



No. 17 Autumn 2007

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. It is appearing just before our annual meeting so our chairman's report on the past year takes pride of place. However, we have in addition the usual fascinating selection of articles, covering such disparate subjects as the borough's coats of arms, the origins of Furnivall Gardens, Wandsworth Bridge (if you've ever wondered why it is so 'flat', read on) and the colliers that once brought coal to Fulham power station down on the river next to the Imperial Wharf development. Making its first appearance in this issue is a new regular series on lost houses of the borough. The whole subject of lost houses is something that always seems to strike a chord with people so we hope it will be popular. First up is Willow Bank, a 19th century riverside villa once visited by Queen Victoria no less (see page 6 for more).

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On the other hand, the English Heritage *Buildings at Risk Register* for 2007 has several new entries for Hammersmith and Fulham: the former West Kensington Post and Delivery Office, Blythe Road, where the post office has been vacant since closure though the delivery office remains open; the former Odeon Cinema on Shepherd's Bush Green,

which is still vacant despite planning permission for it to become a hotel; and the aforementioned tomb of 18th century anti-slavery campaigner Granville Sharp in All Saints Fulham churchyard.

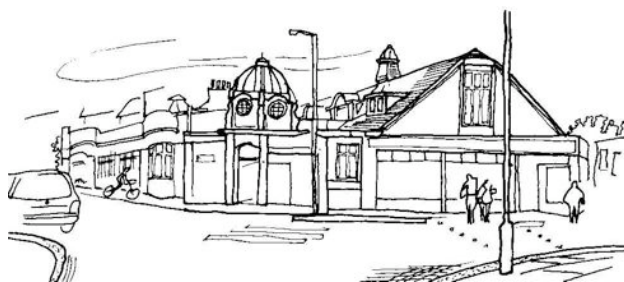
Chairman's Report

Main Issues

The main issues this year have centred round the various proposed changes to the planning legislation, including the mayor's powers, the London Plan and the borough's Local Development Framework (LDF), which will take the place of the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This is dry stuff, but crucially affects the protection or otherwise of historic buildings and open spaces. Members have also had concerns about tall buildings at Lots Road and at Tesco's just across the border in Kensington & Chelsea (the so-called 'Tesco Tower'), the loss of front boundaries, parking on front gardens, crossovers, the hard surfacing of gardens, the epidemic of plastic windows replacing wooden windows, the digging out of extended basements and the demolition of old shopfronts. The good news this year has been the listing of several important buildings.

Listed Buildings

We have been very pleased that the following buildings have been listed: the Temperance pub at 90 and 90a Fulham High Street, the Granville Sharp tomb in All Saints churchyard (see below) and the original 1856 office building, the 1927 laboratory and the war memorial at the former Imperial gas works at Sands End.



The ironically-named Temperance pub in Fulham High Street, originally opened as a temperance billiard hall in 1910.

The following buildings remain on the *Register*, but we are hopeful they will be restored in the next few years as part of planned developments:

- walls of old garden at Fulham Palace, including the vinery and the bothy
- Gothic Lodge at Fulham Palace
- front boundary railings and gate to Kent House on Hammersmith Mall
- St Paul's churchyard, Queen Caroline Street
- Dimco building in Wood Lane

The hope mentioned above does not at the moment extend to St Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Harrow Road, where there are a number of splendid tombs in a bad state of repair, or to 34 Black Lion Lane, W6, a charming but derelict early 19th century corner cottage where, despite listed building consent having been granted, there are no signs of repairs being carried out. This is causing considerable concern in the local community. (NB: you can now download a list of listed buildings in the borough from the planning section of the council website. The easiest way to find it is to type 'listed buildings' in the website search box.)

Listed Churches

I reported last year that three listed churches were applying for extensions. Since then St Paul's Hammersmith has been given permission for an amended scheme. This should result in the restoration of the listed tombs in the churchyard. St Stephen and St Thomas Uxbridge Road is planning an alternative scheme to the one refused. All Saints Fulham is holding a further consultation about its plans in September.

The restoration work on St John the Evangelist's church in Glenthorne Road is under way. Listed grade II* and now part of Godolphin and Latymer School, St John's, with its chapel, was built in 1859. William Butterfield did the church, John Francis Bentley the chapel.

