



Issue No. 35 Winter 2016

Welcome, and every good wish for 2017 to all our readers. Those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting held last October in the Citroen Building will be aware that new officers were elected following the retirement of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The new officers (details on the back page) will endeavour to uphold the aims and principles of the Group.

Since our last edition the former Reception House in Margravine Cemetery (pictured here) has been granted statutory listing Grade II. The article on page 10 gives interesting, if macabre, details of the structure and the use of this unique building.

Shepherd's Bush Green is well represented with details of the future of the Walkabout and the Post Office.

A very comprehensive summary of the development of Fulham Gasworks site appears on page 2, followed by a more light-hearted article on Children's Rhymes of Yesteryear. Whilst remaining with yesteryear we are indebted to Melanie Whitlock for her very informative piece on the work and status of the Borough's Archives.

Developments at Fulham Palace are also detailed as well as a short history of the Citroen Building, which many members toured preceding our AGM.

We are always pleased to hear the views of our readers, whether it be suggestions for future editions of the Newsletter, or a letter which may be of interest to other readers.

Nicolas Fernley, Chairman



Right: *Reception House
Margravine Cemetery.*

A re-enactment.

See article on page 10.

DEVELOPMENTS AT FULHAM GASWORKS

In Newsletter 31 Roger Weston reported on a 2014 conference which marked the end of the ‘era of the gasholder’, built to store gas produced day-by-day from coal in local gasworks. Both the gasworks and the gasholder have been made redundant by the adoption of natural gas, distributed within gas mains at high pressure that itself assures the storage capacity. It is inevitable that gasworks sites will be regenerated, particularly in urban locations where such ‘brownfield’ sites can provide land for new housing. It is also inevitable that most gasholders will be demolished, although a few have been statutorily listed, including the No 2 Gasholder at Fulham Gasworks. This, dating from 1830, appears – although long decommissioned – to be the oldest surviving gasholder in the world (and as such arguably merits upgrading to II*, or even I, listing).

The southern part of Fulham Gasworks has already been cleared and regenerated, firstly with the riverside Imperial Wharf scheme and more recently with the Chelsea Creek development. The third and final phase, on the northernmost part of the Gasworks, is now being undertaken by St William, a joint venture between National Grid as site owner and Berkeley Homes, the well-known housing developer. (The ‘William’ it appears is in recognition of William Murdock, a 19th century gas industry pioneer.) Part of the Imperial Square and Gasworks Conservation Area lies within this last phase.

Roger’s 2014 report noted that a planning application (2014/03637/FUL) had just been submitted by National Grid for demolition of five remaining gasholders – excepting only No 2 – and related structures, as part of enabling works to clear the site and relocate essential gas plant. The Group commented on this application at length, and we were pleased that the permission granted on 5 March 2015 reflected our comments, as it imposed conditions calling for building recording, an archaeological watching brief, an interpretation strategy, and a requirement to consider the future use of some salvaged features, including refractory blocks originally from the gasworks retorts and since forming a dwarf wall around a gasholder.

We had argued that the 1880 guide frame of No 7 Gasholder should be considered for re-use. It is an elegant design of cast and wrought iron (illustrated in Newsletter 31, and again here). The gasholder was recognised as a Building of Merit, but had recently been granted a Certificate of Immunity from Listing (a questionable process, as it does not allow representations from heritage advocates!). The permission requires that the guide frame of No 7 at least be retained until evidence has demonstrated that its loss would be outweighed by the public benefit offered by an approved subsequent planning application. In October 2015 St William held a public ‘workshop’ meeting for local groups, attended by several of us from the HBG, at which they and their



The elegant cast and wrought iron guide frame of No 7 Gasholder, part of which we hope can be incorporated in the site redevelopment.

