Wandsworth Historical Society

Index of Publications 1955-2021

Over Six Decades of Outstanding Research

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The digital archive of the full run of the *Wandsworth Historian* from 1971-2021 is available for purchase at a modest price. For more details, please email 020neil119@gmail.com.

Further information about the Wandsworth Historical Society may be found by visiting the WHS website at www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk.

Cover picture A group of working men, probably on a firm's outing organised by the Wandgas Co., pose for the camera in a 'lorry-bus' outside the Alma Tavern, York Road, Wandsworth in about 1919. (WHS research ephemera collection, item no. 2090)

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Preface

Founded in 1953, the Wandsworth Historical Society has published the results of local history research from the earliest years of its existence. This index encompasses the whole of that material, and supersedes all previous lists issued by the Society; but it does draw heavily on the earlier work of Stanley Bailey, Keith Bailey and Rita Ensing, and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Their system of indexing has, broadly speaking, been retained for ease of use, dividing the listing into the following subject headings, some of which are further broken down into individual areas or parishes, etc. as appropriate.

List of subjects

Activism

Agriculture, field systems and enclosures

Archaeology

Battersea – general

Buildings

Churches, religion and parish life

Commons and open spaces

Demography

Development of building estates

Education and schools

Entertainment, theatres and cinemas

Historical walks

Industry, trade and retailing

Institutions

Local government

Manorial history

Military history

Mills

Miscellaneous

Parish and other boundaries

Personalities and families

Philanthropy, poverty and poor relief

Public houses

Putney – general

Reminiscences

Resources for further research

Roehampton – general

Sport

Street- and place-names

Tooting – general

Transport and communications

Wandsworth Parish – general

Explanation of abbreviations

The various series of the Society's publications may be summarised as follows:

Wandsworth Historian	First issued in 1971, the *WH* is the Society's main vehicle for publishing historical and archaeological research work. In this index, references to all the articles of significance in the journal are denoted by the issue number printed in normal type after the relevant entry; lesser though still useful pieces are distinguished by numerals in brackets as (78), etc.
News Sheet / *Newsletter*	These have been issued since 1956, with a gap in the mid-1970s. Prior to the spring of 1970, they were numbered within each year as issues 1-6, and these appear in the index as N1/56, N6/68, etc. From spring 1970, they have been numbered in a continuous series allowing for those already issued. This series commences at no. 88, and appears in the index as N88, N105, etc. Only a few historical articles have appeared in the *Newsletter* since the introduction of the *WH.*
Broad Sheet	Three of these appeared in 1955, and they are represented by the abbreviation BS.
Wandsworth Papers*	These are longer studies resulting from detailed research into one or more aspects of local history, and references to them appear as WP5, etc.
Guides for researchers*	A small number of guides to local history sources have been published at various stages. These appear in the index as G2, etc.
Wandsworth walks	Various heritage walks were devised in the mid-1970s. All but one of these were incorporated into two Wandsworth Papers, published in 1976 and 1978. The remaining walk appears in this index as WW2.
Unnumbered items*	On occasion, books and maps have been published without an allocated series number. These are identified by the abbreviation U/N.

* The titles in these series are shown in *italics* in the index, followed by the year in which they were published.

Items of no permanent reference value in the *Wandsworth Historian* and the Society's *Newsletter* have been ignored. Also disregarded are the many book reviews that have appeared in the *WH*. Generally speaking, the definite or indefinite article has been omitted from the beginning of each entry. The latest *Wandsworth Historian* to be included in this index is no. 111; the latest Wandsworth Paper is no. 32.

Neil Robson – Editor, *Wandsworth Historian*. March 2021

Index

Activism

Atkinson, Thomas, Battersea labour activist 101
Battersea Rise House, closely linked with the Clapham Sect 30, 31, (83)
Berringer, Dorothy, family planning pioneer, mid-twentieth century 50
Booth, Charles, social reformer 69, (71)
Branson, Clive, Communist artist (105)
Brown Dog anti-vivisection memorial, Battersea, 1906-11 44, (83)
Burns, John, trade unionist and politician (71), 91, (96), 98, (99), 100
Creighton, Sean, radical history project worker 100, 108
Despard, Charlotte, suffragette (87), (88)
Freemasonry and other mutual organisations, 1860s-1914 85
Friendly Societies of Battersea and Clapham 71
Gilmore, Isabella, Victorian philanthropist 5
Irish bureaucracy, confronted from Putney, 1935 102
Leader, J. T., nineteenth-century radical (15), 72, N4/61
Primrose League, popular Conservative imperialist movement (107)
Spanish Civil War, Wandsworth and Battersea's response to the 103
Wilberforce, William, slave-trade abolitionist (87)

Agriculture, field systems and enclosures

Allfarthing Lane enclosures, 1799 (70)
Balham Farm and Nicholas Lane 43
Battersea Fields 80
Crown Lands in Tudor Wandsworth N88
Early medieval vineyard in Wandsworth 81
Gibbefeld in mediaeval Wandsworth 100
Home Farm of Allfarthing in the fourteenth century 85
John Harman's estate, Battersea Rise, 1770s 13
Longhedge Farm, Battersea, 1669-1863 85
Medieval Putney 51, 52, 53
Nicholas Pantekyn, shepherd of Wandsworth, fourteenth century N188
Putney, fields at, 1460-1650 N90
Putney Hill, fencing of fields, 1570 (4)
Putney Park, exact location of 25
Putney Pightles (enclosures) and the Twygge family 42
Putney's tithe barn 68
Roehampton, enclosure of Dunditch Lane, 1756 (4)
Southfields dairyman (William Skinner) 68
Tudor Putney 43
Walter the vinedresser, Wandsworth, c.1086 98
Wandsworth and Putney fields, repair of gates between (4)
Wandsworth medieval peasants, some names of 73
Wandsworth open fields (2)
Wandsworth, some field and place names of 53

Archaeology – Balham

Balham Hoard 78

Archaeology – Battersea

Althorpe Grove, 'Merry Man' plate 23
Battersea High Street N105
Battersea Park foreshore N5/68
Battersea Square N104
Mediaeval moated site 15
Pilot whale vertebra, mediaeval period (83)
Rank Hovis MacDougall flour mill, 1996-97 (75)

Roman coin from near St Peter's Church N93

Archaeology – Putney

Atney Road, examination of builders' trenches N3/63
Bemish Road excavation N3/65
---- ----, Roman burial urns N2/62
---- ----, Roman coin N5/65
Bendemeer Road/Spring Passage excavations 17, 22
Briars, The, no. 2, Upper Richmond Road – Roman coin N93
Chelverton Road excavation, nos. 44-58 N3/63
Danemere Street excavation N105
Delft tiles, discovered in Putney (59)
Erpingham Road excavation, nos. 34-36 N6/68, N1/69, N3/69
Felsham Road excavations (20), 26, 29, 33
Gay Street excavation (5), N2/65
Kingsmere Close excavation 54
Oahhill Road, examination of builders' trenches N3/63
Palaeolithic implement from Putney 17
Platt, The, excavation, nos. 6-12 N1/67, N2/67, N1/68
Putney boat N3/66
Putney High Street excavation, rear 96-98 N4/66
Putney Pallas figurine 55
Putney Wharf excavation 76
Roman coin discovered, Lime Grove estate N3/64
Roman Putney (1993) U/N
Roman roads in and around Putney 13, 14
Sefton Street excavation 3, N3/69, N1/70, N90, N91
St Mary's Church excavations (13), (38)
Stratford Grove excavation N2/64
Venus Roman figurine (28)
Waterman Street excavation, no. 6 N2/66

Archaeology – Tooting

Medieval moated site 15
Upper Tooting Road excavations, nos. 76-80 74

Archaeology – Wandsworth

Iron Age finds 2
Skeleton found at Point Pleasant (53)
Stimpson's Buildings excavation N3/69, N4/69, N6/69
Tile kiln found in St. Ann's Hill, Wandsworth N178
Upper Mills 11

Archaeology – general

Digging in Wandsworth, 1962-72, a review 6
Fieldwork in Wandsworth, 1970 N91
Fiftieth anniv. review of 1960s activity 94
Finds from the River Thames 2, 19
Lawrence, George Fabian, aka 'Stoney Jack', antiquarian 105, (106)
Possible Roman fort on Wimbledon Common N5/64
Prehistoric Wandsworth 48, 50, 52
Roman Wandsworth 58, 62
Thames foreshore: Foreshore Project N192, N193
Tranchet axe from the Thames (56)
Upper Richmond Road, a possible Roman road N4/67
Wandsworth in Roman Times, extracts from the archaeological section's card index N6/66

Battersea – general

Anglo-Saxon Battersea 3, 45
Battersea and the Thames, 1851 47
Battersea in 1751 41
Battersea New Town: a Study of Local Building Development, 1790-1870 (1980) WP5
Caius Mission swimming tragedy, 1912 97
Dan Dare at Clapham Junction, 1951 (93), (94)
Our Lady of Batersey, profile of its author 95, 96
Roman Battersea 58
South Battersea: the Formative Years, 1851-1900 (1977) WP3; revised ed: *Between the Commons: South Battersea's Formative Years, 1851-1900* (2007) WP15

