact they are not. Further issues regarding the European Convention of Human Rights; Article 6 (right to a fair trial) where “Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law”. As well as complicating ongoing investigations. Being charged for an offence is not the same as being prosecuted for an offence and this material displayed could prejudice a current case or a future case. We want to ensure that we follow the law and follow the evidence to get successful prosecutions without prejudice and what I mean by this is that we have ongoing cases yet to be tried at court and the evidence may rely on identification and these posters may have a detrimental effect on those cases.

I must advise that this is to stop with immediate effect. Officers will take down these posters; please do not put any more on display as this may constitute a criminal offence in its own right.

ULEZ /CONGESTION CHARGES.

ULEZ should not be confused with Congestion Charge.

There has been a lot of false information posted on various social media sites, and even in newspapers, claiming that the ULEZ exemption charge for electric vehicles is to end in 2025. This is not true.

A screenshot of a BBC article with the headline “End to discounts for zero-emission vehicles” in the London section of the BBC News site has been shared with a **misleading** caption that links this to ULEZ.

Posts with similar captions, which have been shared both on X (formerly Twitter) and on Facebook, say: “NET ZERO - *Oh look. All those conned into believing an electric car would prevent them being charged to drive in London are about to be shafted. ULEZ exemption to end next year!*”

But this is **not** what the BBC story, published on 1 July, says. It covers a change to the **congestion charge** that electric vehicles have to pay in London, which comes into force from 25 December 2025.

Transport for London (TfL) announced that drivers who previously paid £10 under the ‘cleaner vehicle discount’, which gave a year’s exemption from congestion charges, will have to pay the standard £15 daily fee, unless they are in receipt of another discount or exemption.

However, **electric vehicles do not have to pay** charges of £12.50 a day when travelling within the ULEZ, as they emit no NOx or CO2 from the tailpipe, and therefore meet the minimum emissions standards.

BATTERSEA PARK

The Parks & Events Police Service is responsible for policing 800 acres of the Borough’s parks and open spaces. The Service aims and objectives focus on reassurance, deterrence, and enforcement and this includes education. The Parks Police work closely with the Metropolitan Police Service, the Council’s Community Safety Team and Animal Welfare Service, and a variety of other enforcement agencies to ensure Public Spaces Protection Orders, Byelaws and other regulations are adhered to and to carry out targeted operations to deal with specific issues e.g., antisocial behaviour.

SAFETY IN THE PARK

Remember the guidelines. Walk with other people at night. Do not use your ‘phone, not even to keep it to hand.



FIRE SAFETY

Barbecues, including the smaller disposable types, are not allowed in the Park. This rule is even more important, following the number of wildfires in the UK.

Please ensure cigarette butts are safely disposed of. Even the smallest spark can start a nasty fire.

NITROUS OXIDE

It is now illegal to possess or sell nitrous oxide when you are unauthorized to do so. Under the new legislation, serial users could face up to two years in prison while those convicted of supplying it could face up to 14 years.

BATTERSEA PARK WARD SN PANEL MEETINGS

Did you know that your Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) meets four times a year? There are currently 17 Community members on the Panel and at each meeting they receive information from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) that look after our Ward as well as the Community Safety, Animal Welfare and Housing departments of the Council. The Panel is responsible for agreeing the local policing priorities for the three months until the next meeting.

Priorities for the next three months remain unchanged, as

- **Violence and robbery (focus on Doddington and Battersea Park)**
- **drug-related ASB (focus on Battersea Park)**
- **vehicle crime (focused on POW Drive and Battersea Park Road.)**

The next meeting of the Panel will be on July 17th, 2024, starting at 6.30pm

Have you joined Neighbourhood Watch?

Anyone can join Neighbourhood Watch (NW) as an individual member - and it's completely free. NW is an independent charity which helps to reduce the opportunity for, and fear of, crime. As an individual member you would become part of the biggest voluntary crime prevention movement in England and Wales. If you join, you can choose whether or not to become part of a local group scheme, but that is entirely optional.

What are the benefits for individual members?

- Receive expert, easy-to-follow local and national crime prevention advice - direct to your email account.
- be consulted on your community opinions.
- manage your membership options and opt-in to police and other updates.
- remain an individual member even if you move home.
- NW members say they feel, and are, 'safer' in their community.

In Wandsworth, NW has established an Association to support and represent all the local NW schemes which had been somewhat in decline. The Association is now working closely with the Wandsworth Community Safety Team and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams to ensure that we can communicate quickly and easily with all the existing local NW coordinators throughout the Borough.

We are often asked, "Why do we need NW if we have a Safer Neighbourhood Panel?". Quite simply the answer is they do very different things - we need them both! Remember, your SNP only meets once every 3 months - Neighbourhood Watches are active every day of the year making our communities stronger and safer.



Over the coming months there will be a recruitment drive to increase individual membership and scheme registration including plans to provide street signage indicating NW areas. Across the whole of Wandsworth, we currently have over 700 individual

members and 92 schemes with 3 more in the pipeline. There are only two registered schemes in Battersea Park Ward.