Damage to Historic Buildings

Sadly this continues. Recently one of the oldest shop fronts in the borough was being ripped out on a Sunday morning. Alerted by a vigilant member, the Group managed to stop much of the demolition and a version of the old shop front has now been put back. Members are reminded of the telephone number of the enforcement team at the council if they see unauthorised work taking place: 020 8753 1081 (020 8748 8588 out of hours). Dated photos of the work in progress help. I am glad to report that the house in Paddenswick Road, virtually demolished without permission last year, has now been largely reinstated.

Recording and Research.

One of the Group's roles from the beginning has been recording and researching buildings and open spaces. This information is now incorporated in our *Local List*. We have also made photographic records. We give copies of our research to the borough archives so that the information is publicly available.

The photographs that we take may sometimes be just for the record – before demolition for example – but in most cases we hope that the pictures will lead to the retention or repair of a building or sculpture. The recording of the funerary monuments in our cemeteries is, we hope, only the first step towards the best of them being repaired. Some progress has been made in this direction with the repair of the tomb of Granville Sharp, the father of the anti-slavery movement. In this case an appeal fund was launched. But sometimes restoration can be achieved as part of a new development. The Cottage at Temple Lodge in Queen Caroline Street is such an example. Here the listed cottage has been repaired as part of the adjacent redevelopment of St Vincent's care home.



The listed cottage adjacent to early 19th century Temple Lodge in Queen Caroline Street, recently restored as part of the St Vincent's care home rebuilding.

One of the gaps in the borough's visual record is that of the interiors of local historic buildings. If anyone has photographs, engravings or sketches of interiors we would be delighted to hear about them.

A new survey currently being undertaken – by committee member John Goodier – is of former industrial sites in the borough. One of the major ones is the Imperial gas works site at Sands End, which thanks in part to Group efforts was declared a conservation area by the council some years ago. This site contains what is thought to be the oldest gasholder in the world. We were delighted that earlier this year three of the other historic buildings on the site were also listed (see page 1 above).

Industrial sites often disappear, as with the CAV factory in Larden Road (see article in the last newsletter). Here the photographic record will be an historic document. But often new uses can be found for redundant buildings. Examples in the borough include the former Whiteley's Depository in Avonmore Road, the former gas board building in Peterborough Road (now known as the Piper Building because of the splendid exterior murals designed by John Piper), and the former Island Records offices and recording studio in the old Royal Chiswick Laundry at 22 St Peter's Square. The whole 22 St Peter's Square complex has been repaired and adapted as its own office by architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, designers of the much admired Hungerford footbridge in central London. There will shortly be a chance for members to view 22 St Peter's Square – see annual meeting announcement following.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year takes place on Monday 1 October at 22 St Peter's Square, a listed mid 19th century house at the south-west corner of the square. The original back garden was built over by the former Royal Chiswick Laundry (British Grove at the back of the old laundry is the historic boundary between Hammersmith and Chiswick). Later the complex became the offices and recording studio of Island Records. Bob Marley recorded here, not to mention at one time the entire English football team! The complex now forms the office of architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands (LDS).

LDS have generously agreed to host this year's annual meeting and we are delighted that Alex Lifschutz from the partnership has agreed to be our guest speaker. The theme of this year's meeting is 'Modern Building and Historic Context'. We look forward to exploring the issues this raises. There are full details of the meeting in the mailing and we very much hope you will be able to come. As usual there will be a tour of the building before the meeting.

Planning Legislation

I have reported before on the Group's concerns about the effect on the historic environment of the many changes proposed to the planning legislation. Along with English Heritage, we have responded to the changes proposed to the London Plan by asking for more positive heritage policies. In common with many other groups we opposed the changes to the policies for the waterways, known as the Blue Ribbon Network policies, and Group committee member Roger Weston and I appeared at the examination in public, speaking for the West London River Group, of which Roger is chairman and HBG is a founder member. We hope we won the argument on a number of issues, but we will not know till later when we see the inspector's report.

As I said in my last report, the group responded in detail to the council's Local Development Framework consultation on 'Issues and Options' in January 2006. At the time of writing we are drafting our response to the proposed preferred options for the 'Core Strategy' and the 'Site Specific Allocations' (or site policies as they were called in the old UDP).

The number and complexity of the flurry of new documents is one problem. Another is the inevitable way the deadlines coincide with the main holiday periods! However, we have to beware of consultation fatigue as these changes will have a big effect on the historic environment.