architect Robin Partington outlined the challenges and opportunities presented by the site’s redevelopment. He noted in particular that the Gasworks, not being publicly accessible, has acted also as a barrier to local north-south and east-west movement. The masterplan for the site would aim to remedy this, as well as opening up the site for wider public use. Various ideas and comments from those present were put forward and discussed, following which an initial public exhibition of proposals was held in November, with a second exhibition in April 2016. At both of these, HBG Chairman John Goodier and I – joined by London engineering historian Malcolm Tucker with specialist gasworks knowledge – attended by invitation a briefing and discussion session immediately before the exhibitions opened to the public. We were pleased to see that No 2 Gasholder is proposed to be retained in the centre of new public open space; an indicative model showed how this might appear. We discussed too the possible re-use of elements of the No 7 Gasholder guide frame, either part-retained as an ‘arc’ displaying its construction, or perhaps incorporated in one or more building façades. In early July we were notified that planning application 2016/02983/COMB had been submitted. This is a ‘hybrid’ application, COMBining an outline application for the entire site with a detailed application for the first stage of regeneration – a zone along the northern edge of the site, bounded to its south-west by Sands End Lane and to its north-west by Michael Road. Such a hybrid application makes sense for a large site such as the Gasworks, as it allows the applicant and the Council to establish a development specification and design parameters that will apply across the entire scheme, while also permitting the first phase of works to get under way. (This approach was adopted too for the King’s Cross Central scheme, another large regeneration site, which has a 15-year building programme.) Inevitably the documentation for such a scheme is substantial; so, in addition to our staring at on-screen text and images, Keith Whitehouse and I spent time in the LBHF Planning Department looking through paper copies – much more readily digested, especially large plans!



An indicative model showing the guide frame of the 1830 No 2 Gasholder within a public park on the site. We hope that more of this historic structure might be retained, in which case it would have no tree!

The Group has commented at length on the application, which is now under consideration by Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The overall massing of the new residential apartment blocks is similar to recent neighbouring developments, although we have reservations about the impact of some blocks' height, particularly on the two-storey Conservation Area terraced housing in Imperial Square. We welcome the intention of No 2 Gasholder remaining on its site as a landmark feature, although we hope that as much as possible of its historic fabric can be retained – not just the distinctive triangular guides standing above ground, but if condition permits also the wrought iron 'bell' that held the gas, and the brick tank that when filled with water acted as a seal to hold the gas in place. We are asking for conditions requiring building recording to a level appropriate to assessed significance, an archaeological watching brief, and an interpretation strategy for the entire site. While



One of the cast iron triangular guides of the 1830 No 2 Gasholder, seen here in 1972; a security fence currently prevents close access.

Number 7 Gasholder is outside the first phase of reconstruction, we will continue to press for imaginative re-use of at least part of its elegant guide frame.

Michael Bussell

CITROEN BUILDING

No. 184 Shepherd's Bush Road, located across the long and tapering open green space of Brook Green, was originally designed and built in 1915-16 by Charles Heathcote and Sons of Manchester as a motor garage and service depot with a showroom for the Ford Motor Company (England) Ltd. In 1926 it was taken over by Citroen as its main UK distribution and sales centre. Later it was acquired by Osram and incorporated as part of the large factory complex manufacturing electric light bulb filaments, which had been established on the site immediately to the north in 1893. The journal *The Motor* in 1920 described the building as 'a massive structure of three storeys, designed solely from a utility point of view'. The concrete frame illustrated pioneering approaches to construction and materials technology for this period. The building was originally intended to be five storeys high, however due to the outbreak of the First World War the building and its use was identified by the War Office as being vital to the war effort. This meant that the two upper floors were never constructed which made the building appear unproportional and squat. Most of the interior of the former servicing depot comprised spaces where machinery and other features associated with servicing cars and assembling parts were kept. By 2010 only a few features other than the structural elements themselves remained: elements of the former ground floor showroom area; the stairs up to the sales room, toilets and small office area at first floor. These have been retained as original decorative



features and finishes. The building's history as a car showroom and garage meant its high ceilings and use of



The car servicing area.

space were ideal for conversion into a 21st century office building. The geometry of the dome as an arch/shell structure enabled a thinner column-free structure, giving good aspect through the glazing without compromising the structural integrity of the building.

In its centennial the Grade II listed building has been given new life as the new European headquarters of customer science company Dunnhumby.

Collado Collins Architects

NURSERY RHYMES OF LONDON TOWN – A CENTENARY

‘Hammer, Smith! hammer, Smith!
What will you shoe my pony with?
I’ll shoe it with a shoe of steel,
Another of gold so red,
A third shoe of ivory,
And a fourth shoe of lead ’

Hammersmith is just one of a collection of over fifty nonsense verses based on the capital’s place names entitled *Nursery Rhymes of London Town*. The author was Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), best known for her children’s stories and poems, but also a writer of satire, plays and biography. Her hymn *Morning has Broken* remains a favourite in England’s churches while her timeless poem *Cats Sleep Anywhere* still charms the young. She won many literary prizes and is commemorated annually by the Eleanor Farjeon award presented by the Children’s Book Circle.

