
ROEHAMPTON VOICE

AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE
OF NEWS, BY AND FOR
ROEHAMPTON RESIDENTS

ISSUE 43
SPRING 2021

@RoehamptonVoice



Urgent! Apply to EU Settlement Scheme

by CECILIA POTEZ,
CITIZENS ADVICE WANDSWORTH

The deadline 30th June for applying to the EU Settlement is rapidly approaching and we know there are still many people who think they don't need to apply. It is not only EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who need to apply but also non-EU family members of EU nationals. We are particularly concerned regarding children as they are not necessarily British just because they were born here and have a British birth certificate.

We also hold regular information sessions in English, Romanian and Italian, so if you have questions or need support with applying please join one of our sessions. Call **020 3559 2019** for details.

Sessions in English – every Wednesday from 10am to 11:30am

April: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

May: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

June: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Sessions in Italian – every second Thursday from 12noon to 1pm

April: 8th, 22nd

May: 6th, 20th

June: 3rd, 17th

Sessions in Romanian – every second Thursday from 10am to 11am

April: 1st, 15th, 29th

May: 13th, 27th

June: 10th



Screen the Screens!

by CARPA

Ever since the three giant LED screens appeared on Upper Richmond Road opposite Barnes Common – marketed by JC Decaux as The Barnes Tower and collectively The Barnes Landmark – Campaign Against Rosslyn Park Advertising (CARPA) has been campaigning on an environmental platform to have them removed. We had been led to believe that there would be a full review of the screens after five years, as at that point an application for the extension of the advertising consent would be required. This in fact was never the case, and it took a year for CARPA to find that out. Advertising permission was originally granted for a three-year period, but for financial reasons a request was made by JC Decaux to extend the permission for a further two years. This request was granted and along with it conditions were changed so that, as per National Planning guidelines, after the five years elapsed the screens were automatically granted “deemed” consent – meaning that they can remain in perpetuity.

CARPA lodged a complaint: we contended that at the time it was not made clear by the Planning Department to the Committee that in extending the permission they were actually granting the screens permanent permission. The complaint was escalated, and at Step 3 the Chief Executive of Wandsworth Borough Council upheld the complaint that the minutes of the meeting were not as clear as they should have been, but was satisfied that due protocol had been observed. CARPA then requested that a Discontinuation Notice be served. The minutes of the relevant meeting can be accessed on the WBC Planning Portal. The discussion was brief – the CARPA document was not referred to at all. The idea of delaying any discussion until a further meeting was mooted and rejected. The Conservative Councillors on the Planning Committee voted against discontinuation, the Labour Councillors for.

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f Estate Art Roehampton ✉ saffoss@gmail.com

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

The Roehampton Voice is keen to have input from as many local people as possible. The Summer edition of the Roehampton Voice will be published June 2021.

Copy date for contributions: 5 June 2021. If you would like to write an article for us, email

roehamptonvoice@hotmail.com

You can follow us on **Facebook**, or tweet **@RoehamptonVoice**

The Roehampton Voice is published as a project of the Roehampton Trust.

In Memoriam: Rene Coles

by ALAN HOUSDEN

It is with regret that we heard the sad news that a wonderful Roehampton resident had passed away in Kingston Hospital at the beginning of February. Rene Coles had lived in Roehampton for many years, and was well known by many and respected by Wandsworth Borough Council.

She worked in Nick's Fish Bar when it was in Roehampton High Street and worked at Queen Mary's hospital for many years. She worked in the evenings at the Alton Youth Club.

For many years she was the chairman and the person who did all the bookings for the Alton Community Hall in Bessborough Road. She enabled many improvements to be made to the hall. It will continue once the restrictions are lifted and we are thinking of changing the name to the Rene Coles Memorial Hall! She also helped run the local bingo, which takes place in the hall.

Rene was a wonderful, caring person and we send our best wishes to her children Traciey and Nick, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her many friends.



