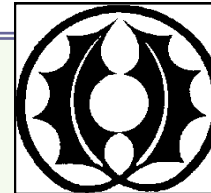


The John Innes Society Newsletter

Issue No 304

September 2024



FOR CONSERVATION IN THE JOHN INNES ESTATE AT MERTON

Registered charity 803759

johninnesociety.org.uk



A MEMORABLE AFTERNOON!

“Music in the Park” took place in the mid-summer sunshine on Sunday 30th June, set around the historical bandstand in the John Innes Park. Whilst enjoying a performance from 25 piece “Merton Concert Band”, the audience shared picnics and a little dancing too.

The Merton Concert Band are a local group of musicians who have been playing regularly at the Westminster Abbey Brass on the Grass summer season of concerts, as well as many other venues. We enjoyed a wide variety of music including musicals, jazz, big band, classical arrangements, marches and easy listening/pop music.

During the interval the band were refreshed with an array of home made cakes and afternoon tea while the audience chatted amongst friends and neighbours and shared their picnics.



Councillor Edward Foley sent his drone skywards and took these wonderful aerial photos of the event.

Profits from the event support the Friends of John Innes Park with their gardening projects. The local audience were able to admire the newly renovated pond with the fountain which is now back in action.

Jo Pfeifer

Leader of the Friends of the John Innes Park

MERTON COUNCIL'S HERITAGE DISCOVERY DAY

This year's event, on Saturday August 17th marked its tenth anniversary and also celebrated 30 years of Merton Heritage Service. A splendid cake was demolished by the stallholders after a dedication by the deputy mayor.



The Society's stand showed the work of our three Friends' Groups – **John Innes Park, Kendor Gardens and Mostyn Gardens**. Neaz Ahmed from the Mostyn Gardens Group came along and it was a delight to hear more about the work of this new and very successful group.

Interest was steady and many regular visitors stopped to chat and catch up. As usual all three floors of Morden Library were utilised – the ground floor for sporting histories of football and speedway, the first floor with new photos from the archives, and the second floor

with exhibitions from local societies such as ours and a display of photos showing events from the last thirty years of the Heritage Service. There were also various talks in the Council Chamber including one on The Old Ruts.

Sarah Gould, the Heritage Officer, has been involved in the development of the Heritage Service since its days at The Canons in Mitcham. Her dedication and professionalism is proved at events such as this and we are always happy to support her.



My thanks to the Friends for supplying me with such great photos and to Ingrid Holtz for helping out so that I could nip round the other stands.

Alison Cousins

REMEMBERING LINDA BREWER

Linda ran the kindergarten in Mostyn Road for many years before moving to the Isle of Wight. It is with great sadness we publish notice of her recent passing. Linda was one in several million and was loved by all—mothers and children alike. Words cannot describe what a character she was. For those who would like to make a [donation](#), please contact Earl Mountbatten Hospice, Halberry Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2ER.

Brian and Babs Coombe



DORSET HALL UPDATE AND OTHER RECENT PLANNING DECISIONS.

Council Planners have changed their stance on the current Planning Use of Dorset Hall and have granted a Lawful Development Certificate to confirm its existing use as ten self-contained flats. The Certificate was refused earlier this year on the basis that any use as flats had been abandoned more than four years ago when the building fell into disrepair and was no longer habitable. Having reviewed the evidence and case law, the Council has now agreed that on the balance of probability, ten flats are indeed Lawful Use and Listed Building Consent is deemed for the current layout. Now this issue has been resolved, it is to be hoped refurbishment of Dorset Hall to bring it back into occupation can be accomplished without further delay. The Planning Officer's full report can be read on Merton's Explorer website Ref 24/P1195.

A developer who wished to demolish most of the front garden wall of a property to allow for a triple width vehicular entrance, has been refused permission on Appeal. The Planning Inspector decided triple width gates in this location would fail to conserve or enhance the Conservation Area. The application also involved paving over most of the front garden for parking which,

bearing in mind the location is known for local flooding, seemed unwise to say the least. Amazingly, the potential flooding risk was not taken into account, which indicates there is a lot wrong with the present mapping of where floods occur.

