



Newsletter

Editors: Isobel Hill-Smith & Maya Donelan No.114 March 2023

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This is the first edition I have put together, with Maya Donelan. Apologies for the late arrival, but it is no mean feat of construction, and we are trying to continue the high editorial standards set by Fiona Fowler, our previous lead editor. I hope you find it interesting.

First, a reminder to those who don't pay their subscription by standing order. Payment of £12 is due on 23rd March (or £10 if newsletters can be emailed to you). Please send payment to Mathilde Meyrieux at 38 Doneraile St SW6 6EN (her email is membership@fulhamsociety.org)

With Spring upon us at last, we hope you will be turning your attention to your front gardens. Our annual competition will take place in June, with prizes awarded at our summer party on 5th July by Matthew Pottage, horticultural author, broadcaster and curator of RHS Wisley Gardens. So please get planting, watering and weeding and see what you can do with your own space, even if it is just a window box. Read Georgie's article for inspiration.

Read on to find out about local events, news, major planning applications, and some fascinating insights into glassmaking in Fulham and a few interesting women who lived in Fulham and made their mark on the world.

One of the biggest events will be the King's Coronation in May, so why not fly your flags, plant your front gardens and become a volunteer to commemorate this occasion.

Will you join us?

The Society is looking for two volunteers to join our friendly committee. The first is to help with the review of planning applications. If you have some appreciation of how Planning works, that would be a real advantage, but is not essential. We would also like someone to edit our Newsletter and info Bulletins. In both cases, a love of Fulham is the main requirement. We meet 10 times a year on Monday evenings and welcome people of all ages and backgrounds. Why not get in touch to find out more? (info@fulhamsociety.org)

We have also heard that the new Borough archivist is looking for volunteers. Please contact Maya Donelan donelan261@btinternet.com to find out more.

Volunteering really connects you with your local community. "The Big Help Out" will be promoting volunteering on the Monday bank holiday after the Coronation in early May.

THE GLASS HOUSE 11-12 LETTICE STREET, FULHAM

The Glass House was a remarkable innovation in the world of British Stained Glass. It was also one of the most successful practical initiatives inspired by the Arts & Crafts Movement. The custom-built studios and workshop provided fully-equipped facilities for independent artists, assisted by a team of skilled craftsmen, to design and make their own commissions.



The firm of Lowndes & Drury was established in 1897, initially in Chelsea, by artist Mary Lowndes (1856-1929) and the glazier Alfred Drury (1868-1940). As the business expanded, plans were prepared by the architect C.H.B. Quennell (1872-1935) for the new Fulham building. Artist Christopher Whall (1849-1924) advised on the layout. The upper floor had five studios with tall windows for glass-painting; on the floor below were the workshops, glass-racks and an office, as well as a room intended for the retail sale of sheets and slabs of glass. Next door at nos 9 and 10, a two-story building with four flats was built to provide rental income in support of the Glass House. The Lettice Street building opened in 1906. The buildings are still there today.



The business made a remarkable contribution to the development of English stained glass. Without doubt there was one very significant impulse that motivated Mary Lowndes in this enterprise - the practical promotion of women artists making their professional careers in the field of stained glass. For Mary was a committed feminist, who became a leading figure in the campaign for women's suffrage, a cause she espoused probably as early as the 1880s.

As the records of Lowndes & Drury demonstrate the Glass House offered truly unprecedented opportunities for woman designers and makers of stained glass. Never before had commissions for prestigious glazing schemes - most notably the windows for the new Khartoum Cathedral in Sudan - been entrusted solely to women artists. Nor had women been enabled to work in complete parity (and camaraderie, too) with their male counterparts using the same studio and technical facilities and mutually benefitting from the daily exchange of creative ideas that resulted.

Stained glass artists continued at the Glass House until 1992, when the building finally closed as a centre for stained glass workers. Over those years the archives show that some 158 artists, male and female, many recognised as leaders in the Arts & Crafts movement worked there; some for many years, some spasmodically. Several of the most famous female artists lived across the river in Deodar Road in Putney.

There are several works by Lettice Street artists to be seen in Fulham: 2 windows by Rachel De Montmorency (1946) in St John's Church, Walham Green (illustrated, left) : a window by Karl Parsons (1916) in Christ Church, Studdridge Street: a window by Francis Spear (1931) in Fulham Town Hall and a window by Edith Lungley (1913) in Bishop Creighton House. There are also in the work books, numerous references to reglazing and repairs at All Saints Church, the former St Augustine's church on Lillie Road and various local non-conformist churches.

