

# BATTERSEA PARK ACTION GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 5

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## **SOMETIMES FUNFAIRS ARE NOT MUCH FUN**

### **The Latest**

The most recent (very) large fair has departed, leaving the usual grey-brown patches. From information received from Enable, there have been five fairs this year.

Complaints about noise should go to **Noise Line**. But surely one should first ring the perpetrator/hirer – Enable – and only ring Noise Line if that fails? So here are both contacts. We urge you to use these numbers and not let excessive noise pass unreported.

**(020) 8871 6127**

[events@enablelc.org](mailto:events@enablelc.org)

**020 3959 0068**

**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.**

In the meantime, several people have made presentations to Enable about the increasing number of large events, including that private fenced-off jolly, on the green grass areas. Enable Events Team still insist that because the latter had taken place in the Park for the past 20 years, it was allowable.

Apart from large events, other concerns have come to the fore, including groups now forming to object to Winterville, wrong use of Victoria Gardens, and so on. More about these later. Your help and support will be needed. (see pages 11 – 13)

**Yellow bikes, a.k.a. Yellow Perils.** These are not always parked considerately. Thrown down might be a more appropriate phrase. Apart from them appearing in people's gardens or half-way up communal stairways, they are also making appearances on Park footpaths and in hedges. This gives a bad reputation to all the responsible borrowers. Part of the problem may be that, unlike the red bikes, they do not have to be returned to a docking station. But do we need any more bike docks? One BPAG member said it was very easy to be a good citizen and lift up the bike and move it. He has a point, and I am one of those who pick up cans and other rubbish and put it into bins. But where does it stop? Do we also have to clean up after other people's dogs, for example.

**Infraction of the No Cycling rules.** Some of the culprits are the Red Bikes, or rather their riders. In this case, it may be because in at least one instance, the bike docks are within metres of a Park entrance, and the No Cycling notices are ignored, presumably because people do not wish to cycle a further 100 metres down to a main entrance. Why should pedestrians have to keep looking behind them to avoid being hit?

**Chariot taxi-service.** These blue vehicles can often be spotted using the Chelsea Bridge Gate to a) do a U-turn b) to enter and idle c) to park in the coach space. Do they have a licence? Or are they just using the Park as a depot, while they wait for their next summons?

The map in Brightside mentions the route Kennington to Battersea Power Station area. The last "stop" is shown outside the Park, not in it. As regards 'buses, there are three 'buses that run from Vauxhall to Battersea Park Station – 156, 344, 452. The 452 goes on to Chelsea Bridge. A route that is hardly "underserved". Why are people so whimpy that they cannot use public transport?

**PUBLIC CHARIOTS: Take control of your commute, from the first mile to the last. Just choose your pickup and drop off locations, and our drivers will do the rest.**

*Thank you to John Matthews for the photo*



## LITTER

The Litter situation rumbles on. It has been taken up by local Councillors, and at least one very active BPAG supporter, some of whose acerbically amusing correspondence with the Council is reported here. He takes no hostages – the useless replies received from various quarters get no quarter. He is an encouragement to us all. Please, if you feel strongly about this – indeed, about anything, then write to the Council and write to Enable. With people like him we might actually get somewhere.

“I attach photos which I took on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at around 11.00 of the bin area in the new small playground in Battersea Park. They clearly show an over-flowing bin with litter strewn everywhere and within yards of where children were playing. The wind was blowing the litter and moreover dogs – off their leash (despite the useless no-dog signs) – were scavenging through the litter and scattering it around. This is not only unsightly but a clear health & safety hazard. Ultimately this is shameful and totally unacceptable even in grubby London.

I have no doubt that Enable and Wandsworth Council have a ready-made list of lame excuses such as it was a “hot and busy day”, “the rubbish is regularly collected”, “we are looking into ways to improve rubbish collection” etc...but the fact remains that Event and the Council are failing to provide basic services. Wandsworth Council may boast about having the lowest Council tax rates in London but this has clearly come at a cost, including increased littering, fly-tipping, potholes, broken pavements, anti-social behaviour and rising crime. I work in Holland Park, which is also very busy, and yet the streets are significantly cleaner. Fact. Having recently come back from Geneva and Stockholm – two major cities – it struck me how much cleaner they are than London and specifically Wandsworth (Conservatives may hate European foreigners but they could learn a thing or two from them). Wandsworth Council regularly boasts in its magazine about tackling fly-tipping but at the same is failing to set an example by not keeping Battersea Park clean.

