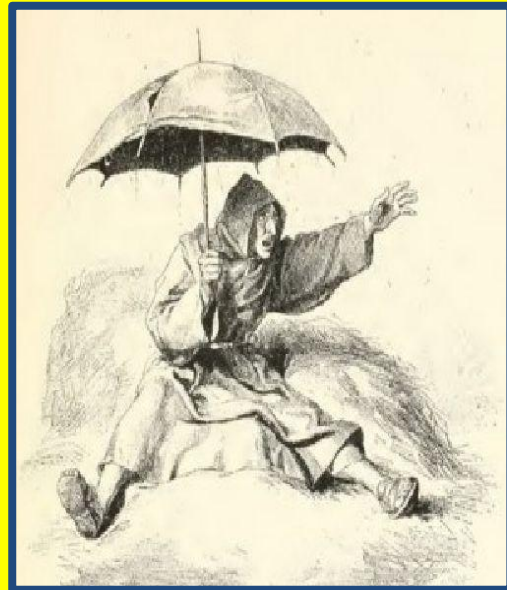


BATTERSEA PARK ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Today is St Swithin's Day

If it rains on this day, St Swithin is blessing and christening the apples. It will also rain for a further 40 days (and nights).



Volume 4, Number 3

July 15th 2018

In this Issue:

Neal's Lodge: In the Right, but In the Red	p.	2
Sometimes Funfairs are not Much Fun	pp.	3-4
Other large events: Wanderlust 108	pp,	4-6
New Parks Officers/Other issues raised with Enable and the Parks Police	p.	7
Charter for Parks: A way forward	p.	8-9
A Walk in the Park.	p.	10-13
Andrew Smith. The Battle for Battersea Park. Update.	p.	13
To Fence, or not to Fence: The mini-playground	p.	14
Fitness Groups	p.	15
Cycling, scooters, idling vehicles, crime in the car park.	p.	15
Keeping down the weeds	p.	16-17
The Rose Angel/Battersea Blackbird	p.	18
Formula E in Riyadh/Organisations	p.	19-20

In the right, but in the red.

As we pointed out in the May Newsletter, Alexander Muir and his colleague on the Neal's Lodge campaign were left considerably out of pocket, to the tune of £35,000. Sandy has never asked for money, but when asked why they were left in the red, he said:

“The total cost of the JR in the first instance ended up at c £65,000. I had been granted a Protective Cost Order which limited my exposure to WBC's costs to £5,000. The quid pro quo was that WBC's exposure to my costs was limited to £35,000. I was ultimately awarded £30,000 because a second (procedural) ground failed which resulted in £5000 being netted off the £35,000. The PCO was subsequently extended to also cover the costs of the WBC appeal. I was represented pro bono at the appeal so incurred no further costs at that stage. WBC's failure to win the appeal meant they then had to pay a balance of £5000 to the Access to Justice fund. Net my unrecovered costs were £35,000 which was split 50:50 with one other party.”



We sympathise with Sandy, as that could easily have been us. If anyone would like to contribute to Sandy, drop us a line, and we will put you in touch.

SOMETIMES FUNFAIRS ARE NOT MUCH FUN

The Latest

Following the 10 day long fair mentioned in our last Newsletter, yet another one appeared in May. The dry weather helps to disguise all the balding patches, though at least one still remains.

There are several points to be addressed:

One: The length of the fairs, their size, the damage caused.

While many people have remarked on the size of the fairs – larger than had previously been the case – Enable has denied this.

Following a telephone call and email, we received this reply:

“The funfair did have a few extra days this year but was no larger than normal. It is anticipated that they will return to their normal dates next year, and as with all events, any damage caused will be repaired at the organiser’s cost.”

The Secretary raised the matter again at the recent Friends of Battersea Park AGM. Simon Ingyon, the Manager to Neil Blackley (Jerry Birtles’ successor) said that the events policy had not changed, and that although the fair in May was longer than usual, it would revert to normal length next time round. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, our Secretary was unable to point out the length of the Drakes Family Funfair arriving on 16th August – 18 days, excluding rigging and de-rigging.