THE FULHAM SOCIETY WANTS TO PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP

Georgie Donnelley writes: something wonderful is happening – Spring is stirring; days are longer, some are warm and bulbs are pushing up through the soil.

I returned from Dublin in February where daffodils and crocuses were already blazing merrily in the parks and gardens. Thinking that London, even on a lovely sunny day was way behind, I walked around Fulham to see if Nature was making things happen. I heard birds singing and saw a few mauve crocuses on Eelbrook Common but nothing much else. In a city, Nature needs a helping hand to brighten people's lives, improve our surroundings and give pleasure to those who do not have the opportunity to do this.



Fulham could be one of the greenest and most floral boroughs in London. Many flats have balconies, most houses have a front garden and, thanks to our Victorian forefathers, lovely windowsills which beg for boxes of welcoming plants. You don't need much money, space, time, or knowledge. You just need the will and imagination to create something simple and pleasing. You can buy seeds for less than a £1 and local groups swap seeds. Get the children or grandchildren to help. Start now to give your plants time to grow and put on a show in June. Plant, water and dead head regularly. Every square inch of ground, flat roof and balcony should be filled with flourishing plants and flowers for our pollinators.

The Fulham Society are holding our fabulous FRONT GARDENS, Balconies and Window Box Competition, now in its 6th Year. We are also awarding a prize for the BEST PUB FLOWERS in FULHAM. Everything must be visible from the street. The prizes are generous National Garden Gift Vouchers redeemable at any good garden centre. Best of all, it is free to enter and any one could be a Winner.

In 2022, we found some public-spirited, house-proud gardeners and their children who had made beautiful floral delights in pots, planters and gardens. There were vegetables and fruits, climbing roses, nasturtiums, jasmine, fuschias, exotic trees (a fruiting banana) and simple cottage flowers. It was so exciting! Prize winners were exceptional but there were many others too. Neighbourhoods came alive with these lovely people, creating little green patches of joy.

Please submit photographs of your gardens by 30th June, 2023. Winners will be announced by Wisley's Matthew Pottage at the Fulham Society Summer Party at Fulham Palace on 5th July. Watch our website for details and GET PLANTING NOW!! You will be so pleased you have made the effort to transform our community and your own life.

PLANNING

Earls Court



Early plans for this vast 40 acre site have been published by the Earls Court Development Company and you are invited to drop in to their “Conversation Corner” on the Lillie Road from now until 1st April. It is open from Wednesdays to Saturdays (see [website](#) for details - and to have your say).

The most controversial aspect of this development by far is the large number of overbearing skyscrapers planned, which the Society considers are far too high and constitute excessive overdevelopment of the site. The tallest buildings will be clustered on the western side of the site, next to and, taller than the 31 storey Empress State Building. Other tall buildings could come later, next to the A4 in the north. In phase 1 alone, there could be 3 skyscrapers between 31 and 38 storeys high, three more between 20-30 stories and several more between 13-20 storeys. The tallest skyscrapers would be a similar height to Centrepont, or the Millbank Tower.

35% of the properties will be “affordable”, consistent with the London Plan. What exactly this includes will depend on the local Council. New open spaces will be available to the general public, comprising about a quarter of the site and including a park in the middle, slightly larger than Trafalgar Square. Even so, this amount of open space is far less than the borough average for the number of residents planned. The area will also include shops, restaurants and other cultural facilities. It will be possible to walk between Earls Court, West Brompton and, eventually, West Kensington Stations, with upgrades planned for the stations. While the Society welcomes the creation of much needed new homes, this is not the best way of doing so.

There has already been a great deal of consultation, but the developers have not yet been clear on their plans for the tall buildings. Try to imagine an area the size of the Hurlingham Club grounds containing six skyscrapers, 4,500 homes and perhaps 9,000 residents!

Albert & Swedish Wharf (2021/03898/FUL)

Reconsultation has just place on a new application for this site by Wandsworth Bridge. This includes a revised site plan including setting back the building line from the river, reducing the second tallest block from 15 to 13 floors and making various changes to the heights of the lesser buildings requested by the Fire Service. The tallest tower on the corner of Wandsworth Bridge, would still be 17 stories high, dwarfing local buildings. 250-300 homes would be provided, 30% of them “affordable”, which is less than the 35% London Plan target.

An elevated continuation of the river walk is planned which, because of the variety of heights of the site, will be accessed by steps and a lift from Wandsworth Bridge. Walkers will not be able to continue along the river once they reach Comley Wharf.