Nursery Rhymes of London Town, first published in 1916, was Eleanor’s first literary success although several of the poems had previously appeared anonymously in *Punch* where they attracted a host of admirers, both young and old. The quirky humour cheered soldiers on the Western Front, including the poet Edward Thomas, who carried a copy of the book in his uniform pocket in the months before his death in the Battle at Arras.



Eleanor would have been amused to learn that one of the verses – *King’s Cross* - was a favourite of King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson.

Without her by his side, the new king found his royal duties irksome, and his gift to her in March 1936 - a diamond-encrusted crucifix for her charm bracelet – was engraved with the words ‘The King’s Cross’; Wallis then had a gold notebook case inscribed in her own hand with the complete poem. Later, many mistakenly thought that she was the author. The first lines read:

‘King’s Cross! What shall we do?
His purple robe is rent in two!’

A second collection was published in 1917 and between the two volumes almost no area of London was neglected including *Wormwood Scrubs*, *Brook Green*, *Shepherd’s Bush*, and the delightful *Parson’s Green*, which begins:

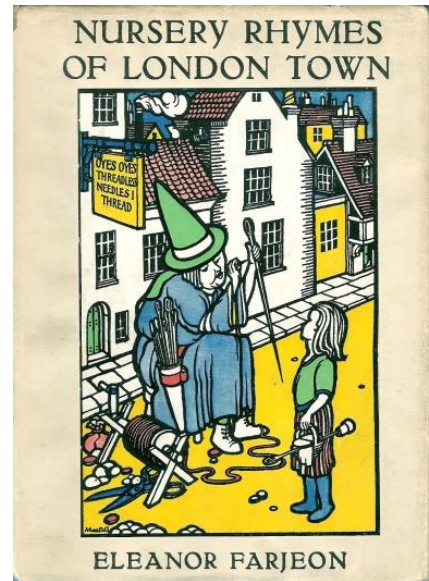
‘In a Village where I’ve been
They keep their Parson on a Green . . .’
(illustrated below)

The books owed their success in part to the whimsical line illustrations of MacDonald ‘Max’ Gill, younger brother of the sculptor Eric Gill. These echo the comic scenes depicted in his popular *Wonderground Map of London Town* (see NL34) which had appeared in London Underground stations two years before. The artist and author clearly shared a love of pun and parody.

Nursery Rhymes of London Town is now an e-book although second-hand print copies are easy to find. Its centenary is being marked by displays and talks

around London: Holborn Library: 6th Dec 2016 – 28 Jan 2017 Talk Jan 2017 - exact date to be arranged). Notecards of five illustrated poems including *Hammersmith* and *King’s Cross* will be on sale. More information at <http://www.macdonaldgill.com/>

Caroline Walker



DEVELOPMENTS AT FULHAM PALACE

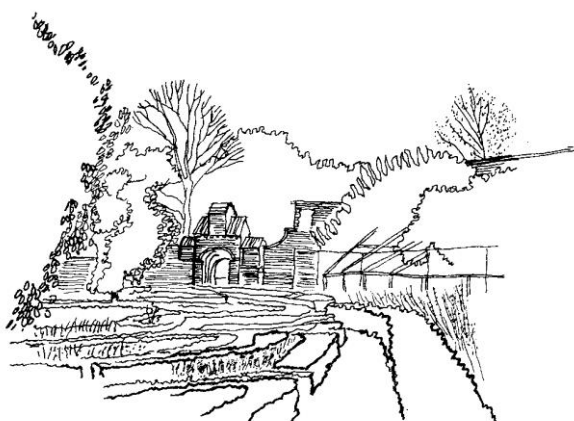
Our magnificent episcopal palace at Fulham is about to receive another tranche of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The money will carry on

the good work that the Fulham Palace Trust are under taking to transform

this very historic

site into a major London attraction that can pay its way. From the sad site at the turn of the millennium, the building and grounds are being renovated. All this change does not come without potential threats to the very important historic building fabric and archaeology that have had to be addressed as the proposals develop.

Readers will be glad to know that the HBG is represented on the Advisory Group and the Community Committee who have been invited by the Trust to comment on the evolving scheme from the start of 2016. The redevelopment of the Palace will be on a very tight timetable.



The old walled garden at Fulham Palace.