What are the benefits of joining or starting a local Scheme?

- Join in/organise with local activities - street parties, litter picking etc.
- feel a greater sense of belonging and connection to a tighter knit community
- improve relationships with local police and other local organisations
- look out for your neighbours
- resolve local issues with others in your NW group
- free public liability insurance for registered groups which organise events.
- benefit from the support of the NW Association - in purchasing road signs/window stickers etc.



Member of the watch. Late 18th century.

**SNT Italian Style, mid-16th century Florence
Policing a mediaeval football match**



WANDSWORTH COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICE



The Animal Welfare Service (AWS) (previously known as the Dog Control Service) comprises of 4 staff, who operate a shift system covering the borough from 7.00am to 9pm Monday to Friday. **Outside of these hours** there is a call out service to attend to captive stray dogs only. The service also covers the borough of Richmond, but for captive stray dogs only on 020 8871 7490.

There are 3 Patrolling officers who are each responsible for a number of wards.

Lisa Martin is currently the officer responsible for the Battersea Park Ward

All general or routine enquiries and complaints should initially be directed to the general AWS contacts below.

The manager is Mark Callis Tel :020 8871 7132

Useful contacts:

AWS email: animalwelfare@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

AWS Tel: 020 8871 7606. Or for urgent calls 07860 534733

Web Page: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/dogs

Out of hours for captive stray dogs call 020 8871 7490.

EPT e-mail: parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk

EPT Tel :020 8871 7532

REYNARD AND HIS FAN CLUB CAUSING PROBLEMS AGAIN

At a recent Housing Panel meeting, several people from different estates raised the problems of foxes and squirrels.

Foxes and squirrels are classified as wildlife, and so the council cannot intervene, unless these animals are actually in a building.

As usual, when the matter is raised within various residents' associations, there are those who say how sweet these creatures are, that they were on this earth before we were, and so on and so forth. And they feed them - which is part of the problem. Would you want to fend for yourself in leafy Sussex when there are foxy food banks in Battersea, complete with water bowls?

All we are asking you to do is stop leaving out food. It is bad enough when they break into rubbish sacks where the food has not been properly wrapped up. Going out a week or so ago almost at dawn, this is exactly what had happened where I live – pizza plates, plastic forks, baked beans, cake, meat – scattered all over the pavement, all giving extra work to our cleaners, who also have to clean up fox faeces. When I returned for breakfast around 7.45, the area was spotless. The cleaners deserve a medal. But it all has to be paid for.

So, no feeding, and remember to bag up your food for the bins. After all, you are also feeding rats, mice, squirrels and flies.



John Paul Ekins, Pianist, lives in Battersea Park Ward. Now with well over 4500 subscribers. Warsaw Concerto at RAH over 44,000 views. JP's recording sessions with Henry Chandler, of the Beethoven Violin Sonatas, are now completed.

[For his on-line concerts, link below:](#)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMxbvC9KmdO5slhy_pDhka

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Q: The mythological hero Hector was killed in which war?

A: The First world War

Q: King George III was the first British monarch to have an account with which bank? Coutts, Clydesdale or Co-op Bank?

A: Co-op Bank

Q: A man called a Manxman or a woman called a Manxwoman is an inhabitant of which island?

A: New Zealand

Q: Richard Llewellyn wrote the novel *How Green is my...* What?

A: Cheese

I just want to apologise for my recent joke about herbs and fish. I realise now it wasn't the thyme and the plaice. *Just call me Les. Twitter.*

FIESOLE: A MEMORIAL GARDEN

Spotted in Fiesole last month. A green space up on the hill had been turned into a memorial garden to commemorate those who fought oppression, and who were murdered as a result. Police officers, partisans, anti-mafia.



Bruno Giugni 22 August 1944

This plaque to Bruno Giugni remembers a fallen partisan of the Resistance. A native of Florence and an experienced resistance fighter, he participated in the partisan efforts to weaken the German defence during the battle for Florence. On August 22, 1944, his patrol unexpectedly came into contact with German

paratroopers walking from the nearby town of Maiano and engaged them. As his comrades fell back, Giugni stayed behind to defend 4 them as they transported their wounded to safety. He paid for this selfless act with his life. Like so many mortalities of the Resistance, Giugni tragically perished only days before Fiesole's liberation.



