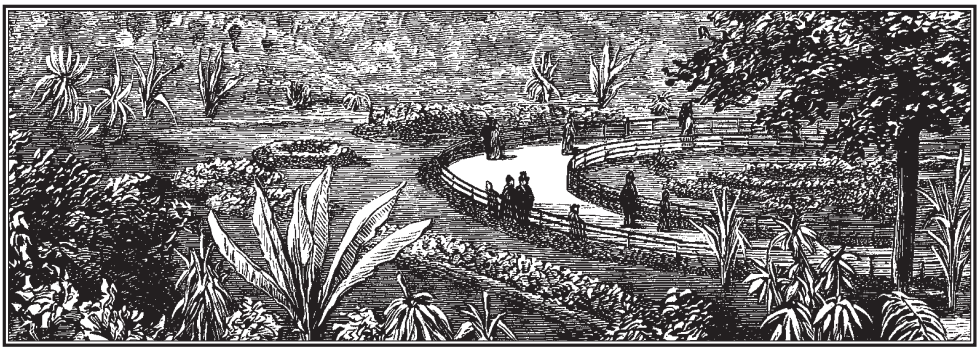


"Exit the Brown Dog" – Latchmere Recreation Ground and its passing notoriety

By Verena McCaig

Beyond the rush of Battersea Park Road, and tucked away behind a series of tower blocks, lies a somewhat curious and unexpected estate of small houses centred on a railed recreation ground, a peaceful enclave away from the traffic noise. One could easily be unaware - as I was for a dozen or more years - that this evidence of the former Battersea Council's progressive aspirations to improve the quality of life for the 'working man' is even there. But clues abound: the small-scale nature of the dwellings; the street names – Reform Street, Freedom Street; the quirky small park, divided by a railed pathway. One would also not necessarily detect that this recreation ground played a significant and notorious role in the anti-vivisection movement of the early twentieth century. Sadly nothing remains to mark this, other than a still-discernible bump in the tarmac of the central path.

Latchmere Recreation Ground is surrounded on three sides by roads lined with early twentieth-century terraced housing, and on the fourth by a brick wall boundary with a school, now inevitably converted to luxury flats *(fig. 1)*. The Latchmere Estate extends south with streets in grid formation leading to Sheepcote Lane running parallel to the railway line. These streets display a pleasing uniformity in their design, lined with regular, flat-fronted houses with railings at the pavement boundary. The recreation ground forms a 'garden square' for the estate, and the relative small scale of the two-storey houses adds to the 'village' feel. The central railed footpath provides an important through-route from the Estate along St James' Grove, to reach Battersea Park Road. The radiating streets are lined with street trees and have vistas through to the park.

Latchmere Recreation Ground is one of three small recreation grounds within a two kilometre radius which have offered important access to open space in these areas of intense nineteenth-century industrial development.[1] With the arrival of industries such as Price's Candle Factory and The Morgan Crucible Company, attracted here by the easy access that the River and new railway transport offered, there was an accompanying explosion in residential development in the area. The concept of the recreation ground embodies the contemporary philanthropic approach to providing and safe-guarding small-scale parks and open spaces by this time, offering residents in the immediate locality room for exercise and leisure, recognition of their importance in health and well-being. Latchmere Recreation Ground epitomised this approach, providing room to run around, play equipment, seating and planting, and a caretaker to keep behaviour in check.

The Latchmere Estate, of which Latchmere Recreation Ground is the focal point, is a reflection of the rapid and intensive development of the agricultural and common lands of Battersea to provide housing for industrial workers. The progressive Vestry of the Parish of St Mary's Battersea, and later Battersea Borough Council, developed on strong socialist principles and their aim to

1. The others being Christ Church Gardens (1885) and Vicarage Crescent Recreation Ground (1896). Across the busy thoroughfare of the A3320, Latchmere Road, lies Falcon Park (early 1960s), a hidden green expanse largely frequented by dog-walkers. Battersea Park (from 1849) lies to the north, with Clapham Common and Wandsworth Common to the south.

provide homes and amenities for the working poor was, ironically, played out on what had been Latchmoor Common, land once accessible to all.