Streets of Battersea, The: their Names and Origins (2008; 2nd printing, 2013) WP17
Usk Road V2 incident, 1945 94

Buildings

(See also 'Churches, religion and parish life', 'Education and schools', 'Entertainment, theatres and cinemas', 'Institutions', 'Mills', and 'Public houses')

Albion/Albert House, Garratt Lane, Wandsworth 71
Battersea House N6/60
Battersea Rise House 30, 31, (83)
Bears Den Hall, Putney 57
Bell Cottages, Wandsworth N1/61, N5/61
Bridge House, Wandsworth N1/60
Clarence Lodge, Roehampton 34, 99
Council House/Book House, East Hill, Wandsworth 56, (79)
Cromwell House, Putney (11)
Disraeli Gardens, Putney 70
Dover House, Putney (17)
Elsenham Street, Southfields, no. 36 79
Fairfax House, Putney N5/58, N2/59
Fire insurance marks 4
Frame Food factory, Southfields 90
Froomefield House, 31 Rosehill Road, Wandsworth 71
Gables, The, Wandsworth Common North Side N2/64
Gilmore House, Clapham Common North Side 5, (6)
Grove House, Roehampton N3/60, N4/60
Hazlewell Road, Putney, no. 32a (11)
Helensburgh House, Nightingale Lane, Balham 88
Hereward Road, Tooting, nos. 17-21 35
Holly Lodge, Southfields 41
Jews House, Wandsworth N3/60
Lady North Memorial Hall, Putney (15)
Lockyer House, Putney (17)
Lurline Gardens Library, Battersea 110
Manor House, East Hill, Wandsworth N5/61, N1/69
Manresa House, Roehampton 16, 17, 18, N3/56
Melrose Hall, West Hill, Wandsworth 21
Misses Lewis' School, The, Putney 63
Mount Clare, Roehampton N1/56
Parkstead House, Roehampton 16
Pimms House, 14 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth N3/61
Priory, The, Roehampton (96), N92
Prospect House, Wandsworth N2/63
Putney Palace 13
Putney Park House (17)
Putney post offices N3/61
Putney Workhouse 35
Putney's Tithe Barn 68
Retreat, The, Putney 64
Riverhall Street, off Wandsworth Road, nos. 6-9, deeds of 28
Roehampton House (32)
Salvador House, Tooting 45
Shrubbery, The, Lavender Gardens, Battersea 87
'Southlands', Battersea High Street 82
Springfield (Burntwood School) ice-house, Earlsfield (73), (107)
Sword House, West Hill, Wandsworth 110, 111
Tower House, Putney N88
Trinity Road, Wandsworth/Tooting, various notable houses N3/58
Upper Tooting, various notable cottages N4/65
Victoria Dwellings, Battersea Park Road 38
Villas and Mansions of Roehampton and Putney Heath (1997) WP9
Wandsworth Common North Side, nos. 39-41 80
---- ----, two seventeenth-century houses (77)
Wandsworth doorways N5/61
Wandsworth Police Station, 1839-83 (4)
Wandsworth Town Hall (98)
Wandsworth, various notable houses N2/59
West Hill, Wandsworth, a noble retreat 60
West Lodge, Putney N2/58, N4/58
Winchester House, Putney 69, N1/66
York House, Battersea (4), 15

Churches, religion and parish life

All Saints' Church, Putney 10
All Saints' Church, Tooting N101, N102
All Saints' Church, Wandsworth (5), (95)

Allocation of pews, Putney, 1804 (72)
Anglo-Boer War Memorial in Tooting Parish Church 105
Borradaile, William, Vicar of Wandsworth, 1823-38 110
Caius Mission, Battersea 97
Christ Church, Battersea (5), (92)
Emmanuel Church, Putney (9)
French Church, off Wandsworth High Street 77
Huguenot memorial, East Hill, Wandsworth 46, (83)
Mill tithes in All Saints' parish, Wandsworth, payment of 108
Ministers of Putney (2010) WP21
Old Battersea RC School for Boys, 1890-1919 84
Old Battersea RC School for Girls, 1879-1918 83
Parish church dedications (5)
Putney and Worcester Cathedral, link between 5
Putney Old Burial Ground, Upper Richmond Road 103, (105)
Putney Parish Church: a History to 1836 (2010) WP20
Putney Remembers the Men of the First World War: St Mary's roll of honour (2017) WP30
Reformation in Wandsworth, aspects of the 52-55, 59
Roehampton Chapel 56
Southfields Baptist Church (79)
St Anne's Church, Wandsworth 108
St Bartholomew's Church, Battersea, 1891-1971 58
St Margaret's Church, Putney N4/59
St Mary-le-Park Church, Battersea (89)
St Mary's Church, Battersea (5), (12), N4/64, N89
St Mary's Church, Putney (5), (13), 45, 51, (72), N4/68, N2/69, N3/69, N4/69, N111. See also WP20
St Nicholas' Church, Tooting (102), N1/70, N102
Summerstown's first church (72)
Temple, Thomas, Vicar of Battersea, 1634-57 67
Union Church, Putney (9)
Victorian Wandsworth, religion in 59
Waltham Abbey, connection with Battersea 67
Wandsworth great tithes and the Marshall Charity 62

Commons and open spaces

Battersea Park (3), 80, 100
---- ----, the Grace Darling tree (79)
Festival Pleasure Gardens, Battersea, 1951 91
King George's Park, its 'forgotten' bridge 104
Putney Lower Common 6, N4/61
---- ---- , connection with Douglas Jerrold and Henry Mayhew 104
Putney Park, exact location of 25
Southfields/Wimbledon Park in 1898 (82)
Tibbet's Corner, sign at, 1936 99
Wandsworth Common, gigantic telescope on, 1852 81
---- ----, the last shepherd on, c.1919 N2/61
Wimbledon and Wandsworth Commons, preservation of N1/60, N6/61
Wimbledon Common, Bonaparte family duel, 1840 28
---- ----, rifle ranges N1/59, N2/59, N3/59
---- ----, work of the ranger N6/61
Wimbledon Park, Leigh Hunt on (57)

Demography

A Victorian Street through 130 Years: Montserrat Road, Putney (2015) WP28
Air raid casualties in World War Two 82
Battersea and the Thames, 1851 47
Battersea, effects of 1665 plague (3)
Black people in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Putney 42
Intra-urban migration, a Battersea example, 1875-83 37
Population in Wandsworth, 1603-1787 16
Putney in 1497 109
Putney parish registers, 1761-1870, analysis of ability to sign 8
Putney retailing changes (93)
Putney – 1851 (1981) WP6
Railwaymen in Victorian Battersea, 1851-71 46
Shaftesbury Park Estate, Battersea, war memorial names identified 88, (89)

Staff of the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway in Battersea and Wandsworth 1856-1901 (2018) WP32
Valuation Office records for house-history, use of 84
Victoria Dwellings, Battersea Park Road 38
Wandsworth, Domesday survey 92
Wandsworth, outbreak of plague in 1666 N88, N89
Wandsworth's Lost Fishing Village (2012) WP25
Westhorpe Street, Putney, first residents, 1900-11 99
Women war workers, 1939-45 86

Development of building estates

A Victorian Street through 130 Years: Montserrat Road, Putney (2015) WP28
Battersea New Town: a Study of Local Building Development, 1790-1870 (1980) WP5
Beaufoy Estate, Battersea, in 1889 71
Cross Road and Bird's Hedge Shots, Battersea, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Davis, Henry Hart, Battersea property developer, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Development of Building Estates in Battersea 1780-1914 (2012) WP24
Elsenham Street, Southfields Grid, early development of 79
Forbidden occupations in leases, 1868 60
Haines, Frederick, the Battersea estates of 73
Hereward Road, Tooting, nos. 17-21, history of 35
House Building and Builders in Wandsworth, c1850-1915 (2005; 2nd printing, 2013) WP13
Kynoch, Charles, property developer (61)
Latchmere Housing Estate, Battersea 18, 80
'Lion Houses' of Balham (83)
Lothair Street, Clapham Junction, 1867-1910 86
Lynes, Thomas, architect of the Earlsfield Estate 55
Mansion flats in Victorian Battersea, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Morrison's brickfield and its successors, Battersea, 1840-90 75
Pocock, William, Wandsworth architect 56
Ponton Estate, Nine Elms, 1860-90 77
Putney, Victorian and Edwardian, influence of W. R. Williams 100
Riverhall Street, off Wandsworth Road, nos. 6-9 28
Salvador Estate, Tooting, history of 45
Sisters Avenue, Battersea, nos. 1-7, history and development of 47
South Battersea: the Formative Years, 1851-1900 (1977) WP3; revised ed.: *Between the Commons: South Battersea's Formative Years, 1851-1900* (2007) WP15
Southfields Grid, the Building of the, c1860-1910 (2003) WP12
Totterdown Estate, Tooting, the building of 53
Twelve Acres Field, Battersea, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Victoria Dwellings, Battersea Park Road 38
Wandsworth, council housing, commemorative pylon, 1927 (1)
Westbury Estate and the Leader family N4/61
Westhorpe Street, Putney, development of 99