Alberto La Rocca, Vittorio Marandola, Fulvio Sbarretti

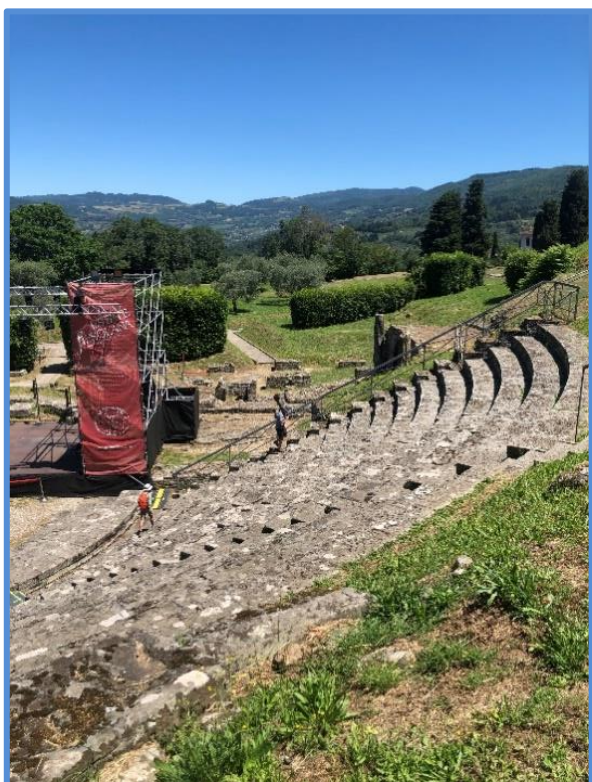
Received the Carabinieri Gold Medal for Bravery

Three military police officers - *carabinieri* - who sacrificed themselves to the Nazis so that 10 innocent hostages would not be killed. On August 12, 1944, the three officers stood against the wall of the Hotel Aurora, by the village's main square, and were shot to death.

Only the day before, on August 11, the Allies had liberated Florence, just five miles away. The Germans, in retreat, had blown up Florence's bridges, all except for the Ponte Vecchio, which according to many accounts, was spared by orders from Hitler.

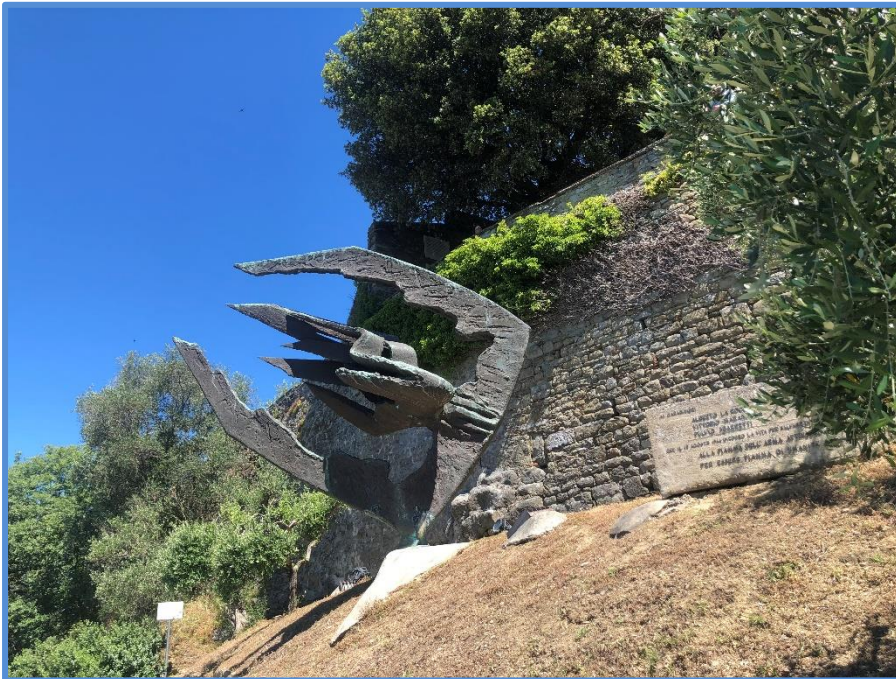


The *carabinieri* of Fiesole acted as cover for the clandestine activities of resistance fighters. On August 6, the German command ordered all men in Fiesole who were between the ages of 17 and 45 to present themselves - or be shot if they were caught in hiding. The Germans randomly chose 10 young men, to be used as deterrents against acts of resistance, and locked them in the basement of the Hotel Aurora.



On the eve of the liberation of Florence, the three police officers had received a message to disguise themselves as monks and escape through German lines. The three abandoned the police barracks and tried to get to the monastery, but the roads were blocked. They hid out that night in the village's Roman ruins. But when a German lieutenant discovered the deserted police barracks the next day, he vowed to execute the hostages in retaliation.

Hearing of this, the three young police officers calmly walked through Fiesole's empty streets and turned themselves in. After brutal interrogation, they were held in the hotel basement, alongside the hostages, and that evening the three met their death outside the Hotel Aurora.