The Fulham Society has considerable concerns about this development, the height and density of the buildings, their proximity to the existing pavement, and the width of the river walk among others. While this development is part of the South Fulham Regeneration Area designated in the Local Plan as being suitable for taller buildings, it is important that any development is well designed, respects its sensitive Thames-side location, is sympathetic to its surroundings in the Sands End Conservation area and makes adequate provision for genuinely affordable housing.

Planning consent was initially requested in 2021 for the development which then included one building of 20 stories high. Other features from the earlier application remain. The development incorporates a safeguarded wharf and facilities for for waterborne cargo handling at ground and mezzanine level. Residential dwellings and communal floorspace above, with a café/restaurant on the upper courtyard. There would also be a new jetty and some landscaping of public and private communal areas.

Hurlingham Retail Park

This approved scheme will deliver 269 new homes, new retail and commercial space for businesses, employment and training opportunities during and after construction, a highly sustainable scheme that will make the most of a previously developed 3.2 acre brownfield site and provision for cycling and sustainable transport.



Demolition work began in January 2023 and has continued including the removal of the old warehouse floor slab and clearing of the old car park area tarmac. We look forward to enjoying the new community spaces and riverside walk promised by this new development.

Chelsea Football Club Licensing application

Following a consultation meeting held on 2nd March, where the local community raised strong objections, the Club have withdrawn their current licence application and will reconsider.

160-164 Hurlingham Road Care Home (2023/00349/FUL)

The formal planning application was submitted in February with a deadline for comments of 22nd March. While the Society would like to see this building brought back into use, we share concerns raised by local residents that access by vehicles could be difficult in this constrained location, especially given the introduction of the new “Clean Air” traffic restrictions. It is especially important that the traffic issues are properly considered especially as there are also plans in place to develop the Magnet site, opposite.

Magnet, Hurlingham Road (2022/03707/FUL)

Magnet have applied to build a two/three storey development above their existing retail warehouse to provide eleven residential units and to convert part of the ground floor. There will be no parking on the site for residents. There are several objections, chiefly traffic issues and that four storeys would be over dominant in the conservation area.

Hammersmith Bridge

LBHF have announced drop-in consultation events to see and discuss plans for a temporary steel double decker bridge within the existing bridge. This would allow the bridge to open to vehicles while the full restoration takes place. The sessions are on 25, 27, 28 March & 1 April. See hammersmithbridgerestoration.com for details or call 020 3900 3676.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

A new tiny forest on Eel Brook Common



In 2020, Covid forced Marston Properties Ltd of Fulham to cancel the party they planned for their 125th anniversary. So they looked for a new way to commemorate it. Caroline Marston shares her thoughts.

What a special day the 8th December 2022 turned out to be. **The Eel Brook Common Tiny Forest planting day.** Around 50 volunteers, including 30 from the nearby French Bilingual School, came to plant 600 trees and spread a pile of mulch. It was cold and frosty but the sun shone. My thanks to

21 Grams Coffee for the coffee and to Brook House Restaurant for mince pies. With sparkling frost on the ground, red baubles and Marston bunting around the site, it all felt very Christmassy. One of the children said *'I loved it, it was even better than my birthday!'*

LBHF were very supportive in getting the idea to fruition, warm thanks especially to Pauline McCormack, Silvera Williams and Phoebe Shaw Stewart, all of whom also came and helped plant and spread the mulch. They were joined by Councillor Harcourt, the cabinet member for Climate Change and Ecology and ward Councillors Jose Afonso and Adrian Pascu-Tulbure.

A Tiny Forest is an Earthwatch initiative to plant dense fast-growing native woodland, based on a forest management method developed in the 1970s by Dr Akira Miyawaki. The new forests reconnect people with nature. There is a special seating area and something to look out for every month, from worms and creepy crawlies, to butterflies and the all important pollinators. Quite apart from the trees and shrubs bursting in to leaf in the spring. Other nearby schools who were unable to come on the day will be able to get involved during the coming years.

Local 'Tree Keepers' will be collecting data to measure the improved biodiversity, carbon storage, flood management and thermal comfort. This data will be fed back to Earthwatch who use a blend of science and engagement to educate and to reduce environmental decline. Thank you to Jane Rampin, Ed Nemesanyi and Emily Penniford for helping us with this one.

The Council need new sponsors to enable them to plant seven more tiny forests. Each one needs volunteers to plant the trees, manage the forests and provide data to Earthwatch. If you want to get on and do something about the climate emergency, then a Tiny Forest could be just what you are looking for! For Marston Properties, celebrating 125 years in Fulham, sponsorship has demonstrated that is looking to the next 125 years and beyond.