A glance at the length of the last three fairs, including August 16, shows that the statement that the fairs will be shorter next year is, in fact, an admission that they are aware they have been over the normal limit.

Drake’s Children’s Funfair: 30th March – 8th April (10 days); 23rd May – 6 June (15 days); August 16 to 2nd September (18 days)

One BPAG member wondered whether the Fair had no depot of its own, but was merely moving round Parks and Commons in order to make up for this. Is the Park being treated like a Car Park?

There is no sign that re-seeding has taken place, even before the dry spell. Why would they re-seed when they will shortly return? And we still

dispute the size of the event. People may like to know that on one map the site is now labeled: Grass Events Site.

There were also complaints about the noise. One resident said:

“I like to see children enjoying the rides but is the continuous low pitch thumping essential for enjoyment? It became tiresome even though double-glazing protected us when windows were closed; not always desirable in summer. For older buildings the thumping must have been a great nuisance. Surely it could damage the ears of children and, even more likely, the ears of workers on the site. Would Health and Safety approve? “

He added: “The continuous thudding even disturbed the unique tranquillity of the Old English Garden. Perhaps a complaint should go to the Environmental Health Officer. It would make a big difference if they cut out the bass notes; they aren't even produced by drums, they're mechanical. If a factory made that din it would be shut down.”

Two: Larger events.

In May's Newsletter we wrote: “Whilst the Council/Enable may argue that they are not shutting the Park, and indeed, the fair did advertise free entry, is it not the case that by allowing these over-large events, they are shutting out the public from the use of the green spaces? So only metaphorical barriers, then. Keep off (some of) the grass.”

How prophetic we were. A Google Alert informed us of a forthcoming event in September. It is known as Wanderlust 108. Tickets are priced at £31 - £91, of which around £1 per ticket will go to a charity. Briefly it involves:

4000 people practising yoga in the Park for 90 minutes under the guidance of a DJ.

5 km run.

Food and artisan stalls, bar, other sessions – all, we hope, in the Evolution area, although this is not clear. They have been advertising stall places for quite a while, and from their website it appears that deliveries will take place the night before.

The Event starts at 7.30 a.m. and finishes at 5 p.m. It takes place on a Saturday, 15th September.

We raised all our concerns, and finally received an answer which by no means addressed all of them, let alone satisfactorily. One thing is certainly clear: 4 acres of lawn near the Pump House are to be given over to the 4000 participants. Here is Enable's answer, with our comments. You will notice there is no mention of the 5 km run or the DJ, clearly on the Wanderlust Programme.

"We met with Wanderlust today to discuss details and the overall footprint of the event is considerably smaller than has been advertised. They will be positioned on the Pump House Lawn ensuring that the rest of the park (some 200+ acres) is unaffected. The proposed event is within the parameters of the Council's approved events policy, upon which the Friends of Battersea Park were consulted."

There are some points here that are puzzling:

Smaller than advertised.

Well, is it? All the early bird tickets have already been sold. Website advertises an event for 4000, so we are not sure what the "smaller than advertised" means. It is still advertised as 4000.

Rest of the Park – some 200+ acres – unaffected.

All sources, including the Council's, say that the Park covers 201 acres. We have been told that the acreage allotted to Wanderlust totals 4 acres. So at first glance it seems that picnickers, dog walkers, children's games – have 197 acres to themselves. Well, yes, they do, except that an estimated 70% plus is zoo, restaurants, putting green, playground, tennis courts, football all-weather pitches, Millennium Arena, Temple, car Parks and Carriageways, Festival Fountains and Tea Terrace, Parks Offices, and lakes. What remains of any green space includes thick shrubberies.

So, not so generous then. In fact, pretty thoughtless.

Jan Littlewood, who spent hours drawing up accurate plans and analyses in an attempt to get the Council to allow FE to restore the Park, will be analysing a map of the Park, in order to determine exactly how much flat and open green space there is.