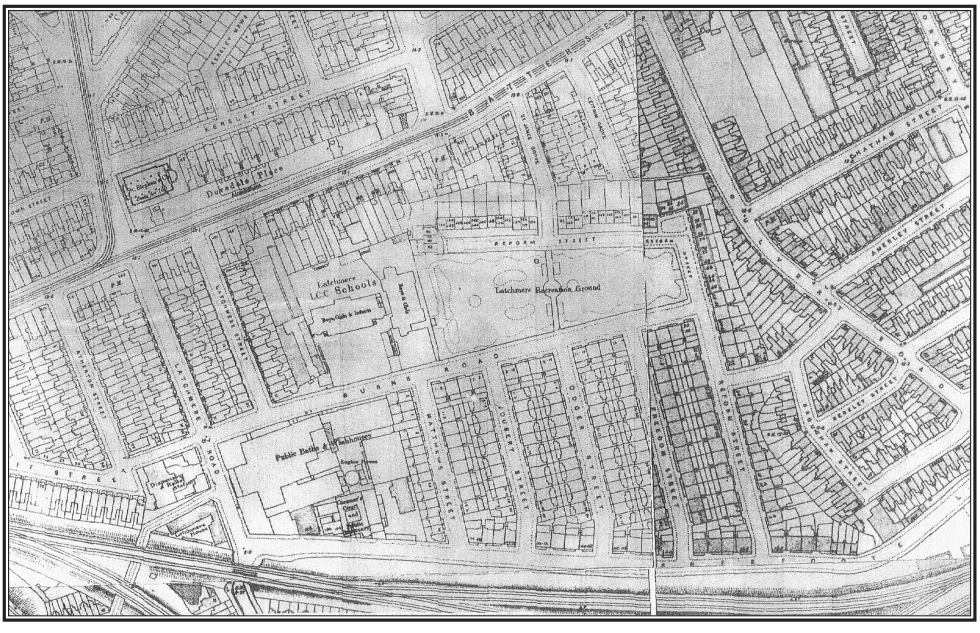
The Vestry acquired extensive lands for the purposes of providing this public housing, including the tithe apportionments surrounding Latchmoor Common.[2] After enclosure of the Common by 1835, the Vestry subsequently built amenities for its residents on part of the land: public baths, schools and a "dispensary and relief station".[3] They continued to let the remainder of the land to local people as allotment gardens for about £16 per year, which went towards the Poor Rate, whilst also using the site for 'slop-shoot' (disposal of waste liquids).[4] The allotment holders nonetheless grew vegetables for food for their families.

The later development of the land for housing required an Act of Parliament. Having been thwarted in their previous efforts by significant public objection, the Vestry applied again to Parliament in 1899. In spite of concerted opposition, and the petition and Parliamentary cross-examination of allotment holders opposed to the loss of their grounds, provision was made within the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1900.[5] Latchmere Recreation Ground was hard won: as concession to the concerns about the impact of loss of open space on the health and amenity of residents, the Act provided that a described portion of the land must be laid out and "maintain[ed] as an open space or recreation ground …and the vestry shall forever maintain such portion…subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Open Spaces Acts 1877 to 1890".[6]

Following eviction of the allotment holders, social housing development commenced rapidly, reputedly the first municipal housing built by a council's own workforce and one of the earliest housing estates in the country.[7] The first phase was opened on 1st August 1903 by John Burns MP, Battersea's elected representative to the London County Council (LCC), and after whom Burns Road was named.[8] The housing was considered to have excellent amenities, with kitchens and bathrooms, electric light and back gardens ***(fig. 2)***.[9] The second phase, the extension of Reform Street, was completed by about 1920. Pollarded plane trees and poplars were planted to line the streets, and great care was taken to replace those that did not thrive. Residents were also encouraged to look after their back and side gardens, and to grow plants on their window sills, or even indoors.[10]

The scheme for Latchmere Recreation Ground was designed by the then Borough Surveyor, J. T. Pilditch, and approved by the Battersea Borough Council in February 1906.[11] Initially, presumably in imitation of a traditional garden square, railings were to be installed continuously around the perimeter of the site, with gates positioned either end of a path bisecting it. However, during construction this 'desire line' path was used continuously by residents, so as a result the Council approved expenditure of £238-19s-1d to move the gates from either end to either side of the path, half way along, with railings installed to create two distinct halves of the Ground. This meant that the path could be used day and night, but the Ground itself could be closed as required. This costly gesture