The previous phase of the work saw replacement of all main services and the conservation of the principal rooms. The present works are for the conservation and adaptation of the rooms around the north half of the Tudor Courtyard. This takes in the Great Hall under the management of the Trust Director, Sian Harrington. The project promises new visitor welcome facilities on the left

as you enter the courtyard. In the ground floor rooms there will be a new exhibition telling the story of the site, with displays of some of the artefacts. Visitors will then arrive in the Great Hall, before proceeding round the principal rooms in a clockwise direction. These rooms will have some displays in them but will be able to be hired out by paying customers. All the offices on the upper floors around the Tudor courtyard will also be upgraded to provide better lettable office space.

One element that has caused debate has been the grounds and the screen of trees to the south, many of which are self-seeded sycamores. Here the HLF grant, if approved, will allow the Trust several years to thin out these trees and to plant some specimen trees that hark back to the glory days of the estate, during the time of Bishop Compton (enthroned 1675, died 1713). As a botanist, he organised the importing of many species of trees and shrubs to Britain and their successful propagation, such as American magnolias and azaleas. He even used heated stoves to grow the first coffee beans in England. John Evelyn (diarist and gardener 1620-1706) visited the gardens in 1681 and thought them remarkable. The gardens at Fulham Palace are as important as Chelsea Physic Garden.



The Vinery at Fulham Palace.

Under the management of Lucy Hart, the walled garden has thrived with the new lottery-funded work designed by Lear Associates Landscape Architects. The works to the building under David Hills Conservation Architect from Purcells and the design of the exhibition and interpretation by Daniel Sutton of Design Map will bring new life to the Tudor Courtyard. The HBG remains vigilant to ensure that the extensive archaeology of the site and the fabric of the historic rooms are not inadvertently affected by the works. We would also like to see more scope for displaying some of the collections of art and archaeology available in the borough.

Charles Wagner

‘OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY’

A Local Authority is obliged by the Local Government Act 1972 to maintain its records, including those with historical value. Archives and local history collections count among Local Authorities *hidden treasures*. They typically consist of a glorious but well-ordered assembly of historic records, essential Council papers, and show-stopping rarities.



The Fulham Pottery.

Many readers will be aware of the attempted closure of the purpose-built archives store and reading room at the Lilla Huset in Talgarth Road, by the then Council in 2011, and the vigorous local campaign that followed to keep the service open and available to all. Eventually a split-site solution was arrived at, with the local history and photograph collection housed in the former reference



North End Road 1904.

reading room at Hammersmith Library, while most of the archival material is still held at the Lilla Huset. There were two full-time archivist posts up to 2011. We now have the present excellent archivist for 2 ½ days a week. She faces the very challenging task of fitting in cataloguing, accessions and responding to public

inquiries, as well as transferring requested items from the Lilla Huset archive store to the reading room. It is not an easy task, and the split site is by no means ideal for users. Typically one line of enquiry leads to another, but a further book, map or document will have to wait for the following week's transfer from the Lilla Huset archive store. The volunteers who assist the archivist are indispensable. They make a tremendous contribution to users' experience of these resources. New volunteers are needed and welcome; contact Maya Donelan at donelan261@btinternet.com



Traffic approaching Hammersmith Bridge.

The Archives hold records of birth, death, burials, census records, drainage records. There are documents from charitable trusts, local newspapers, and an extraordinary collection of old photographs of the area. There are also maps showing the development of Hammersmith and Fulham from a rural district with a coaching stop at the Broadway, to its rapid development at the end of the 19th century. Additionally there are artefacts including Martinware, De Morgan and Fulham pottery. Examples of Arts and Crafts printing are particular treasures, including books from the Kelmscott, Doves and Eragny Presses, some of which were presented to Hammersmith Public Library by William Morris himself.

Many of the photographs, in our newsletters are sourced from the H&F Archives. Examples are shown on this page. As that fact alone shows, archives represent the collective memory of a given district or area. We hope that one day the whole collection can be reunited on a single site with the necessary specialist storage. In the meantime we look to the Council to safeguard the future of the Archives and public access to them.

We consider that there is a need for a new purpose built building to reunite the Archives in one place and celebrate the area's heritage, especially its claim to be a birthplace of the Arts and Crafts movement. Perhaps such a facility could be found in one of the new developments at Old Oak Park Royal.

For visiting arrangements see www.lbhf.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies. The Local Studies collection is available during Hammersmith Library opening hours, while archival material can be viewed by appointment, details on the website.

*Melanie Whitlock; Chair
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives Consultative Group*

LOST THEATRE: THE PALACE OF VARIETIES

Hammersmith and Fulham once had six theatres: the Granville, the Fulham Grand, the original Hammersmith Lyric, the King's, the Palace of Varieties and the Shepherd's Bush Empire. The Granville featured in our last Newsletter and the Shepherd's Bush Empire, featured in our Autumn 2015 Newsletter.