Public Realm

I reported in some detail last year about the public realm. The latest situation is as follows. **StreetSmart** is having a good influence. The improvements to King Street are creeping up King Street to the town hall (though they are not helped by Thames Water's long 'dig' there!). The new sections of **riverside walk** at Hammersmith Embankment and at Sainsbury's in Sands End are to be to

StreetSmart standards. **Crossovers** and the **concreting over of front gardens** are still a hot issue. We have asked the council to take a tougher line on applications for these as they have such a damaging effect on the street scene. The Group continues to be concerned about **shopfronts**. We are steadily losing the few remaining historic shop fronts in the borough. Dorville Row, a charming 18th century parade in King Street, recently won the Hammersmith Society's wooden spoon award for the sad mess of the shop fronts and the flurry of estate agents boards (many out of date). The Group has written to the council about lack of enforcement here. We look forward to the promised council guide on the design of shopfronts. Large **advertisements**, often on gable ends, continue to be of concern. We have urged the council to develop and implement more robust policies for removal of intrusive advertisements. We remain concerned about the state of the **original 19th century railings** along Cambridge Grove and Leamore Street. We are supporting the newly formed residents' association in its campaign to have them repaired.

Redevelopment Sites

There are a number of large sites around the borough where development is being discussed. These include the Beadon Road car park site next to the Metropolitan Line station at Hammersmith Broadway, the Hammersmith town hall site and the Territorial Army centre in Fulham High Street (see illustration on page 4 below). The Group is concerned to ensure that historic buildings on or next to the sites are recorded, protected and incorporated in new developments and that the character of conservation areas should be respected.

The council is reported to be proposing to sell a number of its buildings, including some historic ones. Examples are the South Lodge at Margravine Cemetery, Wormholt Library at the Curve in W12 and the Castle Club in Broomhouse Lane. The group's concern is that any statement attached to a sale should make clear the importance of retaining and restoring the historic building in an appropriate setting.



The Castle Club in Broomhouse Lane was built as the Elizabethan Schools in 1855 by architect Horace Francis and named after landowner and philanthropist Elizabeth Sulivan.

Open Space.

As I reported last year, the borough is short of open space but there is continual pressure from development proposals on the little we have, no doubt because so often using existing open space is the easiest option.

The desire for improved sports facilities in the run up to the Olympics has been highlighted by the council's sport strategy which reminds us that *'the only national standard for sports facilities is the National Playing Fields Association '6 acre rule' (ie 6 acres of open space per 1,000 people)*. According to the council, our borough is so densely populated there is only an average of 0.82 acres of open space per 1,000 people. We fear the pressure to urbanise the existing green space will continue. We have made a number of suggestions for the better use of existing sports facilities and the provision of new facilities in large developments like White City. We are delighted that in the recent permission for phase two of Hammersmith Embankment there is provision for a new rowing facility. We will be looking for appropriate provision in other development schemes.



These locally-listed pavilions on the west side of Fulham High Street are part of a Territorial Army centre built in 1912. Redevelopment of the site is under discussion – see page 3.

Large developments like Lots Road have not been providing sufficient open space for the inhabitants of new housing. Lack of space for the young to play contributes to social problems. We hope new LDF policies will ensure proper open space provision in new developments.

Consultants have been appointed to work up a lottery bid for the improvement of **Bishop's Park**. The Group is represented on the Bishop's Park Stakeholders' Advisory Group, which will be considering proposals in the next few weeks. The Group looks for improvement to the boundary with Fulham Football Club, restoration of the historic structures in the park, such as Pryor's Bank and the ceramic balustrading, a solution to the problem of the former boating lake and improvement to the quality of the landscape and views.

The Group is represented on the Stakeholders' Advisory Group for **Shepherd's Bush Common**. The council is in the early stages of appointing consultants to come up with plans for improvements to the common. The Group continues to argue for a 'less is more' approach to this historic common.

Alterations to **Frank Banfield Park** are part of the Section 106 agreement on the Hammersmith Embankment office park scheme. The Group is concerned that the design was drawn up for an earlier scheme and is now out of date and incomplete. We continue to urge reconsideration of the plans.

BRIEF UPDATES

Tesco Tower This proposed 27-storey tower, 92.4 m high with a glass screen on the skyline, is just over the borough boundary in Kensington & Chelsea, but it is next to the former Whiteley's Depository in our borough and is part of the Avonmore conservation area. The application for planning permission was refused by Kensington & Chelsea at the end of July.

