

# Annual Report and Accounts of the Fulham Society

27 March 2022 - 26 March 2023

## I The Charity

The Charity's name: The Fulham Society. Charity Registration no:262396

Contact details: Address : c/o Hon Secretary, 116 Hurlingham Road, London SW6 3NP

Email [info@fulhamsociety.org](mailto:info@fulhamsociety.org)

Website [www.fulhamsociety.org](http://www.fulhamsociety.org)

## II Trustees (at 26 March 2023)

The Trustees of the Society's are its Committee members.

The Society's Committee was elected at the AGM on 22rd November 2022 at Sands End Arts & Community Centre (SEACC):

- All Committee members retired in accordance with Rules 6 & 7 of the Constitution, and most offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected as set out below.
- The following officers and committee members were duly elected.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Lord Carrington of Fulham, Patrick Ground QC, Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Andy Slaughter MP

### OFFICERS

Chairman Isobel Hill-Smith

Vice-Chairman Maria Sturdy-Morton

Hon. Treasurer David Chamberlain

Hon. Secretary Barbara Skorupska

Hon. Membership Secretary Mathilde Meyrieux

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Binky Aylmer (Hon Minutes Secretary), Maya Donelan MBE, Georgie Donnelly, Kim Hawkins, Niel Redpath, Clifford Rosen.

Committee Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except August & December.

## Trustee induction and training

All Trustees are advised to read the guidance on the Charity Commission's website at <https://www.gov.uk/topic/running-charity/Trustee-role-board>. New Trustees are advised to read the Constitution, the Privacy Policy, the Reserves Policy, past accounts and recent Minutes. They complete a "Fit & Proper Person" Declaration. Guidance and good-practice information from the Charity Commission is communicated to Trustees as it seems appropriate to the Society. They are also provided access to the Society's Cloud-based archives of documents.

## Annual Report

The Trustees prepare an annual report (this paper) that is available on the website. The production of such a report is recommended by the Charities Commission for all registered charities. The annual report incorporates the Annual accounts, which have been subjected to an independent review.

The accounts and Trustees' annual reports do not need to be filed with the Charity Commission as its gross yearly income does not exceed £25,000, nor is it a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Nor does the Fulham Society have to prepare and file an Annual return form as it is not a CIO and its gross yearly income does not exceed £10,000. It is, however, obliged to update the registered details annually, including financial information and these returns can be seen on the CC website.

### **III Objectives, governance & management**

The Society was founded in 1971 after a group of residents campaigned successfully to prevent the construction of a large hotel which would have dominated the river frontage near All Saints Church and Putney Bridge. This threat highlighted the need for an amenity society with a wide local brief.

#### **Objectives**

The current constitution is dated 24 November 2003. It can be found on the website and is also available on request. The Society's formal objectives, in summary, are to:

- a) promote safeguarding of and improvements to public amenities;
- b) stimulate public interest in Fulham;
- c) promote high standards of planning and architecture; and
- d) secure preservation and improvement of features of historic or public interest.

#### **Members**

Membership is open to all who are interested in the Objects of the Society. For the financial year 2022-23 the subscription was £12, or £10 for those receiving the newsletter by email. These rates have been in place since 2015. At the end of the year the Society's membership was about 630 people (in addition to about 10 honorary memberships).

#### **Privacy Policy and GDPR**

Since May 2018, data-processing has been governed by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 ("GDPR"), with implications for all organisations which control and process personal data.

The Fulham Society holds on computer the name and address, and in most cases the email address and telephone number, of its members (all of whom are adults), and records whether the member has made a valid Gift Aid declaration. The Data Controller is the Membership Secretary of the Society. Any request for information about data or for any amendment or deletion is dealt with by the Membership Secretary, as Data Controller. The Society does not share any information with third parties except in compliance with Article 28 of GDPR, regarding the legal conduct of processing of information. The Society is committed to protecting Members' personal information. Our Privacy Policy gives detailed information on when and why we collect personal information, how we use it and how we keep it secure. The full Privacy Policy is on the Fulham Society website: [www.fulhamsociety.org/privacy-policy/](http://www.fulhamsociety.org/privacy-policy/).

### **IV Chairman's Report: Activities and Performance**

The Fulham Society is politically neutral and engages with the Council on matters relating to buildings, parking, public transport, open spaces and the river. We monitor large-scale development proposals against the Society's own guidelines. Many larger schemes will be presented to the Committee by developers before they are submitted for planning permission. We also engage in wider local matters and support the work of a range of other groups and societies in the area. The Society also supports other local amenity groups and activities when resources allow.