*Nick Charlesworth has kindly allowed us to use his drawing of the Palace of Varieties from his book *Variety at Night is Good for You*. The book covers 92 variety theatres still standing in the 1930s and 1940s, even if then used for other purposes.*

The Palace of Varieties in King Street was first licensed in 1880 and existed as a live theatre for just under 50 years before becoming a cinema. From 1885 to about 1897 it was known as the Temple of Varieties before being reconstructed to have a capacity of 2,815 (cf 1885 for the Shepherd's Bush Empire and the much smaller Granville at 800 seats). For a time it was directed by Acton Phillips who was also associated with the nearby Lyric. It was then known as the Hammersmith Theatre of Varieties.

In 1910 alterations were made to it by Frank Matcham and it became known as the Hammersmith Palace. Now owned by a powerful theatre group, London Theatres of Variety, it began to present all the big names including Ella Shields, Marie Lloyd and Harry Champion.



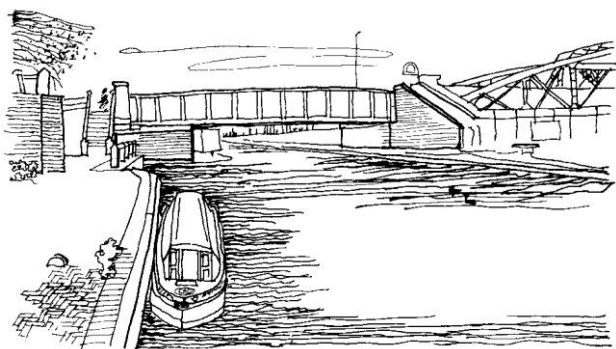
The Palace had stiff competition from the two large Stoll Music Halls at Chiswick and Shepherd's Bush, just bus rides away. Then came the competition of films and the theatre became a cinema, but it still presented live acts between the films and in 1929-30 season produced a pantomime 'Babes in the Wood'. By 1936 the new Gaumont Palace Cinema had opened in Queen Caroline Street (now the Apollo) and offered variety between the films. In 1939 George Black of the London Palladium made a new attempt to bring variety back to the Hammersmith Palace, with top acts like Max Miller, 'the Cheekie Chappie', supported by 'Monsewer' Eddie Gray and a string of other acts. Sadly the experiment only lasted about 6 weeks. Shows continued during WWII until in 1944 it suddenly closed, when the rear of the theatre was damaged, caused it is thought by a bomb falling on the underground line behind the theatre. The theatre was never restored and was demolished after the war.

*Angela Dixon, Historic Buildings Group
with thanks to Nick Charlesworth*

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The very large Old Oak/Park Royal Redevelopment continues to occupy my time. I have lead walks for The Grand Union Alliance and Acton Art Forum (now called ARTification) exploring the heritage of the North Acton area and the Canal. The Group has commented on various proposals for the redevelopment of the area. I have taken part in a Heritage workshop convened by the Development Authority for Old Oak/Park Royal. I am assisting the

Canal and River Trust with the heritage aspects of the redevelopment.



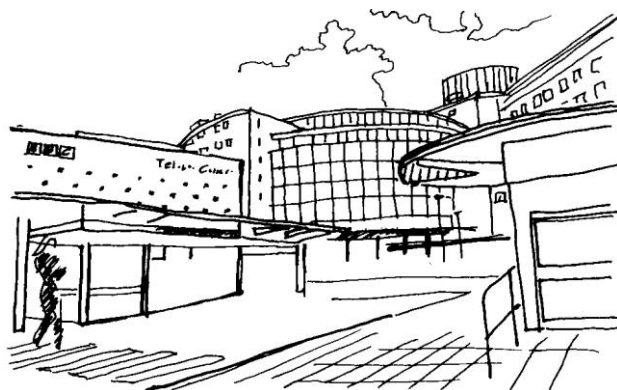
The Grand Union Canal and Mitre bridge (carrying Scrubbs Lane).

The Group has been involved in the consultations on the Fulham Gasworks site. This is the last major industrial site in Hammersmith & Fulham to be redeveloped. We are very grateful for the ongoing technical expertise that Malcolm Tucker and Michael Bussell have given to the group, most particularly on the history of the site and their knowledge of gas manufacturing.