What RU doing next?

by ALEX GAUTIER

I hope I'm not the only person looking at the coming summer with cautious optimism. Vaccinations are under way and I am looking forward to what the future brings. As far as our neighbour Roehampton University is concerned, I set out three things I hope will happen in the not too distant future.

Firstly, I hope they will change their minds on their bus policy. They were still running the university bus to and from Barnes station, picking up and dropping off staff and students. It would be so lovely if they reverted to their original promise and allowed their neighbours to board their bus too - it could be only to get to Barnes in the mornings when the bus is running empty to pick up more passengers, and then only heading back to Roehampton in the evenings when the bus is returning to collect more staff and students heading home, allowing commuters to get to and from work more easily. Wouldn't that be brilliant?

Secondly, I hope RU will start to communicate with their neighbours regarding events in, or associated with, their university activities. Anyone who has attended RU receives notices about events that may be of interest and it would be so nice of them to let their neighbours know what is going on too.

Thirdly, among other subjects, RU teaches drama, dance and catering, though university management have tried to cut down on those

departments last year, resulting in a rather public and overwhelming vote of disgust by the teachers. Those teachers work hard and long hours and I do hope managers have changed their attitudes and started to appreciate that hard work and talent. So wouldn't it be great if management allocated more resources to those departments so that they could put on puppet shows and children's plays outside in the warmer weather? With the beautiful grounds they have, it would also be nice if they would stage evening theatre for the adults.

It would give students more experience in the commercial side of their studies, possibly with food available for sale too, and prepare them for their future endeavours. As a bonus, we neighbours would have a more immediate source of entertainment and social activity close to our homes and in fresh air, where we should be able to comply with social distance requirements easily.

How elegant that would be to see some of Shakespeare's plays - or others of course, and maybe dance performances - in the university grounds! With transport being so restricted thanks to the Hammersmith Bridge closure, it would be good to have cultural events within easy reach. It would be so nice if we, as neighbours, when meeting students at the bus stop or in shopping queues, could tell them how much we enjoy their presence in our community.

Well, my friends, that is what I am hoping will happen next. If you agree, please do let our elected politicians know.



Hestia Age Well Roehampton

by JENNY BAILEY

I have recently been appointed as the Hestia Age Well Coordinator for Roehampton, taking the place of Andrew Loxton, whom some of you might have met either face-to-face or in Zoom meetings. My previous history of working with Hestia was with the Enhanced Dementia Care Service in Hounslow, and prior to that I was employed with the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, developing a Day Care Service.

I am really excited about the challenge of setting up activities for older people in Roehampton and working with local people to see what can be achieved together. We have already recruited a few volunteers who are wanting to support older people to get digitally connected and confident. However, like many services, much of what we would like to do is currently on hold until Government restrictions on meeting and mixing are lifted.

In the meantime what we are offering people aged 60 and above is a weekly wellbeing call. During the call we are available to offer advice or signpost other sources of support. Also, as the weather improves, we would be available sometimes to undertake doorstep visits.

Digital inclusion is a key issue for many older people. For those who can use software like Zoom, being able to see friends and family when you talk to them is often the new way of connecting when having to self-isolate at home. We are supporting some members of the Age Well Roehampton Service to get confident with Zoom through over-the-telephone coaching, and also inviting them to join in with Zoom sessions being run from Hestia Age Activity Centre in Tooting.



Like everyone else, we are keen to do more once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. We are planning to run regular activities such as seated yoga, coffee mornings with guest speakers, quiz sessions, art and craft sessions and regular face-to-face support with learning to use tablets, laptops and mobile phones.

There is a saying that from small acorns great oaks will grow. So we would like to hear from any Roehampton resident who is interested in being a "Friend of Roehampton". This is a group we would like to set up for volunteers of all ages who would like to support us in growing the work among older people in Roehampton.