The Society is very grateful to Aragon House, on Parsons Green, who since January 2023 have generously hosted the Fulham Society's committee meetings in their lovely first floor function room.

## Planning applications March 2022 to March 2023

During the year the Society has reviewed and discussed planning applications relating to over 70 different sites, commenting on many of these. Major projects often include several consultation rounds, modifications to planning proposals or variations to consents. The Society always tries to be constructive, recognising the major benefits of renewal, new housing and new or improved public spaces delivered by private investors in Fulham. At the same time we express concerns when developments are too dense, poorly designed or do not fit well in their neighbourhood.

The largest development under consideration was the plan for 4,500 homes at the 40 acre Earls Court site. This is expected to include several excessively tall tower blocks up to 45 storeys high near the Empress State building and near West Kensington Station. This scheme has involved many consultation meetings and the Earls Court Development Company presented to the Society in March 2023 where we underlined some of our concerns with the development, chiefly the over-intensive and overbearing housing blocks proposes for phase 1 as well as questioning the viability of making this completely car free. Phase 1 is expected to deliver 1300 new homes and some public open space with construction starting in 2025 - if planning consent can be obtained.

The scheme to redevelop the 14 storey Hartopp Point & Lannoy Point towers on Dawes Road & Pellant Road was approved in February 2023. This scheme will deliver 134 homes in blocks ranging from 4 to 7 stories high, as well as green space and cycle parking within the development.

Albert & Swedish Wharf, a proposal for 274 new homes next to the Porcelanosa showroom just before Wandsworth Bridge had to modify its proposals in the light of concerns raised by the Environment Agency. Having previously reduced the height of the tallest building to 17 storeys, the proposal was then changed to move the buildings further back from the river and to rebuild the river wall so that it was an effective flood defence barrier for a century to come. No decision was reached on this development.

The Council refused all "monopole" proposals, relating to 15-20m high masts with associated equipment and antennas for 5G telephone networks. This included proposals for Bishops Park Road, Wandsworth Bridge Road and Townmead Road.

Ten planning applications related to the North End Road over the year - some relatively minor, but together indicating that investment is being attracted to this part of Fulham.

In January 2023 the Society made a formal complaint to the Council that FFC were not honouring the terms of their 2018 Section 106 planning agreement not to occupy the new stand until the River Walk was open to the public on non-match days. There was partial occupation of the new stand from July 2022 and fans were permitted to use the walkway. However, the new walkway remained closed to the public. It is essential that planning commitments are honoured.

Hurlingham Road residents have been concerned about two development proposals opposite one another close to the junction of Hurlingham Road and the New Kings Road. The Magnet site would be redeveloped to include retail space and car-free housing units, including some controversial roof gardens. This development could cause nuisance to neighbours and traffic disruption if the development also takes place at the proposed Care home opposite. Neither scheme is very large.

Fortunately, some controversial schemes - including new a Thames pier at FFC, and licensing applications from Chelsea FC & Bishops Park Cafe - fell silent. Whether due to a genuine rethink or resting in a legal/planning limbo is sometimes hard to tell.

However, most planning applications were relatively modest and uncontroversial for which there are, generally, clear precedents and expectations set out in the Local Plan. All, however, need to be scanned by the Society.

### **Other local issues**

The Society continued in its membership of the West London River Group, The London Forum and HACAN The Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise.

In August 2022, the Society was pleased to note that the Piper Building on Carnworth Road had its exhibition block with its iconic 1960s panels by John Piper, added to Historic England's List, Grade II. HE state this is "a sizeable example of a bespoke architectural relief, a form of public artwork popularised in the post-war period and here the work of a major figure in C20 British art." Listing this important piece of mid-20th century architecture will help protect its future and the Society had written in support of the listing.

The Mayor of London proposed major changes to London bus routes including abolishing the 11 (one of the oldest routes in London), 14 & 74 in Fulham. The FS objected to these changes as did many others, including notably Fulham's MP Greg Hands and a reprieve was eventually granted.

The Society was delighted with the new Sands End Arts & Community Centre which opened in a new award-winning building in South Park. This was the chosen venue for our 2022 AGM.

The Society has reminded the Council of its obligations to keep archived material accessible to the public and tracked closely the changing plans for the local archives. We were pleased with the appointment of a new archivist in early 2023, but concerns remained about the lack of suitable premises to store the archive material. A proposal to move it offsite to reduce costs - but making it far less accessible to local researchers - was, sadly, agreed.