Outside the Conservation Areas, proposals for transformative extensions to a semi-detached house have been refused by the Council on the grounds they would damage the essential character of the area. The developer was invited to modify their plans but failed to do so sufficiently to remove the harm.

It is heartening to see local character being given due recognition and we hope this will still be the case in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF24) which is currently undergoing public consultation until September 24th. Despite the emphasis on providing more new homes, and the re-imposition of mandatory housing targets, Footnote 7 says Local Authorities will be able to take into account constraints within their areas.

Desé Child.

COMPANIONSHIP IN MERTON: JOIN US IN COMBATING LONELINESS

In the last twelve months, 85% of UK adults have felt lonely. Whilst, for many, loneliness is a fleeting feeling, for others, it's a persistent struggle.

That's where **Wimbledon Guild** steps in. Our mission as a charity is to make sure no one in Merton faces life's challenges alone--and our befriending volunteers play a crucial role.



Becoming a befriender at Wimbledon Guild is a truly special and rewarding experience. As a befriending volunteer, you'll provide a sense of community and connection to someone who lives alone and may otherwise go days without seeing another person.

While meeting someone one on one can seem daunting, it's crucial to note that befriending isn't about providing counselling or acting as a home-help; it's about being there to listen, chat, and share quality time together.

Our befriending role is highly flexible. You can opt to chat with someone over the phone, meet them at their home or out in the community. Whether you can commit to an hour every week, fortnight or month, your contribution will make a huge difference in someone's life—and no doubt enrich your own in the process.

Apply to become a **Wimbledon Guild befriender**, by visiting our [website](#).

RECOVERING ENERGY FROM WASTE IN MERTON

Volunteers from the Friends of John Innes Park and the Sustainable Merton Green Parents group recently visited the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) where the non-recyclable waste from the boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton is burnt to produce electricity by the operator, Viridor.



Residents from all four boroughs can easily book themselves onto this free 2.5 hour visit of the facility, which is only a short walk from the Beddington Lane tram stop. After a presentation of the site's history, current operations and future developments (during which there was ample opportunity to ask questions), we donned full PPE to tour the facility!

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

We thoroughly enjoyed this educational trip to the Beddington ERF and are hoping to broaden our understanding of waste management by next visiting the Southwark Materials Recycling Facility (booking details at the end).

Our overwhelming feeling was that although recovering energy from waste is a definite improvement to landfill, it is still very close to the bottom of the waste hierarchy. Our priority should therefore be to reduce our waste in the first place (have a buy-less mindset, buy second hand and loose produce for example), then aim to reuse whenever possible (remember your tote bag/coffee cup and swap, rehome, repair).

Finally, try to recycle as much as you can. You'll find some handy links to help you along the way at the bottom of this article.

Converting landfill to energy

The Beddington ERF was built on a small section of a now closed 120-hectare landfill site. Viridor started operating it in 2019. The landfill site is being restored into a nature reserve (The Beddington Farmlands) and the methane released from the old landfill site is captured to power 5,000 houses by another operator, Valencia. Viridor is a private company that



operates several ERFs in the UK, including the



Beddington Lane Facility under a 25 year contract with the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP). Viridor also recently invested in a Scandinavian company that melts polymer/soft plastics into oil (Quantafuel).

There are 1 million residents across the four boroughs of the SLWP and they generate around 350,000 tonnes of waste each year. The Beddington ERF has a permit to process 370,000 tonnes a year and is working at close to maximum capacity as it also takes third party commercial waste. Viridor has applied for a permit variation to increase this capacity (which it seems there is little local support for due to the increased emissions and lorry traffic this would generate).

How does it work in practice?