The BBC Television Centre redevelopment continues to progress. Work has also started on the redevelopment of the BBC Media Village – now known as White City Place. The current proposals include the leasing back by the BBC of the buildings that they currently occupy. This will mean that the 1908 Olympic commemoration information will be retained.

I took over as Chair of the Group when Dr Jennings stood down, in the absence of any other candidate and I am standing down from this role from the 2016 AGM. There have been some useful developments in the Group's administration. We have an e-mail list of most of our members which should improve our communications with you. The Group's Local List (of historic buildings in the Borough) will soon be available on our web site. Currently it is only available as a hard copy. We encourage members to nominate buildings to be included in the Local List. We hope to revive our programme of walks next summer.

Our Planning Sub-committee undertakes a major part of the Group's work responding to consultations on major redevelopment proposals. These affect the historic environment as well as planning applications for listed buildings, other historic buildings and conservation areas. Much of the work on the administrative processes has been done by others, and I thank them for their time and effort. I particularly thank Andy Duncan, who is also standing down this year for his work for the group. Following our AGM on October 12th 2016, there will be a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Secretary. I will continue to be involved with the Group, particularly



BBC TV Centre by Graham Dawbarn, opened 1960.

in the north of the borough, on industrial history, green space and the history of housing. I wish the new committee every success and look forward to working with them.

John Goodier, chairman, Historic Buildings Group

PLANNING MATTERS

Below is a snapshot of the current work. Can we remind members to keep us informed of any local developments that may give cause for concern? Whilst we cannot alter officers' recommendations, we will continue to draw their attention to the vital importance of safeguarding the historic fabric of the Borough.



Cambridge House after recent works.

Cambridge House The planning application for the scheme reported on N34 was withdrawn in July. The building has now been refurbished and let. Currently there are no outstanding planning applications. We consider the recent works carried out present a satisfying front when viewed from Cambridge Road and allow a degree of transparency through the building and into the garden.

The Triangle site, Hammersmith Grove W6 The council refused an application to demolish all building on site (including the building of merit) and erect 8-14

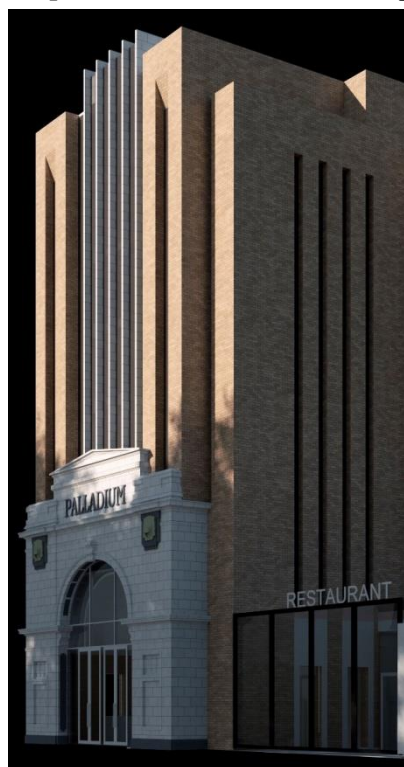
storeys of office space with retail at ground level. The appeal against the decision will take place in March 2017.

Fulham Town Hall The appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the planning application by Dory Ventures for a shopping arcade with flats on the upper stories across all 3 buildings started on November 1st. After an adjournment the appeal resumed on January 24th 2017 in the council chamber, Hammersmith Town Hall.

Chelsea Football Stadium Some of you may have seen the amusing headlines in the evening paper regarding bats (Bats 1 Chelsea 0) defeating the progress of the proposed construction of a new 60,000 capacity stadium.

However we understand this was due to the lack of detail being submitted with the application. We have submitted our comments on the amendments which include pulling back the walkway from Fulham Broadway station slightly further away from the Billings and the inclusion of additional tree planting (from 2 to 67) and green walls. We are still concerned on the impact of these proposals on the closest residents, on the Brompton Cemetery and the adjacent conservation areas as well as some details of the design of the stadium.

Hoxton Hotel at Threshold & Union House, Shepherd's Bush Green The proposal is for the



The Walkabout proposal.

demolition of the existing building (apart from the facade) to provide an 8-storey building with a restaurant at Ground level and 74 serviced apartments above. Although we are aware of some opposition to the scheme by some of the closest residents, overall we are

pleased to see that the proposals show the retention/reconstruction of the original facade with the conservation of the faience to the facade. The height of the 'tower' appears to equal that of that of the adjoining Dorsett Hotel and the 'fin' elements are slightly higher which references the nearby Art Deco Buildings. As the signage 'Cinematograph Theatre, continuous performances Seats 1/-, 6d & 3d' is of considerable heritage value, we are requesting that the re-instatement of the signage is conditioned.