Fulham Football Club and the new River Walk

Following the partial opening of the new Riverside Stand, The Fulham Society contacted the Club last Autumn about their legal obligation to open the new section of the river walk. No progress was made, so we made a formal complaint to the Council in January. We hope the Council will uphold residents' legitimate rights as well as the integrity of the planning system.

Use your old stamps before 31st July

British stamps now contain a code strip. Old ones (apart from Christmas and other commemorative stamps) won't be valid after 31st July. If you want to swap your old stamps for new ones, you must get a form from larger Post Offices and send it, with the old stamps, to "FREEPOST SWAP OUT".

Please note that the post office in the North End Road Co-Op will be closing by September. Local MP Greg Hands has been lobbying for a replacement, but nothing has yet been agreed.

Local bus cuts

You may have heard that the 74 & 14 bus routes have been saved, but the 11, 211 & N11 are still under threat. Greg Hands MP has a petition to save the routes on his website.

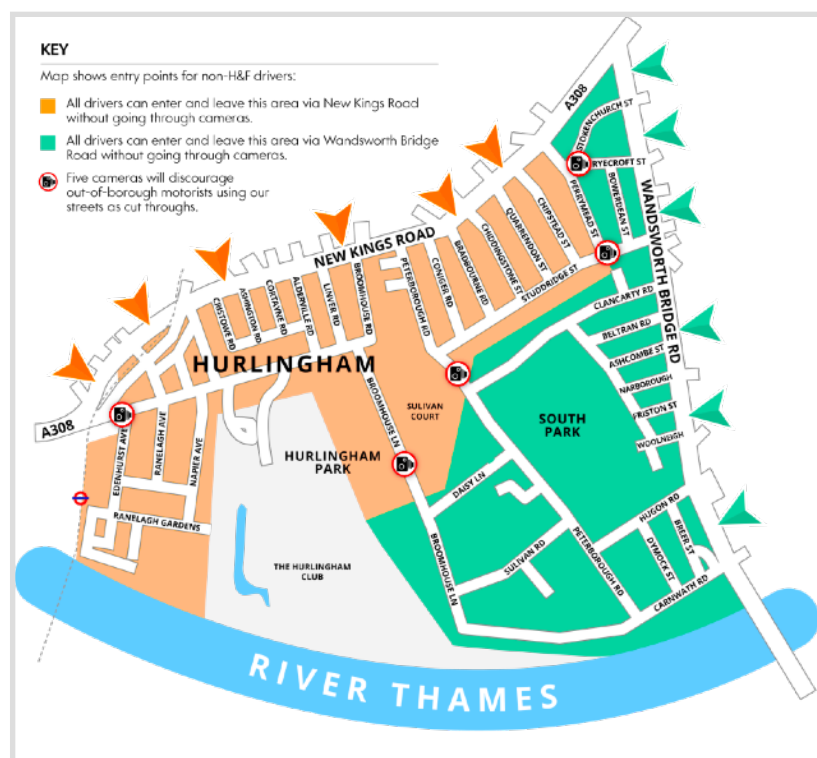
New "Clean Air" traffic restrictions

The area west of Wandsworth Bridge Road is now subject to restrictions by non-residents and fines will be issued to visitors who try to drive through the area. Access to all properties is still possible, but visitors must go out the way they came in - using the access points shown on the map (see right). There is free access for visitors, but you must first register for a visitors permit and then use RingGo to book them in on the day. If you prefer, call the hotline on

020 8753 3849

Council tax changes on empty homes

LBHF decided in January not to give any discounts on Council Tax to residents with empty or second homes.



LOCAL EVENTS

Fulham Society events

20th April: Fulham Society visit to Charing Cross Hospital for a tour of the art collection, an interesting mixture of historic and contemporary works, displayed in a way to enhance and uplift patients, visitors and staff. Meet at 2pm by the Henry Moore statue. Tickets £10.

17th May: Fulham Society walk around Sands End, led by Caroline Macmillan. Tickets £5. Meet at 11am outside Wilko at Fulham Broadway Station.

5th July: Fulham Society Summer Party at Fulham Palace with special guest Matthew Pottage, curator of Wisley Gardens and BBC Gardeners Question Time regular. 6.30pm Tickets £15.

For tickets, email info@fulhamsociety.org or send an SAE with cash/cheque to Barbara Skorupska at 116 Hurlingham Road SW6 3NP.

