

Patrick Loobey – Champion of Local History

It is not often that we can lay praise upon a particular person without hesitation or fear of contradiction. Platitudes such as 'much respected', 'of a cheerful and lively countenance', 'an individual of imagination and foresight' and 'helpful and encouraging', are but a few in a description that would justly mark his character. Such welcomed eulogies are rightly addressed to Patrick Loobey, a well-known local historian, who died suddenly last June.

Patrick was a man of many facets. He was a publisher of local history books, historical researcher, a dealer and collector in picture postcards and a charismatic local history lecturer. Beyond these he was a stalwart supporter and friend of the Wandsworth Museum and Wandsworth Local History Service, plus being Chairman of the Wandsworth Historical Society. But above all was his overriding passion for the history of the Borough of Wandsworth, which over many years he propagated with much energy coupled with unbounded enthusiasm.

His published works, which have done much to bring local history to the fore in South London, included books on Streatham, Clapham, Tooting, Balham, Battersea, Roehampton, Putney, Mitcham, Merton, Fulham, Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Wimbledon and of course Wandsworth. He championed local archaeology, promoted awareness of the built environment and of our architectural heritage. Moreover, his knowledgeable and inspiring articles on local studies contributed much to the contents of the journal, *The Wandsworth Historian*.

With Patrick, a long-time resident of Streatham, came a stimulating advocacy of local history. Those who became engaged with him during his numerous activities, whether it be publishing, researching or lecturing, will sorely miss his energetic and friendly presence, and of course, his extensive knowledge of Wandsworth and its long history. For those who knew Patrick would accord with the opinion, that local history in south London has indeed lost one of its foremost exponents. Our condolences go to his wife Joan.

Graham Gower

Excavations and post-excavation work

London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED. Contact Archive Manager, Roy Stephenson (020 7566 9317).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collections of pottery fabrics, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Jim Davison, 8 Brentwood Road, South Croydon, CR2 0ND.

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites within the Borough. Contact Greenwich Heritage Centre, Building 41, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, SE18 6SP (020 8854 2452).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from the Borough. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. At Fulham Palace, Bishops's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KUTAS). Processing and

cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Thursday (10 a.m.) at the North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Enquiries 020 8546 5386.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, Brockley Cross, London SE4 2PD. Environmental- and finds processing, cataloguing and archiving of excavated material. Contact Finds Manager, Mårit Gaimster (020 7639 9091).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND (01483 594 634).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes six issues a year of British Archaeology, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The individual membership rate of £29 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., St Mary's House, Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ (01904 671 417).