2. In 1899 Battersea Borough Council was formed as a result of the London Government Act of 1899 and included much of the parish of St Mary, Battersea.
3. The Common was enclosed by 1835 by the churchwardens and overseers of the Parish of St Mary, Battersea, with the permission of Lord Spencer, Lord of the Manor of Battersea since 1765. *Programme for the Grand Opening of the Latchmere Estate* (produced by Battersea Borough Council, ms, 1903), p.5; The Vestry of the Parish of St Mary, Battersea *A Bill, Petition and Evidence 1899-1900* (bound by Battersea Council, ms), p.2; H. E. Malden ed. 'Parishes: Battersea with Penge' *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4* (1912), p.15.
4. As stated in the evidence of allotment holders; The Vestry of the Parish of St Mary, Battersea *A Bill, Petition and Evidence 1899-1900, op. cit*., for example pp.32-41.
5. *Programme, Grand Opening of the Latchmere Estate, op. cit*. p.2; also, for full testimony, see The Vestry of the Parish of St Mary, Battersea *A Bill, Petition and Evidence 1899-1900, op. cit.*
6. London County Council (General Powers) Act 1900 within *A Bill, Petition and Evidence 1899-1900 op. cit*. p.15.
7. Wandsworth Borough Council *Latchmere Estate Draft Conservation Area Character Statement*, undated, ms.
8. Burns was a formidable figure in socialist politics of the time; a leader in the 1889 London Dock Strike, and elected to Parliament in 1892 as Independent Labour MP for Battersea, one of the first three Labour MPs in Parliament (although subsequently switching allegiance to the Liberals in 1905); P. Mason, *The Brown Dog Affair* (Two Sevens Publishing, 1997), pp.26-7.
9. *Programme, Grand Opening of the Latchmere Estate, op. cit.,* pp.5, 12.
10. Minutes of the Cemeteries and Open Spaces Committee, Battersea Borough Council, 8 November 1905.
11. The costs of labour were met by the Central Unemployment Body for London, which later caused delays as they were slow with releasing tranches of funding; Minutes of Battersea Borough Council 22 November 1905; Minutes of Battersea Borough Council, 14 February 1906 and 6 May 1906.





1. Site of Latchmere Recreation Ground
Ordnance Survey, Revised Edition 1935-1937 Detail scale 1/1507
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)

2. Housing on the Latchmere Estate – 4-roomed tenements on Burns Road
Reproduced from *Programme for the Grand Opening of the Latchmere Estate*,
Battersea Borough Council, 1903
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)



3. "Dog's Monument" – the statue and drinking fountain.
Reproduced from Ford, E *The Brown Dog and his Memorial* private publication by the Anti-Vivisection Council (London W 1908)
(Courtesy BUAV)

demonstrates the considerate approach the Council took towards the needs of its residents.[12] It also quite literally paved the way for the park's most controversial feature.

Enter the Brown Dog: The minutes of Battersea Borough Council's Cemeteries and Open Spaces Committee of 11th July 1906 report that "the 'Anti-Vivisection Council' is to be informed that the laying out of Latchmere Recreation Ground has progressed sufficiently that it is ready to receive the gift of their drinking fountain."[13] *The London Argus* was to prophetically observe, "In the ordinary way a drinking fountain is one of the most innocent and inoffensive thing in the world, but we fear an exception must be made in the case of the fountain…in the Latchmere Recreation Ground."[14] The adornment of the fountain with a statue of a dog and accompanying memorial inscription was the basis for this "exception", becoming the unlikely spark to a series of expensive and infamous debates and events centred on the park and spreading to the West End, receiving national press coverage and costing the Council dearly, both financially and in reputation.

A series of notable events led to this situation: a controversial libel and slander trial, Bayliss vs. Coleridge, had been held in November 1903 as the result of a lecture given at an anti-vivisection meeting by Stephen Coleridge, honorary secretary of the International Anti-Vivisection Council. Coleridge claimed that Dr William Bayliss, assistant professor of physiology at University College, London (UCL), had carried out an unnecessarily "cowardly, immoral and detestable" act of vivisection on a "big brown dog of the terrier type" in a lecture theatre, in contravention of the Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876.[15] This had been reported to Coleridge by two Swedish women, Louise Lind-af-Hageby and Leisa Schartau, who had been building evidence in favour of the anti-vivisection cause for some years, and had witnessed the experiment at a physiology lecture they attended as legitimate students.[16] The trial, and indeed subsequent events, was extensively covered by all the prominent national newspapers of the day.[17]

Whilst the trial was ultimately won by Bayliss, with very large damages awarded against Coleridge, in reality the publicity given to the anti-vivisection cause was invaluable, and public debate heightened.[18] Lind-af-Hageby went on to become a prominent speaker for the movement, with the experiments on the brown dog providing a particular focus for this. She was subsequently approached by Louisa Woodward of the Society for United Prayer for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the International Anti-Vivisection Council, who saw an opportunity to maintain the public's interest and further stir the controversy. With Lind-af-Hageby's approval, and the support of Captain William Simpson, then Secretary of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association (acting in a personal capacity), Woodward commissioned a statue from the sculptor James Whitehead of Kennington - a bronze representing the dog

12. A temporary fence was installed from St James Grove to the Ground prior to the development of the extension to Reform Street. Four 'tantalum lamps' were approved for the central pathway, along with provision for annual maintenance, and posts were placed at either end of the path to "prevent barrows making use of them" (these still remain). The gates were designed to match in with the railings. Minutes of the Cemeteries and Open Spaces Committee, *op. cit.,* 23 January 1907; 14 February 1907; 27 March 1907.