The solution is pretty simple but let me spell it out anyway: 1) increase the frequency with which bins are emptied; 2) install more bins and 3) have enforcement officers issue on the spot-fines (after all Wandsworth Council is remarkably efficient at issuing parking tickets).

Should this chronic problem of littering in Battersea Park and surrounding streets not be addressed in the next month I will happily share these photos (and the dozen others I have) with local associations and the local and national press (which at the moment are covering in great-depth the problem of plastic pollution and would be interested to see how an award-winning park deals – or more accurately fails to deal – with litter).”

Cllr. Cook limply passed this letter on to Cllr. Stutters, who then had to be reminded that a reply was due. Her answer was equally limp and unhelpful. So she received this reply:

“Thank you for your email and appreciate that you are trying to find a viable solution.

From my experience of having spent thousands of hours in Battersea Park over the past 15 years there are 4 scenarios which typically present themselves:

1. There is no bin nearby or the available bins are full and people take their rubbish home;
2. There is no bin nearby or the available bins are full and people leave their rubbish on the floor, whether they were having a picnic or pursuing other activities;
3. There is a bin nearby and the bin is not full but people still leave their rubbish on the floor; and
4. There is a bin nearby and the bin is not full and people dispose of their rubbish in that bin

Now in a perfect world people would either use the bins which are not full (4) or take their rubbish home (1). But we don't live in a perfect world and if anything Londoners have become more prone to leaving their rubbish on the floor because it has somehow become acceptable. I therefore accept that it will always be difficult to ensure that Battersea Park and surrounding streets are 100% rubbish free.

But at the very least Wandsworth Council should ensure that there are sufficient bins which are regularly emptied so that scenario 2 does not

materialise. The Council could also take enforcement measures to reduce the incidence of scenario 3 (warn and/or fine people and they will soon learn – in the same way that motorists know that if they park illegally they risk a hefty fine).

I don't believe that a solution, even if partial, is that difficult. Have more bins, have them emptied more often at peak times (eg during the summer, at weekends etc...) and have enforcement officers patrolling rubbish hot-spots (which like traffic wardens would more than pay for themselves).

The question is whether Wandsworth Council has the will to enact these simple measures instead of dodging the issue as increasingly seems to be the case. At the end of the day pictures don't lie as I am sure residents, the broader public and media would agree."

He is absolutely right – other cities manage it. Why cannot we? I recently spent a very pleasant two weeks in Mantova and Cremona. You might say, well, they are very small cities. Yes, they are, but their parks are spotless. Bins are emptied. Rubbish bins on the street – carefully differentiated as to their contents – are accessed by key cards. There are large rubbish bins nearby. I only spotted two dog leavings in two weeks.

*The Mantovani and Cremonesi make it quite clear what they think about that.*



Our authorities may have teeth, but unless they are prepared to bite, things will carry on as they are.

Another example of not particularly caring.

## **IDLING – Update**

**On August 21<sup>st</sup> an answer was received from Enable.**

“I can confirm that the action we agreed with Cllrs Walker and McLeod related to the idling of coaches and buses opposite the Chelsea Car park as we can enforce that as we issue them with permits. There is no legislation that relates to idling in the car parks in Battersea Park I’m afraid, so whilst it is an environmental nuisance and we can politely ask people to turn off their engines, there is nothing we can do currently to enforce them or fine them as the current legislation relates to the highway. As we can’t enforce the no idling there is little point in putting up signs. People complain there are at times too many signs in our parks and therefore visitors become blind to them so on this occasion we will not be placing any additional signage in the car parks in Battersea park. We would not encourage leafleting of cars in the car parks as this will end up as litter on the floor.