Education and schools

All Saints School, Wandsworth N4/61
Allenswood School, Southfields, and Mme Souvestre 105
Battersea school prize, 1879 99
---- ----, 1902 (101)
Board schools in Battersea, 1870-1900 54-57
Bolingbroke Road School, Battersea 56
Digby Stuart College. Roehampton N3/64
Dr Adams' School, Putney (11)
Emanuel School, Battersea 92 with longer version online, N4/66

Fanner, Grace, headmistress of Putney County Secondary School, 1907-34 106
Mayfield School, Wandsworth N1/70
Merton Road/Riversdale School, Southfields 94
Misses Lewis' School, The, Putney 63
Old Battersea RC School for Boys, 1890-1919 84
Old Battersea RC School for Girls, 1879-1918 83
Private education in Putney, 1870-c.1990 66
Putney parish registers, 1761-1870, comments on levels of literacy 7
Putney School, Upper Richmond Road N5/65
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, 1852-1934 89
Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum 9
Salvador House Academy, Tooting 45
Sir Walter St John's School, Battersea, c.1937 106
Theological Training College, Dealtry Road, Putney (10)
Thomas Martyn's Watermen's School N91, (87)
Wandsworth School for Boys, visits to Nazi Germany 108
Wandsworth schools during the Regency period 30
Winstanley Road School, Battersea 57

Entertainment, theatres and cinemas

Albert Palace, Battersea (7), 45
---- ----, Ladies' Orchestra at the, 1885 102
Crichton Hall. Clapham Junction (4)
Edwardian music hall memories 108
Grand Theatre, Clapham Junction 108, 111
Plaza Cinema, Southfields, 1961 (88)
Putney Amateur Dramatic Society, 1952 98
'Putney Bus, The', music hall song 14, (111)
Putney Hippodrome, foundation stone (25), (26), (27)
Shakespeare Theatre, Battersea (3), (4), 82
Wandsworth Picture Palladium (73)

Historical walks

Balham – Balham Station – Tooting Bec Common – Balham High Road WP4
Battersea – Arding & Hobbs – Battersea Rise – Wandsworth Common WP2
Battersea – Clapham Junction – Battersea High St – Battersea Bridge WP4
Battersea – Park Town – Shaftesbury Estate – Lavender Hill WP2
Battersea – York Road – Wandsworth WW2
Putney – Putney Bridge – All Saints', Putney – Upper Richmond Road – Putney High Street WP4
Putney – Putney High St – Putney Hill – Putney Heath WP2
Wandsworth – Wandsworth Plain – St Ann's Hill – West Hill WP2

Industry, trade and retailing – Balham

Mash, William, greengrocer, 1880s (86)

Industry, trade and retailing – Battersea

(See also 'Mills')

Arding & Hobbs, devastating fire, 1909 90
Battersea enamels 4, (109)
Battersea Power Station (7)
Beaufoy & Co., acetic acid etc. manufacturers (19), 61, 64, 68
Bell's Distillery (5), 75
Biucci, Alessandro, confectioner 92
Building wages, 1600 (3)
Dorman Long's steelworks, Nine Elms, 1941-44 85, (86), (89)
Fownes Bros., glove manufacturers 76
Kola Tonic, 1914 108
Leon's dress shop, Clapham Junction, 1937 (92)
Morgan Crucible, industrial manufacturers 9, 76, (77)
Nine Elms gasworks 1, 63
Parkes Drug Store, Lavender Hill 110
Poli-Varn Ltd, manufacturers of 'Scourine', 1920s 99
Price's Patent Candle Co. 3, 90

Priddis & Son, suppliers of greenhouses, etc., 1890s 90
Projectile & Engineering Co., 1940 103
Pure Water Co., mineral water manufacturers (7), (19)
Rawes & Co., brewers (78)
Rust & Co., vitreous mosaic manufacturers 90 with longer version online
Silicated Carbon Filter Co. (81)
Smith, Henry, undertaker 93
Spencer, Arthur, plumber (81)
Whisky distillery at Latchmere 102

Industry, trade and retailing – Putney

Charles Beck & Co., mineral water manufacturers (19)
Copper smelting industry in Putney, c.1680 101
John Farmer, mineral water manufacturers (19)
KLG spark plugs, 1944 105
'Pussy's Butcher', no. 1 Gay Street, cats' meatman 72
Putney Market (4)
Putney Motor Co. (55), N1/67
Putney Pottery, 1668-1739 62
Putney retailing changes (93)
Spalding's, sports equipment manufacturers 110
Stewart's, C. J., Putney master butchers 87
Thomas Hicks & Co., mineral water manufacturers 19

Industry, trade and retailing – Wandsworth

(See also 'Mills')

Blackmore Bolting Cloth Factory 61
Cadwell's fireworks factory, explosion at, 1888 (80)
Cats-meat and 'Chemical Manure' factory in Garratt Lane, 1830s-1929 72
Clayton Bros., East Hill, mineral water manufacturers 19
Cresswell, Ball & Co., piano dealers, etc. (84)
Evershed family, undertakers 76
Frame Food Co., invalid food manufacturers 90
Hamilton & Co., manure manufacturers, 1890s (88)
Hardwick & Sons, drapers 45, 111
Jelley & Co., bicycle retailers, late 1880s 109
Mopsey, Henry, ironmonger 73, 107
Niphan factory at Southfields, electrical engineers 70
Royal Paper Mills fire, 1903 (40)
Skinner, William, Southfields dairyman and policeman 68
Stamper & Son, East Hill, coachbuilders 70
Starkie Gardner, decorative metal workers (81)
Voelker Lighting Corporation, gas mantle manufacturers (82)
Wagner, Joseph, hairdresser, 1880s (95)
Wandsworth Gas Co. and its ships 8, 81

Industry, trade and retailing – general

Aircraft manufacture 7
Automobile industry in the Borough of Wandsworth 55
Chemist shop changes in Wandsworth, late twentieth century 101
Distilleries 5
Mineral water manufacturers 19
Photographers and studios, early twentieth century 5
Postcard publishing, early twentieth century 56
Thames-side sugar houses 71
Wandsworth Dairy, south Lambeth (24)

Institutions

Battersea Dogs' Home (2)
Battersea Reference Library 44
Battersea's museums 53
Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common 12, (84)
Drouet's Pauper Asylum, Tooting 4, (40)
National Penitentiary at Battersea, proposed project, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Putney Baths, the building of the, 1886 47

Putney Library 7, N88
Ross Institute, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Putney (14)
Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum 9
St Benedict's Hospital, Tooting (90)
St George's Hospital, Tooting, decorative statues 87
St Peter's Hospital, East Hill, Wandsworth (41), 47
Streatham Cemetery, Garratt Lane , Tooting 64
Theological Training College, Dealtry Road, Putney (10)
Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth Common, 1914-19 (77), 98, 101
---- ----, Tin Nose Shop at the 102

Local government

Battersea vestrymen, early 1880s, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Burns, John, MP, responsible for Town Planning Act, 1909 91
Council House/Book House, East Hill, Wandsworth 56, (79)
Elford, E. J., Wandsworth Borough Engineer, 1920s/30s 91
First Borough Council elections, 1900 32
Hills, H. G., Wandsworth's first Town Clerk, 1875-1912 48
Lancaster, William John, mayoral portrait in oils, c. 1902 103
Lurline Gardens Library, Battersea 110
Mayors of Battersea, 1900-09 33, 36, 37, 39, 43, 44, 47-49
Mayors of Wandsworth, 1900-19 35, 38, 40-42, 45, 46, 51
Metropolitan Board of Works area, inclusion of Putney in, 1855 (3)
NALGO, Wandsworth branch, children's Christmas party, 1956 (89)
Rubbish collection, inter-war years (101)
Wandsworth District Board of Works, ratepayers' correspondence, 1880-96 98
Wandsworth rates bill, 1904 (79)
Wandsworth's coat of arms, 1901-65 98

Manorial history

Allfarthing Manor, the Porter family, Lords of (68)
Allfarthing's missing manorial lords 78
Battersea & Wandsworth Manor 27, 29, 31
Battersea and Wandsworth, their manorial history N4/63, N5/63
Doune & Allfarthing, manors of, in the fourteenth century N187
Downe and Dunsford, manors of, eleventh-century vinedressing 98
Dunsford Manor 1851–1898: A Late-Victorian Manor in Wandsworth (2006) WP14
Dunsford Manor and the Brodrick family in Wandsworth 42, 44
Dunsford Manorial Court, 1663 49
Home Farm of Allfarthing in the fourteenth century 85
Honour of Hampton Court (11)
Lords of the Manor, an overview 12
Tooting Bec Manor and Richard Bradwater (12)
Wimbledon, talk by Mrs Higham N2/61

