



Newsletter

June 2021

Editors: Fiona Fowler & Maya Donelan

No. 109

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Summer has arrived at last and, although many Covid restrictions remain in place until 19th July, we are going ahead with our Summer Party on 20th July in the beautiful gardens of Fulham Palace. We hope to see many of you there in person. In the unlikely event we have to cancel or restrict numbers, full refunds will be given - you will find further details on page 12. The recent sunshine and rain have helped Fulham's many parks, gardens, cemeteries and allotments to flourish. We are running our Front Garden competition again this month. Many people cherish these small spaces and they bring joy to those walking by - as well as encouraging wildlife, reducing pollution and helping to reduce surface water runoff in heavy rain. Please submit photos of your own garden - or nominate someone else. Prizes will be awarded at the summer party. Full details are on page 10.

This month, as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we are launching a walk of just under 9 miles around Fulham, close to the original boundary of the London Borough of Fulham (before it was merged with Hammersmith) highlighting 50 points of interest and wandering through many of our lovely parks, cemeteries and interesting backwaters. A preview of the walk is given on page 3. The walk is self guided, and divided into 4 sections, with each described in a pdf document on the website for you to print out or download onto your smartphone. We hope you enjoy it.

Looking to the future, the Society continues to try and influence significant planning applications and we are worried, like many other amenity societies, about the recent increase in permitted development rights. Good development can and must proceed and Fulham will evolve, but we don't want local shops and offices to be priced out of existence. Having a membership of over 600 people across Fulham, the Society does have an influence, and we love to hear your thoughts.

Isobel Hill-Smith

Apologies to anyone who has been trying to email us on the Fulham Society's emails but we have had some rather serious technical problems. All were cleared by the middle of the month and hopefully no one is now experiencing any delays.



MARSTON PROPERTIES LIMITED

In 1895 when William James Marston set up shop as a builder in Hugon Street in Fulham no-one could expect that in 2020 the company would be celebrating its 125th anniversary with a fascinating and beautifully produced memorial book charting four generations of a family business.

The dedication of the book states: *This book is dedicated to William James Marston, on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the business you founded and that continues to bear your name. Having walked the same pavements, maintained the same buildings and served the same community that you did, it is little wonder that your values became ours.*



This is indeed a very true summary of the loyalty, dedication and devotion to the business and to Fulham that is chronicled in this fascinating and detailed account of an exceptional family business.



From his humble beginnings as a roofer, WJ Marston moved the business to playing a major role in the development of Fulham over the years. During the first years of the century and during WWI he worked locally, partly on the developing Peterborough Estate, building up his business and campaigning for a new Wandsworth Bridge (eventually completed in 1940) to replace the old one. By 1933 the company was building the prestigious new extension to Fulham Town Hall, by the architect Walter Cave. In 1937 came the Fulham Maternity Home on Parsons Green, designed to cater for 400 births a year, which closed in 1968 but still remains in medical use and in 1938 Elmar & Wilson Courts on the Fulham Road were converted into flats from 4 houses.

After WWII and the extensive rebuilding and restoration that was needed locally, the company expanded greatly. From the 1950s on it became involved building new schools including Bousfield School in Kensington in 1956 and the Oratory School on the site of the former Fulham Fever hospital in 1967. Sands End library and the slipper baths on the Wandsworth Bridge Road (now gone) came in 1962 and the Open Air theatre in Bishops Park in 1994. The company also developed, built and managed a series of hotels around the country, but in 2000 these were sold off. A more recent project is 65 New Kings Road, purchased to be kept as a pub in 2015 with six flats to rent created above, completed in 2017.



Today Marston Properties converts and manages properties, is still based in Hugon Road where it began and still led by members of the family. The present chairman (and author of the book) is Caroline Marston, great granddaughter of William and an active member of the Fulham Society.

This is a wonderful achievement and the book gives a fascinating account of the company, its employees and the large and supportive family involvement over four generations. The book is not available to purchase as it was written principally to mark the 125th anniversary for the family and employees but a pdf can be downloaded from their website: www.marstonproperties.co.uk.

