

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Protecting and enhancing Earl's Court Square and the lives of the people who live and work here

THE EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VISIT TO SMUGGLERS' WAY RECYCLING CENTRE

Booted and well wrapped members of the Executive Committee of ECSRA braved the inclement weather and celebrated winning £2,500 in the Golden Ticket "Recycle Right" prize draw for community groups and organisations by visiting the newly opened Western Riverside Recycling Centre (WRWA). Our thanks to Heidi Bradner for all her hard work in achieving this. The ECSRA is very proud of our Refuse Collection/Recycling Team of 5 volunteers, led by Heidi, who liaise with Streetline/RBKC to rectify the ever-constant problems of fly tipping and refuse being put out on the wrong day in Earl's Court Square.

The purpose of the visit to the WRWA in Smugglers Way, just over Wandsworth Bridge, was to learn about the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. Whilst seated at recycled multi-coloured tables on recycled chairs WRWA's Education Officer, Jon Long, pointed out what could be recycled and what should go into the general waste black bags. We were fascinated to hear that the England Football Team's kit was made from recycled bottles before donning high-vis jackets, goggles and plastic hard hats ready for the tour. Jon showed us the whole recycling process from when the lorries dumped the clear plastic bags in a huge pit. This was then taken on conveyor belts and mechanically sorted with the plastic recycling bags being sucked up by huge extractors. The final sorting was done by hand to ensure no clothing entered the process.

Regarding the waste, which cannot be recycled, landfill has now been replaced by Energy from Waste (EfW) combustion as the prime treatment method. Since February 2011, the waste – which is still being transported by river – is being received at a recently constructed EfW Facility at Belvedere in the London Borough of Bexley. Here, the waste is incinerated and the heat from the process is used to generate electricity through steam generation in boilers. Belvedere is the largest EfW Facility in the UK and one of the largest in Europe, which will eventually generate up to 72MW of power.

It was a fascinating visit and we were delighted to hear our winning cheque was in the post. Visits for residents are available and can be booked on the WRWA website - <http://www.wrwa.gov.uk/community/visits-to-mrf.aspx>.

Chrissie Courtney
Chair
ECSRA