



Old Chiswick Protection Society

Christmas 2010 Newsletter

'The helpful Borough lighting engineer rang me again today to say that they have found a manufacturer of Victorian lamp standards and have acquired a couple. One of these has now been installed outside the hospital site on the Mall where the original one was broken when they had to move it for the developer back in August. Well done Hounslow, I say. I have thanked him profusely.'

It's great to see Hounslow Borough working so well with the OCPS and again we would like to thank them for the cooperation and efficient workings of the Highways department. This is a letter we received a few weeks ago and it underlines the importance of a flourishing two way relationship with the Borough, not just for their general services but for those more demanding issues that affect conservation areas.

Planning

Fuller's Brewery re-submitted a revised scheme for the proposed new CT Tanks in a building on the South side of the existing Silo this autumn. Meetings were held with Planning Officers, Fuller's Brewery and their architect to discuss the reduction from the first scheme of 2m in height and 1m in plan following representations from the OCPS. The proposed addition now has the OCPS recommendation for acceptance. The material finish will match the existing. The fans for the existing chiller units and the new proposed will be housed in the top of the existing Silo with any vents necessary cut into the North East and West facades to ensure noise levels are not increased in the Conservation Area.

Returning to a familiar theme, Chiswick Lodge construction of the new houses continues at pace. The detail of the pedestrian access onto Chiswick Mall is still to be agreed with the Planners. There was an indication in the summer that the front elevation of the three houses onto The Mall was to be altered. The OCPS Planning Committee objected to the proposed altered elevations on the grounds of design quality. Revised alterations are yet to be received.

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has asked for a meeting with the OCPS to help select an architect for a scheme to alter and extend the cottage to form a meeting room/Church Hall for the Church.

Hammersmith King Street Regeneration scheme

Our Society is very concerned about the King Street regeneration proposals and the possible impact on the surrounding areas. The Mall conservation area, which has a boundary with our own in Chiswick, is a unique part of the riverscape and the designs for this scheme which show tall buildings with massive bulk cannot be countenanced in the context of the scale proposed.

We are of the opinion that the footbridge is unnecessary, as there is already good access to the river through existing routes.

This Society which represents the Old Chiswick conservation area is not happy to support this scheme in its present form.

Chiswick Eyot clean-up on Sunday 12th December

In conjunction with Thames 21 the OCPS has organised a clean-up of Chiswick Eyot on Sunday 12 December 11.15am -1.45pm, tide permitting. The idea is to remove as much of the rubbish that has accumulated there over the years – mainly plastic bottles. We know it will return but its removal may give a chance for more native flora to establish itself in the interim. Thames 21 will supply: Wellington boots, gloves, socks, litter pickers, bin bags, all other tools needed and handwash. Like pollarding, this should not only be a very enjoyable occasion but an important event which will help to conserve the visual and environmental character of Chiswick Eyot. Please come suitably dressed and, as always, we must advise you that it is at your own risk.

PLEASE NOTE: Thames 21 will give a Health & safety briefing at 11.15am

Image of interesting device (Prototype wave generator) at the draw dock – what is it? More in the next issue (image to follow, along with any more I can find).

Funding for Church Street causeway

We are seeking a solution to improving the area above mean high water (adjoining the causeway restored by the PLA several years ago.) We have been in touch with the London Borough of Hounslow on this issue for some time without coming to a conclusion. Our Society has indicated its willingness to contribute to the cost of the work and Councillor John Todd has finally indicated that Section 106 funds are available for the completion of the work to this area. We now await formal confirmation of this, so that consultation over design details with LBH can begin.

Pollarding on the Eyot

The annual pollarding of the willows on Chiswick Eyot will take place on Sunday morning February 6, 2011. 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.

Trees on the wooded towpath in Barnes

As reported in the last newsletter, the OCPS and others raised a substantial sum towards the replanting of trees on the towpath. Unfortunately, several of the newly planted trees died in the drought last summer. These are to be replaced. We also hear from the PLA and their consultants that further work is to take place on the native black poplars but that no further felling of trees is to take place this winter. We very much welcome the improved communication with the PLA on this matter.

Subways and Roads

Advertising vehicles stored on Mawson Lane

The street scene has vastly improved with the co-operation of the Borough by the removal of the unsightly and increasing number of vehicles (even hoardings attached to vans - see our summer newsletter) exploiting the free advertising potential of the approach to the Hogarth roundabout. Inevitably one or two returned and were dealt with for a second or even third time before they seem finally to have given up.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

Thames Water has now disclosed its preferences for the sites it requires to construct this massive sewer. There has been a series of public consultations which commenced in September and will be completed in November. It has been a matter of considerable concern to the Society during the past three years during which time we have held a number of meetings with their project directors to discuss their methodology of site selection and to ensure that its impact on our environment would be fully appreciated.

Thankfully, instead of running the tunnel under the line of the river from the Acton sewer outfall at Chiswick Eyot as first proposed, the intention is now to take a much smaller diameter tunnel directly from its Acton Storm Tanks to the Hammersmith Pumping Station in Chancellors Road. Both of these sites are owned by Thames Water, a major advantage in its site acquisition and planning process.