13. Minutes of the Cemeteries and Open Spaces Committee, *op. cit.,* 11 July 1906.

14. *The London Argus,* 22 September 1906.

15. Kean underlines the fact that dogs were not specifically bred for vivisection but were collected as strays or stolen; hence they had often been pets and, as such, "It was the undermining of this perceived human-animal relationship of loyalty and trust, a contemporary, culturally accepted characteristic of dogs that particularly incensed anti-vivisectionists"; H. Kean, 'An Exploration of the Sculptures of Greyfriars Bobby, Edinburgh, Scotland, and the Brown Dog, Battersea, South London, England' in *Society & Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies* 11:4 pp.353-373 (2003), p.358.

16. Lind-af-Hageby and Schartau formally published and re-published their accounts of witnessing such vivisection in *The Shambles of Science*, first published in 1903 by Bell, London, and later by the Animal Defence & Anti-Vivisection Society, 5th edition, 1915; Mason, *op. cit.,* p.11.

17. Mason, *op. cit.,* pp.9-12. Newspaper coverage abounds but for detailed accounts of the controversy, see E. Ford, *The Brown Dog and his Memorial*, private publication by the Anti-Vivisection Council (London W 1908) and Mason, *op. cit.*; for discussion on the statue in the context of contemporary moral and political sensibilities, see Kean, *op. cit.,* pp.353-373.

18. Whilst the evidence at the trial revealed that the contravention of the Act had technically occurred as the dog had been experimented on more than once, this had been the fault of Professor Ernest Starling, UCL chair of physiology, who had failed to kill the dog after the first experiment had been completed, and hence the accusations against Bayliss were found indeed to be libellous; Mason, *op. cit.,* pp.13-15.

atop a polished red granite drinking fountain.[19] The cost, about £120, was raised largely through public subscription. At the base of the drinking fountain was a small trough for animals *(fig. 3)*. The provocative but carefully-worded inscription read:

IN MEMORY OF THE BROWN TERRIER
DOG DONE TO DEATH IN THE LABORATORIES
OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN FEBRUARY 1903,
AFTER HAVING ENDURED VIVISECTION
ENTENDING OVER MORE THAN TWO MONTHS
AND HAVING BEEN HANDED FROM
ONE VIVISECTOR TO ANOTHER
TILL DEATH CAME TO HIS RELEASE.

ALSO IN MEMORY OF THE 232 DOGS VIVISECTED
AT THE SAME PLACE DURING THE YEAR 1902.
MEN AND WOMEN OF ENGLAND,
HOW LONG SHALL THESE THINGS BE? [20]

Whilst rejected by the LCC for erection in its parks, Battersea proved fertile ground for Woodward's proposal.[21] It was considered a progressive but radical and controversial borough, with its strongly socialist Borough Council. The Borough residents and electors were largely of the very poor working classes who fought for workers' rights, and supported the Trade Union Movement. It could also count such prominent campaigners as the anti-vivisection supporter and social campaigner Charlotte Despard among its residents. In addition, Battersea was by this time home to Battersea Dogs' Home, rescuing strays otherwise possibly destined for vivisection, and The National Anti-Vivisection Hospital (Battersea General Hospital), run on as strict anti-vivisection principles as its name suggests, and apparently commonly known as the "Anti-Viv" *(fig. 4)*.[22]

Whilst Battersea Council accepted Woodward's gift, the site was hotly debated through 1904, fuelled by letters of objection from UCL who, being fully aware of the memorial's wording, threatened to sue. There was also concern that the statue would become a focus for UCL students and others to vent their fury at the perceived injurious allegations being sustained through the inscription. The full Council had a major debate in July 1906 before finally agreeing to accept the statue.[23] Positioned centrally in the path that ran through Latchmere Recreation Ground, it was at last unveiled on 15th September 1906 by the mayor of Battersea, Bill Rines, a "progressive trade unionist tailor", with various rousing speeches on the sufferings of man and beast. From the outset, an electric alarm bell was placed in the caretaker's hut, wired to the statue, which would ring if the statue were touched so that "no-one could even give the dog a friendly stroke without causing bells to ring".[24]

The predicted protest and start of the student back-lash did not happen until over a year later, in November 1907, when the first damage was done by a small group wielding a sledge-hammer, who were caught and fined in spite of the relative failure of their Battersea foray.[25] The verdict led to an angry crowd of

19. Kean states that the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association were not officially anti-vivisection and points out that the then Chair, Lord Cheylesmore, was a supporter of the Society for the Defence of Vivisection; Kean, *op. cit.,* p.8 and footnote 28. Whitehead went on to sculpt the *Titanic Engineers Memorial* at East Park, Southampton, and deployed a similar concept of bronze memorial atop a drinking fountain and trough, *Horse*, (unveiled 1905), which memorialises fallen animals of the Boer War, still in St George's Park, Port Elizabeth, South Africa; www.stgeorgespark.nmmu.ac.za.; Mason, *op. cit.,* p.38.

