



No. 21 Autumn 2009

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Being the autumn number, the bulk is, as usual, taken up with our chairman's report on events concerning the local historic environment over the past year. Notable has been the unveiling of three Historic Buildings Group plaques, the first in what we hope will be a continuing series. We also report on positive developments at South Park in Fulham, and travel back in time to rediscover a lost house underneath Hammersmith's Great West Road. And with Polish immigration so much in the news, it's salutary to be reminded of the strong links forged between Britain and Poland in the dark days of the Second World War (see Jan Pieńkowski's article on Polish art on page 7).

Chairman's Report

MAIN ISSUES

Major issues for this past year have been the threat to Fulham Palace moat, the proposed re-design of Shepherd's Bush Common and the erosion of the quality of conservation areas. There have been important consultations on the mayor's new London Plan and on the borough's new Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Good news is that eight more buildings in the borough have been listed and that three of the Group's own plaques have been unveiled.

Fulham Palace Moat

Last year I reported on the threat to the borough's only scheduled ancient monument – the Fulham Palace moated site – from a development scheme proposed for the Territorial Army site in Fulham High Street. This included a large Tesco supermarket, housing and a new church hall for All Saints church. The developer proposed to build a car park to service the supermarket under some of the church land around Fulham Palace, which would have destroyed part of the route of the moat. The council has now refused this development. The lottery bid for Phase 2 of the restoration of Fulham Palace includes digging out a section of the moat on either side of the moat bridge at the entrance to the palace. We hope that it will also be possible to mark the corners of the

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moat on the ground in order to make it easier for the public to understand where the route of the moat was – the first steps in a long-term vision to restore the entire moat. We have suggested that the restoration of the moat should be part of the borough's core LDF strategy. If you would like to find out more

about the moat, join Keith Whitehouse's walk next March – details on back page.

Listed Buildings

We are very pleased that during the year the following buildings have been listed:

Cremorne Railway Bridge (also known as Battersea Railway Bridge): Grade II* (see article in last newsletter).

Hammersmith Bridge (1884 to designs by Sir Joseph Bazalgette): upgraded to Grade II*.

Wormwood Scrubs Prison (1874-1891 to designs by Sir Edmund Du Cane): chapel and gatehouse Grade II*; four cell blocks Grade II.



The main entrance to Fulham Palace from Bishop's Avenue, as it looked in 1897. The moat ditch, though dry now, is still visible here through the vegetation, and the bridge remains.

Former Wormholt Library and Infant Welfare Centre, part of the Wormholt estate (1930 to designs by R Hampton Clucas, Hammersmith borough engineer and surveyor): Grade II. The Group submitted a detailed research note and photographs of this charming building. We are particularly pleased that its quality has been formally recognised.

Burchell family chest tomb in churchyard of All Saints, Fulham (mid 19th century): Grade II. William Burchell was a traveller, artist and naturalist whose outstanding collections are now at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. **Langford School** in Gilstead Road (1889-90, completed 1899, by TJ Bailey) and **Fulham Cross School** in Munster Road (1907-8, also by TJ Bailey): Grade II.

St Andrew's church, Fulham Fields (1873-4 by Newman & Billing, enlarged in 1894-6 by Aston Webb): Grade II. The church authorities are proceeding with their earlier proposal to demolish part of the church and replace it with a block of flats even though the building has now been listed. We have objected to the demolition and suggested that the church should reconsider its proposals in the light of the listing.

BBC TV Centre Grade II listing of the central core has been confirmed. Members will know from last year's annual meeting that the Group was concerned about the future of the building after the BBC moves out in 2012 and had submitted a detailed research note to English Heritage. The listing includes the main circular ring and studio 1 of this purpose-built TV studio complex, designed by Graham Dawbarn of Norman and Dawbarn (following initial sketches on an envelope), planned from 1950 and built 1956-60. We are disappointed that the secretary of state did not take the advice of English Heritage and include in the listing the scenery store and former canteen and hope that this will be reconsidered.