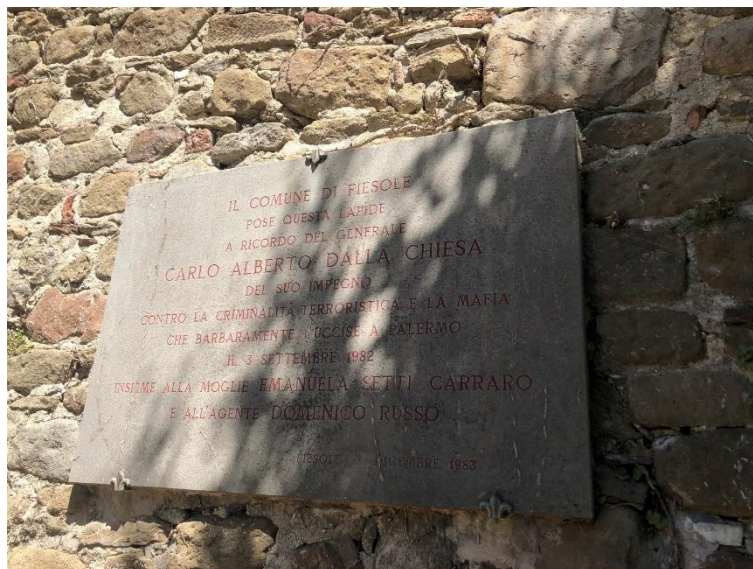


A bronze monument commemorating the sacrifice of the three Carabinieri.

In 1964, the city of Fiesole decided to honour their memory by commissioning a major monument. Living in Fiesole at the time was Giovanni Michelucci, one of the most important Italian architects of the twentieth century. He was given the responsibility of adapting the Park of Remembrance to be able to host the new monument. Originally built in the 1920s to honour local soldiers who died in World War I, the park was expanded by Michelucci with a new terrace, complete with beautiful views of Florence and the Arno valley. Michelucci also organized a competition for the monument commission, in which four Tuscan artists were invited to submit project proposals: Vitaliano De Angelis, Marcello Guasti, Mino Trafeli, and Iorio Vivarelli.

Guasti, a Florentine engraver, painter and sculptor born in 1924, was awarded the opportunity to design a large bronze sculpture, measuring over four meters high. The artist faced two main problems while designing this work; on one hand, he needed to find a way to honour the Three Carabinieri, reminding viewers of their heroism, and on the other, he needed to work in harmony with Michelucci, creating a work with relation to its physical location in the Park. Guasti's solution involved

creating a statue with an aggressively dynamic shape, one that allows a multitude of interpretations. From a pincer emerge tangled tongues of fire, alluding to the symbol of the Carabinieri: a flame. Not only does the monument commemorate a vigorous fight for life, but it also materializes the ongoing pursuit and triumph of liberty.



In Memory of General Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the iron general, who was murdered by the Mafia, 1982

Read more here

<https://www.agenzianova.com/en/news/meloni-remembers-the-general-from-the-church-against-cancer-of-the-mafia-we-do-not-back-down/>

CLAPHAM JUNCTION INSIDER.

To get on this mailing list, <https://www.cjag.org/author/cjag/> add your email and click on the subscribe button. Free, but donations to support his work are always welcome.

WASTE NOT WANT NOT.



<https://www.wastenotwantnot-battersea.org/>

Waste Not Want Not Battersea has been in operation since 2017. We collect surplus food from nearby markets and distribute it through local community and youth centres. We have built relationships with traders in New Covent Garden Market and other local retailers and save around 750-1000 kg of food every week from ending up in the bin.

LIVING STREETS: The UK Charity for Everyday Walking

Find out more on

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/>

Living Streets is the champion of clear, clutter-free pavements.

Next year, we plan to work harder than ever to put an end to dangerous pavement parking, so everyone can walk or wheel safely in their neighbourhood.

Why join us?

1. We have the history. We have led the campaign to end pavement parking for decades. Five of them. And we have never stopped. [Read more on our blog.](#)

2. The time is now. We know what momentum looks like - and right now, we have it like never before.

Scotland has introduced a law against it. Wales has committed to regulate it. And England have consulted on banning it.

These are all huge wins in themselves, wins Living Streets and our members have helped achieve.

3. We listen. We build our campaigning around real stories, like the 2,000 supporters who sent us their story last summer.

4. We build consensus. We work in coalition with active travel, transport and disability organisations focused on tackling all obstructions that make our pavements dangerous, especially for disabled people and older adults.

5. And all of this means we know what do next

We will continue to put pressure on the Scottish Government to properly implement its law on pavement parking as early as possible.

We will hold the Welsh Government to its promise to give councils powers to crack down on pavement parking.

We will continue to press the Department for Transport to publish its consultation results.

And we will continue to support our Local Groups to speak up for pavements and streets where they live.

This is how we win. Please support our campaign to end pavement parking for good. [Join us.](#)

If you want to protect pavements for people, there has never been a more important time to join the UK charity for everyday walking.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

CARNEYS

Carney's Community is inspired by Mick Carney, the boxing legend who motivated and turned around many lives through engagement with boxing. Mick introduced youth worker George Turner to boxing coach Mark Reigate and together they founded Carney's Community in 2011.

The mentoring that Carney's Community offers is unique. Many of our beneficiaries report being 'passed between' different agencies (one young person had to tell his story to 40 different professionals before accessing support) which can lead to young people feeling frustrated, and disengaging from support services.

At Carney's Community, a young person builds a trusting relationship with a single consistent person; this relationship lasts as long as the young person needs; and the mentoring is taken up by the young person when they want it and are motivated to make changes in their lives.