20. Mason, *op. cit.,* p.23, and cross-referenced against photographic evidence.

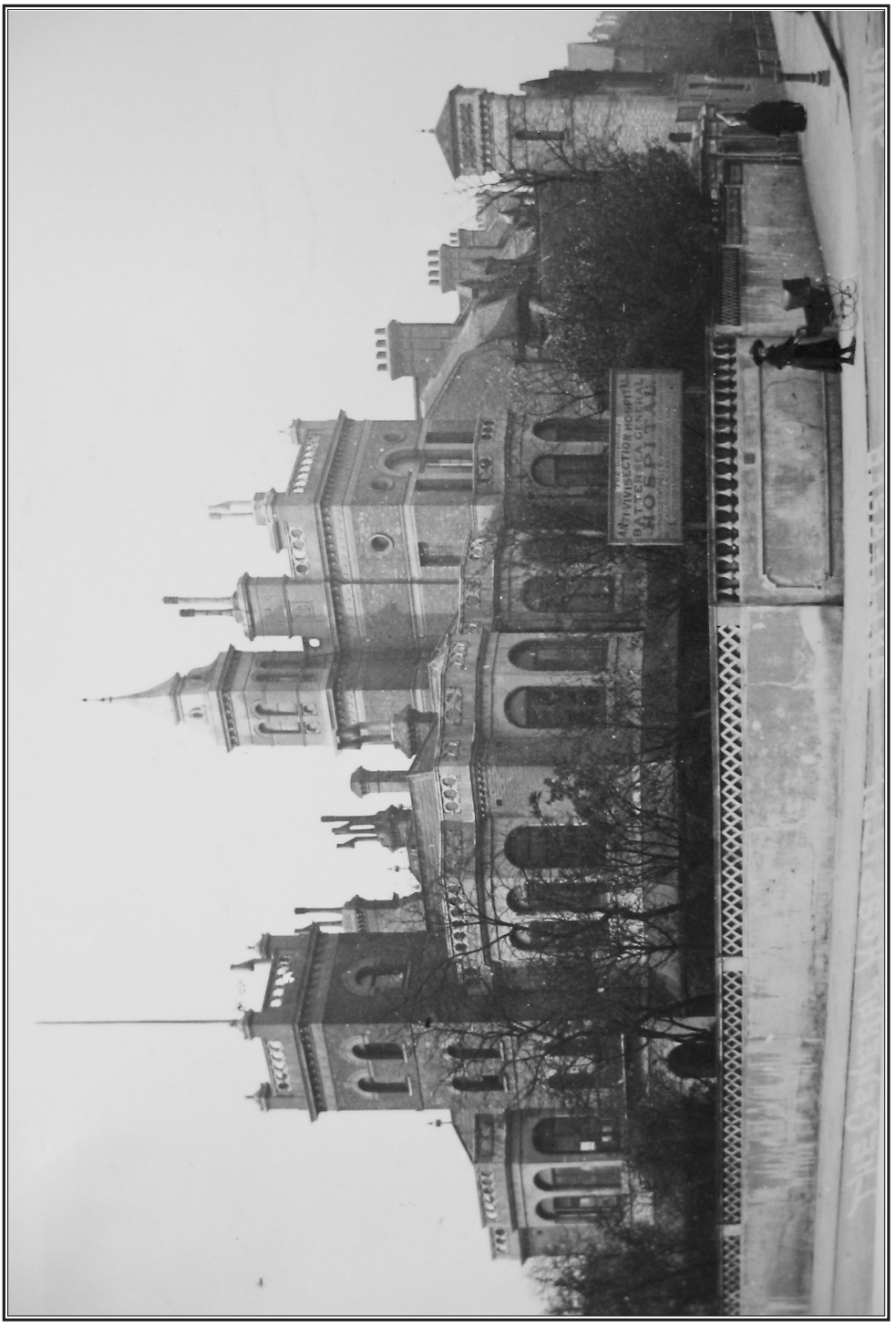
21. The LCC, perhaps wisely with the benefit of hindsight, rejected it for Battersea Park and Golders Hill Park, but offered a site in Hendon Public Park, considered insufficiently high profile by Woodward; Mason, *op. cit.,* p.24.