IT IS THE FULHAM SOCIETY'S BIRTHDAY!

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Fulham Society



The Fulham Society was founded in 1971 after a small group of residents campaigned successfully to prevent the construction of a large hotel at Swan Wharf which would have dominated the river frontage near All Saints Church and Putney Bridge. After this success a group of residents, led by Maxwell Stimson, resolved to set up a Residents' Protection Society to be concerned with the well-being of the old Borough of Fulham in the widest sense. At the inaugural meeting on the 9th February, John Reid was elected chairman and Maxwell Stimson vice-chairman. An initial report undertaken by the borough pinpointed some of the problem areas:

- Inadequate provision of public open spaces, play and playgrounds for children
- Large areas where little or no attention was given to environmental planning
- Large number of residential roads that suffered heavy through traffic

These still seem to be major areas of interest today!

A MEANDER AROUND FULHAM

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fulham Society

To celebrate the occasion, we have devised a 9 mile walk round the perimeter of the old borough. There are pointers to 50 places of interest along the way and it can easily be broken into shorter sections marked by convenient transport links. A copy of the map and accompanying explanatory notes can be found on the website <https://www.fulhamsociety.org/events>.



This 9 mile walk takes in the natural beauty of the riverside as well as 5 lovely urban parks, 4 tube/train stations, 3 peaceful burial grounds, 2 premier football clubs and 1 historic palace. It explores the diversity of Fulham's residential areas and includes 50 points of interest as well as many cafes and restaurants.

Some parts of the route close at dusk and there may be daytime restrictions for runners (the route is about a third of a marathon). It is not suitable for bikes or scooters.

The route is divided into four easily accessible sections, each with a map and points of interest:

- Putney Bridge to Imperial Wharf (2.5 miles)
- Imperial Wharf to West Brompton (1.7 miles)
- West Brompton to Riverside Studios (2.3 miles)
- Riverside Studios to Putney Bridge (2.3 miles)

There are therefore a variety of start and finish locations and shorter options for those who cannot walk the entire route.

PLANNING

Willow Bank to Carrera Wharf

Carrera Wharf is built on the site of an 18th century house, Willow Bank. This was a fine house on the riverside to the east of old Fulham Bridge. It stood in extensive grounds of over three acres, well stocked with trees and shrubs and including a terrace overlooking the Thames. The house was rebuilt in 1816-17 and was later acquired by theatrical manager Arthur H Webster and his business partner, Edward Delafield, son of a wealthy brewer and lessee of the Italian Opera House, Covent Garden. They rebuilt the house for a third time in 1847, adding two new wings and lavishing money on the interior.



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

The good times did not last however, for by the following year Messrs Webster and Delafield were bankrupt. Willow Bank was sold and its sumptuous fittings and furnishings auctioned off in an 11-day sale in July 1849. Over the next few decades Willow Bank had a succession of occupiers until 1889 when it was sold to the District Railway Company and demolished to make way for the extension of the railway across the river to Putney and Wimbledon.

The site eventually became a marble and granite works operating from Willowbank Wharf. The wharf was sold in 1983 and redeveloped as housing in 1987-89 and now known as Carrera Wharf.

Today, it is situated between Putney Bridge and Putney Railway Bridge. This a lovely site but, as Carolyn Leigh of the Carrera Wharf Residents Association tells us, this stretch of the river path is a different place by day and by night. She goes on:



The 1980s estate which adjoins the path, Carrera Wharf, was built on an earlier industrial site. Planning permission stipulated that a riverside walk should be created by the developer for subsequent adoption by the Council, as it was at this time that the Thames Path was being pieced together. Used for walking and jogging during daylight hours and with wonderful views of the river, it is a delight.

But at night, especially on summer nights, there is a sadder story to tell and indeed to smell. The river wall, which incorporates four small alcoves for bollards, tempts all sorts of antisocial behaviour, as residents of Carrera Wharf can testify with wearisome experience. Drug dealing, late night parties,

vandalism and graffiti are long-term problems well-known to the police and local groups. Hence a new initiative to try to deter people from being a nuisance and which has just received planning permission.