Judging from this, and from our previous experience, we need to be very vigilant indeed.

Here is the **Wanderlust programme for 15th September**. This should enable you to plan your own day in order to avoid certain areas.

For more information, go on to Wanderlust 108's website: <https://wanderlust.com/108-events/london/>

7.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. Arrive early to sign in, get your swag and drop your bag. Set up your yoga mat and head to the 5km starting line.

9.00 – 9.15 a.m. Pre-Run Stretch at the main stage. Start with a pre-run at the main stage led by our Adidas x Wanderlust run leader.

9.15 – 10.30 a.m. 5km run (or walk) Triathlon Part 1 – Fuelled by Adidas. Start with a dynamic warm-up led by our Wanderlust x Adidas leader. This is a 5 km your way, so don't sweat it. Adidas will be right by your side as you take the first step of the mindful triathlon.

11.00 – 12.30 Triathlon Part 2. Hop on your mat for a DJ-powered yoga flow class led by top instructors. Warning: dance parties may form.

12.30 - 1.00 p.m. Meditation. Triathlon part 3. Complete the mindful triathlon with 30 minutes of soul reviving meditation led by world renowned spiritual leaders

1.00 – 4.00 p.m. London: Grab Lunch, Head to Your Scheduled Activity or Chill We have everything from aerial yoga, acroyoga, hooping, walking meditation or a community class from one of our leading ambassadors. Just be sure to sign up in advance! And don't forget the Kula Market will be open for you to buy food and shop our artisan market

4.00 pm - 5 p.m. Want more? Take a final lap around the Kula Market and visit the Wanderlust x Adidas shop.

New Parks Officers and Problems raised.

Neil Blackley, Successor to Jerry Birtles; Ian Mitchell, Successor to Paul McCue.

Cllrs. Walker and McLeod have already been to Enable to talk to Simon Ingyon about various concerns, including **idling coaches** and **litter**.

Matters raised at the FBP AGM included these issues, as well as crime in the Car Park, bicycles speeding and cycling down no-entry to bikes areas, and excessively large and long events, taking over much needed green space for the public. *More information on the discussions about litter, and various proposals, will appear in our next Newsletter.*

Our Secretary pointed out that originally there had been a large area of hard standing, used for outdoor exhibitions, funfairs, and sometimes roller-skating. This then became part of the Evolution site, with its entertainment and exhibition facilities which then, of course, meant that any fairs had to go somewhere else, and we all know where that is. So having taken over one large public space for private use – Antiques Fairs, Private Entertainment, Motor Shows – valuable green space was then taken over for Fairs, and by the looks of it, not just a couple of weekends a year – between the end of March and the start of September a total of 43 days, excluding an estimated 6 days for rigging and de-rigging. An estimated 7 weeks out of 22.

We have twice raised the matter of the Children's Playground, now closed for the past 6 weeks for resurfacing. The earliest date for re-opening is the week starting 16th July, though this is by no means certain. This is particularly irritating for parents with young children, who have already lost green space to the various fairs, although luckily, not coinciding overmuch.

CHARTER FOR PARKS

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

As you will know from a recent email, the Charter for Parks was launched on June 21st. A coalition of 12 national organisations called on Theresa May and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Carwyn Jones and Arlene Foster to celebrate these spaces so vital for all communities, and take action to safeguard them.

All groups have been called on to sign up to this charter, and after the very many positive emails received from you, BPAG has now added our name. We had already passed on the information to FBP, and Green Party Lois Davis asked for an update at the AGM. It will be discussed in Committee. Our Queenstown Councillors have already led on this, and discussed it with the Labour Group. We shall be writing to the Council, and to all councillors, urging them to display their green credentials by putting their name to this much-needed initiative. We hope you will do the same.