The Society continued to track the slow progress of restoring Hammersmith Bridge. LBHF, Government and TfL finally agreed on joint cost sharing and work commenced in early 2023 on strengthening the foundations and inserting a steel double truss which will allow traffic to use the bridge again while the old deck is removed for off-site repairs.

The Society supported residents who were concerned about Chelsea FC's proposed licensing plans involving unacceptable late night disturbance. After a stormy meeting and strong feedback, the Club withdrew the proposals and said they would reconsider.

Very suddenly in Autumn 2022, the Council announced that the whole of the borough would be divided in "Clean Air Zones" designed to keep out-of-borough through traffic out of residential streets, channelling them instead onto the already congested and polluted main roads. They claimed that they did not need a public consultation as it was a manifesto commitment. The first zone, east of Wandsworth Bridge Road was rebranded from a "Low traffic Neighbourhood" to a "Clean air zone" and a new "trial" was imposed west of Wandsworth Bridge Road. This caused a great outcry among local business although it was welcomed by some residents. The Fulham Society continues to believe that very poor communication of the change by the Council and the lack of consultation caused huge confusion, distrust and opposition. Controversial traffic schemes like these need to be properly managed by the Council and not imposed. The Society also believes that much of the inconvenience could be avoided if the scheme ran for limited hours eg 7am-7pm and if there were exemptions for clean vehicles.

### **Newsletters:**

All Members receive three Newsletters a year. They are also available (except for the latest issue) on the Society's website. To obtain the most up to date newsletter you have to be a member of The Fulham Society. Isobel Hill-Smith replaced Lady Fowler as joint editor after the departure of the Committee at the AGM.

There were many interesting articles on the history of the area, planning updates, local events and development proposals. In addition, three or four short news bulletins are emailed to members as necessary.

### **Website and Social Media**

In November the Fulham Society contributed to a live BBC Radio London broadcast which consisted of a walk through Fulham, with special mention of Fulham Palace and the recently listed Piper Building.

During the year we tracked the usage of our [www.fulhamsociety.org](http://www.fulhamsociety.org) website as well as the Twitter and Instagram feeds to ensure material was relevant, interesting and up to date. Monthly visits to the website had reached about 1,000 and the Society had over 650 Instagram followers as well as almost 670 Twitter followers. By far the most interest concerned the new traffic restrictions imposed by the Council as part of their "Clean Air Neighbourhood" scheme.

### **Local events and liaison:**

A Fulham Society walk around the fascinating Barons Court area was led by local historian Caroline Macmillan of [westlondonwalks.co.uk](http://westlondonwalks.co.uk).

The FS was represented at the opening reception for Fulham Boys School

The FS was given a guided tour of the Brunswick Club for young people and wrote an article for the newsletter encouraging members to support this fine institution.

The FS held its summer party on 19 July 2022 at Fulham Palace, where prizes were awarded for the Front Garden Competition. It was the hottest day of the year with temperatures reaching 42oC but this did not deter our members who came in record numbers.

The Fulham Society had a stand at the annual Parsons Green Fair on 2nd July 2022.

Two committee members attended a lunch and afternoon of tennis at the Hurlingham Club as part of a reception organised by the outgoing chairman. This proved to be a useful opportunity to meet the new mayor, to lobby the PLA about the suggested FFC pier and to mention to the Hurlingham Club our concerns about encroachment onto Metropolitan Open Land.

The 2022 AGM was held on 22 Nov at the Sands End Arts & Community Centre. There was a drinks bar before the meeting and a fascinating talk by Sue Pierson on Parsons Green afterwards.

The Society continues to support or liaise with a range of other groups and societies, including Fulham Palace, the Fulham & Hammersmith History Society, the Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group, the London Forum, the West London River Group and HACAN (Heathrow Airport Control of Aviation Noise).

## **The Fulham Society's Front Garden Competition**

This competition began in Summer 2018 with the aim of improving the environment and appearance of Fulham and to promote the Fulham Society. It has run each year since then, apart from 2020 when the Covid lockdowns made this too difficult. In 2022, the competition was run for the first time by Georgie Donnelly, a local artist and previous winner of the competition. Prizes were awarded at the Summer Party in July and we were delighted to help promote and encourage front gardens that make such a positive impact on the streets of Fulham.

## **Donations**

As set out in the Financial Report, we made no donations during the year, apart from subscriptions to organisations. This was unusual.

