

# SHAD THAMES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NETWORK

Core Group meeting the Anchor Tap - Monday, 2 March 2009

**Present:** Jilly Frisch  
Julian Griffiths  
Anne Lynn  
Nick Napier  
Michael Place  
Penelope Tay  
Pat Varney

**Apologies:** Anna Hollingsworth

**Guests:** Michael Tsoukaris, Design and Conservation, Southwark Council  
Kirsty Cowling, Riverside Parents and Carers  
Vaughan Kingston, Riverside Parents and Carers

## 1. Michael Tsoukaris, Design and Conservation, Southwark Council

The character and nature of a conservation area is just as important as the buildings and how they look. Each conservation area has an appraisal, which is on the Southwark and the STRA websites. When questioned about signage in a conservation area MT said signs may not be illuminated from within, and may not be larger than 1.59 sq.m. Sometimes, however, unauthorised signage which has been in place for more than four years may achieve "approval" status simply because it has never been challenged. MT said that the Conservation Unit, within the Planning Unit, did not have the staffing resources to be proactive, they therefore very much appreciated local people reporting possible illegal issues which the Unit could then follow-up. The route for reporting would normally be to "Enforcement", with a copy to "Conservation".

When asked about the general appearance of a conservation area, such as garbage collection, state of the pavements/roads, etc., MT said this was outside his remit and should be reported to the appropriate departments at Southwark. He agreed, however, that neither issues enhanced an area.

MT agreed to look at The Don signage, both in Horseleydown Lane and Tower Bridge Road, which seemed to be inappropriate for a conservation area, and for which it was believed planning permission had not been obtained.

STRA thanked MT for explaining much of the detail and for clarifying who to contact at Southwark on various issues.

## 2. Cleaner, Greener, Safer applications

NN confirmed that he would be shortly be meeting Nick Stanton to ask for his support for STRA's two CGS applications – one-way Queen Elizabeth Street; and, improving paving, bollards, and the entrance to Shad Thames from Tooley Street. The CGS application must be submitted by mid-March 2009.

## 3. Water pressure in the area

JG reported frequent (28 Jan, 20 Feb, 26 Feb) low or no water pressure at Wheat Wharf and was interested to know if others had the same experience, since the Thames Water would not provide information on this due to "data protection"! PV said that Spice Quay had no water on 20 Feb, but this had been explained as work being done at Spice Quay.

## 4. Riverside Parents and Carers

KC and VK said the main RPC focus was improving facilities for families in the Riverside Ward. They had recently received funding from Southwark to enhance the play area for small children at the Downside Fisher Centre, which was a great success, and they frequently now had to turn families away due to lack of space.

The RPC had raised several issues with the Executive Director, Potters Fields Park, but had not met with a great deal of success. RPC was therefore seeking the assistance of STRA, who was represented on the PFP Board, to take some of these issues forward, such as:

- Provision of a notice board in the Blossom Square area, which would be kept up-to-date (together with notice board at the Tooley Street entrance), with a brief outline of what would be happening during an event, and indicating days before and after an event when the Park may be unusable due to setting-up and taking-down.
- A PFP website that is continuously updated, and if possible an email alert system for persons who register for this.
- A play area behind the Parkside kiosk where either retractable fencing could be placed, or (as proposed by the ED/PFP) a dedicated child-friendly area with planting/large rocks.
- Art in the Park, possibly with a potter making the art items.
- The ED/PFP to explore with suitable/relevant events whether a day could be added on to an event which might be for local community use (such as the Norton Rose family day, when child-friendly items had been erected).
- PFPMT to organise events on the park for the local community.