If you are aware of anyone aged 60+ who might benefit from our current support or future activities, please email our service manager **jacqui.clack@hestia.org** or email me at **jenny.bailey@hestia.org** or phone me on **07826 779 684**. I work mainly Monday to Thursday and will get back to you as soon as I can. I look forward to hearing from you.



New homes for swifts and bats – and for Roehampton families!

by JOHN HORROCKS

The new block of council flats now under construction in Bessborough Road, Alton East, is nearing completion and should be ready to provide ten Roehampton families with smart new homes later this year. This block has been built by Redrow, the council's former development partner for the Alton regeneration scheme.

But there is more to this block than just new homes for local residents. The construction of the building has incorporated into the structure the provision of nesting boxes for swifts and roosting boxes for bats. This is because the council's new Biodiversity Strategy seeks to enable our urban environment to be shared between both people and nature. New developments should, where possible, provide for more than just people. Flora and fauna need to be catered for too – in a positive way.

Swifts spend our winters in Africa, but migrate to the UK in our summers to nest and breed. They like to build their nests in crevices under the roofs of buildings. Bats are a protected species and look for roosting sites where they can be dry and warm. We can provide these facilities when we construct new buildings – and that is what we now need to do. All new council, and private, developments will be expected to make provision for nesting and roosting from now on.



World Day of Prayer

by KAREN ENDOZO

The Christian women of all the churches in Roehampton and Putney take it in rotation to hold their World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March every year. This initiative takes place annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March. The services start early in Samoa on the Date Line and follow the sun in its orbit, forming a great Wave of Prayer that touches many communities around the globe, until it finishes back on the Date Line. It was the turn of St Joseph's Church in 2021, and COVID rules allowed a "distanced" service attended by 50 parishioners of all the churches in Roehampton and Putney. Holy Trinity Church brought live-streaming equipment to reach the many at home who would normally attend.

The wonderful liturgy came from the women of the island nation of Vanuatu in the Pacific Ocean, a member of the Commonwealth. Our altar displayed their flag, a palm, a large seashell, a basket-work fan and shell necklaces typical of their handcrafts. The various roles of the service were taken by parishioners of St Joseph's Church, and the whole was organised to perfection by the Chairman of the local World Day of Prayer Committee, Sally Olizar of St Simon's Church. A lone singer from St Margaret's Church beautifully sang verses of the hymns played by the organist of Holy Trinity Church. A video of the service can be accessed on YouTube.



Roehampton Community Week – something for everyone in our community

by ANGUS ROBERTSON



Roehampton Community Week (RCW) is a new, community-led initiative for Roehampton and West Putney wards, which will deliver a series of projects to improve our local area.

The idea came from a number of community organisations and individuals from the Roehampton Response Network discussing how best we could bring people together and deliver some activities to help us all bounce back and improve the lives of local people after COVID.

We all agreed that this project should be:

- **Representative** – open to everyone who wants to get involved; all ages and all communities. And prioritising the Ashburton, Dover House, Lennox, Woking Close, Putney Vale and Alton estates.
- **Community-led** – designed to be led by, and serve, the needs of the local communities, and to be non-political.
- **Flexible** – enabling people to participate how they would like to.

We are in the early stages of planning. However, anyone who is interested is very welcome to join (see details below).

So far, the plan is to have:

- Some early projects, starting soon; leading up to...
- The main Roehampton Community Week, 5th to 11th July
- Followed by some further and ongoing projects between August and December 2021.

Our aim is to have interesting and exciting activities happening all year round.

Six areas of interest have emerged from discussions and these are:

Each area will have its own projects. For example, some of the early projects that are being planned are:

- **Plant & Grow:** re-planting areas and creating new growing areas
- **An art project for children** providing and using recycled materials
- **Here is Home:** exploring the stories of local residents through art and performance

We have set up an informal Steering Group for the project and secured a little initial funding, and are having planning discussions with Wandsworth Council. They have expressed a desire to support the various initiatives and are thinking about how to best partner with our teams so we can generate win-wins.

