



## *Old Chiswick Protection Society*

### **Christmas 2009 Newsletter**

The Society depends on the goodwill of its members and we are always encouraged by your feedback on possible conservation area projects. We hope you agree that using our funds to support the restoration of Hogarth's tomb and to provide some funding, with others, for the tree planting alongside the Thames, makes good sense.

We are a small Society and need more members as well as their support. Please mention the Society to friends and neighbours, and encourage them to join so that we will have more resources to apply.

The Society is a member of the West London River Group, which helps to implement the Thames Strategy from Chelsea to Kew by examining all riverside development proposals and coordinating with other interest groups along the river. The Thames Strategy is part of the London Plan supported by the Mayor. Our relationship with the Port of London Authority and others such as Thames 21 is integral to helping maintain the riverside and river aspects for future generations.

Outside of the conservation area, I think most of us have been impressed by the work undertaken by Friends of Dukes Meadows, who are building the new play area. This is due to be finished by spring 2010. A wildflower meadow on the plateau is also being planted.

For many years, the Society had enjoyed the support of Fuller's. Fuller's is proud to play an active role in the community around the Brewery in Chiswick and supports a number of local charities including Friends of Chiswick House, Old Chiswick Protection Society and Chiswick Pier. We would like to extend our thanks to Fuller's for their continuing commitment to this area and the OCPS.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers and best wishes for the New Year.

### **Planning**

#### **Chiswick Lodge**

The demolition of the existing buildings to Chiswick Lodge are under way to allow for foundations to be dug before the expiration of the three year planning period to start work after the granting of planning permission for 11 houses on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2007. There has been a section 106 agreement made together with a separate schedule over a number of building details, all of which have been agreed with Hounslow. A supplementary agreement to the section 106 has been reached and made with the London Borough of Hounslow over non-resident parking on the adjacent streets and roads, given that the houses have adequate space on the site for two cars per house. There is one outstanding detail still to be agreed, related to the pedestrian link from the site down a narrow path to Chiswick Mall. Issues of lighting and detailing of gates are still to be resolved and agreed with the OCPS and Hounslow Planners. The OCPS has been involved with the re-development of this site for many years having developed a good relationship with Hounslow planning and the developers, managing to ensure that a good scheme will be achieved for the Conservation Area with details sympathetic to the immediate surroundings.

**The Old Post Office, 6 Church Street**

An application was made in the early autumn to convert the Old Post Office ground floor area into living accommodation. This has been refused, as the proposed scheme did not adequately show how domestic accommodation could be fitted into the existing Grade II listed building as a change of use from the disused Post Office to a one bedroom studio flat. The ground floor remains vacant.

### **Walpole House**

The alterations carried out last year have been largely completed but are yet to be finally inspected and signed off by Hounslow Planners and English Heritage. There was an unfortunate flood in the basement, late this summer, resulting in remedial work under the consultancy of architects in consultation with listed building officers at Hounslow and English Heritage.

### **Hogarth's Tomb**

On September 29 a reception was held at the tomb in St Nicholas Churchyard, Church Street, to celebrate the conservation of the Tomb-Monument of William Hogarth. The conservator Martin Holden and his group of craftsmen carried out the work to the stonework and railings over the summer, under the auspices of the Friends of St Nicholas, ably led by Francis Ames-Lewis. Financial contributions came from a number of local trusts and Chiswick residents. The Old Chiswick Protection Society proffered help and support from the beginning of this enterprise, and contributed £2000 toward the restoration of the tomb.

### **Trees on the towpath – Putney to Kew**

As a result of public outcry at the proposed blanket felling of all the towpath riverside trees between Putney and Kew the PLA last year adopted a more acceptable and environmental approach to their responsibilities in the area. They commissioned Bartlett, arboriculture experts who produced a detailed plan for all the trees on both sides of the towpath. Work began in the spring of this year, but so far only those trees which posed a danger to the public have been dealt with. We await further schedules from Bartlett and the PLA.

At public meetings in 2008/9, various individuals and groups pledged financial support for replanting. In our area - between Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes, the PLA have agreed to replant 18 trees and Bartlett has produced a detailed plan. A donation of £1,500 from the Old Chiswick Protection Society has been made towards the replanting. Other riverside dwellers have also contributed. The replanting will not start until 2010 but this is a very welcome development.

### **Thames Tideway Tunnel**

In the last newsletter we reported that Thames Water had told us that it intends to engage local communities in discussions early in 2010.

Thames Water has now disclosed a, 'Methodology for Site Selection' in a 30-page document backed up with another 30 page, 'Site Selection Background Technical Information'. These relate to the shafts needed to construct the massive tunnel and to connect the offending sewer outfalls which presently discharge into the river. All this has given our committee considerable food for technical and legal thought and prompted even more questions to which answers are awaited.

Meanwhile we continue to liaise with Fullers and plan to keep in touch with our local Councillors to ensure that our concerns are given full weight at the right moment.