Fulham Football Club Permission for an extension to the Hammersmith End stand adding 1100 extra seats and a restaurant overlooking the river was granted. The Group continues to have concerns about the effect on Stevenage Park.

Lyric Square There has been a street market in this area since at least the early 19th century. We welcome the farmers' market on Thursday, but we still press for the return of some traditional market stalls on every day of the week, as included in the landscape design. We understand that a market on Saturday is being discussed. This is a step in the right direction. Seating was also included in the approved design, but so far has not been installed.

Sands End Park The current proposals are for formal gardens – dubbed a 'mini-Versailles' – separated from a very urban riverside walk. No new design responding to the aspirations of local residents expressed in the public consultation has yet appeared. We continue to be very concerned that the developer, St George, has constructed the riverside walk without having detailed planning permission for either that or the adjacent park.

Hammersmith Embankment An amended scheme was granted permission earlier this year. It was a considerable improvement on the previous schemes and included riverside open space and a new water sports facility with associated pontoon. The archaeology on this site is of considerable interest (see article in last newsletter) and we await the latest report, on the age and significance of the river wall.

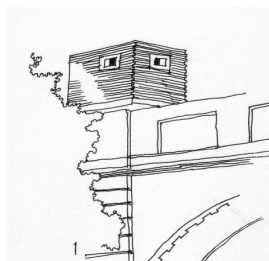
Fulham Palace The palace and the museum are both now open again after the completion of phase 1 work. Planning is now taking place on phase 2, which will include restoration of the gardens and the outbuildings. For opening times and other information visit www.fulhampalace.org.

Events

This year we have continued our popular themed walks. John Goodier's recent social housing walk in the north of the borough covering different styles and ages was unusual and much appreciated. 'A great walk in a too

little appreciated part of the borough' was one member's comment afterwards. Many of us joined the Hammersmith Festival boat tour of the borough's riverside and listened to an erudite commentary from the Group's newsletter editor, Dr Andy Duncan.

Recently we have had the enjoyable treasure hunt round old Fulham, devised and organised by John Goodier. Starting at Fulham Palace and taking in Bishop's Park, All Saints churchyard, the Eight Bells in Fulham High Street (see illustration right) and the borough's only World War II pill box (see illustration below) the clues were quirky, informative – and challenging!



Participants of all ages said how much they had enjoyed it; we hope to have another treasure hunt next year. We are extremely grateful to the following local organisations for donating prizes: Circa, Fulham Football Club, Fulham Palace Garden Centre, Hurlingham Books, Museum of Fulham Palace

and the Temperance pub. More interesting events are in the course of preparation, and another canal boat trip similar to last year's has been arranged for Sunday 9 September – see back page for details. These events are most enjoyable and informative, but also importantly raise funds for our work.

Our Work

As you can see, our Group does an immense amount of wide-ranging work. I am deeply grateful to all members who contribute, including the committee members and surveyors who work on our *Local List* of buildings. We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to join us and help with any aspect of our work.

Angela Dixon

*Angela Dixon, Chairman,
Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group*

FURNIVALL GARDENS

Furnivall Gardens covers what used to be the Hammersmith's little port based on Hammersmith Creek, the tidal mouth of Stamford Brook. The creek stretched all the way up to King Street and was the base of a commercial fishing trade until the river became too polluted in the early 19th century. A few fine houses from that time remain, including 18th century Westcott Lodge next to the old vicarage on the downstream side of the park.

During the 1830s industrial development filled the creek-side neighbourhood with small houses, wharves, factories and workshops, completely surrounding Hammersmith's 18th century Quaker meeting house and burial ground. It was at this time that the area became popularly known as

Little Wapping. After the First World War Little Wapping was designated the 'Hammersmith Southern Improvement Scheme' and the creek was filled in.

During the Second World War Little Wapping was severely damaged by bombing, especially in 1944 when a V1 flying bomb landed on the meeting house. After the war the decision was taken to clear the area and create a park between the new Great West Road and the river. Laid out in time for the 1951 Festival of Britain, the new riverside park was named after Dr Frederick Furnivall, a keen rower and founder in 1896 of Hammersmith Sculling Club, still going today as the Furnivall Sculling Club. Dove Pier was built at the same time. Viewed from the Surrey bank, the pier lines up exactly with the window of the mayor's parlour in the town hall.



The Eight Bells in Fulham High Street, first licensed in 1629 as the Bell and renamed a century later when the peal in All Saints church was increased from six bells to eight.