Military history

Armed volunteers against Napoleon 27, 78
Balaclava hero, funeral of, 1910 74
Balham clergyman and the Peninsular Campaign 81
'Battersea Benwell and Weymouth' infantry, 1803-13 77, (79)
Bridge of boats, Putney, 1642 65
'King and Constitution': the Wandsworth Volunteer Infantry, 1794-1809 (2011) WP22
Southfields Defence Force, 1914-18 55
Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth Common, 1916 (77)
Wimbledon Common Rifle Ranges N1/59, N2/59, N3/59

Mills

Battersea Horizontal Mill 2
Beverley Brook Mill N3/67
Duntshill Flock Mill N1/60
Garratt mills, 1727-1890 75
Mills on the Wandle N1/58, N3/59, N3/61

Riparian owners, various disputes N190
Upper Mills, Wandsworth 11
Wandsworth mill tithes, payment of, 1662-1836 108
Wandsworth paper mills 50
Wandsworth's water mills to 1700 70
Wimbledon Common Windmill, visit to, 1978 18

Miscellaneous

August Bank Holiday in Battersea, 1891 (30)
Balham & District Antiquarian & Natural History Soc., 1897-c.1916 94
Battersea Square fire, 1828 (34)
Brown dog memorial, Battersea, 1906-11 (83)
Cary's map of the high roads, Battersea to Putney, 1790 (104)
Coronation revels, 1902 (80)
Early postcards of Wandsworth 56
East Hill, noisome pond, 1847-55 64
Emperor Claudius (publicity event), Putney, 1993 66
Escaped lion, Clapham Junction, 1943 (101)
Fire insurance marks 4
Greek trireme at Putney (reconstruction), 1993 (66)
'Gun Day' war savings event at Wandsworth, 1918 106
Hermit of Wandsworth, 1524 63
Hurricane at Roehampton, 1780 N5/69
Local newspapers, three, issues no. 100 of 100
'Maria Wood', City barge (82)
Mayors of Garrat, election of 54
---- ----, token coinage of 57
Murder of Mr Chivers in Battersea, 1807 75
Murder on Battersea Bridge, 1844 73
Oak tree in Smithwood Close, Southfields 90
Peace celebrations, 1902 (76)
Poem from the 'Art of Politicks' by J. Bramston, 1729 N110
Postage stamp, use of, Tooting, 1905 (97)
Prehistoric Wandsworth 48, 50, 52
Primrose League, Wandsworth Town Hall entertainment, 1902 (107)
Telegraph Inn, Putney 67
'To be cut for the simples', seventeenth-century expression about Battersea 91
Tudor murder in Wandsworth, 1495 (60)
Two local heroes, 1885 & 1899 (monument in Postmen's Park) 53
V1 attacks on Wandsworth (78)
Wandsworth aqueduct, constructed 1882-85 (86)
Wandsworth Borough News, 125th anniv. tribute 89
---- ----, early issues, 1884-1900 (79)
Wandsworth Grand Carnival, 1898 (85)
Wandsworth Historian production story since 1971 99, 100
---- ----, fortieth anniv. tribute 91
---- ----, first issue, 1971 (78), 100
Wandsworth Historical Society, exhibition space refused, 1972 (77)
---- ----, foundation of, 1953 77, 96
---- ----, Prince Charles's inspection of 'dummy' excavation, Battersea Park, 1982 (34)
Wandsworth in 1971 111
Wandsworth man and heavy beer consumption, 1762 (89)
Wandsworth meritocrats 96

Parish and other boundaries

Barnes/Putney boundary (17)
Battersea and Wandsworth boundaries with Clapham 87 with longer version online
Battersea boundary through West Streatham 58
Battersea bounds west of the Wandle 89
Battersea Parish boundary plate (51)
Battersea's Anglo-Saxon boundaries 60
Brixton Hundred 25, 67
Clapham Detached (3)
Medieval Battersea, western boundary of 59, 61
Penge N89
Putney Detached 31
Putney Stones (boundary/milestones) N4/60, N5/60, N1/61
Putney's boundaries 41
Roehampton Detached 60
Saxon bounds for Wandsworth 69, 74
Wandsworth Parish boundaries, the 1788 perambulation 71, 72
Wandsworth/Wimbledon boundary 35

Personalities and families

Adams, Dr, Putney schoolmaster, c.1800 (11)
Anderson, Rev. John Hendry, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1904-05 42, (111)
Archer, John, photographer and Battersea mayor, 1913-14 (103)
Arnold, Benedict, American patriot 52
Atkinson, Thomas, Battersea labour activist 101
Bailey, Stanley, local historian 31
Baines, Thomas, explorer (11)
Barnes, Howarth, Mayor of Battersea, 1901-02 36
Bartlett, Adelaide, possible murderer N5/68
Baudouin, James, Huguenot property owner 69
Beaduric, possible Battersea inhabitant, ninth century 65
Beaufoy family, vinegar manufacturers etc. (19), 61, 64, 68, (71), (85), (86)
Beck, Charles, mineral water manufacturer (19)
Bell, Jacob, pharmacist N3/66
Bell, Mark, Battersea distiller 75
Bennett, Arnold, author 79, N6/66
Bennett, William Sterndale, composer 108
Berewyk, John, Vicar of Battersea, 1401-02 N91
Bernard, Charles, mineral water manufacturer (19)
Berringer, Dorothy, family planning pioneer, mid-twentieth century 50
Bessborough family, owners of Manresa House, Roehampton 16, 17, 18
Bexfield, William, parish organist, Wandsworth, 1840s 95
Bishop, William, Putney builder 47
Biucci, Alessandro, Battersea confectioner 92
Black family, in the Wandsworth area 102
Black, Robert W., Putney businessman (15)
Blackmore family, bolting cloth manufacturers 61
Bonaparte family, descendants of Napoleon 28
Bonaparte, Napoleon, prospective Wandsworth resident (86)
Booth, Charles, sociologist 69, (71)
Borradaile, William, Vicar of Wandsworth, 1823-38 110
Bradwater, Richard, Tooting Bec serf 12
Brannon, Philip, healthy-living advocate 111
Branson, Clive, artist and International Brigader (105)
Brodrick family, Lords of the Manor of Dunsford 42, 44
Brodrick, Sir Alan, royalist sympathiser N6/69
Brodrick, William, King's Embroiderer 63, 64, (101)
Brown, Elenchus, social experimentalist (86)
Brown, James, Mayor of Battersea, 1906-07 47
Browne, Frederick, murderer, 1927 109
Brunel, Marc, inventor 35
Budge family, Lambeth butchers 64
Bulstrode, Edward, evangelist N5/61
Burgess, Alfred, Putney inventor 97
Burns, John, MP (71), 91, (96), 98, (99), 100
Bursill, J. Francis, historian and journalist (82)
Cadwell, Harry, Wandsworth fireworks manufacturer (80)
Cameron, Julia Margaret, photographer 90
Carey, Rosa, Putney author (15)
Carmalt, William, Putney Poor Law administrator, early nineteenth century N5/65
Carroll, Lewis, author N3/63
Cassells, Mr. Justice, high court judge N3/68
Chambers, Sir William, architect 16
Chivers, Mr, Battersea murder victim, 1807 75
Christie, John, murderer (84)
Churchill, Sir Winston, prime minister 78
Clarence, Duke of, later King William IV 34, (99)
Clasper, J. H., Putney boat-builder N5/69
Constable, John, painter 16
Craig, Rev. John, telescope builder 81
Cromwell family, their Putney connection 14
Cromwell Katherine, sister of Thomas Cromwell N89
Cromwell, Oliver, Lord Protector N4/69, N89