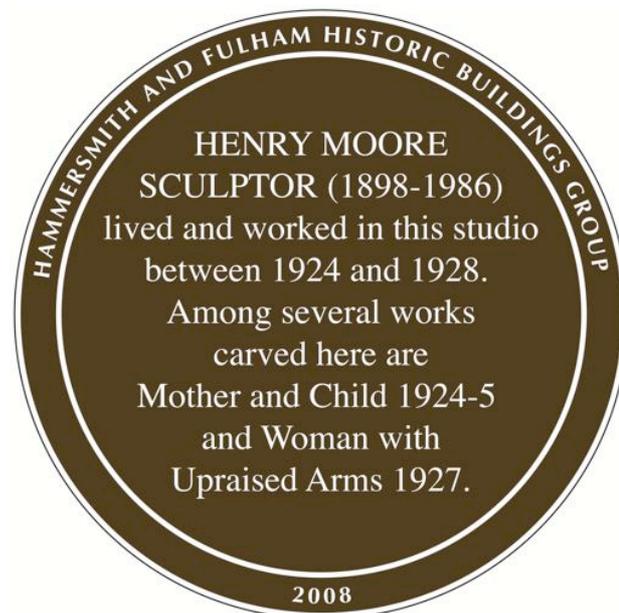
English Heritage's *2009 Buildings at Risk Register* for the borough has no changes from last year (fully reported in Newsletter 19). The lottery bid for Phase 2 of the restoration of Fulham Palace, which is a combined bid with that for Bishop's Park, is being refined and is due to be submitted in October. Work will include restoration of the walled garden, vinery and Gothic Lodge, which are on the *At Risk Register*.

Work on the restoration of Kent House has progressed with the main house now being on the market. We objected strongly to an application to put another floor on this elegant 18th century house. At the time of writing, the splendid ironwork included on the *Buildings At Risk Register* had still not been restored. The ballroom/theatre, now part of the re-organised club buildings at the rear, has been well restored.

Conservation Areas

This year English Heritage has issued a new report – *Heritage at Risk: Conservation Areas*. Members know that we have been concerned for many years about the cumulative effect of insensitive changes to historic buildings and conservation areas. It was no surprise therefore when English Heritage reported that countrywide one in seven conservation areas are at risk

and that among the top ten threats are unsympathetic replacement doors and windows, loss of boundary walls, fences and hedges, unsightly satellite dishes, alterations to front elevations, roofs and chimneys, unsympathetic new extensions and the impact of advertisements.



This plaque commemorating Henry Moore's presence in Adie Road, W6, during the 1920s is one of three new Historic Buildings Group plaques unveiled this past year. For full details, see the article on page 4, which includes Henry Moore's daughter's speech at the Moore plaque unveiling.

English Heritage has started a 'Conservation Areas at Risk' campaign and suggested a number of things that can be done to bring about improvements over the next three years. In our borough we already do some of them. We have a heritage champion; we have *StreetSmart* which sets a high standard for the streetscape; we have a number of Article 4 directions; we have conservation area appraisals – known as 'profiles' – for many of our conservation areas; we have the *Local Register of Buildings of Merit* – and the Group's own *Local List* – and we have active amenity societies and residents' associations throughout the borough, including our own Group which has a borough-wide remit.

However, there are other things that we as a borough have not yet done and which the Group has been pressing the council for several years to do: finalise the draft *Broad Design Guidelines* for all conservation areas as a priority, complete the remaining conservation area profiles – the Canal conservation area in particular is suffering from its lack of a profile – extend the use of Article 4 Directions and take a more active stand on enforcement. We are aware of the workload on officers, but hope that, encouraged by this campaign, these aims can be given a higher priority. English Heritage suggests that 'local authorities make the improvement of conservation areas an integral part of their economic and regeneration strategies'. We support this and would like it added into the LDF core strategy.

History on the Wall

After several years' preparation, in consultation with the borough's design and conservation team, the first three Historic Buildings Group plaques have been unveiled this year: on St Vincent's care home in Queen Caroline Street, W6; on Henry Moore's studio in Adie Road, W12; and at the entrance to St Paul's Open Space in Hammersmith Road, W6, commemorating the planning of D-Day. For more on the last two, see below on page 4. An account of the unveiling of the plaque on St Vincent's care home was given in our last newsletter.

