

Wandsworth Society

Newsletter April 2016



Not an early European referendum, but the mock election of the 'Mayor of Garratt', held regularly on Garratt Lane, near the Leather Bottle public house, in the eighteenth century.

There is a real election coming soon for a London Mayor and London Assembly members, including an AM for Merton and Wandsworth.

London Election hustings: meet, hear and question your candidates – **Conservative**, **Green**, **Labour**, **Lib Dem** & **UKIP**

*The Wandsworth, Putney and other local societies invite you to join the debate at
St Anne's Church, St Ann's Hill, SW18 2RR
7.30, Thursday 14 April
Free entry; no booking required. Refreshments available.*

Planning News - Spring

Philip Whyte, Chairman of our Planning Group, reports:

How quickly the seasons spring upon us (apologies for the pun, but couldn't resist) and, with the change of season – perhaps a slight change of heart? To what am I referring?

Homebase site, Swandon Way

The Council's Planning Applications Committee (PAC) was due to consider the application, which includes a 17-storey tower (see picture below), on 23 March. Approval was recommended, despite strong local opposition, including our own – only two out of 127 comments on the Case File were supportive. After seeing the officers' report, the Planning group rapidly prepared a critique, highlighting significant discrepancies in the advice. Much had also been made by the promoters of proposed amenities which would have been expected in any application. We might have expected that the PAC would approve the application that evening. Instead, it was announced that the developer intends to reconsider it and might propose amendments. The PAC's consideration was therefore deferred and is now planned for its meeting on 19 May. Hopefully, the comments made by the Society (and many others) have had some influence? Meanwhile...

Feathers Wharf

We are tracking the progress of the S 106 Agreement, but little has been reported as yet.

Springfield Park

Approval having been given to the Park strategy, we understand that construction is under way on the first phase of new housing.

Crossrail 2

Crossrail issued a press statement on 16 March, noting that funding had been approved in the Budget for the next stage of development of the proposals. Crossrail stated that they had received 21,000 responses (90,000 individual comments) in response to the recent consultation. A report on the findings is expected in the summer. Work on the design and development continues.

Wandsworth Gyrotory

Nothing major to report. TfL has produced a recent report on next steps.

Ram Quarter

Construction work continues and you may have noticed that there are now four cranes on site. We understand that a recent application to vary certain consented items has been granted, including the loss of the tree on the High Street frontage.

The Alchemist/ Fishmongers' Arms

We have received no further comment from the Council's enforcement officer about the current state of the building, although the writer did notice some activity on site recently.

100 Garratt Lane

–an application from Big Yellow Self Storage, which currently occupies the warehouse to the rear, to rebuild the frontage office building, increasing the height, but providing floor levels to integrate with the warehouse to the rear. The building would extend over part of the car park/delivery area and restrict views from Garratt Lane to King George's Park and the Wandle. We did not object: the retention of employment space seemed more important than restricting the size of the building. The frontage building had been consented previously for residential use.

Formula E, Battersea Park

Most of you will know that the Council has agreed to the use of Battersea Park for the next two summers for Formula E (electric cars) races. The decision was made against vigorous opposition – necessitating a police presence at the Town Hall when the proposal was debated! Some believe that the closure of the Park for Formula E is illegal. Fund-raising for a judicial review has begun (see page 6).

Additions to the non-statutory listed building list

I have been asked by the Council to collate Society members' suggestions for buildings, landmarks or anything else thought worthy of inclusion in this new list. Proposals are required by mid-June. I shall require a post code, a short description of the item and, hopefully, a photograph. Suggestions, please – I shall then “get on my bike” (no I do not ride one; I think that I would endanger other road users!!)

Cycle 'Superhighways' and 'Quietways'

We were asked to comment on proposals for new facilities in our part of the borough – as our Roads and Transport and Planning group have done.

The Planning group meets monthly. We would be glad to hear from other Society members wishing to attend. Please phone or email the writer for further information. For more about issues discussed on this page, go to www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk.



Proposed Homebase development from Alma Road

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Wandsworth Society

April 2016

From the Chair – Why vote ?

How many votes will you cast this summer? The correct answer is of course ‘probably four’: ‘remain in’ or ‘leave’ the EU (a simple choice on 23 June?); plus three votes in the London elections (5 May) – for the Mayor, for a Greater London Assembly Member (AM for Merton and Wandsworth); and a third for a ‘party list’.