We achieve results through:

- sustained, intensive one-to-one mentoring whenever it is needed, for as long as it is needed;

- teaching employable skills, discipline, self-respect and a sense of purpose by focusing on education, employment, and personal development, alongside group activities such as sport and the arts;
- creating a supportive community environment, something often missing from a young person's life; and
- creating a 'virtuous cycle' – once our mentees are employable and employed, we encourage them to give back by taking on the role of mentor or coach.

•
Our services are targeted at disadvantaged young people aged 11 to 30 who come from deprived backgrounds in Wandsworth, Lambeth, and the surrounding areas.

Learn more: <https://carneyscommunity.org/>

COUNCILLORS AND MP

Marsha De Cordova, MP marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk
(020) 7924 1973 House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

Message from Marsha:

I hold surgeries on alternate Thursdays in Battersea. If you would like to book a surgery appointment, please email me at marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk.

Or ring 020 7924 1973

Surgeries are often booked over a month in advance. If you need more immediate help, my casework team will be able to help via the same email address.

Councillor surgeries

Battersea Park and Nine Elms wards:

Battersea Park Library First and third Sat of the month

309 Battersea Park Rd 11 a.m. to noon.

Or please ring or email for help.

Cllr.Maurice Mcleod

cllr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk

07904474493

Cllr.Tony Belton

Cllr.T.Belton@wandsworth.gov.uk

07778 405235

Cllr. Juliana Annan

cllr.j.annan@wandsworth.gov.uk

MAURICE MCLEOD is Chair of the Licensing Committee, its Sub Committee, and the Regulatory Licensing Committee.

He is also on the Housing Committee (Deputy Chair)

He is on several outside bodies: The Borough Residents Forum, the Safer Neighbourhood Board, and the Eastern Area Housing Panel.

JULIANA ANNAN is Chair of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Other Committees: Children's Committee, Grants Sub-Committee, Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee, the Health Committee

As well as her role as councillor, Cllr Annan runs a business, Agee Empowerment Network, that supports residents with English as a second language to settle into the community and is co-founder of Support4Support Community Project Ltd, which helps underprivileged women and families from disadvantaged backgrounds.

She holds a diploma in Adult Health and Social Care. She has worked at several hospitals, including the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, St George Hospital and Queen Mary Hospital, and has worked as an administrator for the children and young people department at University College London Hospital.

TONY BELTON is Chair of the Planning Applications Committee, and also sits on the Transport Committee. He is the Deputy Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committees.

He is on two outside bodies: Battersea United Charities and the Wandsworth (Conservation Area) Advisory Committee.

He also produces an interesting monthly newsletter. Latest edition see below. If you would like to go on his mailing list, please email him.



Apologies to Cllr. Belton,. I have had to edit this month's edition very slightly, due to lack of space.

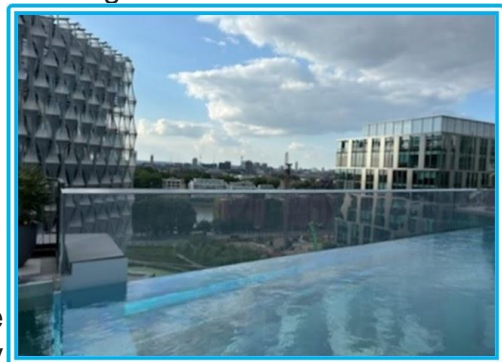
Councillor Tony Belton's Battersea July 2024, Newsletter (# 181)

1. My June diary was entirely disrupted by the bizarre timing of the **General Election** - so all plans were out of the window. As far as Labour members have been concerned, it has been all hands to the pumps since then (22/5/24). But not, so it
-

seems, as far as our opponents are concerned. Here in Battersea, there has been almost no sign of Tory, Lib/Dem, Green or Reform activity. The truth, of course, is that it is difficult to exhort the troops into action when all the leaders seem to have decided that Labour is the certain winner. 1997 was like this, and not just in retrospect - I am on record expecting Blair to win by a majority of 150 - his actual victory was 179. I acknowledge that there is not the same enthusiasm for **Keir Starmer**, pictured here at the party leadership hustings in 2020, and Labour as there was then for Tony Blair and New Labour - but equally there was not the same despair about John Major and the Tories as there is about Rishi Sunak and the current no-hopers representing the Tories. What are the odds on Starmer's majority being even larger than Blair's 179?