Planning Policy Consultations

I reported last year on the changes to the planning legislation. This year there have been a series of consultations on policy documents which need great attention to detail and are very time consuming. However, they are an important part of our work because of the effects they have on planning decisions.

The mayor has decided to draft a new London Plan rather than amend the old one and we look forward to a shorter, less prescriptive, document which gives greater weight to the historic context. We have, along with many other amenity societies, argued against tall buildings outside Canary Wharf and the City.

We have responded in detail to the borough's latest consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) core strategies. We have found the recent document repetitive and lacking in clarity now that the borough-wide core policies are combined with the proposals for regeneration areas and individual sites. The proposed regeneration areas have wide boundaries and include conservation areas. It should be made clear that, as in the present UDP, which has served the borough well, the borough-wide policies relating to heritage and the environment apply to all developments including those in the proposed regeneration areas. As at present drafted this does not seem to be what is being proposed. We have stressed the importance of context, that regeneration should be conservation-based and that there should be a presumption against tall buildings in the borough, particularly along the riverside.

We have responded to a number of draft planning briefs for the development of borough schools. We are concerned that development should retain the character of listed schools like Sacred Heart, that new development, as proposed at Cambridge School, should be in keeping with its conservation area and the nearby listed buildings. At Phoenix High School we are concerned at the possibility of the Bryony Centre (illustrated right) being demolished rather than incorporated into the new campus. Opened as 'village school' in 1931 and now used for adult education classes, the Bryony Centre was one of the original public buildings on the Wormholt Estate. Built in red brick with clay tiles, timber windows divided into multiple panes and hipped roofs, it evokes the cottage image so typical of the Wormholt Estate, the conservation area and the garden suburb movement in general. Schools are the theme for this year's annual

meeting when we look forward to hearing more about our historic schools and future plans for them (see page 4).

OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE

Shepherd's Bush Common

We welcome the higher priority being given to our parks and open spaces, many of which have a long history (see report in last newsletter). However, it is important that landscaping plans take into account the history of an open space or park and its historic character and, if relevant, its original design. Sadly we have had to object to the current plans for Shepherd's Bush Common because they would change the historic character of the common.

The common, at the junction of two drove roads into London, was originally part of the manor of Fulham and was bought by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1871. It is now administered by the council. Over the years it has become 'municipally fragmented' and we would welcome an appropriate restoration scheme. We objected to the scheme put forward in 2000 for the enclosure and urbanising of the common and were delighted when those proposals were dropped. We welcome parts of the current proposal – consolidating the play areas to the eastern end, the inclusion of a café with public lavatories, re-routing the cyclists round the outside of the common, new tree planting and the retention of the listed war memorial in its present position. However, we have objected to other parts of the proposals, particularly to the excessive hard landscaping and a series of mounds on the common which result in the unnecessary loss of mature and healthy trees and fragment the common in a different way. At the time of writing, we understand that this scheme is being reviewed. The common has the historic character of a village green, not an urban park, and this character should be respected and restored. We hope that the design philosophy of 'less is more' will prevail.



The Bryony Centre, a 1930s village school on the Wormholt Estate, now used for adult education classes (see article left).

Parks

A lottery bid for improvements to Bishop's Park is being refined for submission in October. We hope to report more on this at the annual meeting. There are plans under discussion for improvements at South Park: see the report from the Friends of South Park on page 7. We welcome the newly constituted Friends of Ravenscourt Park.

The Wooded Tow Path in Barnes

We are pleased that there is now a management plan for the trees along the tow path commissioned by the PLA. This is very thorough, acknowledges the heritage value of the landscape and phases work over a number of years. There was some felling and pruning last spring and there will be more this winter. However, some mature trees are to be planted along the tow path this autumn. These will help to fill gaps and retain the highly valued green view across the river.

BRIEF UPDATES

Large redevelopment sites Not surprisingly in the present economic climate, most of the large approved redevelopment schemes, such as Hammersmith Embankment and the Beadon Road 'Armadillo', have not progressed since my last report. There have been no further pre-application discussions on the Hammersmith town hall site, the Seagrave Road car park site and Imperial Wharf phase 3.