JF said that the 2009 Park budget included a sum for community events – such as:

- the week before Easter the Park with the Divine Chocolate Company, would organise a day for local schools on the Friday, with the Saturday and Sunday for the local community, including an Easter egg hunt;
- on 5 November it was hoped to have a barge on the River with fireworks, and other associated events on the Park, such as toffee apples, etc.
- the Christmas tree and carols sometime before Xmas;
- regrettably, the Opera put on by BP and Covent Garden in 2007 would not be repeated as Covent Garden believed the Park was too small. (see Appendix 1 for Opera at the Scoop in June)

STRA said the large spaces at Tate Modern were child-friendly, and Tate had many events aimed at small children, and where participation of the local community is encouraged. The Butlers Wharf promenade was also a large space with many structures which children seemed to love to play on and around. RPC said they were aware of these and were keen to stress that they were not concentrating their needs only on Potters Fields. JF would take up the issues raised PFPMT and report back to the RPC.

Both groups agreed to put links to each website, and each group agreed that their aims are very similar. RPC would support STRA, e.g. in its CGS applications to make Queen Elizabeth Street one-way, and to improve the pavements/bollards etc, including making the narrow entrance to Shad Thames from Tooley Street safer; and it would support STRA when representations are made to either the Licensing Committee or the Planning Committee.

## **5. Lighting in the Tower Bridge Piazza area**

The lack of lighting in the walkways between Gainsford Street and Tower Bridge Piazza was now practically non-existent and several residents had reported that the area now had an “unsafe” feel when walking through it during the hours of darkness. JF agreed to take this up with the Managing Agent.

## **6. Butlers Wharf Promenade**

The state of the promenade was now at an extremely low level, and was undoubtedly becoming a health and safety issue, additionally, no attention was being paid to replacing light bulbs on the looped lighting. MP had written to Southwark in strong terms, and JF to White Druce Brown, who was (possibly) acting for the developer, both, so far without success. It was suggested the correspondence also be sent to Eliza Mann.

## **7. Open meeting – Monday, 6 April 2009 – 7.00pm for 7.30pm start**

JG would book the room at the Bridge House, envisaged cost £50. JF confirmed that Nadia Broccardo, Director, Team London Bridge would brief the meeting on work the group is doing; and Nick Stanton would speak about the final stage proposals of the Berkeley Homes development. JF to prepare a notice for distribution locally, and JG to put on the website. It was agreed that we would ask Roy Tyler, City of London, if he would like to attend the 4 May 2009 meeting, instead of 6 April 2009 as previously agreed.

## More London Free Festival - Fringe

24, 25, 26 June 2009 at 7pm

The Scoop at More London

**The Barber of Savile Row** is the launch production of **Unexpected Opera**, a new company dedicated to creating high quality, enjoyable opera accessible to everyone. This surprising and fast-paced adaptation takes Rossini's classic comic opera out of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and into 1950s London with barber Figaro as a Teddy Boy with a touch of Elvis. An undaunting introduction to opera for new audiences, it also offers a fresh context for connoisseurs.

*"... splendidly conceived and wittily directed by Lynn Binstock, who particularly aimed it at a non-opera-going audience, but any dedicated opera buff would, I'm sure, take to it like a duck to water."* Eastern Daily Press

Rossini's outstanding music and hard-learned singing traditions are retained along with the comedy of the original piece, injected with an additional dose of British humour. Performed in English with dialogue instead of operatic "recitative" between the numbers, every word can be enjoyed and appreciated by a wide audience. Constantly inventive, the production's additional twists include a panto dame, stand-up comic, a sing-along and a 4-piece combo.

**Unexpected Opera** was founded in 2007 by Artistic Director **Lynn Binstock** and Managing Director **Matthew Quirk**. The company brings live performances of classic opera to a wider audience, with clarity, humour and originality. It presents classic opera in engaging productions, sung in English and performed in unusual and special locations.

[www.unexpectedopera.com](http://www.unexpectedopera.com)

**Lynn Binstock** has directed many operas in the UK, USA and Germany. She has been Associate Director at the Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera and ENO, Head of Staff Directors at ENO, Artistic Administrator for the Jerwood Young Singers Programme, and in 1995 founded Curious Opera Group to bring opera to families and children. Unexpected Opera grew out of her interest in creating unusual opera experiences for new audiences. Productions for the company include *The Bat's Revenge*, a reimagining of *Die Fleidermaus*, commissioned by pub chain JD Wetherspoon in its Opera House pub in Tunbridge Wells.