To try to stop this antisocial behaviour the plan is for demountable planters in the four alcoves filled with low growing, drought-resistant, spiky Mediterranean plants. The Council has also given permission for conical stainless steel studs to be fixed to the top of the river wall. Similar studs have recently been installed on the river wall at Fulham Reach, towards Hammersmith Bridge.

As Carolyn says, We hope that planting and better maintenance will substantially improve the site. Residents of Carrara Wharf have promoted the project in the spirit of public benefit and have agreed to fund around half the total budget. We're hoping a Development Grant will be forthcoming from the council, but this is by no means certain and so meanwhile any contributions would be very welcome!

In Brief

South Park Heritage Market Garden

Friends of South Park are running a crowdfunding campaign through [Spacehive](#) for the Community Garden in South Park. Do look at their page on [Spacehive](#).

Revive South Park Heritage Market Garden is a campaign run by a group of Community Gardeners that includes the old, the young and anyone who benefits from the exercise or relaxation of gardening and growing produce. Armed with volunteers, they have great plans to restore and revive the old Heritage Market Garden, to have it back up and running, producing fruit, vegetable and herbs - but are short on funds! They would very much appreciate even a £2 pledge and a 'like' on the [Spacehive](#) page.

E-scooters

Legal e-scooter trials have started in Fulham. This trial scheme will be the only way to legally ride an e-scooter on public roads or in other public places in H&F or anywhere else in the UK. The scheme should mean that anyone using an e-scooter rides safely and follows the rules of the road. E-scooters are restricted to cycle lanes and roads, it is illegal to ride them on footpaths.

The rental e-scooters will be provided by three different operators: Dott, Lime and TIER. The Council have identified an initial 50 parking locations in the Borough where you can begin and end your journey. Over the next few weeks,

they will be introducing new e-parking bays alongside the electric vehicle charging bays as well as purpose built 'corrals', clearly marked areas, to house the e-scooters.

164 Hurlingham Road

With the reduction in the need for office space now that so many are likely to continue to work from home for at least some of the week, the developers of 164 Hurlingham Road are discussing using the building as a care home.

Shell garage

Shell has received planning permission to proceed with plans to open their first electric vehicle only hub on the site of their old garage on the corner of Fulham Road and Landridge Road.

Heathrow rail link

Plans for a western rail link to Heathrow Airport have been 'paused' by Network Rail. This is disappointing as it would have made it much easier for people on the western side of London to take the train to the airport.

New Permitted Development Rights

The Government has announced that from 1st August, a Permitted Development Right will be introduced to allow the conversion of retail, business & commercial premises to residential use without needing planning consent. The areas covered include town centres and conservation areas.

THE FULHAM SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

Tuesday November 2nd at 7.00 pm

Hammersmith Bridge

It looks as if the bridge may reopen in the summer for pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic. The council's engineers, Mott McDonald, have completed checks on the bridge's pedestals and found they are currently strong enough for pedestrians and cyclists to use the bridge safely although their condition is in decline. The timetable for the expensive strengthening works would have to be agreed first.

The government included an offer to fund a third of the cost of repairing the bridge in the new funding package for Transport for London (TfL) announced on 1 June 2021. While stating that Hammersmith & Fulham Council remain responsible for paying for the repair, the government now says that:

Given the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, during the period of this agreement, we expect to draw up a memorandum of understanding between HMG, TfL and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham to fund the reopening of Hammersmith Bridge – initially to pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic and, depending on cost, to motorists.

The funding will be conditional on all three parties agreeing to the cost of the project, each party paying a share and the government paying no more than a third. It also requires TfL to make a further round of cost cutting measures. As yet, there has not been any response from the council or TfL to this offer.

It is estimated that it will cost £46million to stabilise the bridge, which will make it safe for pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic. It will cost £141million to fully restore the bridge so it can be reopened to buses and motor vehicles – a similar amount to building a new bridge.

We have been asked to distribute this survey to our members. The Barnes Community Association has created this 10 question survey to find out how much the closure of the bridge affects people living on the north side of the river. It takes a couple of minutes to complete:
<https://www.barnes-ca.org/hammersmithbridgequestionnaire>

The Hammersmith Bridge Ferry Service

The latest date for the start of the service is 22 September – after the next school term has started.