However, we are writing to all the schools and others apply for a coach licence and who park their coaches on the approach from Chelsea gate and will be putting up a couple of signs her to remind the drivers no to sit here with their engines on. The signs will go up for the start of the school term....

I’m sorry that on this occasion we are not taking all the action you wish, but we will see how the approach goes with the coaches and if legislation will change and then we may be able to act in the future.”

The term “environmental nuisance” is surely an understatement – “environmental hazard” might have been better.

The Secretary was on holiday at the time, so her answer was brief:

“...at times the smell from the occasional idling engine is noticeable. My husband has mentioned on three or four occasions that he has noticed police vans idling at the mini-roundabout at the entrance to the British Genius site. Whilst I understand that you do not want too many signs in the Park, surely a courteous request at the entrances to the car parks would not be excessive. After all, if we cannot expect clean air in our Parks, we are in a very parlous state.”

Which leads on very nicely to parking on the Western Carriageway. It was with great pleasure that we noticed that this appeared to have stopped, and vehicles were now parking in the southern Car Park. Not for long though. They are now back in the West, probably because the southern car park is also chock-a-block with large film vehicles.

## PARKS CHARTER - UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 2018

A growing range of local, regional and national organisations are now backing the Charter, although not Wandsworth Borough Council. A letter written to Councillor Sutters at the beginning of September has yet to receive a reply. Does she make a habit of this?

**London's parks accused of 'creeping privatisation' of public space The end of parklife as we know it? The battle for Britain's green spaces.**

LGFN is asking for pictures and reports of this 'creeping privatisation', which is something that has been happening in Battersea Park for years.

Thinking about Go Ape in particular, and the closure of the One O'Clock Club, I started making some calculations.

Now, according to the Mail, Wandsworth Council receives £63,000 p.a. plus 17.6% of every ticket sold.

Currently the tickets range from £21 to £31, If we average that to £26 per ticket, we are talking about a nett profit of just under £21.45 per ticket. Therefore, to be able to pay the Council £63K p.a. Go Ape would need to sell 2937 tickets per year, or an average 8 per day. Sometimes the weather is unsuitable for climbing and swinging in the treetops, but this is an average. I am sure they can manage that. However, they also have to pay insurance, maintenance, staff (2?), admin, something towards directors' salaries and publicity. So they would probably need to sell a further 16 per day. 24 tickets per day seems achievable in the summer months.

My question is – what happens if they do not do very well? We have lost a useful local facility, an adventure playground and other space. The Council knocked down the equipment under the treetop facility,

and spent £250,000 on replacements – not as exciting as what was there before, apparently. After 4 years the Council will have received a total of £252K in rents, sufficient to recoup the costs of dismantling and rebuilding the old adventure area. And if tickets are selling at 8700 p.a. they will have received a further £40k p.a. in ticket percentages, or £160k over 4 years.

If Go Ape goes, would it have been worth it? There is no sign that Go Ape will leave, because they have branched out into Segway Forest experiences. You may even have noticed these vehicles at last year's rally in the Park, and will see them again in October when they arrive for a further 2 day rally. Members report having seen them here at other times – possibly touting for business.

Maybe we need to keep an eye out? Although It sounds unlikely that these vehicles would be allowed to rumble through the woodland areas of Battersea Park – but who would have thought we would ever lose the One O'Clock Club and an adventure playground to private enterprise? Or seen the Park turned into a concrete and metal race track?

What is it with Wandsworth Council and play facilities? They either knock them down, or demolish them and rebuild, or else allow someone else to pay for a mini-playground near the Pear Tree Café, and then refuse to protect it from dogs and dog detritus.

## **DRONES**

*From the Daily Mail August 16<sup>th</sup> 2018*

Firefighters were called to retrieve a drone which got stranded at the top of a 30ft tree in Battersea Park. The incident caused a backlash from onlookers who described it as a 'waste of resources' since drones are banned in the park.\*

An unknown man had been filming with the airborne camera in the 200-acre green space on Sunday when his drone became stuck in the tree.