- **Endorse a legal duty for all public green space to be managed to a good standard.**
- **Ensure adequate long-term resources for maintenance, management and improvements.**
- **Recognise the right of every citizen to have access within walking distance to a good-quality public green space.**
- **Celebrate the central role well-run parks play in our neighbourhoods for all sections of our communities.**
- **Embed effective protection from inappropriate development or use, or loss of any part of our parks.**
- **Encourage and enable community involvement and empowerment of local people and park users.**

All this week we have been receiving emails from the Council asking us to send in pictures of our favourite green spaces and to comment. What a pity they did not include information about the Charter. Someone commented that the Council might not wish to support someone else's campaign. And I don't think he was joking.

We need to persuade the Council that if they really care about our Parks, and they are not all mouth and trousers, they need to sign up to it. We had enough of the crocodile tears during our FE campaign.

Cllr. Ravi Govindia rgovindia@wandsworth.gov.uk

Cllr. Jonathan Cook Jonathan.Cook@cummingslaw.com

Cllr. Steffi Sutters, Executive Committee

Cllr.S.Sutters@wandsworth.gov.uk

Cllr. Rosemary Torrington , Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr.r.torrington@wandsworth.gov.uk

For other Councillors, click here:

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>

It is pretty clear that the Labour Group supports this initiative, but there is no harm in contacting all councillors, so that they have evidence of your support.

At this point, some may still ask - why do we need a Parks Charter? We know that this will definitely not be the case with our many BPAG supporters, who have all seen the increasing commercialisation of the Park. Any doubts from other parties must surely be trampled into the mud by the following article, published in the Observer on July 8th. We could easily end up looking like this.



Winterville Wasteland
Clapham Common.

A walk in the park? Not so easy as festivals take over green spaces

Cash-strapped councils are allowing more and more fenced-off events – to the dismay of locals

Guardian 8th July 2018

James Tapper



Photograph: Matt Crossick/PA Festivalgoers on the first day of the Wireless festival, in Finsbury Park, north London.

As summer temperatures threaten to set new records, there are few better places to escape the stifling indoor heat than your local park. Yet growing numbers of people are finding their park has been fenced off for weeks to host a music festival.

By the end of the summer, public parks will have hosted more than 100 events, many for the first time – a vast increase over the past decade.

About half of Finsbury Park in north London is fenced off between May and October, with nine events listed on efestivals.co.uk. Sefton Park in Liverpool has regular events, which force some of the residents of surrounding tower blocks to leave their homes. Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow, Moseley Park in Birmingham and Brockwell Park in south London all have at least two events taking place this summer.

"It feels like it's getting worse," said Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society. "Obviously the public is banned from the park, not just during the event but for significant periods before and after, and the organisers often leave a terrible mess. Then there's the noise and the traffic that's generated. "

For people who live in flats, this is the only place they can go to get out of the house and enjoy a safe, lovely, natural environment. "

The growth in festivals and other events at public parks is the result of swingeing budget cuts in local government. An inquiry into parks by MPs on the communities and local government committee found that 92% of councils had cut budgets, with Newcastle upon Tyne reducing spending by 97% over five years.

Helen Monger, director of the London Parks and Gardens Trust, said councils were not legally obliged to maintain parks, unlike museums and libraries. Creating a statutory provision would help, she said. "Local authorities are being incentivised to privatise their parks by the back door to try and cover maintenance costs," she said. "You'll end up with local authorities dedicating one or two parks as income generators and they just get festivals week in week out, and the rest will not be maintained and will gradually become dustbowls, developed on, or encouraging antisocial behaviour." Some councils, including Newcastle, were considering outsourcing park management to charities, she said, but that simply shifted the problem.

“Either it becomes like the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens of old and you charge people an entrance fee, or you still have the problem of having to raise money, so you run festivals.”



Finsbury Park this May, before the festival and gig season was fully under way. The park hosts large-scale ticket-only music events through to autumn.

Over the past few years there have been several legal battles where park campaigners have managed to stop new festivals and events. The London Parks and Gardens Trust and Open Spaces Society challenged plans for an open-air theatre and cinema screen in Victoria Embankment Gardens on the Thames in 2016, and Formula E electric motor racing no longer takes place in Battersea Park, south London, after local opposition.