2. On the 5th June, I went to the unveiling of the **Charlotte Despard Plaque** in the Nine Elms Linear Park. This was the culmination of years of campaigning by Jeanne Rathbone, who wants Wandsworth to have as many plaques commemorating women as there are commemorating men. And in particular, Jeanne has long wanted one to commemorate Despard. Charlotte was an Irish nationalist, republican, rich, suffragist, philanthropic radical, who in the 1920s spent much of her time and money doing good works for the poor of Nine Elms, at a time when they really were distressingly poor. I think Charlotte, herself, would have recognised the irony of unveiling a plaque to her within a stone's throw of the US Embassy surrounded, as it is by some of the most expensive and exclusive properties in London. She would have been particularly bemused, or horrified, at the reception, held in the **Skypool** complex 200

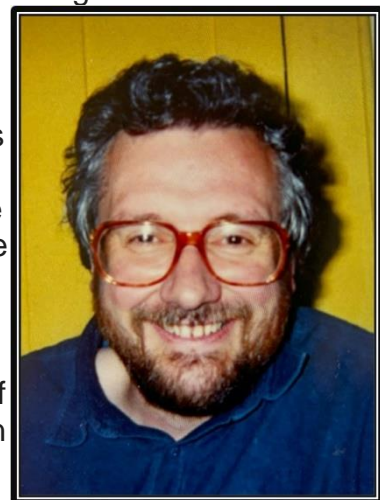


feet above ground level. My guess is that the pool will be the most expensive, under-used pool in London - spectacularly so, as in the picture.

3. The occasion was notable for **Mary McAleese's** speech. The past President of Ireland, who confessed her total ignorance of Charlotte Despard, before being invited to attend this unveiling, honoured the occasion with a quietly powerful speech. Referring to Despard's relationship with Mahatma Gandhi, McAleese made a truly memorable plea for the cause of all peoples across the world suffering from the twin disasters of climate change and war. It was a speech full of careful consideration and feeling for people suffering whether in Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar or Sudan. It was very special for a quiet, cool, not well-attended Wednesday evening in a London suburb.

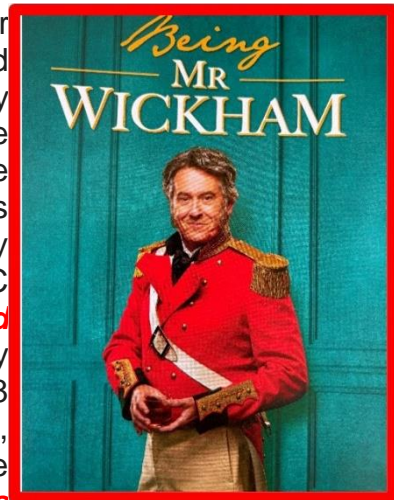


4. June 11th was the day of **Sean Creighton's** funeral held at Lambeth Crematorium, Blackshaw Road, followed by a wake at La Gothique. Sean, accompanied by his wife Ann, was a big figure in the Battersea Labour party in the 1980s and 90s. He was a Labour councillor representing the old Fairfield ward in the years 1982-86. Being an elected councillor did not, however, come naturally to Sean. Frankly, he found it difficult always to follow the party line - and as I was the Labour Leader at the time that was often my line! (At the time he lived 200 yards from Wandsworth Town Hall and he and I often addressed our differences over a friendly bottle of wine, with Ann adjudicating.) Sean was more of an activist and a chronicler, than a party politician. He was the secretary of more organisations than anyone I



ever knew, including the Prisoners Education Trust and a Northumberland Historical trust (Sic!). Sean and his bookstall were a feature outside many a local history and/or Labour conference anywhere in the country for a dozen years. Sean was an activist, archivist, campaigning, eccentric individualist: in short one of a kind. **RIP, Sean Creighton.**

5. On the 18th Penny and I went to the **Jermyn Street Theatre** to see ***Being Mr Wickham***. The theatre itself was fascinating, literally a stone's throw from Piccadilly. With an audience capacity of 70, it must be the most intimate of West End theatres. The one-man, one-hour play was written, created, and acted by Adrian Lukis, - the very man who acted the disreputable George Wickham opposite Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth as Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy in the seminal 1996 BBC production of ***Pride and Prejudice***. Lukis had clearly spent much of the intervening 28 years being George Wickham, imagining a variation of possible futures from ***Hogarth's Rakes Progress*** to the version depicted in the play. Witty and clever, this personal after-dinner history was just right for such an intimate space, where he described how dull life must be for Elizabeth living with that dreadfully priggish bore Darcy - a life so unlike the well-lived one that he, Wickham, shared with fun-loving Lydia. The script was littered with acerbic references to Mr. Collins, the other Bennett girls and of course to Mr & Mrs Bennett themselves. Both George and Adrian seem to have done alright for themselves. Nice one, Adrian.



6. The **Planning (PAC) Applications Committee** was held on the 20th June. Again, it was, thanks partly to the imminent General Election, a quiet committee. There was, however, one application, which will concern devotees of Northcote Road, and that was to demolish and rebuild 78 Northcote Road. No 78 has, in the recent past, been variously Downing's

restaurant, a Tapas bar and currently the Soi Thai restaurant. When, or perhaps if, it is demolished, there will be many concerned posts hitting social media. But, unfortunately or not, local authorities do not have the power to prevent



demolition of any property if it is neither specifically protected nor within a conservation area. However, let me re-assure readers that the replacement will complement the terrace - in case you had not previously noticed the current building is one floor lower than the rest of the terrace, more of a gap tooth than a sore thumb. The replacement is planned to be the same height, have slightly more living accommodation, and, of course, modern plumbing, etc. No. 78 is on the left of this Northcote Road terrace and is clearly one storey lower than its nineteenth-century fellows.