The 15 steps from waste to energy are clearly explained and illustrated through videos on the Beddington Virtual Visitor Centre website:

<https://www.beddingtonerf.info/>

RECOVERING ENERGY FROM WASTE IN MERTON (CONT'D)

STEPS 1 - 3: WASTE DELIVERY

The system is reliant on the resident reducing, reusing and recycling their waste. Residual waste (non-recyclable) is collected and delivered to the ERF where it is weighed and tipped into the waste bunker that can contain up to a week's rubbish.

STEPS 4 - 8: ENERGY RECOVERY

A large crane will mix the rubbish and drop it into the furnaces where it is incinerated above 850C in strictly controlled conditions. This super-heats water in special boilers which produces steam and drives a turbine to generate electricity which is fed into the National Grid. 10% of the 30MW of energy generated per year powers the Facility with the remaining 27MW providing power to 60,000 homes.

STEPS 9 - 12: FLUE GAS TREATMENT AND MONITORING

One-third of the Beddington ERF is dedicated to capturing, filtering and cleaning the flue gases. The gases formed during combustion are treated before they are released into the atmosphere. The complete combustion process (high heat and added oxygen) impedes carbon monoxide formation. Urea, hydrated lime and activated carbon are added to remove nitrous oxides, acid gases and absorb heavy metals. Emissions are monitored every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Screens in the control room report back live data and allow operators to ensure the right amount of cleaning

is undertaken at all times. Emissions are reported to the Environment Agency (the regulator for the facility) and uploaded on the Beddington ERF website (<https://www.beddingtonerf.info/emissions-archive.html>).

STEPS 13 - 15: RECOVERY OF FURTHER RESOURCES

The leftover ash at the end of the process can still contain metals, concrete and glass. At an off-site licensed facility, magnets are used to separate out the ferrous/non-ferrous metals from the ash. The recovered metals are then sent to be recycled. The remaining ash gets reused/reprocessed into aggregates for roads.

FURTHER INFO:

Book a tour of the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility or Southwark Materials Recycling Facility: <https://slwp.org.uk/your-waste/visit/>

Where Merton's recycling goes:

<https://slwp.org.uk/your-waste/destination-recycling/>

How to waste less (Reduce/ Reuse/ Repair/ Recycle):

<https://slwp.org.uk/your-waste/how-can-you-help/>

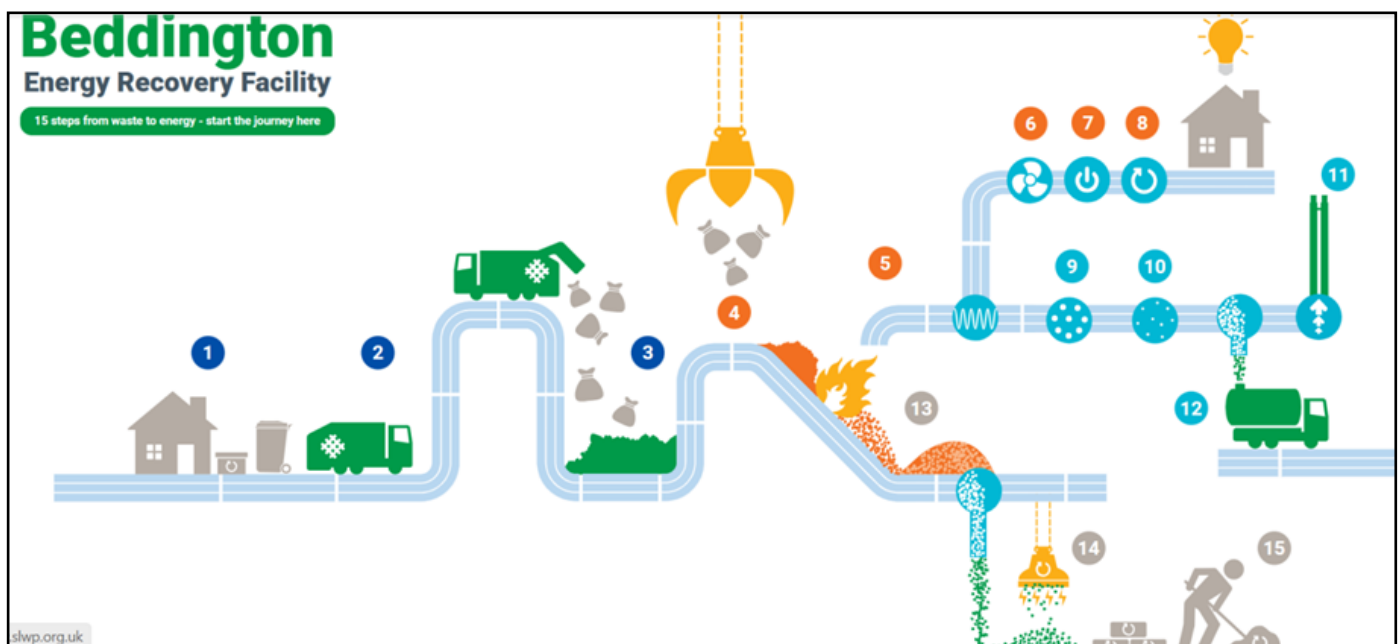
<https://www.thewheelmerton.org/directory>