Not all have been successful. Last week attempts by the Friends of Finsbury Park to cap the number of times councils can fence off a public space were finally defeated when the supreme court refused a last appeal.

“The largest part of the park has been closed since the beginning of May and it won’t be properly open again until October,” said Simon Hunt, chairman of the group. “Nearly every weekend there is something on. We started to get seriously concerned when it wasn’t an occasional concert once or twice a year.

“It has turned into a commercial venue. It has reached the point now where it’s closed for a good three or four months of the summer. It can no longer be called a park.” The group is

considering challenging the licences of event organisers and arguing that the prolonged nature of the events breaches trust law.

Some find a more sympathetic hearing. The Sefton Park Community Association fought Liverpool city council over concerts in the park on noise grounds, but Bob Marais, an association board member, said councillors had listened to the protests and reduced traffic congestion from events such as the Liverpool International Music Festival.

Andrew Smith. The Battle for Battersea Park

In our last issue we wrote about Dr. Smith and his paper:

Justifying and resisting public park commercialisation: The battle for Battersea Park

If you have not already followed the link and read it, may we urge you to do so? <http://westminsterresearch.wmin.ac.uk/20810/>

Those who have read it have been very positive. It reinforces everything we have been dealing with over the past 3 years; just because we won over FE, that will not be the end of it. As Kate Ashbrook said in the Guardian article above, “Obviously the public is banned from the park, not just during the event but for significant periods before and after, and the organisers often leave a terrible mess. Then there’s the noise and the traffic that’s generated.”

Andrew is currently working on a further paper: **Paying for Parks: Ticketed Events and the Commercialisation of Public Space.**

To fence or not to fence? The mini-playground.

In the Issue of March 1st, we wrote: “Some parents have raised concerns that it is not fenced off in some way, and that dogs can create problems. Of course, any responsible dog owner would not allow their dog to defecate or urinate in a children’s play area, but nevertheless, this is a legitimate concern.”

“Cllr. Dikerdem is seeking funding from the Council, since this problem was already flagged to him last August. A parent says: “The responses from Jerry Birtles and Joanna Shearer (Leisure & Culture Mutual Contract Manager) were predictably vague/daft/disingenuous/naïve”. For example: Police patrolling the play areas. This will simply not work, because, after the demise of the Parks Police and police cuts since 2011, there are quite simply, not enough of them, especially as they have to cover more than 30 green spaces in Wandsworth. A fence would be cheaper and would be there 24 hours a day. Notices? Maybe, if people bother to read them. One has only to see people throwing bread into the lakes to know that they have either not read or have ignored the notices.”

The problem still continues. The Friends of Battersea Park, on page 7 of their Summer Review, writes:

“When this new playground was created, the whole idea was that it should be an open playground in a grassy natural area with a rural feel. In line with this, the structures are wooden and the ground surfaces are woodchip or sand. It has been suggested that the playground should be fenced. Fencing may deter children from leaving the area and reduce fouling by dogs, but young children using this playground should be supervised at all times and fencing will not prevent fouling by foxes and other animals. For those who do not want to use this playground as it is, there are fenced playgrounds near the Sun Gate. There is no doubt that dogs are being brought with buggies and babies right into the playground. For dog owners, this may be one of its charms. For those with children fearful of dogs, this is not good news. For them, dogs are an issue almost everywhere within the Park. When someone complains, it is difficult to know whether this is a lone voice, or representative of many others. What do you think? Let us know at media@friendsofbatterseapark.org “

There is your invitation. If the Council is not listening to its councillors and residents, maybe the Friends can do something.

Fitness Groups

We have always said that a green space is an ideal spot for exercise, whether gentle yoga, stretching, walking. Every day we pass smallish groups of 10-20 people exercising on their mats on the grass under the instructions of a trainer. We are told that large groups such as Furious Fitness or British Military Fitness (BMF) operate in the Park under licence, since their members pay a fee to participate. But what happens when some groups seem to be taking over?