7. On 21st June, Penny and I had the pleasure of going to the retirement dinner of **Oxford University Chancellor, Chris Patten**, at Keble College. It was held in Keble's grand and magnificent Hall and the occasion was as splendid as one might expect. Chris spoke of how Oxford "made him" and, as ever, laced his speech with many personal anecdotes. He also made it clear that whilst no longer free to vote - as Lord Patten of Barnes he is disqualified - if he could vote he would not vote for anyone who had supported Brexit. Quite a journey from being a senior member of the Cabinet to a major critic of the current Tory Government - even if it took 30 years to do it.

8. The next morning, we went for a delightful walk round the **University Parks**. It was absolutely beautiful - notable for the re-wilding along the River Cherwell - very different as I recall it from the well-mown lawns of the Parks in the 1960s. We enjoyed both the wild and the cultivated flowers, and the couple of thousand Park Fun Runners.



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9. Meanwhile, a team of us, 6-8 strong, have been meeting at 8am every weekday morning, as the organising committee of the Battersea Labour Party's election campaign. We all have our allocated responsibilities, from running the canvassing, to organising the digital campaign, from mobilising the volunteers to writing the campaign materials, from looking after the candidate to ensuring the money is available. As the Battersea LP Treasurer, I am "the money", which this year has been, I have to admit, the cushy number. It is all so very different from an election run in 1997, and as for 1970 well words Technology has changed absolutely everything. In 1970 every constituency largely did its own thing, in its own way. The 8am Zoom meetings would not have been possible; the party could not have moved resources from London constituencies to the Midlands or even, as happened recently, to Scotland - they would not have the data that both enabled and inspired the move. Today, in theory (and in practice) the "boss" knows every morning how many canvass contacts were made last night across the whole of the UK, how many were so-called Labour promises, how many were not. I must confess to a little nostalgia for the more intuitive approach that we used the day before yesterday.
10. On the evening of the 23rd I attended an **election-hustings** meeting at St. Michael's, Wandsworth Common. There were about 40 members of the public there to hear from the Green, Labour and Tory candidates - the Lib/Dems were invited but were a "no show". What weird occasions these are.

The public included about 25 party members - there simply to support their candidates and ask friendly questions. Half of us knew the other half - I even swapped notes with the Leader of the Tory opposition on Wandsworth Council as to who did best between my Marsha **de Cordova (MdC)** and his **Tom Pridham**. For what it is worth, I thought that MdC won by a country mile, but I also thought that given the event was set-up on a "green and very wet pitch", that Tory Tom Pridham did well - disagreed with every word, of course but that's politics. Just one tip for the Green candidate - if you think that we are all bound to hell in a handcart (as you and I both do) then at least add some gallows humour to your presentation. Total misery is a bit of a turn-off.

11. There was one **final hustings**, on 26th June, this time in the new church on Plough Road. Personal confession here - I was part of MdC's preparation team. We spent an hour in the afternoon talking through the likely questions and MdC's possible replies - and it worked. Marsha was excellent that evening and on this occasion all the other candidates, including the Lib/Dems, Reform, and the Workers' Party, virtually conceded that Marsha de Cordova won the debate comfortably.

My July Programme

1. July 4th is **the big election day**. I will be in Battersea Park Ward for most of the 15 hours of election day - like many other activists across the UK. We will all want a high turn-out and most of us will be **VOTING for a CHANGE** away from our current, pathetic and ineffective government.
2. The **Planning Applications Committee** is on 18th July.
3. We are off to **Killarney and the Kerry Ring** from 19th-25th July and
4. Back to **Maynooth, near Dublin**, for an Executive Committee of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies from 25th-28th July.
5. And I will, therefore, have to give my apologies for the **Council Meeting** on 24th July and the **Environment Committee** on 27th July.

Did you know?

Last month, I asked if we could list all Battersea's MPs, from 1900. And I started with John Burns (1892-1918) and Marsha de Cordova (2017-). I am afraid that quiz obviously did not appeal to many of you, indeed I got only one reply. But that one from Roy, was very good and very detailed - well done, Roy. His complete list of MPs, with dates, is:-

Battersea

John Burns, Liberal "but obviously also a socialist" 1892-1918

<u>Battersea North</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Battersea South</u>
Richard Morris, Liberal	1918-22	Francis Curzon, Tory
Shapurji Saklatvala, Lab	1922-23	Francis Curzon, Tory
Henry Hogbin, Liberal	1923-24	Francis Curzon, Tory
Shapurji Saklatvala, CP	1924-29	Francis Curzon, Tory
William Sanders, Lab	1929-31	William Bennett, Lab
Arthur Marsden, Tory	1931-35	Harry Selley, Tory
William Sanders, Lab	1935-40	Harry Selley, Tory
Francis Douglas, Lab	1940-45	Harry Selley, Tory
Francis Douglas, Lab	1945-46	Caroline Ganley, Lab
Douglas Jay, Lab	1946-51	Caroline Ganley, Lab
Douglas Jay, Lab	1951-64	Ernest Partridge, Tory
Douglas Jay, Lab	1964-79	Ernie Perry, Lab
Douglas Jay, Lab	1979-83	Alf Dubs, Lab

Battersea

John Bowis, Tory 1983-97
 Martin Linton, Lab 1997-2010
 Jane Ellison, Tory 2010-17
 Marsha De Cordova, Lab 2017-

And this month?