Olympia Aparthotel An appeal has recently concluded on the application to build on the lorry park next to Sir Joseph Emberton's 1929 Olympia Two building. The Group has objected to the proposals as too large and dominant next to the listed building.

Palace Wharf It is proposed to demolish the 'sheds' in the centre of the site, refurbish the historic buildings of Jackson's plasterworks for housing and build a row of town houses facing the river. The river walk would be extended via an arch through the original wharf building to Crabtree Wharf and drawdock. The area of Palace and Crabtree wharves is the last reminder left along the river of this kind of earlier use and is a very picturesque view with the Palace Wharf building, the 19th century wharf keeper's cottage, the Crabtree pub, the Boathouse, drawdock and shingle beach with its willows. The grouping is important in views along and across the river. Whilst not objecting to most of the scheme, the Group objects to the demolition of the cottage, which is a key feature in the historic ensemble.

Former Kings' Head pub at 4 Fulham High Street. Now renamed The Ramshackle, this splendid flamboyant listed pub built in 1906 in a somewhat 'Scottish baronial' style has a recent history of unauthorised alterations and unsympathetic proposals. The Group discovered that unauthorised work was being carried out on the adjacent site which involved building over the route of the filled in Fulham Place moat. We have had a site meeting with officers and the owner and at the time of writing believe that the plans have been modified to leave the moat area clear of any development. We also understand that the moat area will be clearly marked.

Fulham Wharf has been bought by Sainsbury's and we have attended a pre-application meeting along with representatives from the Fulham Society and the West London River Group. We hope for a high quality scheme, retaining the classical façade, without tall towers and with generous open space along the riverside.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting this year takes place on Wednesday 7 October at Latymer Upper School, 237-9 King Street,

W6. Our theme is 'Our Schools Old and New'. The original buildings of 1895, including the school hall, were designed by George Saunders who also designed the West London Hospital. There is a recently built arts centre and new theatre block and a new library is being built now. The meeting will be preceded by a tour of parts of the school. Full details were included in the recent invitation mailing and we hope to see you there.

Our Work

As you can see, our work is varied and considerable, but very interesting. I am deeply grateful to the officers and the committee members who do so much work and the 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

HERITAGE PLAQUES

As mentioned in the chairman's report above (page 3), the Group has unveiled three plaques this year. The first (St Vincent's care home) was reported in our last newsletter. Following is an account of the two new plaques, to sculptor Henry Moore and the planning of D-Day. The Henry Moore account includes the speech made at the unveiling by the artist's daughter, Mary Moore.

Henry Moore – Adie Road, W6

The artist and sculptor Henry Moore (1898-1986) lived and worked at 3 Grove Studios (now called the Laboratory) in Adie Road, Hammersmith between 1924 and 1928. He moved there after completing his training at Leeds School of Art. An Historic Buildings Group commemorative plaque has been installed on the studio, in association with the present owner, Henry Gentle.



The studio on Adie Road, W6, where sculptor Henry Moore lived and worked in the 1920s.

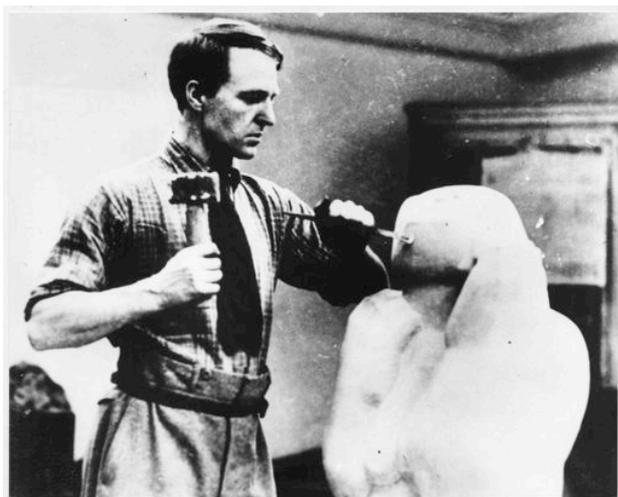
In March this year we were delighted to welcome Henry Moore's daughter, Mary Moore, to unveil the plaque. This is the speech she made on the occasion:

'On behalf of the family I'd like to thank everyone who has been connected with and worked on this enterprise, especially Angela Dixon and Henry Gentle. As you will see from the wording on the plaque, my father lived and

worked at 3 Grove Studios between 1924 and 1928. He moved here during his time at the Royal College of Art and shared it with an old friend and fellow student, Raymond Coxon. They both were to attend, along with other friends from the college, a drawing class held by Leon Underwood at Underwood's studio in Girdlers Road. Remarkably enough, the family have lived just round the corner from Girdlers Road for the past ten years and my eldest son and his wife have just bought a house nearby.