Where you can recycle certain items:

<https://slwp.org.uk/your-waste/binSMART/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/>

Jo Pfeifer



THE WAY WE LIVED: MOSTYN COTTAGE

JIS members with a keen eye and an even better memory will recall that in my '100 Years Ago' article in the March newsletter I mentioned plans were submitted for Mostyn Cottage (on Church Path) in 1924. Readers with super-human memories may remember that in my predecessor's article relating to September 1919, Chris Abbott wrote of Mostyn Cottage. So how did Mostyn Cottage exist 5 years before it received planning permission? Well, Chris and I put our research-heads together and discovered that the original Mostyn Cottage was built in the early 19th century (c.1820) on Kingston Road immediately to the west of Spring House. The cottage, in fact, gave Mostyn Road its name. By around 1870 the Innes brothers had purchased Mostyn Cottage and used much of its garden to lay the southern end of Wilton Road, now Grove (the original access from Kingston Road).

In 1924 the old Mostyn Cottage was very much still in existence. The last occupiers vacated in 1939 and subsequently it was used as equipment storage for the war effort, until it was bombed in 1944. From here it laid derelict until it was pulled down in 1947. Its original position is now occupied by a terraced house, 207

Kingston Road, which was completed in 1948 (when the 1930s row of 3 houses, adjoining it, were rebuilt also due to bomb damage).

This information, most of it gleaned from JIS publications, did raise a second question for us....when did the 'new' Mostyn Cottage gain its name, if the original was still standing more than two decades after the new was built. The property on Church Path, which has never had a door number, was originally called Upway. From here, the situation is somewhat unusual – assuming my research is correct. On the eve of WWII, Jalna at the western end of Church Path was built. This is the same time as Mostyn Cottage was left vacant. Upon its completion, Jalna took the name Upway from its neighbour, and Upway was renamed Mostyn Cottage. The new Upway was renamed to Jalna in the 1960s by its owner, named after a town in India. Although the original Mostyn Cottage retained its name until this time, following the numbering of that section of Kingston Road just after 1900, its name less fundamental.

Gafyn Macmillan

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HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please send your submissions for the next issue of the Newsletter to mail@johninnesociety.org.uk by Wednesday 6 November.

It will be distributed on Saturday 23 November.

RETURN OF THE JIS QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday November 16th St. Mary's Church Hall will once again be the location for our popular quiz. A past winner will be this year's brand new Quiz Master.

The format will be as usual, i.e. a ploughman's supper in the interval and a cash bar. Sadly, we are increasing the entry price to £15pp but this is a fundraising event for the Society and your support would be much appreciated.

Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. You can

book a table of eight or we can seat you with other smaller groups.

To secure a place at this event or for more details, please contact **Alison Cousins** at AlisonCousins@gmail.com or by phone on 020 8542 6727.

Our online banking details are on the JIS website under "Payments". Please reference your transaction as "Quiz".

Any help with preparations of the supper, setting up the tables, or offers to organise the scoring will be gratefully accepted.

Alison Cousins

PARISH PLAYERS IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Parish Players have been putting on a pantomime in Merton Park since 1957, interrupted only by construction of a new hall and covid. We are always seeking new members either to take part on stage or to help back stage.

We rehearse every Tuesday at 7:45pm starting in September for performances over 3 days at the beginning of January (9-11 January 2025). In May we put on a "straight" play - drama, musical, comedy, or revue.

The January 2025 pantomime will be "**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**". The readthrough will be on 10th September and auditions on 17th September. Come along to the readthrough if you are interested. For information on the pantomime go to

<https://www.parishplayers.net/wizard-of-oz>

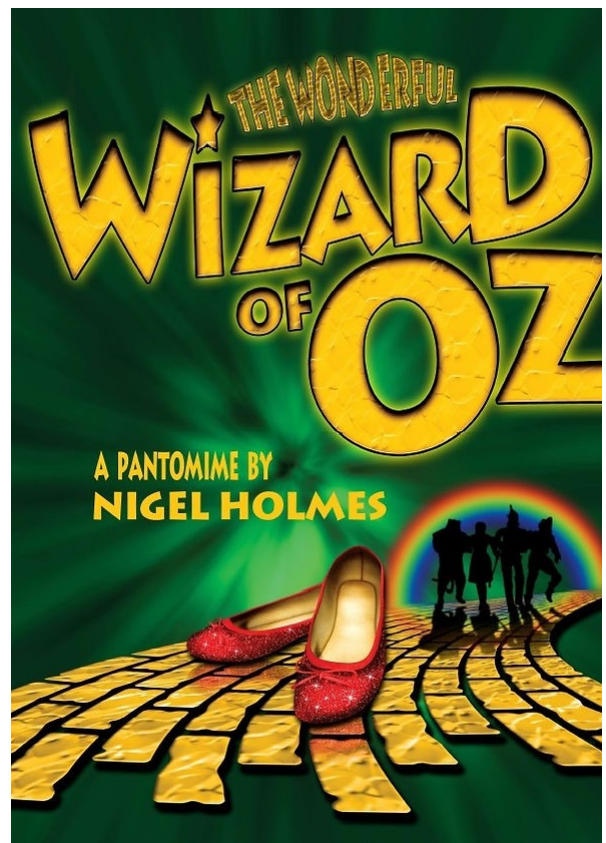
Children can become members when they are in Year 7, but anyone under the age of 18 years will need to attend their first meeting with a parent or guardian.

We are also looking for a Musical Director for this pantomime ideally someone who can play the piano. For more information,

please contact us at the email ppmembers@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website at www.parishplayers.net.

Readthrough, auditions, rehearsals and performances are all in St Mary's Parish Hall in Church Path.

Ingrid Holtz



SAVE THE DATE!

John Innes Society Quiz Night: Saturday 16th November at St Mary's Church Hall

Parish Players: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, 9-11 January 2025
at St Mary's Parish Hall

At the Coach House

Bridge Club: Mondays at 7.30pm

Bridge Classes: Thursdays at 7.30pm

Coffee & Social Mornings: First Friday of the month. 11am - 1pm

Friends of the John Innes Park Gardening Group: Second Friday of the month
meet at 9am by the mulberry tree near the pond.

***New gardening volunteers most welcome - just come along
or contact Jo Pfeifer on 07531 524538***

The John Innes Society Contacts

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Coffee mornings	Thelma Amer 020 8540 2536	Bridge group 45A Dorset Road SW19 3EZ	Michael Forbes 020 8542 8314
* These members are also trustees.			