### **Subways and Roads**

At long last, Traffic for London has completed the makeover of our subways. Residents will have noticed the much better lighting and the new, larger convex corner mirrors which now cover the scars left by those removed last year. New notices are in place to warn that cyclists are now permitted and the troughs sunk into the stairways are there to assist them. The ongoing problem of cleaning and sweeping has been resolved. Our London Borough has programmed a monthly sweep out (leaves and litter) and TfL is due to wash down and clean every three months. We shall continue to monitor.

A forest of new overhead lighting masts has appeared along both sides of the A4 to replace their less efficient predecessors. These should help to brighten the night vision of eastbound drivers seeking to cross the central reservation into Netheravon Rd South.

### **Chiswick Causeway**

The Society is still in discussion with the London Borough of Hounslow on this matter. The section of the causeway above mean high water abutting Church Street is the responsibility of the highways department of the London Borough of Hounslow. Currently it is an unpaved and unsightly area. It leads to the causeway proper which has been sympathetically restored by the PLA. The Old Chiswick Protection Society has been engaged with the council for some time in trying to agree a surface treatment for this area commensurate with a conservation area. We have taken advice and flat, rough-faced setts seem to be the most suitable treatment. It has finally been agreed by LBH that private funding is permissible for a proportion of the work to the causeway. The cost of this work is considerable and a request has been made that the Old Chiswick Protection Society contribute 50%. We consider this to be unaffordable and a local councillor is seeking Section 106 funds to help.

We are currently awaiting details from the council of the materials to be used and also a copy of the estimate itself. These wheels have been grinding very slowly during 2009, but now that the Society is somewhat better informed as to actual procedures we hope to pursue the matter vigorously and achieve results early next year.

### **Heathrow**

The most important recent news about Heathrow came when BAA suddenly announced that they had decided to shelve their plans for a third runway until after the general election. They also said that they would not progress any other plans for expansion in the meantime in such a way as to force the next government's hand on the third runway whether they wanted it or not.

This was an extremely welcome announcement as there had been fears that BAA might say that the plans for the third runway were so advanced that the next government could not stop them. It means that, if the Tories get elected, they can reconsider the whole question of Heathrow expansion without being lumbered with the third runway, which they have already rejected.

By that time, maybe, Boris Johnson's proposal for a brand new Heathrow in the Thames estuary may have been examined in greater detail and the chances of its viability have been more accurately assessed.

### **Pollarding of Chiswick Eyot**

The annual pollarding of the willows on Chiswick Eyot will take place on Sunday morning January 31 2010. Notices will be distributed in advance, but please put this date in your diary now. This is always a very enjoyable occasion and we are hoping for a good turnout to finish the job on the day.

### **Chairman's message**

I hope you enjoy reading our Seasonal Newsletter and thanks are due once again to our hard working Executive Committee. By far the most important issue for us now (and indeed for several years since the site was sold by our local PCT) is Chiswick Lodge. We had a helpful meeting with the owners, and have forged good relations with them, so that our input has helped both them and us.

The Society is trying to get some funding from Hounslow to tidy up the slipway, cobble the area and leave a border for informality of setting. However, the Council is asking for a very high contribution from the Society. We seem to have had more crime recently, although initial indicators were to the contrary. Thanks to our local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator as although it's not part of the Society's activities, I'm sure we'd all agree it's a very helpful local support that we all value.

Our membership numbers seem to be down this year, so if you haven't renewed your membership, can I urge you to do so on the enclosed form. At a fiver a year, it's terrific value. The benefits of membership are

- You're helping to protect an historic riverside environment that is unique in London
- You get to meet your neighbours at our annual AGM at Fuller's Hock Cellar
- You can have your say on local issues including planning and the environment- the Committee are here to listen and to act
- You can participate in local matters such as cleaning up the Eyot and pollarding the willows

Wishing you all the Compliments of the Season

### **OCPS Books on Old Chiswick**

The books on the history of Old Chiswick and the Thornycroft Works continue to make a steady sale to the benefit of the Society; the handsome new edition of the Old Chiswick book has been well received. Copies are on sale at Chiswick Library, Waterstones and WH Smith or can be obtained from Grania Munro at Eynham House, Chiswick Mall.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Robin Marris is providing us with news on his Watch and this continues to be invaluable. Just to remind you, if you observe any suspicious activity, please contact the CPO (Crime Prevention Officer) on 07900 65 66 95. If you are not successful and you believe it needs immediate attention please try to call the local station. In emergencies 999 is the phone number, non emergencies can be reported via 0300 123 1212, and remember the SNT can be contacted on 0208 247 6415 or 07900 656 695, anytime.

If you have any queries or would just like some advice the contact details are as above and via e-mail on [\*\*ChiswickHomefields.snt@met.police.uk\*\*](mailto:ChiswickHomefields.snt@met.police.uk)

### **Next issue highlights**

#### **Names and addresses of OCPS officers**

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