In the late summer of 1924, my father became a stand-in for the sculpture professor at the RCA. He was 26. When the new professor, Ernest Cole, was engaged, my father became the sculpture assistant, earning £240 a year for about 66 days work. This left 299 days for his own work, which was ideal for him.

There is a photograph (see below) of Henry Moore, possibly aged about 29, in 3 Grove Studios, surrounded by works he created there, among them Woman with Upraised Arms in Hopton Wood stone and Mother and Child in Hornton stone, the latter now in Manchester City Art Gallery. Both are examples of his passion for using English stone from English quarries.



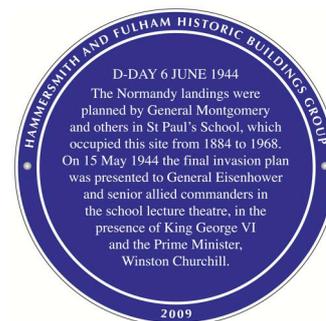
Henry Moore carving in his studio at 3 Grove Studios, Adie Road, Hammersmith in 1928. (Reproduced by permission of the Henry Moore Foundation.)

During the period that he worked at Grove Studios he was also carving outdoors at the Norfolk cottage of his sister Betty. There is actually a show in Norwich at the moment [now over – Ed] which touches on this period and, as there is no description of his working life here at Grove Studios, I'd like to read a description of his working routine in Norfolk taken from a letter written at the time to a friend: 'I get up about 9 – begin carving about ten – carve for an hour then stretch my legs by getting a pear or two from the pear tree, then carve on till 12.30 – lunch and then read the paper till 2 – carve again till 4 – tea – then a game of croquet followed by a walk – supper and then the wireless, at the same time either writing to you or reading. Bed between 11 & 12. My aim now is to increase the hours of carving by cutting down

the paper reading & croquet playing.' From growing up with my father I have to say that his workdays at Hoglands, where he lived from the early 1940s to his death in 1986, were basically very similar in structure. Thank you all for coming and let me say, without further ado, it gives me great pleasure to now unveil this plaque.'

D-Day

On 6 June 2009, the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings, an Historic Buildings Group plaque commemorating the planning of D-Day in St Paul's School by General Montgomery and others was unveiled by the mayor, Councillor Alex Karmel. The plaque is on a gate pillar at the entrance to St Paul's Open Space, Hammersmith Road. The gates were the entrance to the school and, with the High Master's house, are all that remains of the old school buildings, which occupied the site in Hammersmith Road from 1884 to 1968. During the war the school was evacuated to Berkshire. General Montgomery had been a boy at the school from 1902 to 1906. When he returned to the school with the Headquarters of 21 Army Group to start the D-Day planning, he found that his office was located in the room of the High Master. He wrote later: 'Although I had been a school prefect, captain of the 1st XV, in the cricket XI and in the swimming team I had never entered that room before. I had to become a Commander-in-Chief to do so.' The planning of D-Day was an important historical event and we are delighted, to have commemorated it in association with the Hammersmith & Fulham Pensioners' Forum.



London plaques book

Speaking of plaques, a new book on London's plaques by a former committee member of the Group is to be published next year. John Sheppard, who compiled our innovative sculpture survey, has updated an earlier work by Derek Sumeray, adding over 400 plaques to the original 1400 or so. 47 of the new total of approximately 1800 are in Hammersmith and Fulham so there is plenty in the book to interest local residents. Another local connection is the fact that our own William Morris, who has eight plaques to him, comes second in the highest number of plaques per individual ratings after Dickens who has ten (Wilberforce comes third with seven). John's book is published in March 2010 by Shire, price £12.99 (ISBN 9780747807353).