And which of those MPs have had buildings or roads or institutions named after them and which are they?

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, IN PARTICULAR, NOISE.

WBC Noise Control 0208 871 6127 Hours of Operation Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday 09.00 - 17.00 hrs

Thursday (Day time) 09.00 - 17.00 hrs

Thursday (Evening) 19.00 - 02.00 hrs

Friday 20.00 - 03.00 hrs

Saturday 13.00 - 03.00 hrs

Sunday (Day time) 09.00 - 04.00 hrs

Sunday (Evening) 19.00 - 02.00 hrs

Emergency Control will take the call and pass it on to the Noise Officer who will then telephone the complainant for confirmation, and to arrange a visit to the area of the home, to assess the noise, and make a report.

020 8871 6127

Please **do not** report a nuisance using the above telephone number or online form if you live on a council housing estate, as there is separate guidance for this. **Use 020 8871 7490.** (Joint Control Centre) Editor has been told it is super-fast!

RECYCLING

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling>

Unsure? See below.

YES:

Paper, card, cardboard. **Please note:** Large boxes should be taken apart or cut into smaller pieces. It is surprising how many people ignore this instruction, then wonder why their large boxes are not taken away. Not only that but putting complete boxes in the hutches results in blocking the hutches for everyone else.

Clean Glass bottles and jars. Clean Metal tins, cans, aerosols

Clean Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays. Clean Cartons/Tetrapak

NO:

No: Food waste (well wrapped up, and put in the household waste, please) nappies, polystyrene, electrical and cables, DIY material, foil.

No Shredded paper. (It clogs up the sorting machines)

No to batteries. Most supermarkets have a recycling point for these.

No dog faeces

NO to Nitrous Oxide Canisters, should you find any. Take them to Smugglers Way where they have a locked “cage” for them. It might be useful if you were to drop an email to the SNT to say where they were found, since the use and provision of these is now illegal. **Do not put any batteries or vapes in the rubbish or recycling bins. Most supermarkets have a collection point.**

Decent clothing and textiles can be put in a TRAIID container.

Other metal and wood can be recycled at **Smugglers Way Household Waste and Recycling Centre. See above.**

Water Leaks and Gas Escapes

Do not assume that someone else has phoned it in.

Please do not report these to the Council. The following free phone numbers should be used to report leaks.

WATER: 0800 714614

GAS: 0800 111999

All utility companies have to prioritise works across our borough as well as other boroughs in south London. The On-Street Services team actively monitors works on the public highway and works with utility companies to minimise disruption as much as possible.

For instance, via their telephone number, or Mr Don Ogunyemi on Tel No 020 8871 6712, Fax 020 8871 3174, E-mail dogunyemi@wandsworth.gov.uk.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Safer Neighbourhood Team	(020) 8247 8691/07407 492 357 batterseapark@met.police.uk
Panel Chair	Jan Forbes BatterseaParkWardSNP@gmail.com
Panel Secretary	Joanna Leonard BatterseaParkWardSNP@gmail.com
Panel Magazine	susan.brightonrock@gmail.com (020) 7228 2781
Animal Welfare Services	020 8871 7606. If urgent: 07860 534733
Parks Police	Emergencies - 999/Non-emergency incidents 101
Parks Police patrolling -	07500 959442
Parks Police General Enquiries –	(020) 8871 7532
Community Safety,	
Stacey Hilton	Stacey.Hilton@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk Stacey is covering Nine Elms and Shaftesbury & Queenstown as well as Battersea Park
Immobilise:	www.Immobilise.com
Action Line (for fraud)	http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/
Anti-Terrorist Hotline	0800 789 321
Noise Line (24/7)	(020) 8871 6127
Streetlink & rough sleepers	0300 500 0914 or visit streetlink.org.uk .
Housing, John Thompson,	(020) 8871 8342
Marsha De Cordova, MP	marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk (020) 7219 0209/ House of Commons, SW1A 0AA
Cllr.Maurice Mcleod	cldr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk 07904474493
Cllr.Tony Belton	Cllr.T.Belton@wandsworth.gov.uk 07778 405235
Cllr. Juliana Annan	cldr.j.annan@wandsworth.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Wandsworth 0300 330 1169

Mon – Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Adam Westwood, Parking Operations Officer

(020) 8871 8043

adam.westwood@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Graffiti Line24/7

(020) 8871 6127

Steve Diamond, Deputy Economic Development Officer,

SDiamond@wandsworth.gov.uk **(020) 8871 6205**

Potholes and other repairs link

https://forms.wandsworth.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=REPORT_STREET_DEFECTS&ebz=1_1502354301755&ebd=0&ebz=1_1502354301755