If you have an interest in any of the six areas, have an idea for a project that would could be part of Roehampton Community Week, or just want to find out more about the project, please do get in touch with Jonathan Palma, the Roehampton Community Capacity Building Lead at Citizens Advice Wandsworth, on jonathan.palma@cawandsworth.org or **07498 455 076**. Everyone is welcome to join!

Please also make a note of the date for Roehampton Community Week, 5th to 11th July, and look out for further information about the different projects.

On behalf of the Roehampton Community Week Steering Group.

Alton Regeneration – what's going on?

by JOHN HORROCKS

Where are we up to with the granting of planning permission for the borough council's proposals to redevelop the central area of the Alton Estate - what the council calls "regeneration"? The scheme does not yet have final permission - but just where we are in the complex process is not easy to establish.

The last edition of the Roehampton Voice reported that Redrow had withdrawn as the council's development partner in carrying out the scheme, that the council had taken over Redrow's role as the applicant for planning permission and that the council's Planning Applications Committee had decided to grant permission for Redrow's scheme (last October). Various legal issues remained to be resolved and the application had to be referred to the London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, whose permission for the scheme is needed, because of its large size.

So what has happened since then? Finding out has proved very difficult. The council's planning officer, in charge of progressing the application, is not answering her phone anymore. Call at the former Parish Hall at the corner of Roehampton Lane and Alton Road where the Alton Regeneration Team is supposed to be based and there is no-one there who can answer questions. No-one in Roehampton Library knows what is going on. Does anyone in Roehampton know what the current position is? Is there anyone we can talk to? It seems not!

Have the outstanding legal issues been resolved yet? Has the scheme been referred to the London Mayor for his decision yet? When might all this be resolved? Who knows? Why are we not being told by the Alton Regeneration Team?

Councillor Kim Caddy, the council's cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration, presumably has the answers to all these questions. It would be good if she were to write an article for the next Roehampton Voice explaining things. People in Roehampton need to know what's going on.



What makes the Alton Estate 'home' to you?

by GEMMA KERR

The past year has shown us how important our homes are to us, but has also opened our eyes to how much the idea of home and community stretches beyond our own front door.

I'm a theatre-maker/director and a researcher. My background is in making site-specific and site-responsive work, performance which generally takes place beyond theatre buildings, and explores the relationships between performance and the place it happens in – thinking about its geographical, historical and social context. I've made work in shopping centres, on beaches, on the street, in churches. And I've always been very interested in how our identities are connected to place, and how places change and become coloured by our experiences there.

Through my work and through a community project I'm running in Roehampton, I'm looking at areas in London going through change and regeneration, and exploring what that means for people living there, and how the identity of these places can be explored by the way people use and move around these spaces. I'm looking at stories of "home" and finding ways we can gather those stories to think more widely about the identity of this particular place.

The way we look at and feel about a place is very personal, even people who have lived in the same area for many years may have very different feelings about it. I'm interested in how we can tell our stories about this place and amplify the voices of the community through theatre and performance to show how unique, beautiful, complex and vibrant this area is.

Here Is Home is a community project for residents of the Alton Estate and Roehampton. It will explore the voices of residents through art, writing and performance, mapping the area and creating personal tours to share what makes the area home for those who live here. Through the project we will share stories and experiences, explore audio recording and visual mapping, and find ways of turning these into performance. They will also be a chance to connect with others in the community and a social occasion to chat and share thoughts!

We will share our work as part of Roehampton Community Week in July. The project is open to anyone living or working on the Alton Estate or in Roehampton, and you don't need to have any experience of theatre or performance! Workshops will start online but will move to meeting in-person as restrictions allow. Everyone taking part will receive a supply of stationery, materials and treats, and will be credited as part of the project. We can also help with costs of internet use, to make sure everyone can join.

The project will be running through the spring and summer. If you'd be interested in taking part or have any questions please email Gemma at g.r.kerr@gsa.surrey.ac.uk – I would love to hear from you!

Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

by ROBERT BUSCH, LYNNE CAPOCCIAMA, VICKY MARIE PIGGOTT, JONATHAN PALMA and KALU OBUKA

On 10th February, the Roehampton Response Network, local NHS organisations and community volunteers organised an online "COVID-19 Question Time". Roehampton residents asked Dr Farwa Hasan, a GP at The Alton Practice, questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccination.

DR HASAN'S MAIN MESSAGE

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Getting vaccinated will greatly reduce the risk of symptoms, severe disease requiring hospital care, and death from COVID-19. Protection starts around 3 weeks after the first dose; full protection requires a second injection up to 12 weeks later. The UK regulator for medicines has said that both vaccines that are currently being distributed (Pfizer and AstraZeneca) have good safety profiles and offer a high level of protection.

CAN VACCINATED PEOPLE RETURN TO NORMAL?

People who had the vaccine should still wash their hands more often than usual, wear masks, and stay two metres apart where possible. This is because no vaccine gives 100% protection, the virus is still circulating, and the protection takes a few weeks to build up. There may be less protection against some variants, but fortunately those are currently rare in the UK.

WHAT IS THE VACCINATION LIKE?

Local residents said that the vaccination site was well-coordinated and provided reassurance to those who are afraid of injections. On arrival, people are asked screening questions and will be observed for 15 minutes afterwards, to catch any sudden allergic reactions (which happily are very rare). Side-effects ranged from a sore arm to feeling tired and feverish for a couple of days. This is as expected from trials in tens of thousands of volunteers. Any unexpected side-effects should be reported to your GP.

About the authors:

The authors helped to organise this event. Robert Busch is an immunologist and Senior Lecturer at the University of Roehampton. Lynne Capocciama and Vicky Marie Piggott are community activists. Jonathan Palma is the coordinator of the Roehampton Response Network at Citizens Advice Wandsworth. Kalu Obuka is the Head of Patient and Public Involvement and Equalities for Merton and Wandsworth at the NHS South West London Clinical Commissioning Group.



ARE THERE GOOD REASONS NOT TO GET THE VACCINE?

People with some medical conditions and severe allergies should discuss vaccination with their GP. People who have an active COVID-19 infection should wait four weeks before getting vaccinated. Pregnant women may take the vaccine if they are at high risk of getting infected. We heard that there are no reasons to expect any bad effects on fertility or during pregnancy. The vaccines contain no animal or human materials. Muslim religious authorities have declared them to be halal.

Since the event, new data have raised hopes that the vaccines will also reduce transmission of the virus to others. Currently, all people over 65, care home residents, healthcare and social care workers can get the vaccine. Younger people can get vaccinated if they have medical conditions placing them at increased risk from coronavirus. Those who are due to receive the vaccines will receive letters from their GP or the national NHS. Eventually, all adults will be offered the vaccine.

A second online "COVID-19 Question Time" for Roehampton residents will take place from 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th March. Please email myroehampton@cawandsworth.org for joining instructions and to ask questions. Information will also be circulated on social media. For those without internet, "Ask a Question" boxes will appear at local venues in the next few weeks; all queries will be treated confidentially, and the organisers will get answers to your questions back to you.

Alcove Carephones: Supporting you at Home

Wandsworth Council are supplying Alcove Carephones to help people across our community stay connected with their loved ones.

WHAT ARE ALCOVE CAREPHONES?

Alcove Carephones are digital tablets, similar to iPads, that allow people who have never used modern technology before to easily engage in two-way video calls with their loved ones and carers. These devices are designed to be incredibly easy to use and do not require the user to remember passwords or navigate menus. The devices do not even require a WiFi connection thanks to pre-installed 4G SIM cards. In order to keep the devices simple, the Carephones can only be used to make video calls and cannot be used to browse the internet or engage with other applications. To keep the devices safe, only pre-approved loved ones and carers can call into the devices. Loved ones can easily call the devices via the Alcove mobile phone app or via the Alcove online portal on a laptop or computer.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM RECEIVING AN ALCOVE CAREPHONE?