Other events

Sunday **26th March:** The Boat Race Sunday 4pm (women's) & 5pm (men's)

1 April: Fulham & Hammersmith Choral Society are performing Mozart's Requiem at 7.30 at St Gabriel's Church Warwick Square SW1V 2AD. Tickets £18 www.ticketsource.co.uk/fhcs

Music by the Bridge: All Saints Church Fulham, by Putney Bridge, continue their series of free Friday night concerts at 7.15pm (with a pay bar from 6.45pm)

- **Friday 14th April "European Impressionism"** with Izabela Stocka & Hanzhi Zhang playing works by Eugene Ysaye, Claude Debussy, Karol Szymanowski, & Maurice Ravel
- **Friday 12th May** Family piano trios – from baroque to Broadway, with Alice, Hannah & Olivia Chadwick-Jones

Saturday **22 April:** The Big Wet Wipe survey at Hammersmith 10am-2pm.

Thames 21 invite you to come to investigate this growing hideous pollution issue in the Thames - and also to write to our MPs to ask for a ban on plastic in wet wipes. Details at thames21.org.uk.

9-11 June: Chesterton's Polo in the Park (Hurlingham Park)



LOCAL PEOPLE

March is Women's history month and the local Council has drawn attention to several prominent women who lived in the borough. We highlight three of them who lived in Fulham.

Mary Woolstencraft (1759-1797)



An early feminist pioneer, author of several books including "The Vindication of the Rights of Women" (1792). In this landmark book she argued for gender equality and for women to be educated equally with men.

Mary had an unconventional love life. After rejection by her American lover, the father of her first child, she made an unsuccessful suicide attempt by throwing herself from Putney Bridge into the Thames, but was rescued by a passer-by. Soon after, she married William Godwin and gave birth to her second daughter, the future Mary Shelley, author

of Frankenstein - but died 11 days afterwards. She lived briefly in 1 Kings Row, Fulham Road.

Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877)



Caroline went to Madras in 1830 with her husband, where she opened a successful school for soldiers' daughters. Later in 1841, she opened a home for female immigrants in Sidney, Australia. During her seven years in Australia, she helped 11,000 immigrants into homes and jobs, helping men and families as well as women. Back in London, she assisted some 3,000 people to emigrate to Australia with financial loans and improved shipping arrangements. Her portrait was on the Australian \$5 note and 5 cent stamps from 1967 to 1968. She moved to Fulham, 19 Barclay Road in 1870.



Christina Bloom (1862-1939)

A Scottish-born photographer and postcard publisher. She lived in Napier Avenue, then at 38 Burnfoot Avenue, using the coal cellar as her darkroom and then at 92 Munster Road. She was Britain's first female press photographer and photographed the suffragettes as well as local scenes such as the Boat Race and a pageant at Fulham Palace. In 36 years, Christina took some 40,000 images, many of which are preserved in major national collections.

AGM REPORT

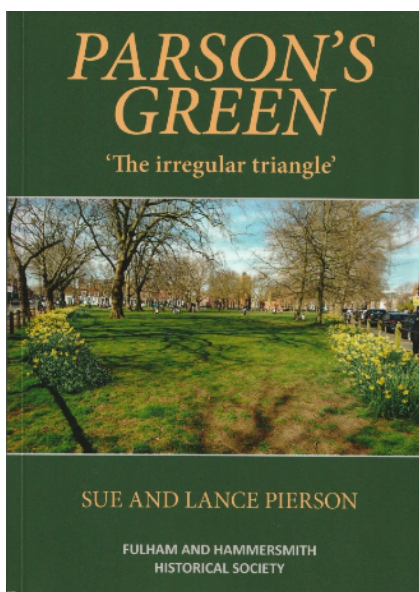
Our AGM was held on 22nd November 2022 in the new Sands End Arts & Community Centre (SEACC) in South Park. This wonderful new building won the Royal Institute of British Architects Award for London's best building in 2022. It was also one of only six buildings nationwide to be shortlisted for the prestigious Stirling Award prize.

At the meeting, we reviewed the operation of the Society for the year 2021/22 and elected the committee and its officers, appointing Maria Sturdy-Morton as our new Vice Chairman.



The meeting was attended by all our Vice Presidents, including Greg Hands MP and Andrew Slaughter MP, pictured left with Chairman Isobel Hill-Smith. This illustrates the Society's policy of political neutrality.

The Society's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending March 2022 were presented and are available on the website.








The evening concluding with a fascinating talk by Sue Pierson on the history of Parsons Green, a subject explored more fully in her recently published book. Thank you Sue.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

CONTACT US

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