22. The original hospital Trust was constituted on 6 July 1897 in order to set up a hospital which ' "…in or in connection with no experiments on living animals should be permitted to be made and of which no living person who should make such experiments or in any way engage in or encourage the practice of vivisection should be permitted to be a Governor or Manager or a member of the Medical staff or to be otherwise connected therewith"; no one to be appointed without first signing a written declaration or, if on the medical staff, a pledge never to perform vivisection, or to "employ any remedies which could only be obtained as the product of experiments on living animals such as anti-toxin Pasteur anti-rabic virus, etc. " ' A declaration of 31 December 1900 states that a site had been found in Battersea. *Anti-vivisection: Summary of Original Trusts* 18 June 1935, pp.1-2; LMA A/KE/245/04. In 1935 the Trust was forced to drop its anti-vivisection resolutions from its memorandum and articles due to difficulties in raising funding under this banner. The hospital stood on the corner of Prince of Wales Drive and Albert Bridge Road but closed in the 1970s. The site is now occupied by a 1980s sheltered housing scheme. *Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Anti-Vivisection Hospital, the Battersea General Hospital (Incorporated)*, Incorporated 27 September 1910, as amended 3 June 1912 (ms); LMA A/KE/245/04.

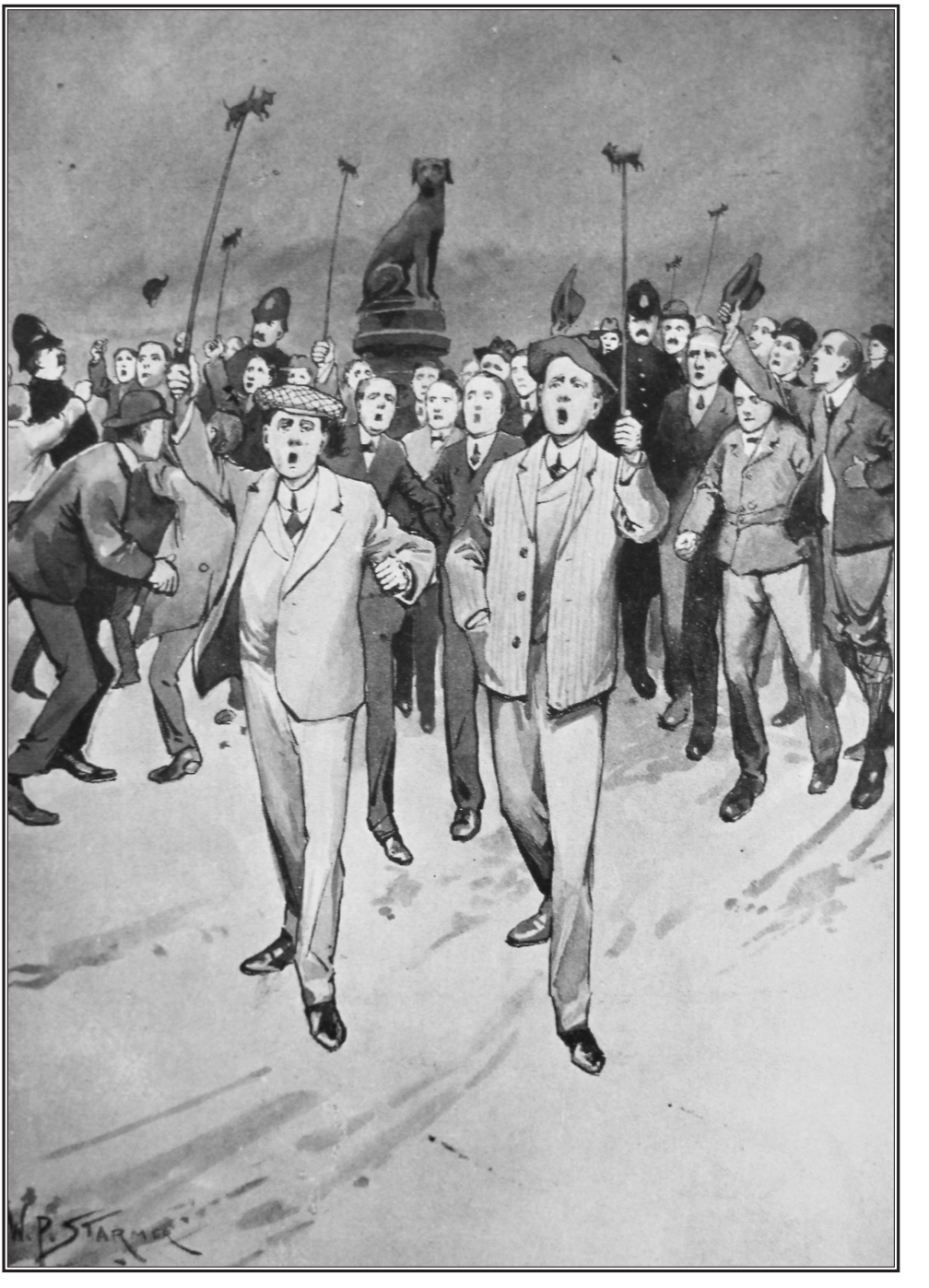
23. Mason, *op. cit.,* pp.26-32; *The South Western Star* 13 July 1906. The view of *The South Western Star* a couple of months later was prescient: "…the Borough Council… should not have accepted a gift from which a long train of evils may ensue…it is quite possible…that the municipality will be put to considerable expense." *The South Western Star,* 21 September 1906.