We recently received a complaint about BMF which was not only using the Peace Temple as some sort of training course, but sometimes by their heavy in your face presence intimidating people who just wanted to walk along by the river or on other footpaths. Even last evening I spotted a group of around 20 people working out on the plinth in front of the temple, with an instructor loudly shouting commands. Gyms cost. We all know that. But a park is not a commercial gym. We shall be contacting the Parks Police to ask if the licence holders could be a little less intimidating to those they come across in their training exercises.

Cycling and mini-scooters/Idling/Crime in the Car Park.

At the Friends AGM it was clear that people have strong feelings about bikes going down No Cycling paths, and even speeding, as well as being extremely irritated by the electric scooters, often ridden by parents who do not take enough care. Last evening I decided to do a head count and I now know that they are absolutely right. The first encounter was when I tried to enter by the Ethelburga Gate, and was almost hit by a father and his two children. As I went on another cyclist came through. I spotted around ten more breaking the rules. Was it a case of fading lettering, fading signage? Well, no, it wasn't. The signs were extremely clear. And on the main carriageways, there were at least two instances of cyclists speeding. When many cyclists, often children, do not stick to the rule of the road, there could be an accident. It was suggested at that meeting that the Police could issue fines, and there are moves for On the Spot tickets.

But – and here is the very big “but”. The Parks Police have just 9 full-time Officers, plus some reserve support officers, to cover 32 green spaces, When we consider the fact that, as Debbie Bunn pointed out at the meeting, there had also been issues with car break-ins, you can see the problem.

KEEPING DOWN THE WEEDS

As we walk round our beautiful Park, as we sit on the grass for a picnic or to enjoy a book, do we ever give a thought as to how the weeds are kept down? We never see anyone hoeing or spraying, so do they come out after dark, like the fairies?

Over the years, ever since the controversy over Agent Orange, 245T, 24D and so on, the matter of herbicides pops up every so often, either in the newspapers or in scientific papers. Only this week a judge in the USA gave permission for a case against Monsanto over the perceived, or not, harm from Roundup.

The Green Party has always taken this very seriously, and so last April Wandsworth Greens wrote to Enable.

Dear Enable,

I write on behalf of Wandsworth Green Party who are compiling information on herbicide use in public spaces in the borough. As you will know there is a growing awareness of how use of herbicides, such as glyphosate and neonicotinoids can affect human health and biodiversity.

I have searched your website but have been unable to find any information on Enable's herbicide policies and/or reference to these in the management plans for our various parks and green spaces in Wandsworth.

I would be very grateful if you could provide information on what herbicides are generally used by Enable and their contractors and whether any specific chemical herbicides are banned from use.

Many thanks, etc

Jerry Birtles replied in detail.

Thank you for your email.

For information, we in Enable provide a contract management service to the Council – meaning that we ensure the Council's parks grounds maintenance contractor properly fulfil the contract requirements specified by the Council. The use of herbicides is subject to the specification of the Council's contract. I attach for information copies of the clauses that cover this. All use of chemicals is carried out in strict accordance with current legislation, regulation, and guidance

As regards chemicals generally, there are no herbicides which are formally "banned" (of those which are legally approved and available for use, that is). However, the contractor may not use any herbicide without the prior agreement of its use by the Council. As the Council's contract managers, it is staff in Enable who effect such agreements. The range of herbicides for agreed for use is very limited and at the present time is restricted to

Roundup (glyphosate)

Chikara (flazasulfuron) – only requested and agreed on an individual site by site basis

Greenor (fluroxypyr + clopyralid) - selective herbicide on sports turf only

Crossbar (fluroxypyr + 2,4-D + dicamba) - selective herbicide on sports turf only

Defender (trifloxystrobin) – selective herbicide on bowling greens only

It is not envisaged that additional herbicides will be requested or agreed in the foreseeable future.

I hope this answers your query.