Cromwell, Thomas, Lord Great Chamberlain 43, 75, (96), N4/56, N90
---- ----, *Thomas Cromwell and his Family in Putney and Wandsworth* (2017) WP31
Crotch, Arthur, Putney historian 106
Davies, Robert, Earlsfield property developer (15)
Davies, William, Mayor of Battersea, 1900-01 33
Davis, Henry Hart, Battersea property developer, in *Aspects of Battersea History, 1770-1910* (2010) WP18
Dawes family, Putney philanthropists 47, 48
Dawes, Sir Thomas, Putney benefactor, c.1648 N92
Dawnay, Sir Archibald, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1908-19 51
Dawson, A. J., novelist 91
Despard, Charlotte, suffragette (87), (88)
Dibdin, Charles, songwriter, late eighteenth century 104
Drouet, Charles, Tooting asylum keeper 4, (40)
Dryden, Alfred, Putney worthy 107, 109
Dubuisson family, Huguenot émigrés (21), (22), 64
Duchesse of Angoulême, French émigré (82)
Elford, E. J., Wandsworth Borough Engineer, 1920s/30s 91
Eliot, George (Mary Ann Evans), author 41, (96)
Evershed family, Wandsworth undertakers 76
Faith, Adam (Terry Nelhams), pop singer (87)
Fanner, Grace, headmistress of Putney County Secondary School, 1907-34 106
Fludger family, Putney residents, late eighteenth century N6/69
Forster, E. M, author (83)
Foster, 'Ted', VC, WWI hero 84, 86, 103
Fourdrinier family of Huguenots 108
Fraigneau, William, Vicar of Battersea, 1758-78 (7)
Freestone, William, Balaclava hero 74
Fuentes, Nicholas (Nick Farrant), archaeologist 91
Garnett, Constance, translator 99
Gibbon, Edward, historian 52, N98
Gilmore, Isabella, philanthropist 5
Gissing, George, novelist 95
Glegg, Sir Alexander, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1905-06 45
Griffiths, John, Vicar of Wandsworth, c.1539 N90
Haines, Frederick, Battersea estate developer 73
Hardwick family, Wandsworth drapers 45
Hartley, David, fire-proofing inventor N6/63
Harvey, William, physician N1/62
Haughton, Edward, Putney cleric, c.1646 N91
Height, Amy, African-descent music-hall artist 108
Heyford family, Wandsworth landowners, fourteenth century (3)
Hillary, Vicar of Battersea, c.1299 N4/69
Hills, H. G., Wandsworth's first Town Clerk, 1975-1912 48
Holcroft, Johanna, wife of Oliver St John N91
Huguenots (4), 46, 77
Hunt, Leigh, essayist 7, 57
Hunt, William, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1902-03 40
Jackson, Sir Henry, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1921-23 N1/70
Jelley, James, bicycle retailer, late 1880s 109
Jerrold, Douglas, humorist 104, N2/58
Johnson, Pamela Hansford, novelist 54
Johnson, Samuel, Dr, lexicographer (4)
Keall, John, pharmacist 98
Kemp family, owners of Putney Pottery, 1668-1739 62
Kennedy, William, murderer, 1927 109
Kimber, Sir Henry, MP (26)
Knyvett, Frank and Thomas, Putney connections, mid-seventeenth century N6/64
Kynoch, Charles, Clapham builder (61)
Lancaster, Sir William, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1901-02 38, 103, N6/67, N1/68
Landseer, Sir Edwin, painter N3/66
Lane family, seventeenth-century land surveyors 84
Lane, Nicholas, surveyor and cartographer, seventeenth century 34, 43

Langridge, James, Wandsworth publican, c.1606 N88
Larpent, Anna, Putney diarist, see *Mrs Larpent in Putney 1804-1811* (2010) WP19
Law, William, chaplain to the Gibbon family, 1723-38 58
Lawrence, George Fabian, aka 'Stoney Jack', antiquarian 105, (106)
Leader, J. T., nineteenth-century radical (15), 72, N4/61
Lenin, V. I., revolutionary 99
Lidiard, John, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1900-01 35
Lind, Jenny, Swedish singer 2, (35), (90)
Lloyd George, David, prime minister 94
Lockyer, Nicholas, Putney Debates participant (17)
Loobey, Patrick, local historian 81
Lorden, Sir John, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1903-04 & 1907-08 41
Loye, Henry, Wandsworth inhabitant, c.1486 (4)
Lyndwood, William, Putney cleric, c.1433 N90
Lynes, Thomas, Wandsworth architect 55
Macmanus, Emily, hospital matron, mid-twentieth century N2/68
Marshall, William, spy, 1952 (78)
Martin, John, Putney brewer, c.1477 4
Martyn, Thomas, Putney benefactor, c.1684 N91
Mary, Queen, injured in Southfields, 1939 107
Maudit, Nicholas, medieval sergeant at arms 70
Maudyt, Nicholas, Wandsworth knight, c.1420 40
Mayhew, Henry, social researcher (104)
Maynard, Sir John, parliamentarian, c.1646 N90
McAndrew, William, orange merchant 71
Meade, Cecil, Putney photographer, c.1915 (110)
Mopsey, Henry, Wandsworth ironmonger 73, (107)
Morgan, J. Pierpont, US financier 17
Morley, Atkinson, hospital benefactor 102
Morley, Lord, politician, early twentieth century N3/60
Morton, J. B. ('Beachcomber'), writer and journalist (89)
MPs up to 1918 (6)
Muhammed Sa'id Pasha 21
Muller, Jean Baptiste, Prussian hussar (65)
Newnes, Sir George, magazine editor 7
North, Lady, mother of the Putney businessman, R. W. Black (15)
Nuthall, Thomas, Roehampton resident, c.1672 N4/60, BS1
Oates, Laurence, Antarctic explorer 7
Pantekyn, Nicholas, Wandsworth shepherd, fourteenth century N188
Papillon, David, Huguenot émigré (4)
Pearson, Charles, urban reformer, mid-nineteenth century N3/65
Pettiward family, Putney landowners (12)
Phipson, Evacustes, artist (93), 94
Pigott family, Wandsworth Common residents, c.1884 80
Pitt, William the Younger, prime minister N1/70
Pocock, William, Wandsworth architect 56
Pole, William, theatre producer BS3
Pollock, Donald, local historian 24
Pollock, Sir George, Anglo-Afghan War veteran (82)
Ponsonby family, residents of Manresa House, Roehampton 16, 17, 18
Porter family, Lords of Allfarthing Manor (68)
Potter, Beatrix, children's author (11)
Potter, Stephen, writer and critic N3/67, N4/67
Powell, Susanna, Wandsworth benefactor, c.1630 66
Prime Ministers associated with Wandsworth (4), 78, N1/70
Purves, Thomas Fortune, Post Office engineer 104
Raine, Allen (Anne Adalisa Puddicombe), novelist (85)
Ramanujan, Srinivasa, Indian mathematician (33)
Ratcliff, Richard, Battersea churchwarden, late sixteenth century (5)
Raynor, Arthur, Mayor of Battersea, 1902-03 37
Reisen, Charles Christian, gem engraver 57
Rines, William, Mayor of Battersea, 1905-06 44
Roe, A. V., aviation pioneer (7), N1/58

Roosevelt, Eleanor, Southfields schoolgirl, 1899-1902 105
Roydon, Henry, Battersea churchwarden, 1564-66 (5)
Rust family, Battersea vitreous mosaic manufacturers 90 with longer version online
Ryley, Harold Buchanan, Emanuel School headmaster, 1905-13 92 with longer version online
Sampson, Thomas, Wandsworth property owner, late eighteenth century 110, 111, N4/56, N5/56, N6/60
Scarth, Henry and James, Putney residents, early nineteenth century 93, N3/62
Schroeder, Adolph, German spy, 1914 93
Seymour, Robert, artist (58)
Shepherd, William, hospital benefactor (84)
Sheppard, Sophia, Wandsworth landowner, early nineteenth century (21)
Short, Oswald and Eustace, aviation pioneers (7)
Simmonds, Henry Samuel, Battersea local historian 104
Sinclair, May, author 83
Sirrie, Yussef, servant to Henry Scarth, c.1843 93
Skelton, Humphrey, upholsterer and archer 57
Skinner, William, Southfields dairyman and policeman 68
Smith, Henry, Battersea undertaker 93
Smith, Henry, Wandsworth benefactor, early sixteenth century N6/59, N1/70
Spencer family, Lords of the Manor N5/56
Spencer, Arthur, Battersea plumber, c.1904 (81)
Spurgeon, Charles Haddon, Baptist preacher 88
St Aubyn, Sir John, arts and sciences patron (8)
St Hippolyte, General, Putney landowner, c.1745 (2)
St John family, Lords of the Manor of Battersea, 1627-1763 43
St John, Henry, Viscount Bolingbroke, Tory politician, early eighteenth century 1
St John, Oliver, Manor of Battersea lessee, 1627-30 N91, N92
St John, Walter, founder of the Battersea school, 1700 N4/69, N89
St Patrick, connection with Wandsworth and Battersea discussed 63-67
St Wandrille, connection with Domesday Wandsworth 91
Stamper & Son, Wandsworth coachbuilders 70
Steele, Sir Richard, essayist 50
Stephens, Mrs. Lyne, Roehampton resident, c.1861 15
Stewart family, Putney master butchers 87
Sutherland, Duke of, owner of Melrose Hall, Wandsworth, early nineteenth century (21)
Symons, Rev. H. J., Balham clergyman 81
Talfourd, Thomas Noon, writer and judge 74, (75)
Taylor, J. G., Battersea historian 95
Taylor, Percy, Battersea schoolboy, 1870s 99
Temple, Thomas, Vicar of Battersea, 1634-57 67
Thackeray, William Makepeace, author of *Lovel the Widower* 95
Thomas, Edward, poet 20
Thornton, Percy, MP 30, 31, (32), (83)
Thrale family, friends of Dr Johnson (4)
Toland, John, Putney resident, 1718-22 83
Tones, Rose, war worker (86)
Trenchenent, William, Vicar of Battersea, 1306-20 (3)
Twygge family, Putney tenant farmers, late fifteenth century 42
Varah, Chad, founder of the Samaritans (94)
Verrinder, Edgar, Battersea railwayman, 1858-93 72
Voltaire, French writer 94, (95), 109, BS2
Von Esch, Louis, composer c.1806 (91)
Wagner, Joseph, Wandsworth hairdresser, 1880s (95)
Walter, Sir William, Roehampton tenant, c.1617 (2)
Walter, Wandsworth vinedresser, c.1086 98
Warren, Stanley, local historian 29
Watts, William, Mayor of Battersea, 1903-04 39
Wells, H. G., author N5/66
West, Bishop Nicholas, Dean of Windsor, 1510-15 45