There could then be more voting - for example, in Tooting, if Sadiq Khan becomes Mayor and resigns as an MP. Or you might before long be electing a new national party leader?

Our current AM, Richard Tracey (Conservative), is retiring after an active career in SW London’s politics for many years - a man who has ideas of his own, he will be missed by many. Boris has ‘ideas’ too (but may not be thinking of retirement). You will be voting for new people as AM and Mayor.

‘London’s government’... why do we talk of ‘Mayor of London’ as if the Mayor personally decided everything? But the role of the Assembly (of which we hear too little) as well as the Mayor is more important than we often realise in deciding policy on ‘local’ matters (housing, planning, transport, open spaces...). The quality of AMs as well as the Mayor matters.

Both polls could have huge consequences, for the UK’s future (could ‘Brexit’ lead to the break-up of our ‘united kingdom?’), for London as a ‘global city’ – and for our national politics.

A close referendum result might be the worst outcome – with the losing side determined, one way or another, ‘to ‘have another go’ (so a ‘neverendum?’). A low turn-out could make things worse.

Opinion polls, we know, can be misleading. In all the real polls, the result could be close – no excuses for not voting!

To help all decide their London votes, please help to fill St Anne’s Church on 14 April. Our hustings may not offer the boozy fun of electing ‘the mayor of Garratt’. But our downtrodden local ancestors held their regular ‘elections’ partly to protest they had no vote. We have. Use it. Get a postal vote if you need one. The stakes this summer are high...

David Kirk
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Royal Victoria Patriotic Building: The 'London Reception Centre' in WW2

– Christina Dawson discusses the 'RVPB' and a talk to the Society by Paul McCue and Simon McNeill-Ritchie on 11 February.



The Society has had a soft spot for the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building – aka Royal Victoria Patriotic School, Royal Victoria Asylum, '3rd London General Hospital' and London Reception Centre – ever since we became involved in the fight, along with the Victorian Society, to have the building listed in the 1970s and thus saved from demolition. It's hard to imagine now that demolition was a serious threat. We have watched its transformation from a battered, rather neglected, annexe to Spencer Park Boys' School to a thriving community of businesses, especially Le Gothique (restaurant and bar), homes, drama school and offices – not to mention the Society's official 'HQ' address!

We are always interested, therefore, to hear more of the building's history – orphanage, hospital, school and, during the Second World War, a centre for spies and then the sifting out and interrogation of potential enemy and 'British' agents from the thousands of refugees who poured out of mainland Europe from 1940. Fears of a Fifth Column such as the one believed to have been instrumental in the collapse on the Continent, and of spies being parachuted into the country, led Churchill to call for improved security in England. The Royal Victoria Patriotic School became central to this effort.

Paul McCue and Simon McNeill-Ritchie offered us an intriguing glimpse of the world inside the 'London Reception Centre', as the Security Services tried to control the threat of infiltration by enemy agents created by an influx of continental refugees. Some 33,000 were processed through the 'bottleneck' of the Royal Victoria Patriotic (and its partner, 101 Nightingale Lane, where female refugees were housed). The majority were bona fide refugees, but the system did uncover at least six spies including a Belgian, Aphons Timmerman, who gave himself away by having an envelope containing white powder, a bunch of orange sticks and a piece of cotton wool –

the classic items used for invisible writing – concealed about his person whilst being interrogated. Timmerman was tried on 20 May 1942, his appeal dismissed on 22 June 1942 and his execution carried out at Wandsworth Prison – conveniently, across the road – on 7 July 1942. As Paul recounted, the building housed famous names and brave people during its life as a security centre. No one was immune from interrogation, including SOE agents returning from France. The fear was always that they might have been "turned" and become double agents. Francois Mitterand, the future President, passed through before returning to France to become a Resistance leader. As did Joachim Ronneberg, one of many Norwegians to be found at the centre, a demolition expert instrumental in plans to prevent Hitler from developing the atomic bomb. Jos Mulder- Gemmekke, a member of the Dutch Resistance, later decorated for her bravery in delivering a clandestine newspaper and crossing the River Waal under enemy fire, also came to the London Reception Centre following her escape from Holland; she worked for SOE before returning to The Netherlands in 1945. Robert Benoist, the top Grand Prix driver before the war, became an SOE agent, operating sabotage cells in France and escaping twice, before finally being arrested and sent to Buchenwald where he was executed.