Shocked visitors assumed that the London Fire Brigade was rescuing a cat stuck up the tree, until they spotted the remote controlled device lodged in the branches. A woman who was visiting the park with her young children said the man who owned the drone defended calling the emergency service. She said: 'He said to me that they have to get it down in case it falls and hits someone.' It is claimed that 10 fire fighters were involved.

Dave, of Wandsworth Police says:

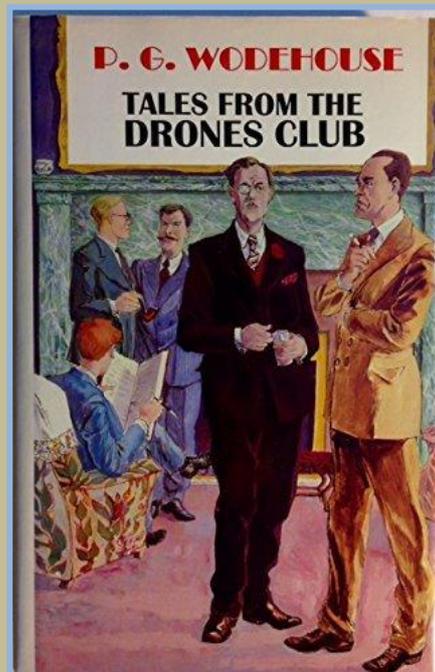
The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has guidance on using drones for both private and commercial use: <https://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/> but the basics are listed below:

If you are flying your drones for personal use you must ensure you follow the rules below:

- Your drone must weigh less than 20 kg.
- You cannot fly it at an altitude above 400 feet/or 500 metres from you horizontally
- Always keep it away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and air fields.
- If the drone is fitted with a camera you must not fly it within 50 metres of people, vehicles or vessels.
- It must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people, such as a concert or sporting event, as you may be prosecuted.
- If you intend recording in an area where there are people, you must inform them before you start.
- If you intend using the drone for commercial purposes, you must have permission from the CAA and comply with additional laws governing their use.

*\*Not sure which by-law would apply – No. 12?*

[file:///C:/Users/SONY/Downloads/Greater London Parks Gardens and Open Spaces Bye Laws%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/SONY/Downloads/Greater%20London%20Parks%20Gardens%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Bye%20Laws%20(1).pdf)



## **BIG/UNSUITABLE EVENTS/STRUCTURES**

**Your help is needed. Remember how much support we had? Now is your chance to reciprocate.**

### **VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS (a Grade 2\* Park)**

Put simply, it concerns the erection of a Holocaust Centre on the site of the Victoria Tower Gardens near the Houses of Parliament.

First, let me start by making it quite clear that no-one is against this memorial. What people are objecting to is its siting in such a tiny garden, a space that has been used for decades for relaxation and peace. I even played there as a very small child.

It is estimated that the memorial will take up 50% of the 4 acre space.

Very little consultation has taken place – 5 days, ending on 8<sup>th</sup> September, and most people didn't know anything about it. It has not yet gone to Westminster's Planning Department, and there is a fear that it will just be pushed through.

The London Parks and Gardens Trust say: "We note that as a statutory consultee, London Parks and Gardens Trust was not notified."

Does that sound familiar? Yes, it happened in Wandsworth with WBC.

1 million visitors are expected, and no-one has begun to consider the security aspects of such an emotive proposition. It seems that people have ignored the other site proposals – Imperial War Museum or Millbank Tower plinth. By not listening to people, they are, in fact, taking away from those people a vital green space.

To sign the petition, please click on this link:

<https://www.change.org/p/sir-peter-bazalgette-save-victoria-tower-gardens-no-building-in-this-precious-london-park>

This is an historic park, gifted to the public by Parliament and W.H. Smith in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with unique views of the Palace of Westminster and, of course, the River Thames. It already houses three historic monuments linked to the struggle against injustice –

Rodin's The Burghers of Calais, The Buxton Memorial, and the Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst Memorial. Throughout the year it plays host to dog walkers, picnickers, families, group yoga, Westminster Dog of the Year show, open air cinema and much more.