West, William, Mayor of Battersea, 1904-05 43
Whittaker, Tobias, royal physician, c.1666 (2)
Whorwood, William, attorney-general to Henry VIII (2), (3)
Wilberforce, William, slave-trade abolitionist (87)
Wilkinson family, residents of Roehampton House, c.1775 32
Williams, Charles, early eighteenth century actor (1)
Williams, Morgan, ancestor of Oliver Cromwell N89
Williams, William Robert, Putney builder 100
Willis, William, Mayor of Battersea, 1908-09 49
Wilson, Edward, Antarctic explorer N1/67
Wise, James, Mayor of Wandsworth, 1906-07 46
Witton, Stephen, Putney cleric, c.1434 (2)
Wollstonecraft, Mary, writer (63)
Wolsey, Cardinal, Tudor statesman N6/69
Wood, Francis Derwent, facial reconstruction artist at Queen Mary's hospital, Roehampton 102
Worthy, Frederic, Mayor of Battersea, 1907-08 48
Wright, Howard and Warwick, aviation pioneers (7)

Philanthropy, poverty and poor relief

Barnes Workhouse N4/60
Battersea Eel Gobblers, 1920s/30s (87)
Battersea, 1600 (6)
Charles Booth in Battersea 69
Drouet's Pauper Asylum, Tooting 4, (40)
Freemasonry and other mutual organisations, 1860s-1914 85
Friendly Societies of Battersea and Clapham 71
Gilmore House, Clapham Common North Side 5, (6)
Gonville Hut, Battersea (82)
Hygeiopolis no.1, Battersea's proposed 'City of Health', c.1873 111
Morley, Atkinson, hospital benefactor 102
Poverty in Putney, treatment of, 1620-1834, *A Charge on the Parish* (1973) WP1
Putney poverty, WHS research project 5
Putney Workhouse, site of 35
Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum 9
Spanish Civil War, Wandsworth's response to the 103
St Peter's Hospital, East Hill, Wandsworth (41), 47
Watermen's Chest, Putney charity 96
Wandsworth & Clapham Union Workhouse, 1860s N1/66
Wandsworth great tithes and Marshall's Charity 62
Women's Pioneer Housing in inter-war Putney 110

Public houses

Arab Boy, Putney 93
Bull & Star, Putney (4)
Feathers Inn, Wandsworth N4/59
King's Head, Roehampton 69
Mitre, The, Tooting (84)
Pubs of Putney and Roehampton (2013) WP27
Pubs of Wandsworth (2012) WP23
Ram Inn, Battersea N88
Raven Inn, Battersea (88)
Red House, Battersea 12
Telegraph Inn, Putney, founding of 67

Putney – general

Anglo-Saxon Putney and Roehampton 36, 39, 40
Copper smelting industry in Putney, c.1680 101
Irish bureaucracy, confronted from Putney, 1935 102
Literary Putney and its Environs, 17th-21st Century (2013) WP26
Map of Putney in 1787 61
Medieval Putney 14, 15, 16
---- ----, a planned village? 51, 52, 53
Mrs Larpent in Putney 1804-1811 (2010) WP19
Putney and Roehampton in 1665: a Street Directory and Guide (2007) WP16
Putney Bridge Road, 1911 92
Putney in 1497 109

Putney Lower Common allotments, 1947 (94)
Putney Old Burial Ground, Upper Richmond Road 103, (105)
Putney Park Lane murder, 1842 95
Putney property holders in 1787 67
Putney Remembers the Men of the First World War: St Mary's roll of honour (2017) WP30
Putney street directory, 1617 13
Putney, the story of, talk by D. Pollock N6/58
Putney 1773 N4/69
Putney – 1851 (1981) WP6
Seventeenth-century Putney 49
Tudor Putney 43
Villas and Mansions of Roehampton and Putney Heath (1997) WP9
Women's Pioneer Housing in inter-war Putney 110

Reminiscences

Battersea childhood in the 1920s 89
Battersea Rise in the 1920s, a novelist's account 54
Battersea, youthful times in, 1930s 96
Cinderella Dancing Club bombing, 1943, a survivor's account 86, 109
Cut, The, Wandsworth, late nineteenth century 59
Earlsfield childhood in the 1920s 79
Edwardian music hall memories 108
Edwardian Putney (15), 27
Edwardian Southfields, growing up in 105
Ice-cream seller in Putney, 1930s 90
Munt Bros, connection with Arding & Hobbs fire, Clapham Junction, 1909 90
Putney, boyhood memories of, c.1914-24 75
Putney during the Second World War 88
River Thames in the 1930s/40s 91
Rowing at Putney, 1930s 32
Royal events, 1897-1905 (16)
Southfields dairyman and policeman, c.1860-1929 68
Southfields, some memories of 64
Usk Road, Battersea, V2 incident, 1945 94
V1 attacks on Battersea, 1944 97
Wandsworth and Battersea between the wars 102
Wandsworth, bombed out in, 1941-44 57, 93

Resources for further research

Bibliography of the Riverside Parishes: Putney, Wandsworth and Battersea (1983) U/N
British Pathé film archive website (80)
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Local directories, digitisation project (93)
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London churches (107)
Putney in 1636: Nicholas Lane's Map (1994) WP7
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Valuation Office records for house-history, use of 84
Victorian newspapers accessible online (105)
Wandsworth Borough News, 31 January 1885, facsimile of 89
Wandsworth Historian digitised archive (2011, updated 2015 & 2021) U/N
Wandsworth in 1787: John Corris's Map (2002) WP11
William Field's Photographs of Putney (1997) U/N
Young's Brewery archive (111)

Roehampton – general

Anglo-Saxon Putney and Roehampton 36, 39, 40
Early history of Roehampton, 1300-1650 1
Early Roehampton, site of 27
Putney and Roehampton in 1665: a Street Directory and Guide (2007) WP16
Roehampton in 1617 2
Roehampton in 1617: the Village Surveyed (2001) WP8
Roehampton Village (2016) WP29
Villas and Mansions of Roehampton and Putney Heath (1997) WP9

Sport

Cricket (Wandsworth and the Ashes) N1/63
Cricket on Putney Lower Common, complaints about, 1800 (71)
Cycling (Putney Velodrome) N5/59, N5/60
Kite-flying on Wimbledon Common 9
Putney Hockey Club (11)
Rowing at Putney, 1930s 32
Tooting Bec Lido, its origins, 1906 83
University Boat Race (9), (99)

Street- and place-names

(See 'Agriculture, field systems and enclosures' for field names)

Amen Corner, Tooting (3)
Beaudric and Battersea 65
Burntwood Lane, Tooting (2)
Charlwood Road, Putney (7)
Earlsfield (11), (15)
Gibbefeld in mediaeval Wandsworth 100
Heyford, Wandsworth (3)
Khama Road, Tooting (14)
Kimber Road, Wandsworth N92
Latchmere Estate, Battersea, street names 80
Longstaff Road/Crescent, Wandsworth N88
Norroy Road, Putney (4)
Putney Pightles (enclosures) 42
Putney, origin of name 15, 60, 67
---- ----, other places with same name 9, (11)
---- ----, some early street-names N1/69
Queen's Ride, Putney 17
Salvador, Tooting N1/70, N89
Seymour Road, Wandsworth (3)
Spencer's Court/Pleasant Row, Wandsworth (76)
Street-name origins 2, 3, 4
Streets of Battersea, The: their Names and Origins (2008; 2nd printing, 2013) WP17
Summerstown, Wandsworth, its origins N189, N190
Sutherland Grove, Southfields N91
Swinburne Road, Putney (4)
Thomas Baines Road, Battersea N92
Tooting Graveney (6)
Totterdown, Tooting 65
Vinegar Hill, Putney (17)
Wandsworth area, place-name evidence for Saxon settlement 23
Wandsworth, some field and place names of 53
Westbury Estate, Putney N4/61
Woodlands Way, Putney (4)

