



THE SUTTON AND CHEAM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March 2016

An Amenity Society registered charity No. 276714

www.thesuttonandcheamsociety.btck.co.uk

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From our Chairman: To all Members..... For your urgent attention

We mentioned several months ago that, as from the AGM in June this year, and indeed for The Sutton and Cheam Society to continue in its present form at all, we would be in need of new Officers such as The Chairman, The Secretary and The Treasurer, as well as the need for more Members to serve on The Executive Committee. The Committee as a whole and individually has served the Society over many years and it is time now for various reasons that several of us have to stand down and let other people bring in new ideas and initiatives.

As no one has come forward to offer to take over any of these roles, in a recent discussion at our Executive Committee meeting, great concern was expressed at the situation in which the Society is placed at the moment with little time to redress the problems.

Various options were discussed including the complete winding up of The Society or the possibility of some kind of merger with another group. Neither option is what we feel any of our members would want for the Society but unless several people are able to come forward to take on the administration and running of our Society, by the end of April, there is little else we can do.

Please do give this urgent matter your thought and consideration and let me know if you might be able to help save the Society from what, at the moment, seems inevitable.

Keith Barbour

PLANNING MATTERS



By far the most important planning issue to be put before the Borough of Sutton's residents is the Council's **Local Plan**, recently launched under the banner "**Sutton 2031**".

The Greater London Authority predicts that Sutton's population could rise by over 31,000, by 2031 and to meet the challenge that such a significant increase would impose, this latest local plan has been instigated.

It embraces changes and developments over the next fifteen years which are far reaching, radical and in some aspects, quite controversial. They range over areas such as the Town Centre Master Plan, which anticipates substantial new building, redevelopment and the possibility of a Tramlink. A project called the London cancer Hub is to be located in Belmont, adjacent to The Royal Marsden, to function as a research and development centre which will become a world-leading hub of excellence in its field.

A burgeoning population growth on the scale predicted will require an acknowledged increase in residential housing units, schools and medical facilities, not to mention employment prospects

In promulgating this Borough-wide Local Plan, Sutton Council is seeking to involve existing residents by asking for comment and views by way of feedback. A series of consultation meetings is being held throughout February/March at various centres across the Borough, details of which have been publicised in Council leaflets and the local press. Details can be obtained by visiting the Website: www.sutton.gov.uk/Sutton2031 This Society will be studying The Plan (covering an estimated 650 pages) and will therefore refrain at this juncture from making any detailed observations. Because of the fundamentals of The Plan it surely behoves Sutton Borough residents to take an interest and express their views appropriately.

Over a wider sphere, substantial changes in planning processes could be on the horizon if recently reported tentative proposals are put into practice. At Government level it is proposed that certain planning applications could be "fast-tracked" for a premium fee or outsourced to neighbouring councils for processing, with the objective of prioritising, for example, larger housing developments to meet targets. After a consultative period, if the proposals are deemed viable, a pilot scheme using selected Councils will be introduced as a precursor to launching the changes countrywide.

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PLANNING MATTERS cont....

At our Borough Council level, further collaboration between Sutton and Kingston Councils is under consideration which could include the merger of their two planning departments, as part of a further integration of services. The objective here is to reduce staff costs and overheads.

At both ends of the **Sutton High Street**, major development is well underway: **At the north end**, the ‘Gasworks site’ now has the framework of commercial buildings emerging. When finished this project will provide some 180 dwelling units. **At the southern end** – into Brighton Road – the modern concept Sub-Sea 7 building is virtually complete.

In the **High Street itself**, on-site noises at Times Square southern entrance indicate that work has been resumed. It will be recalled that the building company employed by the site owners went into administration and work ceased. New builders have now been engaged (Macmillan and Wright) to complete the project.



From this



to this ??