We are concerned that:

- The proposed memorial, with courtyard and security gatehouse, will dwarf the other memorials already in the Gardens
- The construction of an underground Education Centre may put the mature plane trees at risk
- The existing children's playground will be reduced in size and possibly even moved across the road.
- The respectful and reflective atmosphere demanded by a Holocaust Memorial may be at odds with the natural life of a busy park
- The projected on million visitors a year will demand additional signage, traffic management, facilities, etc, as well as security.
- The project would set a dangerous precedent for the acceptability of building in and under public parks. Many local authorities would quite reasonably say that if the Government can do it, then why can't they?
- The residents in that area mostly live in flats without gardens, and this park is a valuable green space with play facilities. One supporter said she had recently lost her husband and sits in the park every morning with her coffee before she can face the day. Every day, local people and tourists enjoy these gardens as they were intended, and we feel strongly that this large and obtrusive development will ruin a precious amenity.



## **NO to WINTERVILLE on CLAPHAM COMMON**

The residents of Clapham Common have had enough of Winterville, and are starting a CrowdJustice campaign to get rid of it. It is interesting that our own Cllr. Cook, who was so intransigent about Formula E, is advising residents to complain to Noise Line about the noise. Could this be because it is licensed by a neighbouring *Labour* borough?



Remember this? And this?



Watch this space. We will keep you updated as to how you can help.

## **WANDERLUST 108**

Wanderlust has been setting up since Thursday. A walk through today noted tents and stalls on the Bowling Green, in the Bandstand area (partly fenced off at around 2.30), along the Carriageway that leads past the War Memorial. There were tents, domes, stalls, marquees all over the lawn from the southern side of the Carriageway towards the lake. Stalls bearing signs such as Bag Check, Water. There were quite a few porta-loos waiting to be put into position. Somewhere they have to fit in a platform for the DJ, food and handicraft stalls (arriving late tonight,

early tomorrow). Oh yes, and 4000 people. It is not at all clear how the park can remain fully open, since people will be pouring in to have their bags and tickets checked. How do they know that walkers, joggers, dog walkers, cyclists are not part of the event? Are we all to be checked? Should we be avoiding all paths towards and from the BandStand?

Let us see what happens. It may be fine, but on the other hand, reports from Victoria Park about some other events have proved very negative, as the local Mayor wrote about LoveBox (not yet arrived here), but moving to Brockwell Park. It looks as if we may be called upon to support the residents there, as this article makes clear:

**Tower Hamlets Labour Councillor Joshua Peck warns Lambeth residents about what they can expect when Lovebox comes to Brockwell Park.**

Lovebox and Field Day festivals are headed for Lambeth and planning to take over large swathes of Brockwell Park for up to six weeks next summer. Despite a lack of formal, coordinated public engagement, hundreds of letters have been received by councillors, MPs, Friends of Brockwell Park and the Brockwell Park Community Partnership (BPCP), voicing concerns about the 40,000/day events. Over 2,000 have signed a petition and pledge.

Some have suggested that the level of concern is a huge over reaction. After all, these are just fun festivals and Lambeth Events have repeatedly assured residents that the corporate promoters responsible for organising these events are experienced professionals who want nothing more than to be a positive addition to our neighbourhood.

So what could possibly go wrong?

On their community engagement site Lovebox describe their time in Victoria Park as "thirteen happy years". But the feeling does not appear to have been mutual. In response to residents' complaints that their lives were being made misery by the festival, Tower Hamlets councillor John Biggs vowed to tear up Lovebox's contract to use Victoria Park if he were elected mayor. When he was elected he did exactly that. That's why Lovebox have turned up in Lambeth.

Joshua Peck is a Labour councillor whose Bow West ward in Tower Hamlets borders Victoria Park. He started out as an enthusiastic

proponent of Lovebox, but told us that things did not turn out quite as expected:

“Whilst I totally understand the financial predicaments of councils who have had their budgets slashed by Central Government, I’m afraid I can’t in good conscience recommend Lovebox to residents of South London or their Council.”

