



Issue No. 39 Autumn 2018

It is now ten years since the first redevelopment proposals were first shown for the Hammersmith Town Hall. The current proposals by Rogers Stirk Harbour are undergoing considerable redesigning as Heritage England is unhappy with the height of the two-storey glass extension above the listed Town Hall. We understand that amended proposals could be shown in December. The Olympia Exhibition Halls are the subject of a planning application, see pages 6 and 7.

Also in this issue is an interesting history of another well-loved listed building which celebrated its 150th anniversary this year, John Betts School. Links to the Borough's past industries have been unearthed in a recent archaeological dig carried out at the Palace Wharf site. A report from the Museum of London, who carried out the excavations, makes fascinating reading.

Another of the Group's Blue Plaques can now be seen on the newly completed Riverside Studios building. A new incarnation of the Savoy Cinema appears on page 5.

A short biographic article tells the story of Fulham's first female Mayor, Alice Gilliatt, who was not only a pharmacist and politician, but also a leading activist in the suffragette movement.

It is with sadness that we report the death earlier this year of Tom Ryland. Tom had been a longstanding member of the Group's Committee. His knowledge, diplomacy, and wise counsel is sorely missed by all who knew him.

Nicolas Fernley, Chairman



London Olympia Deco, 2016 by kind permission of the artist Darren Azgard.

Alice Gilliatt (1880-1957)

Little is known about Alice Gilliatt today except via a housing estate, and school formerly named after her, though her portrait hangs in the council chamber. Much more should be known about her as she was a pioneering woman, a campaigner for women's suffrage, a founding member of the Association of Women Pharmacists, a London County Council JP and, last but not least, the first female Mayor of the Borough of Fulham (pictured below).



Alice was born in 1880 in Lincolnshire to William and Alice Gilliatt. Her father was a chemist and merchant. In the early 1900s Alice went to London, enrolling at the South London School for Pharmacy, where she qualified as a Pharmaceutical Chemist eventually coming to the Western Hospital where she rose to be Chief Pharmacist by the time she retired in 1943.

In 1911 there was a concerted campaign by women to boycott the census by staying away from home on census night, refusing to provide information or defacing the form. Alice, who had lived at 6 Stevenage Road, Fulham since 1907, chose to join them.

This was not her only protest that year. Alice was a founding member of the Association of Women Pharmacists and the *Chemist and Druggist* journal in June reported on over 40,000 women marching to a rally

at the Royal Albert Hall. Demonstrating with other women pharmacists, Alice helped carry the banner, 'Women Pharmacists Demand the Vote'.

We know too of Alice's activities from *The Suffragette*, the weekly newspaper of the Women's Social and Political Union. Between October 1912 and the summer of 1914 she gave at least 55 talks, usually out-of-doors, around London. Reports from WSPU branches frequently mention her: 'Miss Gilliatt addressed a large interested crowd in the Broadway on Saturday' (Wimbledon Park & South Wimbledon).

The first London local government elections in which women could stand were held in 1919, and Alice was elected as a Labour councillor in Fulham. Particularly interested in issues of health, Alice was the first woman chair of the Public Health Committee. She also served on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. In 1922 Alice was defeated at the polls, but was re-elected in 1934. It was upon her return to council that Alice was appointed the first woman Mayor of Fulham.

In 1941 Alice was appointed an LCC magistrate and in 1949 was made an Honorary Freeman of Fulham. She stepped down from the council in 1953 and died at the age of 77 in 1957.

Her fellow women pharmacists expressed their admiration for Alice at a dinner given in 1935: this quote very much sums up her life: 'Miss Gilliatt was one who took her stand for what she thought to be right and was always prepared to fight strenuously for it.'

Kath Shawcross

Archivist, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

HBG PLAQUE UPDATE



The HBG plaque now to be seen on the new RIVERSIDE STUDIOS building

JOHN BETTS SCHOOL

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of John Betts School in Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith, founded by and now named after Dr John Betts (pictured below).