A new application has been submitted to redevelop the **Victoria House Site** at the corner of Malden Road and London Road, Cheam, to replace the derelict buildings there. The proposal is now to build 4 blocks (rising from 4 to 10 storeys) to accommodate 90 self-contained flats, of which 9 would be affordable. At ground level Commercial/Retail units will be incorporated with a new vehicular access on to Church Hill Road.

Ken Nixon

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## Our 2015 / 16 Winter Talks Programme

For our evening Meetings we have had some really excellent speakers for this season of talks, and we are very grateful to Peter Carsons who spends considerable time and energy researching speakers of high quality for us.....

Our **December** talk on **Nonsuch Palace by John Phillips** was an interesting evening, as always with John! A fascinating insight into the life and times of Henry V111, who had The Palace built. Although little remained after it had been sold off for building materials in 1682 to repay the gambling debts of Charles 11's Mistress, much information had been gleaned from excavations in 1959 and 1960 by Professor Martin Biddle and a model made by Ben Ruthven-Taggard and is now on exhibition at The Mansion House in Nonsuch Park. As previously decided by popular suggestion, there was no meeting in January this year but **February** proved to be a really fascinating talk by **Peter Carsons**, himself, on his trip to **Peru**. Beautifully illustrated by his own photographs and maps, Peter gave us a real insight into both the past and present of **Inca people** and their homelands.

**March** was also another very interesting evening with David Davis from **The Surrey Historic Buildings Trust**. Again an evening very well illustrated with photographs of some of the amazing hidden gems of buildings across Surrey that have been helped to be restored and preserved or repaired by the Trust over the years. Many places previously unheard of by many of the audience, but now definitely on the 'must see' list! Formed in 1980, the Trust have already given over £500,000 in grants and play a leading role in promoting awareness of Surrey's unique and diverse architectural heritage.

We very much look forward to, what will be the last talk of the season on **Tuesday April 12th** when **John Neal**, who has been with us on several previous occasions, will be talking about "**Wren's London**". We do hope as many people as possible will be able to come and hear him then. A Blue Badge Guide, John has a wealth of knowledge to impart!

Frances Drake

## *Our Summer Outing*



Plans are now in place for our **Summer Outing** to **Chichester and Petworth House** on **Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>** and all the details are in the enclosed application form.

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**Chichester** has much to commend it:

There are many places of interest, good shops and places to find lunch, and as usual we will be passing round more information and a street map on the coach.

One of the great, well-preserved Georgian Cities, The city centre is now largely pedestrianised and enclosed by the much older city walls and its broad streets are packed with listed buildings, from **The Cathedral** itself to **John Edes House**, the **medieval Market Cross**, **Pallant House** (which is home of the prize-winning art gallery) **The Guildhall** in Priory Park, **The Georgian Houses of The Pallants** and many more listed and historic buildings such as the **St Mary's Hospital Almshouses**.

The partially restored **Chichester Canal** is now an attractive enhancement to the city and The Chichester Canal Basin is an attractive place to visit.



Chichester Cathedral



Petworth House and Park

After lunch we shall be going on to **Petworth House** where there is a wealth of things to do and see, such as **the house** itself, the finest collection of art and sculpture in The National Trust, including works by Reynolds, Van Dyck, Blake and Turner, **The Servants Quarters**, “below stairs”, The **Woodland Pleasure Ground** and acres of **Capability Brown's landscaped deer park**. **Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth** of the great landscape gardener and inspired by Petworth Park's Capability Brown landscape, local Embroiderers' Guild have come together to present **an innovative exhibition display** of a beautiful variety of artistic mediums and styles at Petworth House. This exhibition is the first of its kind. The exhibition brings together 10 local Embroiderers' Guild branches from Chichester, Worthing, Horsham and Dorking, including two Young Embroiderers groups.

And, of course, to complete your afternoon's enjoyment, places for refreshment and relaxation, in what we hope will be glorious sunshine!

*We do hope you can join us on this Outing!*

Frances Drake