The Walkabout Shepherd's Bush Green As many of you will know a planning application has now been

submitted to demolish the existing building (apart from the facade) to provide an 8-storey building with a restaurant at Ground level and 74 serviced apartments above. Although we are aware of some opposition to the scheme by some of the closest residents, overall we are



Shepherd's Bush Palladium 1929 (now The Walkabout).

I can do no better than refer you to the excellent article by Michael Bussell which appears on page 2.

Fulham Gas Works I can do no better than refer you to the excellent article by Michael Bussell which appears on page 2.

Shepherd's Bush Market This is another scheme which recently hit headlines of the evening papers. After endless legal hearings, regarding the Compulsory Purchase Order, first, approved then overturned, then subject to a hearing by the Court of Appeal, the developers, Orion Land and Leisure have pulled out of the scheme. We understand U & I have started negotiations with the market traders. Doubtless a new (and we hope more acceptable) planning application will be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

Landmark House/Thames Tower, Hammersmith Bridge Road Committee members and residents have attended exhibitions by the owners Eastern & Oriental and the architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. Initial proposals showed the demolition of the two 1960s buildings on the 1.2 acre site. These could be replaced by three blocks ranges from 4, 9 and 25 storeys.

There would be extensive gardens and offices at the lower levels with a hotel and roof top restaurant. The scheme includes the ground floor being open to the public which could allow better communication between the town centre and the river. Our main concerns will focus on the potential impacts on St Paul's Church, riverside views and the massing in relation to the existing town centre buildings.

Advertisements We continue to support the Council's attempts to rid our streets of intrusive high level advertisements. We consider them to be a blight not only on Conservation Areas but to the visual amenity of our residential streets.



Landmark House looking towards St Paul's church.

It is pleasing to note that the Council has recently been successful in clearing the Uxbridge Road of such intrusions. The Council has had an almost 100% success rate in winning appeals against unsightly hoardings.

The Group is currently supporting an appeal against an exceptionally intrusive illuminated advertisement on the A4 at the end of Standish Rd W6, pictured above.

The Group are very shocked and saddened to learn the Council has made applications to erect three stand alone illuminated advertisement panels in the Fulham Area. This is all the more galling as two are either in or adjacent to Conservation Areas. It is ironic, that whilst one section of the Council, the planning enforcement

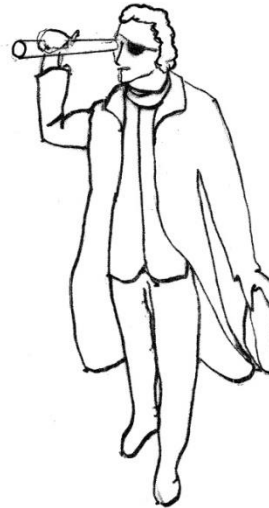


The illuminated advertisement in Standish Road.

division, is doing a sterling job in clearing our residential streets of these visual intrusions, another is planning to erect more. Whilst the need to balance the books is important we feel this should not be at the expense of the

visual amenity of our much valued Conservation Areas. We will of course be objecting to these applications.

Capability Brown We understand that planning permission has been granted for a statue to be erected on the Hammersmith/Fulham riverside boundary. Sponsors are seeking further funding to make the project a reality



"I SEE NO CAPABILITY HERE"

Hammersmith Town Hall We reported in the last issue that the demolition of the Cineworld building was imminent. Alas we were unaware that so many planning conditions were still to be discharged. The latest news we have is the site clearance really is about to start as members may have noted.

Nicolas Fernley, chair, HBG planning sub-committee

A HEALTHY WAIT

The attractive, octagonal building in Margravine cemetery has been listed Grade II, after it was discovered to be a rare survivor of a building type which provided a temporary resting place for coffins prior to burial. This was largely as a result of research carried out by the Friends of Margravine Cemetery. It was designed by local Hammersmith architect/surveyor George Saunders, who is recorded as the architect of the cemetery. The cemetery was opened in 1869 by Hammersmith Vestry, after churchyards in the parish had been closed following the Burial Acts.