Jerry also attached the Council contract clauses on the application of chemical in weed control. These are available on application to the BPAG Secretary. One clause says:

The Council, as part of its commitment to safeguarding the environment, is seeking to reduce the amount of chemical treatments used in horticultural operations and the Contractor will be expected to be sensitive to this aim. Unless otherwise specified therefore all weed removal will be performed by manual rather than chemical treatments and other treatments, e.g. fungicides, herbicides and pesticides must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's and Authorised Officer's instructions, and only on specified areas. In general no chemical treatments will be allowed in Ecological Areas.

Note: Lois Davis says that last year the Glastonbury Greens managed to implement what is thought to be the country's first ban on chemical herbicides for use on council-owned areas. They introduced Foamstream, an eco-friendly herbicide as a replacement.

Weed Fairies to the Rose Angel

From the weed fairies we now move to someone who was one of those instrumental in getting something done about the sorry state of the rose garden.

For months Paul Albrecht spent much of his time dead-heading the roses, and lobbying in an attempt to get something done about better care of the roses, and proper checks/repairs on the irrigation system. At the Friends AGM we learned that he also gave a very generous donation in support of this.

In November, the Trustees agreed to refurbish the rose beds at a cost of £19,000, bringing in new soil and plants. Thank you, Paul, for adding your voice.

Last year we printed Paul's beautiful poem, *The Last Leaf*. We are sure you will enjoy *Battersea Blackbird*.

He never sang last year. The year before
he pierced the grumble of the rush-hour cars,
the boom of Boeings queuing for a slot;
above the rumble of the city's sound
his joyful cadences would swoop and soar.
As soon as dawn began to dim the stars
he perched exalting from his chosen spot
feet from our window, echoes rang around.

But not for us alone his bright eyes shone;
the grand town houses and the crammed estate
all relished the exuberance of his song
in sparkling sunshine and in creeping dark.
The next year, who knows why, and he was gone.
This spring, again from early day till late,
once more the magic we have missed so long
leavens the fairground's clamour from the park.

FORMULA E in RIYADH

Ed Hunter's petition still continues, as it has made the level of votes required to stay posted. He is very exercised by the fact that FE is shortly arriving in Riyadh, in a state which has an appalling record on human rights, notwithstanding its lip service to new women's rights. Ed believes that Channel 5 should boycott the event. If you agree, here is his petition.

<https://www.change.org/p/channel-5-boycott-tv-coverage-of-the-riyadh-e-prix>

Local and Other Organisations that need your support.

LONDON FRIENDS OF GREEN SPACES NETWORK

Fighting to protect our green spaces – with your support.

<http://www.lfgn.org.uk/>

THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 as the Commons Preservation Society. It is Britain's oldest national conservation body. Its founders and early members included John Stuart Mill, Lord Eversley, Sir Robert Hunter and Octavia Hill. The last two funded the National Trust in 1895, along with Canon Rawsley. Lord Eversley was a Liberal MP and became a junior minister at the Board of Trade. Over the last century the society has preserved commons for the enjoyment of the public. It has also been active in protecting the historical and vital rights-of-way network through England and Wales.

All this, and much much more. <https://www.oss.org.uk/who-we-are/>

They were very supportive during our long campaign over Formula E, but their help depends very much on donations and subscriptions. Why not join them.

The Battersea Society started in 1965 to help keep alive the identity of Battersea, following its incorporation into the London Borough of Wandsworth.

The best way to:

- Keep in touch with local issues
- Stay informed about planning matters
- Enjoy regular talks and events
- Learn more about Battersea's past, present and future.

www.batterseasociety.org.uk

Friends of Battersea Park was founded in 1988. The latest Review says:

The *Friends of Battersea Park* exist to help protect and maintain the Park as an oasis of tranquillity, natural beauty and recreation. For thirty years we have liaised between Park users and those who manage the Park. Our role constantly changes and includes being consulted on new projects, raising improvement funds and lobbying the Council about problems in the Park. We are also a leading authority on the Park's natural and historic layout. <https://batterseapark.org/>

LIVING STREETS: The UK Charity for Everyday Walking

Find out more on

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

For your Wandsworth Branch, contact

Robert Molteno, Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets

on Robert.Molteno@gmail.com