

Regional & Urban Planning Studies



2007-2008

Welcome again to another instalment of our Regional and Urban Planning studies newsletter. It has been a year full of change and excitement for London with an election that saw Ken Livingstone our first and long serving Mayor defeated and Boris Johnson sworn in as the new incumbent and the staging of the Olympic games in Beijing reminding us that 2012 is only just around the corner.

Also, RUPS is seeing changes with 2007-08 being Andy's last year as Programme Director. He will naturally be staying on doing teaching and research, but the day-to-day running of things now falls to me. So, I will begin with a few thoughts below on what was again an amazing year - Nancy Holman, Programme Director, RUPS 2008

Istanbul, Milton Keynes, London walks, and great students

This year we had yet another batch of terrific students from all over the globe. We also saw our numbers swell with the addition of several students from the new double MSc with SciencePo in Paris. This made for a terrific mix of nationalities,



professional backgrounds, and personalities.

We had our traditional walks around London where Andy Thornley and Derek

Diamond gave us insights into the development along the North and South banks of the river Thames.

The Planning Society also chose again to go to Istanbul after last year's very successful trip there.



We teamed up with students from Mimar Sinan University and worked on a project in the Sulukule district of the city. Here the local Roma population is being

displaced to make way for a new 'regenerated'

housing stock and population. Our task was to see if there were any ways forward for assisting the residents.

We also had our trip to Milton Keynes to see New Town development and understand how the plans



for MK are now developing towards densification of its town centre as housing pressures in the Southeast continue to bite.

Finally, in good RUPS fashion we had parties at the end of term where we drew on all of our assembled nationalities' local cuisine. We also, of course celebrated the last exams with wine and a tiny glimpse of the sun!