The Editor

LOST HOUSE

An old lane used to run south from King Street next to the Hampshire Hog pub as far as Doves Passage. The southern end near the river – now the footpath on the west side of Furnivall Gardens – was called New Street and the remainder was known as Hog Lane.

Roughly at the point where the name changed and where today's underpass beneath the Great West Road is situated stood an old house called Hampshire House, no doubt taking its name, like the lane, from the pub.

In 1911 when it was still standing, the *Survey of London* described Hampshire House as a 'very delightful little Georgian house...characteristic...of the eighteenth century with a two-storied brick front and tiled roof, the two chimney stacks being in the gables'.



18th century Hampshire House which used to stand near Hammersmith town hall, a casualty of the construction of the Great West Road in the 1950s.

In November 1905 the Hampshire House Social Club for Working Men was opened in Hampshire House 'for the purpose of providing intellectual and other recreations for men over 20 years of age, aiming towards the ideal of social brotherhood, with accommodation for Benefit, Thrift, Reading, Athletic and Friendly Societies, and the sale of "Temperance Refreshments". The club is open for religious and political discussions', continued a contemporary description, 'but is not attached to any particular religious denomination or political party'. The first honorary secretary was Douglas Pepler, who later established the Hampshire House Workshops.

The club expanded to include activities and social events for women and children before becoming part of the newly established Hampshire House Trust in 1912. Around this time the old house was enlarged and altered for the trust; many old features were carefully preserved, including the charming garden.

The trust had the added objective of improving the conditions of residents in River Ward, where Hampshire House was situated. The 1913 annual report described the ward vividly as follows: 'One of London's poorer and apparently more hopeless districts is situated in the alleys, unpenetrated by any road, which lie between King Street and the river...and Hog Lane and Waterloo Street...The inhabitants are costers, flowersellers, casual labourers, chronic invalids; mothers habitually tired; and children, children, children...The housing accommodation is what you might expect. In one street there is one water-closet to four houses...in another the costers' donkeys are led through the houses entering at the front door, and going along the passages, to the

hovels in the yards at the back.' The trust's annual reports are a mine of information on the educational and recreational activities on offer. They also contain wonderful photographs, perhaps not surprising as the Hampshire House photographic society became one of the leading groups in the country.

During the First World War the club gave hospitality and employment to Belgian refugees and its work was supported by well known personalities such as the actress Ellen Terry. Douglas Pepler developed the Hampshire House Workshops, later at 6 Upper Mall, which operated as a company where craftsmen made furniture, embroidery, and shoes.

Youth groups were a feature of the activities at Hampshire House and the YMCA had a club house there throughout the war. In fact the Second World War saved Hampshire House, albeit temporarily. In the summer of 1939 it was announced that it would be demolished to make way for the new Cromwell Road extension, but the war intervened. In June 1943 the house was damaged by a bomb, but groups continued to meet there undaunted. Hampshire House finally succumbed to the new Great West Road in the mid 1950s, bringing to an end half a century of service to the residents of south Hammersmith.

Anne Wheeldon, LBHF Archives and Local History

OUT AND ABOUT

This year's events started with a fascinating walk around Fulham Palace moat, the only scheduled ancient monument in the borough. Our guide was Keith Whitehouse who carried out the first sectional excavations with the Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group in 1982 (this walk will be repeated in 2010 – see back page for details). A second walk, led by Paul Clay, London Nature Conservation Officer for Groundwork, explored Wormwood Scrubs and Little Wormwood Scrubs. We also enjoyed a visit to Brompton Cemetery, with the Friends of Brompton Cemetery showing us round (see article immediately following). This year's Treasure Hunt, our third, devised as usual by committee member John Goodier, focused on the Parsons Green area in Fulham. Starting and finishing at the White Horse pub, the quirky and informative clues steered hunters to St Dionis Church, Lady Margaret School, Aragon House, the former Welsh church in Ellie Road and many less obvious buildings. Participants said how much they had enjoyed this event, for which donors of prizes included Chelsea Football Club, Planet Organic, Aragon House, The White Horse, The Wheatsheaf, Elizabeth King Delicatessen and TG Photography. We are extremely grateful to them all.