There are some fine trees in the park. Most date from its creation but a couple may be older. The site of the old Quaker meeting house is now a little memorial garden surrounded by a low wall. Near the town hall side of the park are the remains of a floral clock. Hove still has a working floral clock, so why can't Hammersmith? On the west wall of Westcott Lodge is the Berlin Lamp presented by Willi Brandt in 1961 to mark the twinning of Hammersmith with Berlin-Neukoelin in 1955. The park is well used, not least because of the nearby rowing clubs and, of course, the pubs either side – the Dove on the upstream side and the Rutland and the Blue Anchor downstream.

John Goodier, Historic Buildings Group

LOST HOUSE: WILLOW BANK, FULHAM

Willow Bank was a fine house on the riverside to the east of old Fulham Bridge. It stood in extensive grounds of over three acres, well stocked with trees and shrubs and including a terrace overlooking the Thames. The original Willow Bank was built in the 18th century, but the house was rebuilt in 1816-17. In the mid 19th century it was acquired by theatrical manager Arthur H Webster and his partner, Edward Thomas Delafield, son of a wealthy brewer and lessee of the Italian Opera House, Covent Garden. They rebuilt the house for a third time in 1847, adding two new wings and lavishing money on the interior. The architects of the rebuilding appear to have been brothers Frederick and Horace Francis of Upper Bedford Place, Bloomsbury. Horace Francis was also the architect of the Elizabethan Schools in nearby Broomhouse Lane (see page 3 above).



Willow Bank in Fulham as it looked in the mid 19th century when Queen Victoria came to visit.

A year after the new house was completed, Queen Victoria and her family along with many members of the aristocracy attended a magnificent fête at Willow Bank on 19 July 1848. The event was in aid of a charity providing baths and washhouses for the poor in the East End. The fête was widely advertised and reported in the press and for a short time Willow Bank became the resort of society, noted for its Sunday dinners and fashionable entertainments.

The good times did not last however, for by the following year Messrs Webster and Delafield were bankrupt. Willow Bank was sold and its sumptuous fittings and furnishings auctioned off in an 11-day sale in July 1849.

Over the next few decades Willow Bank had a succession of occupiers until 1889 when it was sold to the District Railway Company and demolished to make way for the extension of the railway across the river to Putney and Wimbledon. The site eventually became a marble and granite works operating from Willowbank Wharf. The wharf was sold in 1983 and redeveloped with housing known as Carrera Wharf in 1987-89.

*Anne Wheeldon
LBHF Archives and Local History Centre*

CALL TO ARMS

Galling though it must be to those who believe Fulham holds precedence over Hammersmith in all things, the metropolitan borough of Hammersmith was granted its official armorial bearings 30 years ahead of the metropolitan borough of Fulham. Examples of the two coats of arms can still be seen around the borough on various municipal buildings.

The best public example of the Hammersmith coat of arms is to be found over the main entrance to Hammersmith Hospital on Du Cane Road. Granted by the College of Arms on 23 December 1897, the official description, in the gloriously medieval Franglais of heraldry, is: *“Per pale Azure and Gules on a Chevron Or between two cross Crosslets in Chief and an Escallop in base Argent, three Horseshoes of the first, and for the Crest on a Wreath of the Colours upon the Battlements of a Tower, two Hammers in saltire, all proper”*. Underneath, on a scroll, the borough’s Latin motto, ‘Spectemur Agendo’, which translates as ‘Let Us be Judged by our Deeds’. Other good examples can be found over the entrance to Hammersmith public library, and over the large porte-cochère of Riverside Gardens, the 1929 council flats beside the town hall.

The emblems on the shield are taken from the arms of three prominent citizens in Hammersmith’s history. The two ‘cross crosslets’ come from Edward Latymer (1556-1626), a well-placed lawyer under Elizabeth I and James I, whose name lives on in his foundation, Latymer Upper School. The three horseshoes on the golden chevron come from the arms of Sir Nicholas Crisp (1598-1665), an ardent royalist who contributed bricks and money towards the building of a chapel that stood until 1880 on the site of the present St Paul’s church by the Broadway. The scallop shell at the bottom is from the arms of George Pring (1779-1824), a surgeon, who was the first person to canvass the idea of building a bridge over the Thames at Hammersmith but did



A full ‘achievement’ of the arms of the borough of Hammersmith before the merger with Fulham.

not live to see its completion. Pring is the least-known of these three worthies, but he was obviously a leading figure of his day. His memorial in St Paul’s Hammersmith says: *‘Professional skill, active benevolence, and zeal for the general welfare, were eminently united in this man. The various plans for rational amusement and public benefit, which originated with and were promoted by him, will long endear his name to the inhabitants of this hamlet’*. Unfortunately what these ‘various plans’ were is not recorded.