Tooting – general

Air raid on Tooting, 1917 104
Anglo-Boer War Memorial in Tooting Parish Church 105
Anglo-Saxon Balham and Tooting 40
Moated site of Bente and the lost chapel of Tooting Bec 70
'Tooting jottings', 1908-19 42-52, 54
Tooting, the history of, talk by E. Goodrich N6/56, N1/57

Transport and communications – bridges and waterways

Albert and Chelsea Bridges N1/70
Battersea Bridge, alignment of, 1880s 109
---- ----, 1772-1890 97, (100)
Battersea Ferry and Bridge (3), N88
Battersea Railway Bridge N89
Bridge of boats, Putney, 1642 65
Citizen Steam Boat Co. 97
Cut, The, Wandsworth 59
Early river crossings at Putney 57
Freeing of Battersea's bridges from toll, 1879 25

Grosvenor Railway Bridge, near Battersea Park N6/69
Putney Bridge 24, (49), N6/68, N1/69, N6/69
---- ----, illustration for 'Edwin Drood' (69)
---- ----, sketch by J. M. Whistler, 1879 (101)
Putney Ferry N5/67, N91, (87)
Roe Bridge, Mitcham Lane 66
Steamboat services, 1870s-1908 (85)
Van-powered ferryboat, Putney 97
Wandsworth Bridge N90
Wandsworth to Croydon canal, William Jessop's feasibility study, 1799 (70)

Transport and communications – railways

Battersea railwayman (Edgar Verrinder), 1858-93 72
Battersea's railway industry, an introduction to 4
City Railway, The, unfulfilled project, 1837 46
Clapham Junction, fatal accident at, 1892 107
Clapham Junction Station, its origins and development 45, 47, 48, 50, 51
Clapham Junction to Grosvenor Bridge, high-level railway, opening of, 1867 N92
Earlsfield Station, opening of, 1884 N88
London & South Western Railway, staff photograph, Clapham Junction, 1889 106
---- ----, timetable, September 1914, selected features of 10
London & South Western Railway, 1838-56 42
London & Southampton Railway, opened 1838 40
London, Brighton & South Coast Railway timetable, 1912, selected features of 5
Metropolitan District Railway, Fulham extension, opened 1880 26
Metropolitan District Railway, Putney to Wimbledon extension, opened 1889 49
Nine Elms as a passenger station, 1838-48 41
Pneumatic despatch railway, trials at Battersea, 1860s 107
Proposed railway schemes, various unfulfilled projects 8
Putney Railway Bridge N1/69
Putney's first station, photograph of (100)
Railway engines, names associated with Wandsworth 50
Railwaymen in Victorian Battersea, 1851-71 46
Richmond Railway, opening of, 1846 N90
Staff of the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway in Battersea and Wandsworth 1856-1901 (2018) WP32
Surrey Iron Railway 95, N2/56, N4/69
Underground Railway extension, Clapham Common – Morden, 1926 (3)
Wandle Valley viaduct, 1846 96
Wandsworth and Putney, railways of N3/58, N4/58, N6/58
Wandsworth's first railway station, opened 1846 (18)
West London Line (46)

Transport and communications – roads and road transport

'County of London Plan', 1943 44
First tram in Putney (4)
Kennington to Streatham cable trams 49
Last tram in Wandsworth, 1950 88
Putney Embankment (2)
Putney High Street, a postcard (65)
---- ----, the paving of 46
Putney Stones (milestones) N4/60, N5/60, N1/61
Roehampton mounting block N4/60, BS1
Roman roads in and around Putney 13, 14
Trams in Balham and Tooting (5)
Tramways in Wandsworth and Putney (109), N6/60
Trolleybuses (109), N5/69
Turnpikes, 1799 (70)
Wandsworth one-way system, 1964 97
Wandsworth, planned motorways in, late 1960s 106

Wandsworth Parish – general

Anglo-Saxon Wandsworth 45
Australian war graves in Wandsworth Cemetery 103

Causeway, The, watercolour and photograph, c.1900 (110), (111)
Cumber's Yard, painting by E. Phipson, 1913 (93), 94
Domesday survey 92
Domesday Wandsworth and St Wandrille 91
Huguenot Cemetery, 1890s (83)
Industrial Wandsworth in the late seventeenth century 90
Life in 1856 (35)
Queen Mary's car crash, Wimbledon Park Road, 1939 107
River Wandle in 1633 65
Roman Wandsworth Town 62
Spy fever, 1914 93
Voltaire's home, 1720s 94, (95)
Wandsworth and the first detectives, 1842 95
Wandsworth High Street, sketch of, 1899 104
Wandsworth, the history of, talk by D. Pollock N2/59
Wandsworth's Lost Fishing Village (2012) WP25

Wandsworth Historical Society

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If you have an enquiry about any of the WHS publications, please email 020neil119@gmail.com or write to WHS, 119 Heythorp Street, London SW18 5BT.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wandsworth visiting one of the earliest
WHS archaeological excavations in Putney during October 1962.
(Photo: William Meredith)

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 112 First published in 1971 Autumn 2021

Contents

The 1951 Festival Pleasure Gardens at Battersea — Roger Logan 3

The Wandsworth typographer Stanley Stevens — Richard Purver 7

The Putney connection of Edvard Beneš — Philip Evison 11

The spirit of Chatfield Road, Battersea — Norma Cox 14

Miscellany 20

Reviews 23

The Print Gallery 26

From the editor

It's all about 'perspective'. By that I mean, with the passing of time and our own inevitable increase in worldly experience, we can – indeed, we should – look upon the same set of facts in a different light. Letting go of a long-held view and reassessing our first impressions is a particular challenge for historians, but one, through gritted teeth, we must be eager to take on.

When I was about 16 I bought for half-a-crown a 1925 bound volume of *Punch*. At the time the book was only forty years old, and yet I was enthralled by what I perceived as its sense of long-lost innocence. Browsing through it I laughed when it suggested going for a drive in a car in order to relax, and its wry smiles over the fashion for cloche hats and the novel pleasures of newspaper crosswords.

Looking back at it recently, now that it is close to a hundred years old, I am struck by how insensitive I was. Search as I may, there are no dignified images of black people, no sympathetic hint of the exceptional anguish that the divorce laws at the time could produce, and *definitely* no mention of homosexuality. It's still the same book, and yet it's not. Being a historian is no easy sinecure. We need to stay flexible and reconsider the past with ever-changing eyes. Like I say, it's a case of constantly reappraising our perspectives.
Neil Robson

Front cover

Clapham Junction, Battersea from St John's Hill in about 1905, with a skyline in the distance virtually unchanged in nearly 120 years. Munt's Hall, home of a prominent firm of piano dealers, appears on the right; the Arding & Hobbs departmental store, destined to be destroyed by fire in December 1909, stands in the centre; and the 'Falcon' public house towers gaudily to the left. Metal tracks score the streets at a time when the local tramways were yet to be converted to electric traction, and when liberally scattered horse manure made crossing the road a less than pleasant adventure. (Coloured postcard from the WHS Research Collection)

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 113 First published in 1971 Spring 2022

Contents

The location of Battersea 'old workhouse' 4
Jane Saul

The box-makers' strike in Summerstown in 1908 10
John Sheridan

The development of Heathfield Gardens, Wandsworth Common 15
Keith Bailey

Miscellany 20

Reviews 25

Front cover

Presbyterianism was a Scottish reformist movement, particularly influenced by the French theologian John Calvin and greatly mistrusted by Elizabeth I's government. It was in Wandsworth that the First English Presbytery was established in 1572, the leader of the cause at the time being Rev. Thomas Cartwright, a man so riddled with gout that he was allegedly obliged to deliver all his lectures and sermons from a kneeling position.

In May 1922, 350 years after its English foundation, Wandsworth's Presbyterians celebrated the anniversary, combining the event with the fiftieth birthday of their own church on Merton Road. On that occasion the *Wandsworth Borough News* applauded the local congregation for remaining 'staunch to the highest ideals of conduct and faith'. The church itself was destroyed by bombing in the Second World War. (WHS Research Collection, item no. 1518)

From the editor

Don't get me started about copyright! In the United Kingdom all creative works – photos, sketches, ephemeral jottings – are subject to restricted reuse by other people, and those protections last for the lifetime of their creators plus seventy years after their deaths. As a result, unborn relatives are able to enjoy unearned rights decades after their predecessors' demise. 'Creating a copyright aristocracy' was how one American academic scornfully described the situation. And so, although E. M. Forster died as long ago as 1970, his 1910 novel *Howard's End* will stay under copyright – until 2041! Bonkers!

Is this really a concern to people like us? Yes it is; present-day historians wishing to publish the results of their research must weigh the risks before reproducing any sixty-year-old snapshot, map or even an entry in a diary. And as a consequence, we readers lose out too. What an intolerable state of affairs.

If I ruled the world, creators' rights would be protected during their own lifetime but no more than a handful of months beyond that, and their yet-unborn relations would simply have to take care of themselves, just like the rest of us. But copyright is not an issue liable to be resolved in the near future, because law cases are expensive and any damages awarded are unlikely to be large. Besides, there's currently no political will to change these aggravating constraints, though I have to confess there are moments when frustration pushes me to the very edge of rebellion.