He was born in 1799. No records of his early life have been uncovered but it is a reasonable assumption that his family was wealthy as he was able to afford a long medical training and become an extensive land-owner. He studied from 1815 to 1821 at Marylebone Infirmary, taking courses in anatomy, chemistry and other relevant subjects. He qualified as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries. In 1834 he is listed as a surgeon residing at 3, Grove Place, now 314 King Street.

Dr John Betts was a social pioneer. His plans for free education for children were formed at least eleven years before the Education Act of 1870. He set up The St Peter's Hammersmith Schools Foundation in 1859, to which he gave land and properties between Starch Green and the area around St Peter's Church which he had acquired over the previous 20 years. The rents and profits from the Trust were to be used to build a school, fund the running of the school and the welfare of the children who attended it, and, should there be excess income, it was to be put towards other charitable purposes such as the building of almshouses. He purchased the land in Shaftesbury Road (now Ravenscourt Road) where John Betts School now stands in around 1856. Originally to be called 'The St Peter's Hammersmith Free Schools' (one class for girls, one for boys and one for infants), the plaque on the front of the school refers to Paddenswick Road schools. The buildings were completed in 1868, the original architect was G A Burns and the builders were Scrivener & White. It was Grade II listed in 1997.

John Betts died in July 1875, aged 76, and his funeral service was held at St Peter's Church, Hammersmith. He is buried in Margravine Cemetery.

Angela Clarke

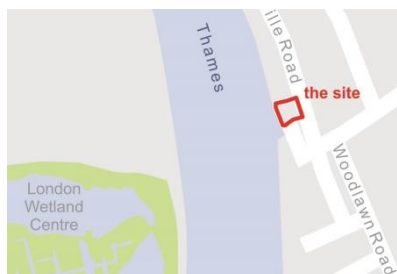
A metal trunk containing documents, deeds and artefacts from the founding of the school to the present day was unpacked and displayed most professionally at a splendid exhibition held in the school on Saturday 13 October 2018.

John Betts School in Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith



EXCAVATIONS OF AN 18TH/19TH CENTURY MALTHOUSE AT PALACE WHARF, FULHAM

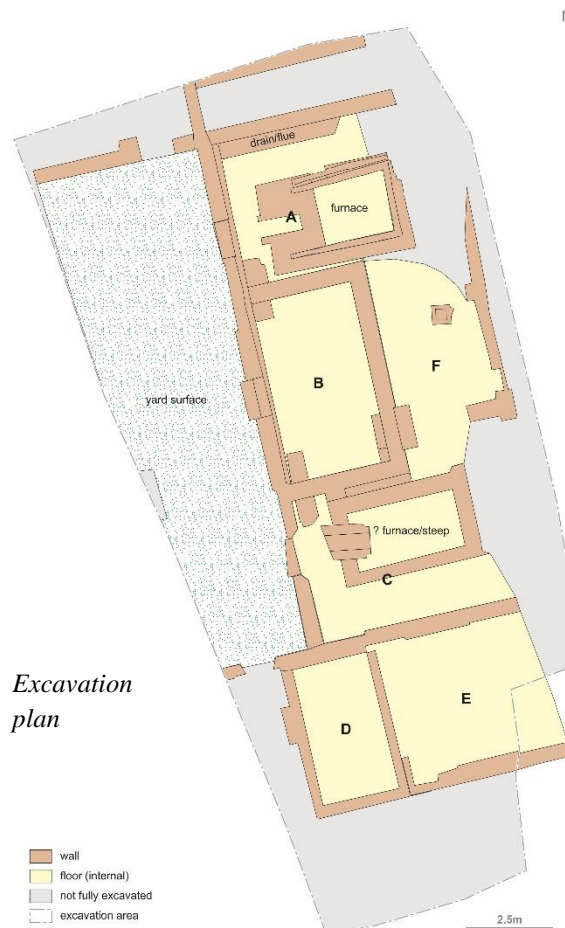
The Spring 2018 issue of *London Archaeologist* includes a detailed article describing excavations carried out in 2015 by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) on the bank of the Thames at Palace Wharf, Fulham, within the Rowberry Close Archaeological Priority Area (see site location map, below). The oldest excavated deposits comprised river alluvium which showed that the site was prone to flooding in the early post-medieval period. These were overlain by land reclamation and consolidation dumps containing, among other finds, large quantities of 18th century pottery and kiln waste (with some residual 16th /17th century material), suggesting that these dumps were laid down within the relatively short period of 1740–60.