By comparison, RVPB life today seems rather tame! But we are perhaps fortunate, that it is, that we can enjoy the building in peace as we walk across the Common and drop in to Le Gothique. The RVPB has been central to Wandsworth for a long time. It's a dramatic edifice dominating this part of the borough; its history is no less dramatic. We are lucky that it still exists and that there are people like Paul and Simon whose enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise allow all of us to know about its place in the story of this part of London (and of course nationally) in the different stages of its life since it came into being as a school in 1859 for the 'Education and Training of three hundred Orphan Daughters of Soldiers, Seamen and Marines who perished in the Russian [Crimean] War, and for those who hereafter may require like succour'.

A tour of Kensington Village

–Jenny Massey reports on a Society walk.



February 16th dawned frosty but bright and our small group was well clad when we met our professional guide, Angela Down, at buzzing Kensington High Street tube station. Having crossed the busy High Street, we found ourselves in almost no time in a peaceful square or small park (St Mary Abbots Gardens), complete

with wooden seats, tall trees and St Mary Abbots church on the one side and the backs of cottages on the other.

Angela explained how since medieval times the community had stood alone to the west of two cities. London, to the east of Westminster, was a poor place, where the stench from the Thames sewage in the was carried in and out with the tides. The community grew in the 17th century following the plague and fire of London, when it became a more middle class area.

From this haven, across Church Street to "Millionaire's Row" (perhaps the M should be a B?) passing the embassies of Israel and Romania, but we didn't wander as far as the mansions of men of property and steel, with their multi-storey basements and pools, but turned into Kensington Gardens, the Palace and the Round Pond. Crisp but with some warmth in the sun, we enjoyed our walk through the park before crossing back to the south, having discussed what we made of the glittering Albert Memorial and other idiosyncrasies of Queen Victoria. Angela always has new tales to tell!

Homes of the famous we passed included the final London home of Winston Churchill after his departure from No.10, just across from where Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell had lived with their father, and just up the street from Enid Bagnold. Along to Kensington Square - and blue plaques for Hubert Parry, John Stuart Mill and Edward Burne-Jones, and for Mrs Patrick Campbell too (many a good anecdote here!).

We covered not a large area, but wove our way past many a mews, where we saw how the horses would be led from the carriages "parked" in the courtyard, up a ramp to their first floor stabling, with living accommodation at second floor level, all now 'residences' of course. While we all know the main thoroughfares, we certainly had no idea of the charming nooks, crannies, cottages and courtyards behind the main facades.

A slight anticlimax at the end - the gardens atop Derry & Toms were not open that day. But we parted in good cheer after a delightful morning.

London's Cleaner Air Action Fortnight and us

Jonathan Thomson reports

London is in the grip of an air quality crisis every bit as bad as, if not worse than, the smogs of the early 1950s. Then 'smog' was very visible. Today's version is largely invisible and probably much more dangerous.

As part of a wider campaign, London held two Cleaner Air Action Days on 9 and 16 March during a

Cleaner Air Action Fortnight (CAAF), targeting 11 areas of known vehicle pollution. The campaign was led by Global Action Plan, the UK's leading environmental 'behaviour change' charity, and Kings College London. It recruited a number of 'Change Makers' who were bidden to patrol known 'hotspots' within their area, requesting drivers to turn off idling engines. We were trained in how best to approach drivers, and deployed in pairs. I was one of a pair asked to stand outside Hotham Primary School in Charnwood Road, Putney. We had an interesting morning.

This year Putney High Street is alleged to have exceeded its annual pollution 'allowance' by 8 January: air pollution is a big issue in this area. However, during our two hour patrol in Charnwood Road, it became very obvious that a large proportion of pupils and staff travel to the school by bike, on foot or on a variety of fast moving little scooters - very few seemed to travel by car and the incidence of cars standing with their engines idling was almost nil. This was of course very encouraging, and reflects the 'local' nature of a local primary school.