TfL has announced that Uber Boat by Thames Clipper will run the ferry. The precise timeline for the service being operational is dependent on the necessary approvals being given by the various consenting authorities. It is proposed that the ferry service will take passengers between piers located near the end of Queen Caroline Street in Hammersmith and, although the original plans showed that the south terminal would be built at Harrods Wharf, it will probably be built just to the east of Castelnau.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission periodically reviews the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. The new recommendations are due by 1 July 2023. The rules require that every constituency across the UK—apart from 5 specified exceptions—must have an electorate between 69,724 and 77,062.

Their initial proposals for the new boundaries were published on 8 June 2021. As far as Fulham is concerned, they seem to continue to link us with Chelsea rather than Hammersmith but to change the northern boundary closer to that of the old Fulham boundary. On the map blue is the present boundary and red, the new one. For more information see: <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6485?postcode=SW63RZ>



South Fulham Traffic Restrictions

It is claimed that ninety per cent of Fulham traffic is from outside the borough, largely coming from south of the river and the west. The recent closures of Hammersmith, Vauxhall, London and Tower bridges mean even more traffic is diverting across Wandsworth Bridge and encouraging out-of-borough motorists to use residential side streets to cut through the borough. Hence, the Council introduced the TCPR (Traffic, Congestion and Pollution Reduction scheme) to the streets to the east of Wandsworth Bridge. This has reduced the traffic on these side streets but greatly increased the traffic to the west. As a result discussions are in progress about a possible extension of the TCPR scheme to this group of streets.

These changes have already greatly increased the traffic on the Wandsworth Bridge Road and what will happen when all through traffic is channelled up this one essentially residential road is of huge concern to local residents and businesses, particularly while Townmead Road and Imperial Road lie empty.

There are two concerned organisations that local residents might like to look at: [Wandsworth Bridge Road Residents and Business Association](https://wbrassociation.org.uk/) is a collective of residents and businesses living and working near the Wandsworth Bridge Road <https://wbrassociation.org.uk/> [South Fulham Residents' Alliance \(SOFRA\)](https://sofulham.com/) is a newly formed group described as an 'umbrella organisation of local residents groups' <https://sofulham.com/>

Climate Emergency

In the February 2020 Newsletter, we announced the Council had set up a Climate & Ecological Emergency Commission made up of local residents and chaired by Paul Beaty-Pownall, a member of the Fulham Society. This followed the Council's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the whole borough by 2030. The Commission were to help it understand how it could achieve its goal.

The group's conclusions can be seen [here](#). As a group of non-expert local residents, the Commission quickly came to the realisation that they would not be able to provide a full analysis of the changes to council policies that would be needed to reduce carbon emissions at the required pace. Instead, they concluded that "tackling climate change will need changes in behaviour right across our community and

the local economy – a cultural shift supported by a host of new policies, innovations, opportunities and above all robust communication about the changes that are needed.”

Most of the councils’ emissions come from the management of housing and commercial buildings, with transport being the third largest emitter. In addition, the amount we, the consumers, waste, plays a significant part – particularly when we consider the embodied carbon that is emitted in the manufacture and transportation of what we consume.

The Commission determined that the Council needed a new framework against which it can measure their proposed and emerging projects, policies or other initiatives if they are to avoid emitting carbon and to help reduce carbon emissions across the borough. The commission recommended four priorities.

- To encourage the council to define a positive Vision for what 2030 would be like if we succeeded in reducing carbon emissions to net zero – Imagine 2030.
- We, the public, must all develop much greater knowledge at a local level to better understand the carbon emissions of all our activities and their effect on global warming.
- Prepare a Road Map that shows what needs to be done in the short term, what over the next 3 to 5 years and what has to wait for regional or national legislation to enable the changes.
- Finally, there must be a robust Communication Plan that uses the newly acquired knowledge in an open and honest way.