Much of the pottery recovered from the dumps could be linked to local industry. For example, there is some sugar refining equipment

that may be from a sugar house operating in Mortlake between at least 1688 and 1741. The large amount of pottery production waste and kiln furniture includes both tin-glazed wares and stonewares and is most likely to be from nearby potteries at Putney and Fulham, the former operating from c1680 until 1736, the latter from about 1672 until the interwar years of the 20th century.

The dumps were sealed by the remains of a late 18th to 19th century malthouse, the presence of which on the site was known from historical sources. Malt is grain (typically barley) which has been germinated by exposure to moisture and then dried. It is the main ingredient (other than water) in beer and whisky. We found that significant structural remains of the brick-built malthouse had survived below ground (see photo below), which attest to



Excavation plan

the presence of a kiln (marked 'A' in the excavation plan) at the northern end of the excavation area, with a possible second kiln or a 'steep' (a soaking tank) to the south ('B'). Early malthouses were often built next to breweries, and this particular maltings may be related to an adjacent pub. There has been a pub (now The Crabtree) to the south of the site since the mid 18th century, although the current building isn't that old. The maltings was replaced in the early 20th century by warehouses and other industrial buildings.

Interested readers will find more detail – including historical photographs – in the *London Archaeologist* (Vol 15, no. 4) article, in one of the magazine's 50th anniversary editions.

Stella Bickelmann and Lyn Blackmore, MOLA



SAVOY CIRCUS REDEVELOPMENT

This site lies on the edge of the A40 in the Wormholt and Old Oak Conservation Area and was vacant for almost 20 years. The site was previously home to the Savoy Cinema, built in 1930 and demolished in 1996, as part of plans to widen the A40 and create an underpass. The plans were later abandoned. The site lies between the A40 and Foxglove Street, which have very different characters. The A40 is a wide arterial road that is heavily trafficked with a hostile environment for pedestrians. Foxglove Street is distinctive and characterful. It has many garden suburb inspired cottages with generous gardens and tree lined streets.

The architects' aim was twofold: to restore the lost street frontage and the re-establish an appropriately scaled and distinctive landmark along a primary route into London, as well as strengthen Savoy Circus as an identifiable and distinctive place.

The developers' first application for an 8 storey building was refused planning permission in 2015. To make it more sympathetic to the conservation area, the architects

drew inspiration from the cinema that had stood on the site. They produced a revised application of 7 storeys in height. Interest was added to the corner tower element, mansard roofs were created in the wings, and a stone cornice was added to the tower, emphasising the symmetry of the entire composition. Following a presentation to the Council's Design Review Panel, the massing was further refined with one storey removed from the wings to emphasise the difference of scale with the corner tower.

Memory and nostalgia played a role in the design development. The principal materials are drawn from the local context and therefore strengthen the distinctive character of the Conservation Area. The principal material is a red multi-stock brick with light and dark mortar, to match the brick used fronting Old Oak Common Lane and Old Oak Road. Green glazed bricks are used on the tower to emphasise detail along with an aluminium SAVOY sign to reflect the heritage of the site.

The windows, set within the brick piers, are a dark bronze aluminium colour, reflecting the colours used for the original cinema. The mansard roof is clad in a standing

seam metal finish and references the mansard roof that topped the cinema.

The building was constructed using factory manufactured modular room units which were delivered to the site. This method was used to speed up construction and facilitate completion for occupancy before the September 2018 academic term.