The main goal of these devices is to combat social isolation and loneliness. One local resident Ms P, who is registered as extremely clinically vulnerable, told us she is alone most days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms P was feeling increasingly disconnected from her friends and family, so she was supplied with an Alcove Carephone to help her stay connected to her loved ones. Ms P received her Alcove Carephone with her two children and granddaughter already installed as her contacts and she began making calls the same day. Ms P told us, "It's been a lifeline; it's been so useful ... I have been able to see my children on video."

HOW CAN I REFER SOMEONE I KNOW?

If you know someone like Ms P who is feeling socially isolated and has had little experience using modern technology in the past, then they may benefit from receiving an Alcove Carephone. If you would like to request an Alcove referral form or would like more information please contact us via our email address digitalsupport@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

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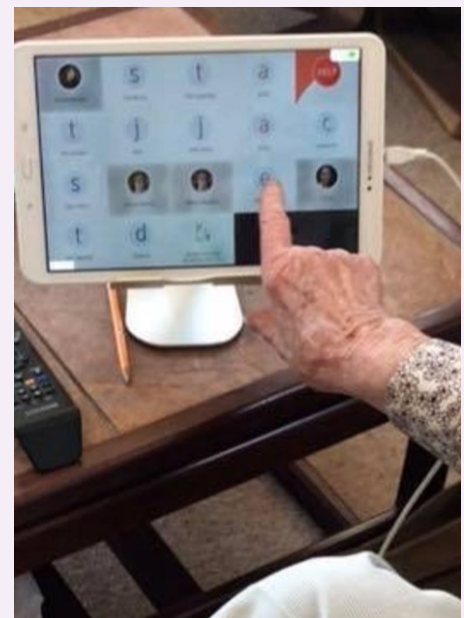
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The Historic Residents of a Modern University Campus – Part II

by GILLY KING

The University of Roehampton campus stretches over 53 acres and has fourteen Grade I or Grade II listed buildings and structures, four of which are Georgian Villas. The stories of the lives of the historic residents of this modern University campus are fascinating.

YOLANDE DUVERNAY DECEMBER 1812 – SEPTEMBER 1894

In 1851 the Grove House estate (now Froebel College) passed to Stephens Lyne-Stephens, on the death of his father Charles. He came to live at Grove House with his wife Yolande Duvernay, a Parisian ballet dancer – she was “The Beauty of Her Age”. At this time, the couple were referred to as England’s richest commoners, but they were socially ostracized as, prior to her marriage to Stephens, Yolande had been the mistress of the Marquis de La Vallette – amongst others. Stephens had, at first, purchased his concubine and then married her – which was not “the done thing” in polite Victorian Society! (*The Beauty of Her Age: A Tale of Sex, Scandal and Money in Victorian England*, Jenifer Roberts, 2016)

The sarcophagus of Stephens Lyne Stephens and Yolande Duvernay in the Grove House Mausoleum



GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS 28 JULY 1844 – 8 JUNE 1889

Perhaps the most prominent Jesuit who spent time at Manresa House (now Whitelands College) was the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. He was a novice, at Manresa, from September 1868 until September 1870. He moved north to Stonyhurst in Lancashire, but returned to Roehampton for a year’s teaching in August 1873. Hopkins was ordained a priest in 1877 and moved around the country both teaching and being a parish priest. He undertook a year’s tertianship at Manresa from August 1881, taking his final vows at St Joseph’s Church, Roehampton, in August 1882. Hopkins died of typhoid fever in 1889 and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin – not in the Jesuit burial ground in Roehampton, as some believe. It was Hopkins’ posthumous fame that established him among the leading Victorian poets.