As the Chairman says: *I believe that the changes in behaviour that are now necessary will happen if we develop a positive vision, supported by greater knowledge that is used to make a proper plan. This must then be clearly and honestly communicated to show that if we succeed in reducing our carbon emissions then life will get better for everyone.*

CAN YOU HELP? The next stage is to find a space in the borough to set up a Climate Emergency Centre (CEC), somewhere that can accommodate a variety of different activities, could support community events, talks, workshops and meetings. It will provide a resource where residents can find out more about how to reduce their own carbon emissions and showcase new ways of doing things that will help reduce carbon emissions generally. The project will be self-funded from events, food and drink and space hire.

London Wonderground 15 July – 26 September

The former site of the Earls Court 2 Exhibition Centre will be the new venue for a summer festival run by the company, Underbelly. Earls Court has a rich history for exhibitions and events. It was first used as a showground in 1887 and hosted the Great Ferris Wheel of 1895. It is great news that the tradition of festival and events are carrying on here and that the site is being used whilst plans for development, housing etc are still being worked on.



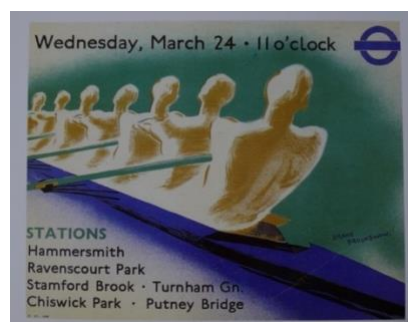
The site will be free to enter, will feature a 1000 seater big top, city beach, bars, street food and vintage fairground rides. There will be live music, DJs on the Wonderground bandstand and shows will include a Best of Edinburgh Festival, family and circus performances in the upside down purple cow tent.

There will also be a new temporary public space opposite Earls Court Underground Station on Warwick Road, where the entrance to the former exhibition centre was, curated by the Kensington and Chelsea Festival.

Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race

A revised route is being considered for the University Boat Race when it returns to the Thames. The organisers and the PLA are considering a new route, possibly on a permanent basis, that would see the race start at Westminster and end at Putney Bridge.

This new location would, it is hoped, attract more than a million spectators and bring the race past some of London's best known landmarks. The route would take the crews from the London Eye, past the Tate Britain and Battersea Park to Putney Bridge which previously had been the start rather than the end of the race. It would require an extension of the race's length to over 5 miles from the current 4.2.



Fulham Palace Trust

2021 marks the 10th anniversary of Fulham Palace Trust and there are plans for a range of special fundraising initiatives and activities. See more about their activities at: www.fulhampalace.org

In 2011 the Fulham Society Newsletter reported: *On the 1 April 2011 single governance of the whole of Fulham Palace became a reality after years of negotiation. The Fulham Palace Trust, a charitable company independent of the local authority, will henceforth manage the entire site and all its operations. LBHF will however financially support the Trust for up to 5 years.*

The Fulham Society has backed this concept for many years. Our President, the Bishop of London, has been fully supportive of single governance and was actively involved in the negotiations. Tim Ingram, a long time resident of Fulham and a member of this Society, was selected to become the Chairman of the Trust from a strong field and Cllr Nick Botterill, the Rev Joseph Hawes and John Rylance continue as trustees.

Members of the Society are encouraged to give active support to this wonderful local asset.



This attractive dessert plate has recently been acquired by the Fulham Palace Trust, with help from the Art Fund. It was commissioned by William Howley, Bishop of London from 1813-1828 for his official residence at Fulham Palace as part of a set for a new dining room. The porcelain was made by the Chamberlain factory in Worcester c1813-20. Decoration on the pieces included the arms of William Howley on this dessert plate.

Buckingham Palace

This summer the garden at Buckingham Palace will be opened to the public for the first time and they are allowing picnics on the lawn. The walk around the gardens will be by self-guided tour, but additional features in the south-west of the garden, including the Rose Garden, summer house and wildflower meadow, can be viewed through one of the guided tours that will run each day. The summer opening will be 9th July - 19th September 2021 and will cost £16.50 for adults. If you want the guided tour, add £6.50.

Tickets can be booked [here](#).