*Steven Davies,
Principal Planning
Officer, Urban
Design and
Conservation
Team*



HERITAGE UPDATE

Olympia listing decisions. Historic England have completed their review of the heritage designations at Olympia Exhibition Centre. The **Grand Hall** with its iconic barrel-vaulted roof and **Pillar Hall** - the original Victorian buildings on the site - have been upgraded to Grade II* which makes them amongst the most important listed buildings in the country.

The **Olympia Multi-Storey Car Park** on Maclise Road, opened in 1937 and designed by Joseph Emberton, has been listed at Grade II. Emberton has a long association with Olympia and this example of his work was a bold, streamlined design characterised by extremely long banded glazing strips and curved ramp towers.

Sir Oswald Stoll Mansions, Fulham Road. Following on from the statutory listing of many of the Borough's war memorials, the street facing mansion block, gates and railings at the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation have recently been listed at Grade II in recognition of their special architectural and historic interest. The mansion block was built in 1920-22 in the English Baroque style and the gate piers are inscribed with the names of the major land and sea battles of the First World War.

Stoll was a theatre entrepreneur and philanthropist who was concerned at the neglect which those returning from the Crimean War had suffered. This inspired him to help servicemen returning from the First World War who were disabled after active service, and to set up what was originally called the War Seal Foundation in 1917. To fund his project, Stoll devised a 'war seal', a diamond-shaped stamp used to seal the backs of letters. Five million of them, costing a halfpenny each, were sold in Stoll's own theatres and distributed for sale at Boots the Chemist. The success of the war seal fundraising campaign enabled Stoll to deliver his plan for quality affordable accommodation and support services for disabled servicemen returning from the war.

Television Centre takes shape. The redevelopment of the Grade II listed former BBC Television Centre by Stanhope plc is well under way and the site is coming alive with activity again. The three television studios are again being used for television production with live studio audiences in regular attendance. The forecourt fronting Wood Lane and the Helios Courtyard have been landscaped and opened up to the public. The circular office ring has been refurbished and converted to residential use and an hotel. A new office building facing the forecourt, incorporating restaurants at ground floor

level has also recently opened. It is well worth taking a wander around to appreciate the quality of the new public realm and the restoration of historic features including the statue of Helios and the John Piper mural in the entrance hall.

OPDC Local Listings. The Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation has consulted on proposals for Local Listing within the OPDC area, after having undertaken much survey work and research in conjunction with Historic England. The proposals include the designation of several historic buildings and structures within the Hammersmith and Fulham part of the OPDC and recognise the importance of the area's industrial archaeology. The adoption of the OPDC's proposals for Local Listing is due later in 2018.

Consent for illuminated sign removed The Court of Appeal has upheld the Council's discontinuance notice in relation to LED signs displayed within Riverbank House on the north side of Putney Bridge.

Former Mission Hall 41 Iffley Road W6. See picture below. After extensive negotiations, the refurbishment of this Grade II listed building dating from 1883-4 for office use has been approved by the Council. It was particularly challenging to identify a new use which would secure the long term conservation of this very unusual building. Having been used for the production of scenery for many years, there is a considerable amount of repair and restoration work to be carried out.



Adam O'Neill, Principal Urban Design and Conservation Officer, LB of Hammersmith & Fulham.

PLANNING MATTERS

Olympia Buildings The HBG endorses in principle the aspirations of the comprehensive redevelopment of the Olympia Buildings providing increased usage, a wider range of facilities and widening the visitor demographic. However we are very concerned by the effect of the proposals on the listed buildings and the over-development of this site. *G Gate site/Performing Arts centre* We have concerns about the viability of yet another theatre in Hammersmith. *Olympia Central/Olympia 2* The proposed overbearing glass offices and conference centre above Olympia Central, Hammersmith Road remain the most contentious aspects of this redevelopment. The proposed escalator to the Roof Garden strikes an incongruous note between the National and Grand Halls. We remain opposed to the insertion of mezzanine floors into the Grand Hall and National Hall.