On our way back to our start point, a cafe close to East Putney tube station, we did come across some vehicles with idling engines. All the drivers we spoke to, from professionals driving very large trucks and ordinary London taxis, to local people in a variety of cars, were pleased to see what we were doing, happy to comply with our request and apparently grateful for the printed information we passed them. At this level, therefore, our Action Day was a success. But our actions would not have even scratched the surface of this enormous problem. Here are some facts:

- The cost to the UK economy of poor air quality is estimated to be £54bn, twice the cost of obesity. (Source - World Health Organisation Europe (2015))
- There were 9,416 early deaths in London alone caused by the pollutants NO₂ and PM_{2.5} in 2010, according to a recent King's College London study.
- Short term effects range from sore/itchy eyes and throat to an inflammatory response leading to hospitalisation (eg asthma attacks).
- While long term effects are not fully understood, they include low birth weight, poor lung development in children, increased risk of stroke and cancer and exacerbated heart and lung conditions. The smallest particles of air pollution, known as PM_{2.5}*, can be absorbed through the lungs and into the blood stream, including transferring across the placenta into growing foetuses.

*PM stands for Particulate Matter. Particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}) are referred to as "fine" particles and are believed to pose the greatest health risks. Because of their small size (approximately 1/30th the average width of a human hair), fine particles can lodge deeply into the lungs. (Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency.)

This is all very dangerous. One very obvious cause of such pollution which we see every day is vehicle engines, especially diesel engines, which is why the Clean Air Action Day was so relevant to London's air pollution problem.

So what can we do?

- At an individual level: use less (and less polluting) mechanical transport; don't allow engines to idle for too long; use public transport where possible; walk or cycle (ie 'Travel Smart')
- At a London-wide level policy makers must: press ahead with electrifying all railway lines (Paddington full of idling trains must be potentially very dangerous!); cut emissions from vehicles and/or reduce the number of vehicles, especially diesel ones; introduce by-laws prohibiting idling of engines, particularly at bus stands and taxi ranks. Easier said than done, but to a small degree happening. It just needs to happen much faster!

For more on local environmental issues, see www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Elizabeth Ward

Around thirty years ago the Wandsworth Society agreed to support a recital in St Anne's Church given by two musicians, following a request for an opportunity to perform their programme before a national tour. Following this successful evening, I had a phone call from a local musician, David Ward, who offered his home, enthusiasm and energy to initiate a series of Society 'Soirees'. Thus began the much loved evenings which we were privileged to enjoy until David and Elizabeth recently moved to the country. It did not surprise us to hear that in a very short time Soirees were being held in their new home.

Quietly, unfailingly and serenely, with great good humour and kindness, Elizabeth acted as hostess and at times fellow performer throughout this time. The news of her death last November was hard to comprehend. She was always there, seemingly tireless, strong and constant. She managed to cope with the disruption in her home, continue her career in medicine, be devoted wife, mother and daughter, maintain her performing skills as a sensitive and accomplished clarinettist - I remember with fondness our performance of Schubert's The Shepherd On The Rock - and also [Page 6] be a charming and generous hostess at the 'after show' supper parties for artists and guests.

I trust that the Society will be able to do justice to her memory by holding a special 'soiree'. Our warmest wishes and loving thoughts go to David and his family, with grateful thanks for all the wonderful memories, owed in great part to dear Elizabeth.

Other news and views

Our Annual General Meeting on 10 March was a well attended, somewhat experimental 'AGMPlus'. It included the cutting and sharing of a chocolate cake - thanks to Gill Gray for the baking, and to her and Iain for their regular service as 'wine stewards' - and a toast to the Society's future, in celebration of our 45th anniversary year. Two 'survivors' of the Society's earliest days (Christine Willis and John Dawson) were present. There are of course others. Our President, Shirley Passmore, a founder member, unable to join the party, recalled to me the other day how the Putney Society (rather older than us) generously gave us the membership list and subscriptions of 'their' Wandsworth residents.