FULHAM SOCIETY

The Front Garden Competition

The Front Garden Competition is back and we are looking forward to seeing your beautiful front gardens.

Send or email two photographs of your front garden/window box/planter with the completed application form to: gardens@fulhamsociety.org by the end of June. We will announce the winners at the Summer party on 20 July.

More information and the application form are on the Fulham Society website [here](#).

New Committee Members

This year we have welcomed three new committee members. They have all been immensely helpful so do look out for them at the Summer party and have a chat. They have provided short biographies of themselves to help you get to know them.

Barbara Skorupska is the new Hon Secretary. She tells us about herself:

Most people decide to retire to the country, I decided to retire to Fulham. I am a retired civil servant and my husband is an academic. We spent our working lives in a number of places, mainly in the UK, finishing up in Edinburgh. We had no fixed idea of where in London we wanted to live and by pure chance found a house in Fulham. A very lucky choice! We make the most of Fulham's splendid amenities, (aiming) to walk 10,000 steps a day, mostly in the local area. Pre Covid I was a volunteer adviser with Citizens Advice in Chelsea Town Hall, so not only have I gained a good knowledge of the visual aspect of Fulham, but also of the variety of lives lived here. I joined the committee hoping to learn more and, hopefully, to contribute.



David Chamberlain, the Hon Treasurer

David Chamberlain has lived in Fulham for the past 22 years. During that time he has served as a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator and as a member of the Hammersmith and Fulham Air Quality Commission. With a background in both the oil business and IT, his past experience has included three-year spells spent in Hamburg and Abu Dhabi and can therefore bring a wider perspective to his contribution to the Society. He is married to Helen and their son also lives in Fulham.



Clifford Rosen



Clifford has lived in Fulham for 20 years. During this time he has seen a great deal of change in the area, particularly in Sands End where he lives - a lot of it for the better, some of it not! His step-children, now grown-up, attended local schools and his wife, Alice, has engaged a great deal with the local community over the years.

A graphic designer, Clifford continues to run his design consultancy specialising in hospitality and is co-founder of Leading Venues of London. He is a member of The Hurlingham Club and the Chelsea Arts Club.

Fulham Opera

Fulham opera will be presenting a chamber recital with Alison Holford ('cello) and Ben Woodward (piano) on **Thursday evening, 15th July** at St John's Church, Fulham. This will be a free recital with a retiring collection in aid of Fulham Opera. www.fulhamopera.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VICE-PRESIDENTS	Patrick Ground QC, Lord Carrington of Fulham, Greg Hands MP, Andy Slaughter MP
CHAIRMAN	Isobel Hill-Smith
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Niel Redpath
HON. TREASURER	David Chamberlain
HON. SECRETARY	Barbara Skorupska
HON. MINUTES SEC.	Binky Aylmer
HON. MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Margaret Kemp
MEMBERS	Maya Donelan, Fiona Fowler, Kim Hawkins, Clifford Rosen, Anne Soutry, Maria Sturdy-Morton

Committee Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except August & December)

CONTACT US



Address 116 Hurlingham Road, SW6 3NP



Website fulhamsociety.org



Email info@fulhamsociety.org



Twitter @fulhamsociety

Charity no. 262396

The Fulham Society is holding its annual Summer Party

at Fulham Palace,
Bishops Avenue, SW6 6EA

on the evening of Tuesday 20 July 2021
from 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Tickets, which should ideally be bought in advance, cost £15.00 each
and include wine, soft drinks & canapes.

Non-member guests welcome at the same price
of £15.00 per ticket.

To order tickets please either email info@fulhamsociety.org to pay with a card via secure payment,
or send the tear-off application below to Barbara Skorupska, 116 Hurlingham Road, SW6 3NP tel
020 7731 1544

Please send/email me _____ ticket/s at £15.00 each for the Fulham Society Summer Party on
Tuesday 20 July 2021, for which I enclose cash/cheque for £_____

Cheques should be made payable to "The Fulham Society".

Name (capitals please).....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email Address.....

**Please return with your cheque/cash and either your email address or a sae to: Barbara
Skorupska,
116 Hurlingham Road, London SW6 3NP**