For details of forthcoming events, please turn to the back page. Your support would be much appreciated as, besides being enjoyable and informative, our events are important sources of funds for our work. If you have suggestions for suitable future events with a Hammersmith & Fulham connection, please pass to the Hon. Sec. – contact details on back page under Officers.

Richard Scott, Hon. Sec., Historic Buildings Group

Brompton Cemetery

The Friends of Brompton Cemetery were very pleased to welcome members from the Historic Buildings Group for a guided tour. As volunteers we work in support of the Royal Parks, who currently manage the cemetery. Our aims are to rid it of earlier problems of relative lack of care and unpleasant anti-social behaviour and to present it to the public.

The cemetery's funeral business began in 1840 (when the cemetery was consecrated by Bishop Blomfield) and continues today since plots are still available for purchase. Emma Shaw of Fulham was the first burial and now nearly 210,000 people are buried there, most during the Victorian era. Among thousands of soldiers in the cemetery are 13 holders of the Victoria Cross. John Gunter, who provided part of the land for the cemetery, and his brother Robert are buried there, as is Robert's daughter Edith (commemorated in Edith and Gunter Groves.)

The concept of the garden cemetery as a place 'as much for the enjoyment of the living as the repose of the dead' belonged to JC Loudon. There are more than 60 species of trees and, at the last count, 69 different lichens, a good sign of clean air. The chapel and colonnades are listed Grade II*, as are seven memorials. We plan applications soon for the listing of another 30-50 memorials. A section of the catacombs is open on our open day. There are about 35,000 monuments. Possibly the finest is that designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones for Frederick Leyland of shipping fame.

For more information about the cemetery and activities, please visit our website: www.brompton-cemetery.org

Arthur Tait, chairman, Friends of Brompton Cemetery

POLISH ART IN W12

The stained glass windows which have been skilfully integrated into the striking Victorian church of St Andrew Bobola in Leysfield Road, W12, all relate to the Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought alongside the Allies in the Second World War. Their most distinguished leader was General Wladyslaw Anders, whose memorial fills the triple lancet stained glass window in the south transept. General Anders led the Polish Second Corps in the final push against German troops in Italy, including the heroic assault on Monte Cassino. The window depicts the crucifixion and includes the most revered Polish military decoration, the Virtuti Militari Cross. I had the honour of meeting the general as a small boy in Trani, Puglia, southern Italy, in 1946.

The second remarkable window – in the north transept – commemorates Polish airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain. This was designed by the painter Janina Baranowska, who won the competition set by the Union of Polish Airmen in 1979 and who was my fellow student at the Polish Art School in Knightsbridge during the 1950s. The window was made by the firm of Goddard & Gibbs and inaugurated by Cardinal Rubin on 3 April 1980. The three lancet windows cleverly integrate the

Cross with two swooping plane trails. The composition is surmounted by the icon of Our Lady of Ostrobrama.

Another interesting window commemorates the Polish secret underground men who were trained at the SOE centre at Audley End and then parachuted into German-occupied Poland. My uncle, Stanislaw Jankowski, was one of them.



An interior view of the Polish Roman Catholic church of St Andrew Bobola in Leysfield Road, W12, which contains a fine collection of modern Polish stained glass and other art.

A wartime icon can be seen in the chapel of Our Lady of Kozielsk, which is in a specially created niche in the north wall of the church. The bas-relief was carved by Tadeusz Zielinski who, as a lieutenant in the Polish army, survived imprisonment in the Soviet camp at Kozielsk. The material, a lime wood plank, came from a discarded door of the Russian Orthodox church which the Bolsheviks had converted into a prison. He worked as and when he could in secret, cobbling together tools from fragments of steel found in the ruins. When the prisoners were transported to another camp at Grazowiec, he hid the carving in the false bottom of a suitcase. It was at Grazowiec that he added colour by using paints originally intended for painting communist slogans. From Russia, the carving's journey took it through Persia, Palestine, Egypt, Italy and finally to England.

Jan Pieńkowski

Editor's note: the Group has planned a guided tour of this fascinating church, which is to be led by the parish priest, Father Bronislaw Gostomski. See back page for details.