Olympia buildings shown at August 2018 Exhibition

1 Ravenscourt Park W6 An application to demolish the former stained glass studio of Christopher Whall (1849-1924) and his daughter Veronica Whall (1887-1967) and replace it with a three storey block of flats was dismissed on appeal. The proposal was considered harmful to the setting of Ravenscourt Park and the Conservation area.

Ravenscourt Station Arches (opposite Ravenscourt Tube entrance) Local residents are delighted that the Sainsbury's supermarket application was refused on several grounds, including the impact on local retail vitality, unacceptable increased activity in a predominantly residential area, and visual amenity, most particularly its location at the entrance of Ravenscourt Park and the detrimental impact on the conservation area.

Dimco, Wood Lane W12 This Grade II listed former electricity generating station for the London Underground was granted permission to be used as an entertainment venue with the conditions that any internal interventions would be removeable.

10 Beaconsfield Terrace W14 This building was also known as The Print Works and The Workshop, reflecting its earlier function. It was designed by Joseph Emberton, the architect of the Empire Hall (now known as Olympia 2) facing on to Hammersmith Road. Both buildings were constructed in 1929-30 when the Olympia Exhibition Centre was being expanded. Emberton later designed the Olympia Garage (1937) on Maclise Road, which the Workshop abuts. An application is pending for an additional two storeys (set back) on top of the current building with a change of use from a gymnasium to an hotel with co-working facilities. We consider the present proposals to be in keeping with the spirit of the building and are visually acceptable.

Bradmore House, Queen Caroline Street W6 We are pleased to note that the Grade II listed Bradmore House, which has been vacant for some time, could become a private members' club. The proposed internal and external alterations appear sympathetic and the exceptional internal wood panelling will be renovated. We look forward to seeing the next incarnation of Bradmore House.

West London College, Gliddon Road W14 9BL Members of the HBG and the Hammersmith Society attended a presentation to demolish the existing College building and replace it with a much smaller college building and blocks of flats along the A4. We considered this to be a lacklustre scheme which paid scant regard to its setting opposite the listed Artists' Studios, Baron's Court Underground Station and Baron's Keep.

The Walkabout This building, dating from 1910, was Pyke's Cinematograph Theatre. In 1923 the building reopened as the Shepherd's Bush Palladium, with a grander façade. In 1972 it became the Classic. In 1981 the cinema closed and became a bingo hall, and finally the Walkabout pub, which closed in 2013. Work has at last started on an eight storey building to accommodate 74 serviced apartments in conjunction with the Dorsett Hotel. The original façade and historic details will be incorporated with new brickwork to create a striking Art Deco inspired building.

66 Hammersmith Road An application has been submitted to demolish the block which is situated just east of Olympia 2. The existing building is well set back from the building line behind a wealth of vegetation. The original proposal was for a ten storey block, this has been now reduced to eight. We still consider this to be over dominant and have a negative impact upon the adjacent conservation areas and the listed Olympia buildings.

New development directions Basement development and change of use from office/light industrial to residential use are no longer allowed from April 2018 in LBHF without planning permission from the Council. See www.lbhf.gov.uk/article4directions.

Annabel Clarke

GRANT AWARD



1959 sculpture by Karel Vogel, entitled Reclining Woman is positioned next to the Great West Road by St Peter's Church.

The HBG and St Peter's Residents' Association would like to thank the Heritage of London Trust for their very generous grant of £10,000 towards the cost of the restoration of this statue.

Our grateful thanks are also due to the Fulham Society for their work on the statutory listing for the Oswald Stoll buildings and Michael Bussell for his work on the upgraded statutory listings for the Olympia buildings.

Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group

Annual General Meeting

29 November 2018 from 6-8pm at

The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

6pm Drinks in the Orr Room

6.15pm Quick look at the refurbished Main Auditorium

6.30pm Meeting starts with a talk on how the refurbishments were carried out in three months by Simon Davis, Head of Building Operations.

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CREDITS

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