This steeply-roofed structure remains completely intact: not only are the cast-iron ventilation lattices and the substantial stone shelves on five of the internal walls still in place, but remarkably its original trestles and biers survive in good condition. It is the only example of such a building in a London cemetery and it marks a brief period in cemetery history deriving from the recommendations of the public health campaigner Sir Edwin Chadwick, as contained in his milestone Special Inquiry into the Practice of Interment in Towns report to

Parliament of 1843. This report highlighted the plight of 20,000 poor families living in single rooms in London. When death struck they had no other place to keep a body or coffin until they could afford to pay the burial fees. Chadwick's solution was the general introduction of Reception Houses for the dead and this was one of the unrealised aims of the Metropolitan Interments Act 1850. Up until the late 19th century funeral directors or undertakers only provided service for the wealthy, however, it was not long before undertakers widened their offer and began providing chapels of rest. Additionally under later local government reforms a network of purposely-designed mortuaries with autopsy facilities, often combined with coroners' courts, was established.

The DCMS decided the announcement of the listing be made at Halloween, and so in late October a team from DCMS, Roger Bowdler - Director of Listing for Historic England, staff from H&F and representatives from the Friends assembled in the cemetery. A member of the Friends group wearing widow's weeds draped herself over a coffin provided by a local Funeral Director. A short film of the event is to be found on the DCMS website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/victorian-building-for-londons-dead-receives-grade-ii-listing>.

There were articles in the national press (The Guardian and Oxford Times) and on BBC Radio London. The timing was perfect for the Friends who celebrated their tenth anniversary a fortnight later at their AGM on 14 November!

Robert Stephenson and Charles Wagner

WAR MEMORIALS

This was not Roger Bowdler's first visit to the cemetery as he was spotted looking at the war memorials only weeks before. After the Friends had submitted the listing request for the Reception House, Historic England contacted them to ask whether there were any war memorials in the cemetery that might be worth listing. The Friends provided details of the Blake's War Memorial to the munitions workers killed at one of the Blake's factories in Hammersmith, and the Lyons' War Memorial which was moved to the cemetery in 2009 from the former factory site in Greenford, having been moved there earlier from Hammersmith Road.

Historic England were tasked by DCMS in 2014 to double the number of listed War Memorials by 2018 as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War. Historic England with Civic Voice and the War Memorials Trust, embarked upon a five-year project to add 2,500 war memorials to the List (officially known as the National Heritage List for England). At present over 1,000 have been added. The Government is funding this project through the DCMS as war memorials are seen as an enduring link to those hundreds of thousands who gave their lives in the First World War. This project will commemorate the sacrifice of communities across the



Blakes's Munition Memorial. Croucher & Co. 1920.

country in the conflict. Working with volunteers, notably from War Memorials Trust and Civic Voice, advice and grants are available for conservation of war memorials it will make sure that the memorials are properly looked after. Civic Voice produce an informative newsletter War Memorials News see www.civicvoice.org.uk.

There are several war memorials in Fulham Cemeteries and at least one in the churchyards of every church in the borough. Listed war memorials include that in the Vicarage at All Saints Fulham, beside the former church of St John the Evangelist, and the Belgium War Memorial in St Mary's Cemetery. H&FHBG can help anyone with putting a war memorial forward for listing.



J. Lyons Memorial. 1922 and 1947.

Robert Stephenson and Charles Wagner

STOP PRESS – LILLIE ENCLAVE

The proposal for a new Lillie Enclave Conservation Area, featured in the last Newsletter, is threatened by the Earl's Court developers' proposal to extend their development up to the Lillie Road.

In 1826, after Sir John Lillie had laid out his new roads at North End, [later Lillie Road, with Richmond Place, and Seagrave Road along the Kensington Canal,]

in 1832 he built the North End Brewery, behind what is now the Lillie Langtry pub. In 1864 the first vernacular cottages and retail outlets, in Empress Place (then called Richmond Place), designed and built by City architect, John Young (1797-1877) were built, followed in 1866 by his locally listed terrace, 30-58 Lillie Road, all with his characteristic polychromatic Suffolk stone and terracotta patterned brickwork.

CAPCO, the Earl's Court developers, have applied to Historic England for a Certificate of Immunity against Listing in respect of Empress Place and the Italianate-style retail outlets, including the Imperial Arms (1869) and the Prince of Wales pub (re-built 1938) on the northern side of Lillie Road up to Sir John Fowler's Lillie Bridge. In addition, just before Christmas they submitted a planning application involving demolition of all these historic buildings.

There is now a local petition to save the buildings.
<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-empress-place-from-demolition-preserve-london-s-victorian-heritage>

Ann Kutek



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