



A walk from Parsons Green Station to Putney Bridge Station

Coming out of Parsons Green Station, turn right towards the Green, a former hamlet inhabited in the early C18 '*mostly by Gentry and Persons of Quality*'. If you take the middle path across the Green, you will see to your left, the late C19 White Horse pub with its red terracotta roof and tall gable with the horse under a canopy. Beside it is the former Fulham Maternity Hospital opened in 1937 by the Fulham Borough Council on a site previously occupied by a Home and School for Girls. During WW2 a section of the hospital was used as a First Aid Post for civilian casualties and is now a Covid vaccination centre, a surgery and medical centre. Next comes Lady Margaret School, which



consists of three houses - Henniker House, plain Italianate of c.1841, Elm House c.1800, recorded as a school in 1803 and Belfield House, with its early C18 front.

To the west of the square is St Dionis Church designed by the architect, Ewan Christian, in 1884-5, with a font from Wren's St Dionis Backchurch in the City, the Vicarage of 1898-9 by William White – his last commission - and the church hall, a former mission church built in 1876 by Arthur Billing and given by Miss Charlotte Sullivan.

At the end of the Green, you will see to the right a terrace of 3-bay houses dated 1795, unusual in having centrally placed doorways, and Aragon House (1805-6), the former home of the local British Legion Club and now a pub/hotel.

Cross the New Kings Road, pass the Duke on the Green pub and go down Peterborough Road where, bordering Bell's Alley, is Sullivan School (1951), concrete clad, contemporary with neighbouring Sullivan Court (1949-56), both built on the No 2 polo ground of the Hurlingham Club. Further down the road is another school, Hurlingham & Chelsea School (Sheppard Robson 1956).

Glance to the left, along Studdriddle Street, and you will see the beginning of the Peterborough Estate with its well-known 'lion' houses. Another block and you reach South Park, opened in 1904 when local benefactress, Charlotte Sullivan, sold the land to the Fulham Borough Council for use as a public recreation ground. The land, formerly known as Broom House Farm and Southfields Farm, had been part of the Sullivan private lands though it had been leased to Messrs Veitch & Sons of Chelsea as a nursery for fruit trees. Note the very recent new community centre on the corner.

Approaching the river, on the right is the 1990s gated development, Hurlingham Square, followed by the former British Gas Offices and laboratories (1961-3 by E.R.Collister and Partners), now converted into flats and known as The Piper Building with its cheerful coloured abstract relief in polyester resin and glass designed by John Piper, illustrating a theme of 'The Spirit Of Energy'.



Turn right into Carnwath Road, past the Tideway works for the new London sewers. At the end of the road is Broomhouse Dock, from where a ferry (said to have been used by King Charles I) used to run to Wandsworth. It was known as a very treacherous part of the river and many drownings were recorded here. From here you have a fine view of the recycling station!

Continue up Broomhouse Lane. On the left is the wall of the Hurlingham Club, established in 1869 as a private pigeon shooting club. In 1873, the Club published the rules of polo which are still followed by most of the world to this day and polo was first played at the club on 6 June 1874. In the early 1900s ballooning was a popular sport at the Club and a pipe for the necessary gas was installed between the Club and the local gasworks at Sands End.

On the right is the Parsons Green Club. Originally opened in 1885 as the Parsons Green Working Men's Social Club by Charlotte Sullivan, the club moved onto this site in 1912 and over the years has expanded greatly. It was completely rebuilt in 2019 with flats above.

The Castle Club is next, built as a school by Horace Francis (1854-5) in symmetrical Tudor brick and stone composition and donated by Lawrence Sullivan, father of Charlotte, a generous local resident. It is now scheduled to become a residential home for the elderly. Opposite is Hurlingham Park, a post-war development on land previously used as a polo ground by the Hurlingham Club and now the venue for *Polo in the Park*, an annual event which brings together a combination of international polo and family entertainment.



Turn left into Hurlingham Road, passing on the corner Hurlingham Lodge (1856), now much altered; further along is the former Park Keeper's cottage, enlarged to a grand house; and on the right, The Vineyard, a rendered 3-storey, 3-bay front building, part early 17th century and for many years owned by the Beaverbrook family.

If you turn left into Napier Avenue, you will reach the main entrance to the Hurlingham Club at the end of the road and turning right to the station, pass large mansion blocks of flats - Rivermead Court (1930) and Hurlingham Court (1895).

As you approach the bridge, keep to the right and look up to see the pill-box on the station above you, a relic of WWII defence fortifications.

Walk under the bridge past the bus station and turn right at the second hand bookshop to the Eight Bells Pub, first mentioned in 1771. Beyond is Fulham House, 1730s, five bay yellow brick front, somewhat in the manner of Vanbrugh, now used by the Territorial Army. The pedimented gateway to the forecourt is a reproduction based on old photographs. For many years the building was used as a school and in the 1860s, it was attended by Avis, small daughter of Anna Leonowens, the Victorian governess to the Siamese Court, subject of the romantic musical *The King and I*.



If you continue round the block, you come to the entrance to Putney Bridge Station.

Maya Donelan , November 2020

This walk ends here, but if you want a bit more history continue as follows:

Walk towards the New Kings Road and facing you across Fulham High Street is the Temperance Billiard Hall, 1909 with large barrel roof, art nouveau glass. Turn right into New Kings Road and cross the road. On the corner of Burlington Road is the last remaining kiln from the Fulham Pottery. Continue up Burlington Road, past some buildings (now residential) which were part of the Fulham Refuge, later known as the Fulham Female Convict Prison (1855-1888). Turn right into Rigault Road where the present Burlington Lodge is formed out of former prison properties, notably the laundry building with its small upper windows.

On the other side of the Fulham High Street, you will find All Saints Church, Bishops Park, Fulham Palace and way up towards Hammersmith, Fulham Football Ground This is another expedition!

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Note on Charlotte Sullivan: Charlotte Sullivan (1824-1911), lived in Broom House, a large villa, now gone, whose grounds covered much of the area of this walk, from Bells Alley down to the river. She never married and devoted much of her time and money to the welfare of local inhabitants and donated heavily to the provision of churches.