For many years, Fulham seems to have rubbed along with an unofficial crest, made up locally without the sanction

of the College of Arms. An example of this can be seen on the east side wall of Fulham public library, quartering the arms of the county of Middlesex (three saracen blades) with the arms of the bishopric of London (crossed swords) and two representations of the old and new Putney bridges. But eventually the borough applied to the College of Arms to go legit, and on 12 October 1927 letters patent were received granting arms blazoned as follows: 'barry wavy of ten, argent and azure, on a saltire gules, two swords in saltire points upwards of the first enfiled by a mitre or, and for the crest upon a mural crown of seven turrets or an ancient rowing ship in full sail sable, the flags per fesse argent and azure charged on the sail argent with a rose gules, surmounted by a rose argent barbed vert and seeded proper'.



A full 'achievement' of the arms of the borough of Fulham before the merger with Hammersmith.

Underneath the arms is the motto 'Pro Civibus et Civitate', meaning 'For Citizens and Community'. A good example of this can be seen on the second floor of the Fulham town hall extension of 1934. Fulham also mass-produced a relief ceramic version of its arms in the 1950s which can be seen, for example, on the Health Centre at Parsons Green and on several blocks of council flats such, for instance, as Arthur Henderson House in the Fulham Road. The symbolism is straight-forward: 'barry wavy' means the alternating blue and silver lines, ie the Thames. The crossed swords come from the arms of the bishopric of London, the borough's oldest historic connection. And the ancient ship on the crest recalls the Danes wintering Thames-side in 879AD.

When the two boroughs were united, John Brooke-Little, Bluemantle Pursuivant and chairman of the Heraldry Society, designed a conflation of the two coats of arms, which was granted by letters patent on 1 March 1965.



The full 'achievement' of the arms of the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, granted in 1965 when the boroughs were united.

Additionally, the new arms acquired two 'supporters', red male griffins, with gold beaks, blue tongues and claws, or, to be correct, gules, or and azure respectively. The griffin is a mythical animal combining the king of the beasts, the lion, with the king of the birds, the eagle, the union of their qualities of strength and vigilance having an equivalence with the merging of the boroughs. The griffins

are also peppered with bursts of gold rays 'symbolising progress and enlightenment'. Frankly, the united arms are a bit of a dog's dinner and, in the 40 years of the united borough's existence, they have not been carved once on any public building. No doubt they are to be found over the windscreen of the mayoral limo, in the council chamber and on the odd scroll, but where today is the municipal spirit that formerly led the metropolitan boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham to put up their arms with pride?

John Sheppard, Historic Buildings Group

COALS TO FULHAM

Did you know that Fulham once had its very own fleet of ships? They were used to bring coal to the old borough power station in Sands End. The station needed 2,000 tons of coal a day to generate electricity so it made sense for the borough to operate its own fleet. The first ship, *Fulham I*, was built at Burntisland shipyard on the Firth of Forth in Scotland and launched on 7 December 1935. By 1948 a further nine had been built, all carrying the name *Fulham*. Of necessity, the colliers were both sea-going and yet capable of navigating under the low span bridges of the Thames as far as the power station on the upstream side of Chelsea Creek, next to the gas works.



Local worthies at the launching of Fulham's first borough-owned collier, built in 1935 on the Firth of Forth in Scotland.

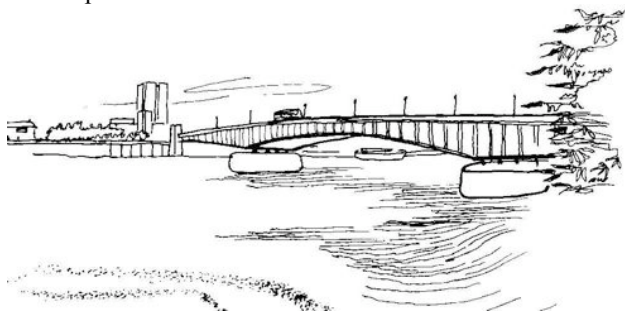
Throughout the war the service continued, although *Fulham V* was torpedoed in 1940. *Fulham VII* sank after a collision off Beachy Head in 1946. Between 1958 and 1970 the colliers were mostly broken up, although *Fulham IX*, sold to a Greek shipping company, remained in service until 1978. Fulham power station itself was decommissioned the same year and subsequently demolished, but the old jetty used by the colliers still stands in the river in front of the Sands End Sainsbury's. If you have any photos, memorabilia or memories connected with the colliers, the borough archives and local history centre would like to hear from you. You can contact us on 020 8741 5159.