“In my view, a festival of this size is simply too big to be held in a residential area without causing some substantial impacts to local people. Even if the operator were fully on top of these impacts – which Lovebox never were – I don’t think they could have been fully reduced to an acceptable level. My experience of Lovebox was that, despite good intentions and some good people:

Consultation with local people was cursory and did not always feed through to real changes in operation

Measures agreed in any one year (like stewards in particular locations) would not make it through to subsequent years, so residents and councillors had to spend an inordinate amount of time going over the same ground with Lovebox

The stewarding was of a very variable quality outside of the site, with a very limited number of fully accredited stewards and most of the ‘crowd control’ done by poorly trained, inexperienced young people who did a poor job – for example, I saw four stewards playing football with festival goers one evening as people sat in front gardens right next to them – precisely what they were there to stop.

Noise impacts were variable – generally much better after a lot of work by the Council in early years, but could be bad if the weather conditions were wrong

A HUGE volume of rubbish along the ingress and egress routes that required constant clearing by the Council

ASB that ranged from bottles being thrown into gardens, people knocking on doors to use the toilet, people having sex and taking drugs round the back of blocks of flats etc

Pretty consistent damage to the grass in the park which didn't really reseed until the spring, just before Lovebox was due back

Sorry that's not more encouraging but I'm afraid I came to the view that we were better off without, despite having started off as a patron of Lovebox originally.

Cllr Peck's account is written after Lovebox had already had more than a decade of ongoing negotiation to "get it right". But they either wouldn't or couldn't. Not only did they make life a misery for residents but crime was reported to have spiked by as much as 155% during events. Now Lambeth look set to welcome the same 40,000 festival goers, rejected by Tower Hamlets, into Brockwell Park; a site which is little more than half the size of Victoria Park, and is served by half the number of stations.

But is it possible that Lovebox have seen the error of their ways and turned over a new leaf? In an optimistic response to emails of concern the Lambeth line appears to be that "all events that take place in the park are subject to a rigorous scrutiny process and both companies are cooperating fully with this process and are engaging with the community."

So just how cooperative are Lovebox being?

Not very, according to Thurlow Park's three councillors: *"Lovebox have refused Lambeth's request to stop selling tickets until their application has been progressed. For this reason we do not think Lovebox should come to Brockwell Park"*.

Likewise, Friends of Brockwell Park have revealed that claims of meaningful engagement with them made in a statement on the official Lovebox community website are false. The claims have since been removed and replaced with references to unspecified community groups.

So even before any contract has been signed, Lovebox are doing their own thing their way. Just like they did at Victoria

Park. Exactly as Cllr Peck's warning suggested. To many, it looks like Lambeth is marching to the beat of Lovebox's drum.

Let's just hope that the woman with the final decision, Cabinet Councillor for Equalities and Culture Sonia Winifred, listens to the warnings.

Thurlow Ward councillors say **NO!** [[Click here for their statement](#)]

Friends of Brockwell Park say **NO!** [[Click here for their statement](#)]

Brockwell Park Community Partnership say **NO!** [[Click here for their statement](#)]

Herne Hill councillors intend to consult residents next year but - with just five months to go before event construction is due to commence - have yet to reveal their plans. Tulse Hill councillors are remarkably silent on the matter.

### **Complaints**

A local councillor recently wrote to Jack Adams of Events, who seemed sceptical about her in-tray of complaints, as nothing had been sent to him. To be honest, given his somewhat dismissive attitude towards various complaints in the past, are we surprised?

Two BPAG members will be meeting the Director of Enable to discuss, among other things, the increase in large, unsuitable events.

In the meantime, if you have had occasion to write to Enable (doesn't have to be Jack Adams), could you let me have a copy? We need to nip this in the bud. Please could you also copy in your local sympathetic councillor.

## **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/>

**They have now turned into a very active Pressure group. Do get on their mailing list for regular updates on campaigns, new regulations, privatisation. Keeping informed is a large part of the battle. (SE)**

### **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 Rawnsley. 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](http://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](mailto:Robert.Molteno@gmail.com)**

## **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>