24. Mason, *op. cit.,* p.37-38; *Wandsworth Borough News,* 21 September 1906.

25. *Tribune,* 22 November 1907.



4. Battersea Anti-Vivisection Hospital
Undated photograph
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)



5. "Students Round Brown Dog Memorial"
Reproduced from E. Ford, *The Brown Dog and his Memorial*
private publication by the Anti-Vivisection Council (London W 1908)
(Courtesy BUAV)



6. "The lively Student at the present time seems to be dividing his favours between the Brown Dog and the Suffragette."
Reproduced from E. Ford, *The Brown Dog and his Memorial* private publication by the Anti-Vivisection Council (London W 1908), then reproduced by permission of *The Tatler*, opposite p.39
(Courtesy BUAV)

students mobbing UCL carrying a guy representing the offending magistrate, singing and shouting, before marching on through the West End with their protest. Marchers held aloft effigies of small, brown, furry dogs on sharpened sticks, symbolic of the object of their protestations. Edward Ford, a passer-by, recalls that he "was suddenly surrounded by a number of excited young men, who shouted, "Down with the Brown Dog!" ", and that he had his "nose brushed with a fluffy toy animal..." ***(fig. 5)***. The protesters reportedly sang a "war song" to the tune of *Little Brown Jug*:

"As we go walking after dark,
We turn our steps to Latchmere Park,
And there we see to our surprise,
A little brown dog that stands and lies.

Ha, ha, ha ! Hee, hee, hee !
Little brown dog how we hate thee.
Ha, ha, ha ! Hee, hee, hee !
Little brown dog how we hate thee."[26]

This protest foreshadowed continuing disturbances and protests in the following weeks, with a strong police presence and further arrests for these sometimes bizarre demonstrations of student outrage.[27] By December, the protests had become better publicised and organised, and culminated in four hundred activists causing a considerable disturbance in Trafalgar Square, in spite of the best efforts of the police, mounted and on foot, to maintain order and hold the mid-week ban on such events. Protesters eventually reached Latchmere Recreation Ground by the evening but were greeted by "some hundreds of constables...lying in ambush in a shed", strengthened by angry Battersea residents who pelted the protesters with mud. They were forced to disperse.[28]

The continuing protests inspired by the statue led to a twenty-four hour police guard being mounted to protect it and calls being made in the Press and in the Council chamber for its removal – a perfect opportunity for the Council's opponents to scorn their original decision to grant permission ***(fig. 7)***.[29] The Council erected two 'sentry-boxes' around the statue for shelter for the police, but were outraged when approached to cover the policing costs of at least £700 per year necessitated by their decision to keep the statue.

As the students moved to new tactics, such as major disruption of anti-vivisection meetings ***(fig. 6)***, the cause of the anti-vivisection movement can be seen to have been weakened by such disorder and cost to the public. Press coverage, however, remained divided along pro-and anti-vivisection lines. After a series of disrupted and increasingly heated meetings, protests, petitions, and extensive newspaper coverage, the controversy calmed during late 1908 and 1909, whilst remaining a continuing matter of public interest and debate. The question of vivisection had been firmly lodged in Edwardian minds, beyond those of the campaigners and scientists – it was now a matter of debate across all classes. The dog, as Ford observed, was for now "victorious".[30]

Political change in Battersea Council saw the shock election of Conservative councillors in November 1909 who quickly voted to have the inscription changed, symbolic of ridding itself of the previous radical administration. Whilst this motion had been moved at Council, it later emerged that those responsible for implementing the change stubbornly ignored this request. Compromise could not be reached; there were increasing calls for the statue's complete removal. At a Council meeting on 9th March 1910, a vote was taken to have the Brown Dog removed; indeed the vote took place so rapidly that "the gallery was temporarily paralysed" and a supporter of the statue who spoke up "seemed to fear that the 'presecution' [sic] of the brown dog might cause it to be idolised by the people". But the vote stood.