The Burne-Jones Stained-glass Windows



Manresa House, 1908

JOHN RUSKIN, WILLIAM MORRIS AND EDWARD BURNE-JONES

Whitelands College was founded in Chelsea in 1841, as a teacher training college for women, by the Church of England’s National Society. In 1874, the Rev John Pincher Faunthorpe was appointed Principal of the College and he enlisted the patronage of John Ruskin, the great Victorian art critic and political economist, who gave numerous gifts of books and art to the College. Ruskin also introduced to the College William Morris, leader of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and Sir Edward Burne-Jones, the eminent Pre-Raphaelite artist. Together they designed artefacts for the College Chapel in Chelsea, the most notable being Burne-Jones’ stained-glass windows and William Morris’ rederos. These three eminent Victorians were not residents of Roehampton, but their work lives on in Roehampton.

In 1931, the stained-glass windows and rederos were moved from the Chelsea chapel to the Giles Gilbert Scott Chapel in the College grounds in Putney. In 2004, after an “interesting debate” with English Heritage (now Historic England), these historic artefacts were relocated to the College’s new home in Roehampton. The gifts of John Ruskin form the Ruskin Archive, at the College, and are still used by students and academics.

CHARLES HATCHETT FRS FRSE 2 JANUARY 1765 – 10 MARCH 1847

Charles Hatchett was born in Long Acre, London, the son of John Hatchett, a celebrated coachbuilder. Charles was privately educated but he was a self-taught mineralogist and analytical chemist. As a young man he travelled extensively in Poland, Russia and the British Isles. Throughout this period, he amassed a collection of over 7,000 minerals. He subsequently sold this to the British Museum, but negotiated the right to remove and analyse portions of the specimens held by the Museum.

In 1801, while working on the collection, he analysed a piece of columbite, which turned out to be a very complex mineral. Hatchett discovered that it contained a “new earth”, which implied the existence of a new element. He called this new element columbium (Cb) in honour of Christopher Columbus. On 26 November 1801 he announced his discovery to the Royal Society. The element was later rediscovered and renamed niobium (its current name).

After his father’s death in 1806, Charles largely gave up his activities as a chemist. He inherited his father’s coachmaking business and pursued interests in collecting books, manuscripts, paintings and musical instruments. This change of direction was mourned by the scientific community. Hatchett moved to Mount Clare, Roehampton in 1807 and lived there until 1819. Sadly, little is known of his life at Roehampton.

View of Mount Clare, 1782



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* Sunlife (2020) Cost of Dying Report, sunlife.co.uk/costofdying2020

Roehampton Community Week

5th July - 11th July

Roehampton Community Week (RCW) is a new community-led initiative for Roehampton and West Putney. We're planning a week-long series of community projects and events across the area to help **bring people together** and improve our **community**.

And we want **local residents** to get involved.

If you have an interest in **gardening, planting, music, sports, arts, local history** or any idea that brings people together, want to volunteer or simply find out more please do get in touch.

Support and **funding** will be provided to help with projects.

We're stronger together

To get involved contact

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Will Roehampton have a Festival this summer?

by JOHN HORROCKS

The Roehampton Festival, held on the Bull Green and Downshire Field, has always been the highpoint of Roehampton's summer, especially when the weather has been kind. Together with Regenerate RISE's Kings and Queens banquet, organised by Mo Smith and held in the big tent next to the bus stand on Danebury Avenue, it is an occasion everyone enjoys.

But last summer, the coronavirus pandemic meant that it could not take place. We were all social distancing.

The borough council is keen for us to get back to normal and for the Roehampton community to blossom again. The council's new Roehampton Community Engagement Strategy and Culture Strategy seek to facilitate opportunities for local people to come together in Roehampton and to enjoy all that the area has to offer. A new appointment is being made to the Roehampton Regeneration Team to promote a programme of community engagement activities. It can be expected that this will include organising a Roehampton Festival.

So, will the virus be behind us by this coming September when the Festival ought to take place? Fingers crossed!