Neil Robson

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 114 First published in 1971 Autumn 2022

Contents

The endurance of Battersea's prefabs 4
Jean Davidson

A pharmacy technician's recollections of Wandsworth 12
Margaret Fogarty

The Huguenot family Lobjoit 17
Philip Evison

And more … 19

Reviews 22

Keeping you posted 24

Front cover

It was 1950, the week before Easter, still not five years since the end of the war, and the 'Forces' Sweetheart' was coming to Tooting. The venue was the Granada Cinema (now Buzz Bingo), even then celebrated for its eclectic interior; the organiser was the Kyiv-born impresario Sandor Gorlinsky; and for his main supporting artist he picked Reg Dixon, a well-liked radio comedian, famous for his signature tune *Confidentially*.

But the real draw was the 33-year-old Vera Lynn, renowned for her hugely successful sound recordings and her work boosting the morale of overseas troops. And with the price of the cheapest seats at only half-a-crown (12½p), this event was bound to be a crowd-puller. Who among that audience could have imagined that their star that Sunday would turn into a National Treasure and live for another seventy years?

(Programme cover, Patrick Loobey Collection)

From the editor

'Festival', *noun*: 'a period of celebration along the lines of a themed event'. It is often unwise to drift into superlatives, but surely this year's Wandsworth Heritage Festival was one of the best. Its format was broad – talks to attend, guided walks to enjoy, and even some pre-recorded presentations posted up on YouTube. And the topics it covered were remarkably diverse, ranging from the industrial archaeology of the Wandle, via a shout-out for various past Battersea women achievers, to an absorbing insight into the rich archive of the South London Swimming Club.

Without a doubt this year's Festival should be counted a success; it inspired a whole range of local historians to engage with numerous audiences and 'tell their stories', whilst at the same time reaching out to people well beyond what we might call our regular customer base. I was amazed, for example, that during our Platinum Jubilee party in Southfields no fewer than three of my neighbours told me they'd watched the online talks I'd produced.

Looking forward to 2023, why don't you consider participating and thereby relishing the sense of fulfilment that goes with the experience? If that's a step too far, do come along and lend your support to other historians and the efforts they have made. The Heritage Festival is a time for us to enjoy an uncommonly wide mix of events linked to an activity that gives enormous pleasure to so many of us. Make sure next year that you are part of it.

Neil Robson

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 115 First published in 1971 Spring 2023

Contents

The trials and fortunes of six local pharmacies 4
Norma Cox

The story behind Wandsworth's Town Hall friezes 10
Neil Robson

Growing up in post-war Roehampton 17
Stephen Shields

And more … 20

Reviews 25

Keeping you posted 27

From the editor

While recently reading a 1923 pulp fiction thriller (*The Return of Clubfoot* by Valentine Williams, since you are asking), I came across this potent line: 'That sublime sense of superiority, which we British suck in with our mother's milk, is a heartening thing when you find it in your fellow Britisher abroad.' Here we go again: our old friend 'exceptionalism'. A few days after I'd finished the book, I happened to watch a YouTube video of a Swedish graphic designer assessing the merits of King Charles's new royal cypher. He contrasted it against the ones of Queen Victoria, George V, etc. that can still be seen on old British pillar boxes but – being a foreigner – he also drew comparisons with the present-day regal cyphers of a number of other European kingdoms. What's more, he actually preferred a couple of them to the latest British effort. What! Praiseworthy cultures outside our own sceptred isle?

There's a lesson to be learnt here. As healthy historians we must develop the courage to weigh our own country's experiences much more frequently alongside those of other lands. We might even find that there are aspects to them that point us towards admitting something we hadn't appreciated about ourselves. And that has got to be a good thing.

Neil Robson

Front cover

At 12.45 on 3 July 1902, nine-year-old Reginald Baker, proudly sporting a ruby-red cardboard badge on his chest, joined crowds of other schoolchildren outside the Ram Brewery in Wandsworth High Street, waiting to set off down Merton Road to the official local celebrations for King Edward VII's Coronation. An hour later they arrived at Leg of Mutton Field, a large open space west of Sutherland Grove, Southfields, where donkey rides, coconut shies and eventually fireworks awaited them.

In 1968 Baker donated his badge to the WHS together with his Programme of the day (see *WH* 80 (2005), p. 20), adding in his letter that this was 'the first large event that the new Wandsworth Borough Council had to organise'. 'God Save the King', they cried after a gap of over six decades. It is interesting to reflect that we find ourselves in precisely the same position.

(WHS Research Collection, item no. 1289)

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 116 First published in 1971 Autumn 2023

Contents

The WHS at 70: honouring our early writers 4
Neil Robson

The origins of the Wandsworth Technical Institute 14
John Sheridan

Aylings of Putney, oar-makers to the world 19
Tim Koch

And more … 23

Reviews 26

Keeping you posted 28

From the editor

The historian as an 'influencer' – now there's a thought. But first we need the right moment, and luckily one may well come our way, for this spring our Council announced its intention to bid for the honour of Wandsworth becoming London Borough of Culture 2025. Ours has long been 'the brighter borough'. It's home to world-renowned creative organisations covering art, song and dance, and here would be a chance for us to take stock of ourselves as a diverse society and be part of something extraordinary.

How could we historians play our part in it? Most of us fall into the category of grass-roots enthusiasts, which means we are the go-to people when it comes to highlighting exceptional individuals and events connected with our area's history, whether it be George Eliot savouring the success of *Adam Bede* in Southfields in 1859, one of Barbara Hepworth's sculptures taking centre-stage in Battersea Park in 1951, or The Beatles performing live at the Granada Tooting in 1963. What an opportunity to showcase our proud past to our neighbours and our visitors – and maybe surprise them along the way!

The Council team aim to present their submission in December, with the result expected early next year. And if – oh happy thought! – we are successful, the award will put culture and heritage right at the heart of our community. That will be our moment: with us sharing our knowledge, explaining how we research, and passing on our enthusiasm. Historians have power; let's channel it to add value to other people's lives.

Neil Robson

Front cover

'A spacious gastropub with rustic-chic décor' is how The King's Head at Roehampton is nowadays marketed. Maybe it was ever thus. An ale houses operated on this site in Roehampton High Street as far back as at least the 1720s, though the extensive clapper-board part of the structure may date from the even earlier period of the 1670s (per *WH* 69 (1998), pp. 1-3).

This particular print comes from 1886 and is based on a sketch by the prolific landscape artist, W. C. Keene. The scene is one of measured rural charm and yet, apart from the road surface, the wrought-iron pub sign, and the passing horseman, it is a view that has remained remarkably unchanged right down to our present time. (WHS Research Collection, item no. 1453)

Wandsworth Historian

The Journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society

Number 117 First published in 1971 Spring 2024

Contents

Enemy aliens in WWI Wandsworth 4
Ann Stephenson

The tale of a nineteenth-century master baker 10
Susan Pepper

Getting your clothes washed between the wars 15
Neil Robson

Our roll of honour 18

And more … 21

Keeping you posted 24

From the editor

A couple of months ago I was at a concert in Tooting when one of the soloists stepped forward and sang 'Something wonderful' from Rogers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*. It's a number I've always admired; it speaks to me. I was so moved that the following day I decided to check out other people's thoughts about the song on-line. 'This loathsome piece is nothing less than an abuser's charter,' posted one commentator; 'What every woman sings before she's struck yet again,' cried another. I was astonished – but maybe they had a point.

Quite a sobering experience, yet one that reminded me that we must constantly allow ourselves to see things in a new light. As emotionally healthy historians, we owe a duty to ourselves to look at whatever we're considering from different points of view. This means actively seeking out alternative opinions – those perhaps from people with contrasting political perspectives to ours, those maybe from a different ethnic background from our own. Reappraising our personal take on Britain's imperial past is a case in point; reconsidering our feelings about returning certain museum objects to their original localities is another. In short, we must be ready to give ourselves permission to change our stance on heritage matters. We may think our approach to the past is totally 'spot on', but that's not always necessarily the case

Neil Robson

Front cover

The tide ebbs steadily towards the mouth of the Thames, and gas lights burn dimly in the fading twilight, while Putney Parish Church rises beyond in silhouette. Here is the scene captured for posterity in 1885, just a year before the demolition of the town's old wooden bridge. Indeed, the crane to the right implies that the task has actually started. This striking image is the work of Frank Short (1857-1945), an acclaimed British printmaker and engraver.

The technique he used was mezzotint, whereby a metal plate was pricked with thousands of tiny dots, after which parts were selectively burnished to produce lighter areas, the remainder being delicately etched to give the design a greater definition. The outcome could be one of exceptional richness, though with the coming of photogravure printing, the process practically sank without trace. (Cleveland Museum of Art / Creative Commons CC0 1.0)