## **V Treasurer's Report: Financial Review**

The Fulham Society is not required to have its accounts audited or examined independently and its constitution does not require this either. However, Wendy Shelton has reviewed our accounts every year and it is proposed to continue this, subject to approval every year at the AGM. The Committee is satisfied that Wendy is sufficiently thorough, objective and independent to provide reassurance in the accounts prepared by the Honorary Treasurer. Since 2018-19 it has been referred to as an "Independent Review". The annual accounts for 2022/23 are attached to this document and will be presented to the 2023 AGM.

## **Reserves Policy**

As the Society has no physical assets, land or buildings, and no restricted or designated funds, the Society's reserves comprise the cash held in current and deposit bank accounts as well as the investments in M&G charity funds. The Society has estimated total reserves are required of £19,000 - £28,000 and has decided on a prudent approach by aiming to retain reserves of £25,000-£28,000. At the end of the financial year in March 2023, the Society's funds amounted to £26,849, which is within this range. The Reserves Policy is subject to review from time to time by the Committee and is available on request from the Treasurer. The Committee has not changed the policy since it was approved in 2017.

When the Treasurer reports that current funds exceed the amounts required to be held in Reserves, the Committee is actively encouraged to suggest projects that the Society should fund or contribute towards. Any such projects must meet the Society's formal objectives. Where such excess funds are identified but not yet spent, they are held temporarily in an "environment fund".

## **Public Benefit Statement**

Charity Trustees have a duty to report in their Annual Report on their Charity's public benefit, and they should be clear about what benefits are generated by the activities of the Charity. The benefits must be related to the objectives of the Charity. The Trustees consider that The Fulham Society meets the public benefit requirements, and they confirm that they have taken into account the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/charitable-purposes-and-public-benefit> .

Approved by the Trustees on 16th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Isobel Hill-Smith,  
Chairman



## THE FULHAM SOCIETY

### Receipts and Payments for Years to 26<sup>th</sup> March

|  | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                    |                |                |
| Subscriptions & Donations                          | £ 3,942        | £ 3,938        |
| Net Income from Functions <sup>1</sup>             | £ 410          | £ 518          |
| Income from investments JH Deposit a/c & Env fund  | £ 459          | £ 419          |
|  | <u>£ 4,811</u> | <u>£ 4,875</u> |
| <b>Payments</b>                                    |                |                |
| Printing, Post, Stationery, Web                    | £ 1,407        | £ 2,103        |
| Dues and Subs                                      |                |                |
| Charges, Insurance, Miscellaneous                  | £ 353          | £ 708          |
| Front Garden Competition                           | £ 1,921        | £ 2,062        |
| AGM  | £ 267          | £ 218          |
| Donations <sup>2</sup>                             | <u>£ 135</u>   | <u>£ 80</u>    |
|  | <u>£ 4,083</u> | <u>£ 5,171</u> |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> | <u>£ 728</u>   | <u>(£ 296)</u> |

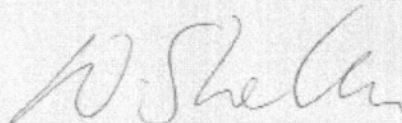
### Balance Sheets at 26<sup>th</sup> March

|   | <b>2023</b>     | <b>2022</b>     |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Accumulated funds</b>                        |                 |                 |
| as at 26 <sup>th</sup> March of Previous Year   | £ 26,121        | £ 26,417        |
| Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments     | <u>£ 728</u>    | <u>(£ 296)</u>  |
| Carried forward                                 | <u>£ 26,849</u> | <u>£ 26,121</u> |
| <b>Represented by</b>                           |                 |                 |
| Lloyds Current account                          | £ 1,604         | £ 886           |
| Lloyds Deposit a/c Environment Improvement Fund | £ 5,245         | £ 5,235         |
| Julian Hodge Deposit Account                    | £ 10,000        | £ 10,000        |
| M&G Funds at cost <sup>3</sup>                  | <u>£ 10,000</u> | <u>£ 10,000</u> |
|   | <u>£ 26,849</u> | <u>£ 26,121</u> |

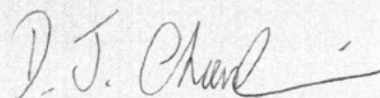
#### Notes for Year ending 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

|   |                            |                |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Summer Party               | £ 405          |
| 2 | West London River Group    | £ 20           |
|   | Parsons Green Fair         | £ 70           |
|   | London Forum               | £ 45           |
|   |                            | <u>£ 135</u>   |
| 3 | Market value at 23th March | <u>£ 9,873</u> |

I have examined the books and records of the Fulham Society and confirm that the above accounts are in accordance therewith.



Wendy Shelton, Independent Reviewer



David Chamberlain, Hon. Treasurer