Thames Water disclosed that one of the sites it considered originally is that of the former hospital in Netheravon Rd South, eventually discarded as, 'no longer considered a viable option'.

Thames Water will be presenting their proposals to the public next spring and this will take into account the result of this first round of public consultation. They intend to commence works in 2013. We have yet to see the final plan.

Chairman's message

Our four sub-committees have continued their excellent work which contributes to keeping this Conservation Area so very special.

The Conservation Secretary oversees the planning applications that London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) pass on to us for comment. At the moment, we're keeping a close eye on the development at Chiswick Lodge. At the time of the application, more than three years ago now, we were very much involved in discussion both with the developers and with LBH. The work is progressing very quickly, so we'll soon see what the finished article looks like. We won't all like it, that's for sure, but we will have something that most people will agree is an enhancement to the area. There was always a danger of over development on that site, but I think our hard work will have paid off.

The River sub-committee has been actively involved in setting up the Eyot Clear -up day on Sunday 12th December. If you haven't yet had a flyer, do ask one of us for details. Cllr John Todd has managed to secure some funding for it, so we're now going to talk to LBH about the type of granite sett that will be used. We're going to keep a strip on either side of about a yard for planting.

On the subject of wildflowers, OCPS has had a bit of a coup. Transport for London (TfL) has very kindly agreed to our re-planting the Hogarth Triangle (the area by the traffic lights in the middle of the A4, east of the roundabout) with wild flowers. Once it's planted, they will maintain it. Some of you will remember how it was planted years ago and TfL came along and mowed the lot. Happily, attitudes have moved on and common sense has broken out. Watch out next year for poppies, cornflowers and the like. It will look even better to welcome visitors into London for 2012.

The Thames Tideway Tunnel sub-committee seems to have done itself out of a job and made such an impact on Thames Water that they have decided not to come anywhere near us with their shafts and chambers, and all the action will take place east of Hammersmith Bridge.

I learned a lesson earlier this summer. I was having a discussion about planning with a neighbour, and realised that sometimes, people don't always know what they are meant to do about alterations to listed buildings, and what restrictions exist in Conservation Areas. So, please, if you're not sure, come and talk to us. If you're new to the area, do please drop a note through my door if I haven't already been to say hello. This is a unique area in London, we're so lucky to be part of it.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

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. 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

New Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Penny Barltrop is standing in for stalwart Robin Marris and is providing us with news on our area. 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

From our new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Be safe and secure.

As winter tightens its grip and days are shorter, it's timely to keep doors and windows secure, take extra care of your personal possessions and be discreet in the use of mobile electronic devices in public.

If you are not yet a member of our Neighbourhood Watch and would like to join to receive regular updates, please contact Penny on 0780 7944696 for more details.

Our recent work with the local police Safer Neighbourhoods team has seen arrests for carrying offensive weapons and an increase in night-time patrols. Remember, we all rely on each other's eyes and ears in reporting suspicious behaviour and I'm sure the vigilance of our members in the recent months has more than once prevented a crime taking place.

Miscellanea from a Chiswick Mall resident.

The street lamps in the Conservation Area are special. Have a look at them. They make a subtle but hugely important contribution to its character and appearance. That contribution is especially marked in the autumn. When a street lamp goes missing its absence is surprisingly apparent and immediate. The developers of Chiswick Lodge needed to move one of the street lamps a short distance for the purposes of their development. Unfortunately the lamp was damaged beyond repair in the moving. It needed to be removed from the Mall as a result. That part of the Mall to the east of the Osiers was as a consequence, dark and a bit forbidding. Also it was obvious that something was missing from the streetscape.

The highways sub-committee has successfully pressed Hounslow for the speedy and effective restoration of the street lamp. The replacement lamp was sourced from an architectural salvage merchant. For good measure Hounslow also purchased a spare.

The replacement is now in-situ and is operational. The street is no longer forbidding. The townscape is repaired. The lamp with its gentle non-sodium glow is again making its full contribution to the evening townscape in this Season of Mists (and now snow) in the Mall.

Miscellanea from a Church Street resident.

Having recently spent some hours researching the history of our house and its inhabitants, I came across the following snippets; the census of the early 1800s simply list Church Street as Chiswick Town.

The 1867 Ordnance Survey map of Chiswick (copies available from Chiswick Library) shows Powells Walk named as Church Walk.

On 8th October 1940 there was a fire on Chiswick Wharf. A Church Street resident at the time describes the night in a letter which can be read on the BBC WW2 People's war website (bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar- an online archive of wartime memories contributed by the public).

Names and addresses of OCPS officers

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Planning Sub Committee chairman: Peter Wadley

River Sub Committee chairman: Jane Nissen

Traffic and Roads Sub Committee chairman: Sir Alan Munro

Thames Tideway Tunnel Sub Committee chairman: Tony Taylor

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