Exit the Brown Dog: the following morning "People who [took] a short cut through the Latchmere Recreation Ground stopped and rubbed their eyes. Many stopped so long they got late to work. The neighbourhood did not seem itself." In a

26. The first verse and chorus as recorded in Edward Ford's 'eye-witness account' published in 1908, in which he offers the full text of the song; Ford, *op. cit.,* p.3.
27. For example, a student was fined for brandishing a stuffed Irish terrier at passers-by; Mason, *op. cit.,* p.50.
28. Mason, *op. cit.,* pp.51-55; *Daily Telegraph,* 11 December 1907.
29. *The Graphic,* 11 January 1908.
30. Ford, *op. cit.,* p.47.





7. Statue with sentry-boxes and policemen
Latchmere Recreation Ground - looking north-east
Reproduced from *The Graphic*, 11 January 1908
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)

8. "Exit the "Brown Dog"" Latchmere Recreation Ground – looking east
Reproduced from *The Daily Graphic*, 11 March 1910
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)





9. "The "Brown Dog's" Day in Trafalgar Square"
Reproduced from *The Daily Graphic*, 21 March 1910
(Courtesy Wandsworth Heritage Service)

10. Modern 'Brown Dog' statue in Battersea Park, London, August 2010
(Photograph Verena McCaig)

remarkable demonstration of decisiveness, the entire statue had been removed swiftly and secretly at night soon after the vote was cast, to be replaced by a patch of new tarmac. *The South Western Star* reported on the removal thus: the Borough Surveyor had taken a group of carefully selected men with a "portable derrick and other necessary apparatus" and, with the blessing of the police on guard, disconnected the alarm bell and water supply, loaded it on to a lorry and took it to a secret location. Police remained in position, expecting consequent trouble ***(fig. 8)***.[31]

As the news of this unexpectedly rapid action reached the press, "several hundred people" gathered to protest at the "Midnight abduction of the Brown Dog", under the banner of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Since the Council's vote, Lind-af-Hageby had secured an injunction against the statue's removal but this appears to have been after the deed had been done, perhaps as the news had not by then reached the Court or indeed the applicants.[32] Subsequently an injunction was brought to prevail upon the Council to maintain the statue without damage.

On 18th March the plight of the statue and its message moved perhaps three thousand people to protest in Trafalgar Square ***(fig. 9)***. The procession began in Hyde Park and included "a motor-car, in which sat a demonstrator made up to represent the dog, with a real brown dog beside him". It must have been a remarkable sight.[33] In spite of rousing speeches, little could be done however, and it took a further nine months for a High Court judgement to rule that the Council were not required to return or restore the statue as no such obligation for its safe-keeping had ever been undertaken on its acceptance. Reports cite various locations, methods and timings for the final demise of both statue and drinking fountain, but the destructive deed was most certainly done and the statue ultimately melted down, removing the possibility that this physical manifestation of the anti-vivisection campaign could be reinstated. This notorious symbol of the anti-vivisection movement, and indeed of the radical politics of working class Battersea, was gone, removing both the uniting focus for underlying schisms in the anti-vivisectionist campaign and an accessible and nationally-recognised icon for their cause. The news was greeted in the press with both relief and also some regret that the focus for such accessible and colourful political drama had passed.

Decades later, and the tale is resurrected. On 12th December 1985 a new statue of a brown dog, but in memoriam of the original memorial, was unveiled in Battersea Park near the Pump House. In an echo of the socialist politics of the recipients of the original Brown Dog, its erection had been supported by the Greater London Council (GLC) in its last days. Once again, its location relied upon the more radical politics of the owners of the park, the GLC, Latchmere Recreation Ground now lying within the realm of the staunchly Conservative Wandsworth Borough Council. The statue itself was commissioned from sculptor Nicola Hicks by local actor and anti-vivisectionist, Geraldine James, and it strikes an altogether different pose, perhaps more quirky and genial than the upright original.[34] After a spell in storage in the mid-1990s, it has now been re-erected, tucked away beside a lesser-used path skirting the English Garden, with an inscription referring to its predecessor and the many animals who have suffered subsequently ***(fig. 10)***.

Latchmere Recreation Ground remains an obscure small park, suffering the vagaries of under-investment although intensively used by local people and recognised in passing within the Conservation Area statement. Nothing there would indicate its pivotal role in these momentous events when anti-vivisection and radical politics were played out for all to own; nothing now physically links this place to this tale of local and national political and moral cause, nothing except a still-discernible bump in the tarmac.

31. *The South Western Star,* 11 March 1910.
32. *Ibid.*
33. *The Daily Graphic,* 21 March 1910.
34. Mason, *op. cit.,* pp.106-107; Kean discusses the relative poses of the two dogs and the emotions that they evoke, arguing that the modern statue loses something of its links to the uncomfortable realities of vivisection both in the dog's familiar pose and in the statue's siting; Kean, *op. cit.,* p.368.