Executive Committee changes At the AGM **Sheila Allen** explained her decision to retire from the Exec. Having been a long-standing champion of the Wandsworth Museum and the presiding genius of the Friends of Wandsworth Museum (now dissolved), she has agreed to serve as a trustee of what is now becoming the 'moving museum' in the Battersea Arts Centre. The development of the museum in this new format, as she explained, represents a substantial challenge. Sheila has given outstanding service to the Society over many years, including a period in the Chair. We are delighted that she intends to continue to be an active member of the Society. As will be **Roger Bone**, who stood down from the Exec recently but will continue to serve as a member of the Planning group. **Caroline Pook** was elected to the Exec. She is well known to members as the leader of many Society walks along London's river banks over the last few years, and a member of our Events team. Other Committee members and officers of the Society (listed on page 3) were re-elected at the AGM.

Our finances will need further attention this year, as discussed at the AGM. We need to ensure that our recent financial losses are not repeated and that the Society is put on a more even keel for the future. As foreshadowed at the AGM, the Exec expects to recommend an increase in subscription rates. We shall also be looking at the scope for reducing our costs. Needless to add, I hope, the Society is very grateful for the generosity of many members in the donations that they make to the Society's costs.

Formula E racing in Battersea Park



The Society supported the Battersea Society's objections to this year's planning application to enable Formula E racing in Battersea Park this summer (see page 2 - our letter is on our website). The Battersea Park Action Group is now seeking "to raise funds to mount a legal challenge to prevent Wandsworth Council from again imposing a three-week takeover of the park by Formula E, the all-electric, 140mph single-seater car-racing series set to take place again in this 200 acre, Victorian, Grade II* listed park against the wishes of park users." If you want to find out more (and/or contribute), there is a lot of well illustrated information available at www.crowdjustice.co.uk/case/battersea-park



Robert Molteno asks you to support a 20 mph speed limit on local streets

For years, increasing numbers of residents across the borough have been pressing for the lowering of the speed limit from 30 to 20mph - in the interests of safety. **The Council is now seeking the views of all residents on its proposals to make the speed limit 20mph on (almost) all residential roads.**

In the central part of Wandsworth borough ('our' SW18 area), no wards currently have a 20mph speed limit on all residential roads - in stark contrast to Tooting and Putney. But some individual roads have gone 20mph - a block of them in Southfields, south of Replingham Road, and a chunk in Wandsworth Common ward, spilling into Earlsfield.

If a majority of respondents now favour a 20mph speed limit, it could mean the biggest shake-up on local streets for many years - particularly because the Met, together with TfL, are starting to roll out a new Community Roadwatch Scheme that aims to achieve effective enforcement of speed limits across London. Residents will be trained to use speed detection equipment, with the police taking follow-up action as required.

You can respond to the consultation at http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200435/consultation/2100/borough-wide_20mph_speed_limit.

To respond in writing, phone the Council (020 8871 6538), or write to Mr Isaac Kwakye at: Engineering and Highways, Frogmore Complex, Dormay Street, SW18 1EY. Ask for a Borough-wide 20mph Speed Limit Consultation form to fill in and return.

Find out more on Wandsworth Living Streets' website: www.wandsworthlivingstreets.org.uk.

Plans for the BAC's Grand Hall

John Dawson reports

Following up a visit last October (see November Newsletter) to view the 'tidied up' remains of the Grand Hall after the fire last March, the Society and others were invited to a consultation meeting about its restoration.

We were ushered into a room on the first floor - itself in the midst of transformation from two small 'offices' to a sizeable room with a very high ceiling. It is to become one of many similar spaces available for use by drama groups and others. It even appeared to have the height to accommodate a mezzanine level, if needed. Such is the future potential of this building!

The principal speaker was the project architect, Imogen Long of Haworth Tompkins Architects who discussed her practice's engagement with the Council's conservation officers and progress with the redesign. In principle, the proposal for a fretwork style of ceiling enclosure had been accepted: we were shown slides of attempts to build samples to full size of the ceiling coffer components. The preferred solution was a three tiered 'laminated coffer' of thin plywood. Each coffer would be about 6ft square! The plywood would be moulded to the slight curvature required for the replacement ceiling, and bonded together to form more robust layers. The structural components, attached to one another, would form an arched ceiling. It would in turn be supported by steel frames integrated with the roof structure above.