Anne Wheeldon
LBHF Archives and Local History Centre

WANDSWORTH BRIDGE

Just upstream of the jetty where Fulham's colliers used to tie up is the elegantly simple Wandsworth Bridge, designed and built between 1936 and 1940 by engineer Sir T Pierson Frank and architects E P Wheeler and Frederick Hiorns of the London County Council (LCC). In the LCC minutes of 17 December 1935 the design is described as follows: 'In the design of the bridge a severe simplicity of treatment has been aimed at, expressed in a technique essentially related to the material (steel) proposed for its construction and finish. The low curved lines of the bridge are designed to be in keeping with the flatness of the river banks in the neighbourhood, and, as the bridge is of the deck type, the public will have full opportunity of enjoying views over and along the river'. The views were improved by the insertion of 'windows' in the side of the bridge for the benefit of pedestrians.

The bridge consists of a high central span – designed to give better clearance for river traffic than the previous bridge – with two half spans supported on concrete piers clad in granite. The piers take the weight of the bridge and transmit it to the ground so most of the mass of the piers above the abutment of the spans is decorative rather than structural. The road deck on top has a shallow curved profile.



Wandsworth Bridge, its low curved lines designed to be in keeping with the flatness of the river banks on either side.

Spaced out along the bridge are 10 pairs of lights. Based on the typical gas lamp model, they are painted in gold and are just higher than a double decker bus. The bridge is 197m long and, following widening in the 1970s, 18m across.

John Goodier, Historic Buildings Group

MAIN EVENTS

Sunday 9 Sept: CANAL BOAT TRIP

HBG/Hammersmith Society boat trip on the Grand Union canal from Brentford to Perivale. Starts 12.00. Cost £15 per person. Booking essential: Melanie Whitlock 020 8743 or whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com.

Sunday 16 September: RIVER BOAT TRIP

To close Open Chiswick, the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea has organised a boat trip from Hammersmith to Westminster to see the grand firework finale to the Mayor's Thames Festival. Boarding Chiswick Pier 7.30pm, Putney Pier 8pm, Chelsea Harbour Pier 8.45pm. Fireworks 9.50pm. Return drop-offs at Chelsea and Putney (not Chiswick because of tide). £5 donation per person. Booking essential: Trenton Oldfield 07917 264 396 or trenton@thamesstrategy-kewtochelsea.org.uk.

Monday 1 October: HBG ANNUAL MEETING

This year our annual meeting is being held at 22 St Peter's Square, W6, the offices of architects Lifschutz Davidsons Sandilands. Refreshments from 7pm. Tour of the office starts at 7.15pm. Meeting starts 8pm.

Saturday 8 March 2008 : GUIDED WALK

A walk exploring the industrial history and archaeology of the little-known north of the borough around Hythe Road. It will cover development sites, different kinds of factories, Mary Seacole Park, a local nature area, the canal and of course the railways. Led by HBG committee member John Goodier. Start 2.30pm Willesden Junction station. Cost £5, pay on day. Booking essential: John Goodier at fsslibrary@btconnect.com.

OTHER EVENTS

8 Sept: Great River Race – www.greatriverrace.co.uk.

15-16 Sept: London Open House weekend and Mayor's Thames Festival (see River Boat Trip above).

27 Sept: Friends of Bishop's Park general meeting, St Etheldreda's church hall, 7.30 for 8pm. 020 7385 5965

4 Oct: Fulham Palace grounds visit with Dr Scott Cooper palace project director. Details from John Goodier at fsslibrary@btconnect.com or on 020 7230 3331.

6 Oct: Pairs Head

3 Nov: Head of the River Fours

29 Mar 2008: University Boat Race

HBG PUBLICATIONS

Local List £17 members, £20 non-members.

Bradmore House illustrated booklet, £5.

Both available from Group chairman: 020 8748 7416

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