SOUTH PARK

South Park is the only former farm land in Fulham that still remains as an open space. The farm, known first as Broom Farm and then Southfields Farm, was part of the Fulham estate of the Sullivan family. This was inherited by Charlotte Sullivan, whose uncle was Lord Palmerston. She lived in Fulham's most important 'manor' house, Broom House, and became a major benefactor to the area. In 1903 she sold the farm to Fulham council for £35,000, with the LCC putting up much of the money.

South Park opened in March 1904. Over 20 acres in extent, it had facilities for cricket, tennis, and other open air games and there was a bandstand, public lavatories and a refreshment room adjoining the North Lodge at the corner of Clancarty Road and Peterborough Road.



South Park's North Lodge in happier days. Today it is derelict, as is the adjoining refreshment room. The South Lodge, near the Hugon Road entrance gates, is still used as a dwelling and is occupied by a council employee.

The park started deteriorating in the 1970s, first with progressive decreases in maintenance and then from vandalism. Individual attempts by local residents to arrest the deterioration and improve maintenance standards met with little success. It was not until the Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association (PRARA) came into being in 2002 that any progress was made. PRARA undertook a prolonged and intensive campaign which called for the creation of a master plan for the park and a co-ordinated programme of works.

In conjunction with a local councillor, PRARA organised a survey of users in the summer of 2006 which led to the formation of a users' group. The survey demonstrated the passion local people had for the park and their desire to see it better managed and maintained. Top of the wants list were a café and toilets, the toilet block having been closed many years ago due to vandalism. Generally people's views on what the park needed coincided with those already identified by PRARA.

In 2008 funds were finally made available to pay for the development of a master plan. This is currently being developed by landscape architects. Integral to their brief is the PRARA survey. To further inform the design process and support future funding bids, a formal Friends of South Park was formed in January 2009, taking over from the users' group. The Friends' prime objective is the restoration and regeneration of the park. Their collective requirements are very similar to the views expressed in the 2006 consultation, and indeed are largely an elaboration of them. More information can be found on the PRARA and Friends of South Park websites at www.prara.org.uk and www.friendsofsouthpark.org.uk.

Anthony Williams, chairman, Friends of South Park

HBG EVENTS

Thursday 29 October 2009: visit to Sandycombe Lodge, Twickenham

Professor Livermore, the present owner, will guide this visit to the 1812 house of the artist JMW Turner, who lived for a time near the Old Ship pub on Upper Mall. Meet at 40 Sandycombe Road, TW1 2LR, at 11 am. Tour lasts 1 hour. Cost £10, pay on the day. Lunch available at the nearby home of chairman of The Friends of Turner's House – cost £6.50 extra, in advance. Very restricted parking – public transport details are available. Booking essential: Contact Richard Scott on 0208 749 3963 or rbc.scott@yahoo.co.uk (email preferred).

Saturday 13 February 2010: guided visit to St Andrew Bobola Roman Catholic church (see article on page 7)

The parish priest, Father Bronislaw Gostomski, leads this tour of a striking Victorian church converted to Polish Roman Catholic use. The spectacular interior features an amazing collection of Polish stained glass and other art commemorating Polish heroism during World War II and emphasizing the strong bonds between Poland and Britain forged at that time. Meet at the church at 2 pm. Cost £10, pay on the day. Booking essential. Contact Richard Scott on 0208 749 3963 or rbc.scott@yahoo.co.uk (email preferred).

Tuesday 30 March 2010: Fulham Palace moat walk

By popular demand, a repeat of Group committee member Keith Whitehouse's fascinating walk exploring the course of the moat round Fulham Palace. Once the longest moat in England, if not in Europe, it is the borough's only scheduled ancient monument and there are restoration plans for it. Keith led the 1972 archaeological dig in the moat and is an acknowledged expert on the subject. Meet 6 pm at the main entrance to Fulham Palace in Bishop's Avenue. Lasts 2 hours approx. Cost £5, pay on the day. Booking essential. Contact Richard Scott on 020 8749 3963 or rbc.scott@yahoo.co.uk (email preferred).

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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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

£5.00 for individuals and £15 for groups. New members always welcome. Please contact the chairman.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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