The ply fretwork coffers would not be lined but remain open to the roof service void. All the air handling would permeate through the fretwork ceiling to the plant in the roof space. This aspect of the design prompted several 'housekeeping' queries: how would the coffers be kept clean and freed of dust residue? Feather dusters, perhaps? - but this could be a serious issue! The open coffers would enable a multitude of lighting and acoustic components to be lowered through the ceiling to service activities in the hall, especially to control the sound requirements of users ranging from orchestras to pop groups, and actors/speakers to films. The range of activities will be very demanding - a real test for acoustic engineers. Another issue raised was how the plant would be managed in the roof void while events are held below. Access lighting in the void would be visible from the hall and could prove a distraction, particularly for eg a theatrical production requiring darkly lit scenes. Could there also be an issue about the sound - or sight - of movement beneath the roof? A strict management regime for the plant would be needed. Certainly, however, the ceiling design has progressed and looks most interesting.

The other principal issue raised was the finishes. The hall floor will be replaced 'like for like' in timber. But the plaster finished walls will be stripped down, where practicable, to reveal previous layers of decoration; a trial had suggested there would be interesting results. The aim would be to retain a 'patchwork' frieze of finishes, textures and colours, and seal them for posterity. Exposed walls may not match the expectations of a public expecting to see fresh colour paint. This approach for a fire damaged building has been adopted quite recently at Wilton's Music Hall in the East End. I have seen slides of the result and reserve judgement. Perhaps designers and client should not lightly dismiss a more orthodox solution.

Planning applications (2016/1349 and 2016/1360 have now been submitted. Our Planning group will consider them. Have a look yourself and let us have any views.

Wandsworth Society Calendar

Meetings

are open to all; no charge (but we hope newcomers may join the Society!)

Thursday 14 April,
7.30 at **St Anne's Church, St Ann's Hill, SW18 2RS**
– see front cover

London Election hustings,

organised jointly with the Putney and other local societies
– meet and question Greater London Authority candidates for the Merton and Wandsworth constituency.

Thursday 12 May, 7.45 for 8, West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ

Elephant Complex – Travels in Sri Lanka



An illustrated talk by Wandsworth author John Gimlette (*Wandsworth Arts Fringe event*)

John is the author of five travel books and a winner of the Shiva Naipaul and Dolman Travel Book Prizes. His talk will cover three months of travel in Sri Lanka. The island, only the size of Ireland, is home to over 5,800 wild elephants. It is rich in culture and resources, but for the last three decades has hosted both an alluring tourist industry and a most savage civil war. The talk will take us back to medieval reservoir cities; Portuguese cinnamon forests, Dutch forts and British tea plantations; and to a battlefield littered with over 10,000 burnt-out vehicles. What emerges is an astonishing land of 'ingenuity and catastrophe'.

For latest details of events, or to join the Society, go to www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk.

The *Wandsworth Arts Fringe festival* (our event on 12 May) runs from 6 – 22 May: it's "a celebration of all things arts and culture in the borough". Ask your library for the programme or go to www.wandsworthfringe.com. The 2016

Heritage Festival (our event on 9 June) runs from 28 May to 12 June (full programme available soon).

Thursday 9 June, 7.45 for 8, West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ

Making Records in Earlsfield: illustrated talk by Dr Tom Going

(*Wandsworth Heritage Festival*)

Tom looks back to the time when Earlsfield became home to Columbia Graphophone, one of Britain's first record companies. In the early 20th century the Columbia factory in Bendon Valley was a major employer. Illustrated with recordings and a contemporary local film; a look at what was once a cutting-edge industry.



Walks

Thursday 21 April

Walk along the Dollis Brook following the Dollis Valley Green Walk*

Wednesday 18 May, starting at 6 pm

Walking Wandsworth Common,

a complete circuit of the Common, daylight permitting, looking at its history, ecology and management. Led by Charles Walton, Chair of the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (the 'MAC'). Meet at "Skylark" café on the Common, near Dorlcote Road, SW18 3RT.

Friday 20 May

Farthing Down and Happy Valley Circular; visit to Chaldon Church (to view the murals)*

Monday 20 June

Pymme Brook walk between Barnet, Southgate and the New River*

*walks led by Caroline Pook; assemble at 9.30am outside 'M&S Simply Food' at Clapham Junction Station. If you want more details (or plan to join at a later point), e-mail caroline@pookfamily.co.uk. The length of the walks is around 7 miles (and within Zone 6).