



Newsletter

Editors: Isobel Hill-Smith & Maya Donelan

No.115 July 2023

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I walk around Fulham, it is a joy to see many colourful front gardens and window boxes, some alive with bees and birds and some with very imaginative planting. Yew hedging is replacing box, roses are plentiful, while lavender, olive trees and geraniums are as popular as ever. The scent of rose, lavender and jasmine can stop you in your tracks. It is wonderful to be able to recognise a few of these lovely gardens in our Front Garden Competition.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our summer party on the Fulham Palace Lawn on Wednesday 5th July at 6.30pm (ticket info in the green box below). Prizes for our recent Front Garden Competition will be awarded at the party by special guest **Matthew Pottage, curator of the RHS Wisley Gardens.**

Read on to find out about local events, news, major planning applications, the story of the Brunswick Club and how the new “Clean Air Neighbourhoods” are killing local businesses.

SUMMER PARTY

Wednesday 5th July, 6.30 Fulham Palace Lawns. Tickets, £15 email info@fulhamsociety.org or pay on arrival (cash or card accepted).

New faces

The Society is delighted to welcome onto the Committee German-born Laurens Paulmann, ARB & RIBA architect, previously of Foster & Partners, who now has his own practice, Made of Space, in Fulham. He will help with reviewing planning applications in particular. Do say hello to Laurens at our Summer Party.

We are always on the lookout for new committee members, for which 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)



FABULOUS FULHAM FRONT GARDENS



The Society's front garden competition has just closed and prizes will be awarded at the annual summer party in Fulham Palace by Matthew Pottage, curator of RHS Wisley (pictured below). Matthew is a Fulham resident who is passionate about plants.

The photo on the left shows how even tiny spaces by a front door can be used to create a spectacular display. I think that's called vertical gardening. We have also seen great creativity in very narrow gardens, north facing gardens, balconies and window boxes.

As with our lovely local parks, the Victorian and Edwardian developers who built much of Fulham thoughtfully provided enough open space for each house to have a little patch of greenery, and this is one reason Fulham remains such a wonderful place to live in today. You can be sure that lovely front gardens are noticed and do bring joy to all sorts of people walking along the road.

Meanwhile, a small balcony garden designed by Emma Tipping and sponsored by St George developers, won a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show and has been recreated at the developer's Chelsea Creek site, see the photo below.



THE BRUNSWICK CLUB, FULHAM

Once a member of the Brunswick Club, it seems you have a support network for life. Local children have been finding their way to the Club for seven decades, making use of the excellent facilities to play football or table tennis, get fit in the gym, learn skills such as cooking or arts & crafts or just listen to stories. The club offers both structured and unstructured activities as well as holiday adventure outings. They help hundreds of children each year to develop, get organised, follow their interests and make friends. Meals are provided too. Joining this superb Club, unbelievably, is free. Everyone within reach of the Club in Haldane Street between the ages of 6 and 19 is welcome; girls these days as well as boys.



This pioneering example of social inclusivity on our doorstep was, however, born from anguish and suffering in a German prisoner of war camp, Oflag 97, in - you guessed it - Brunswick. The winter of 1944 was biting cold, rations were meagre and camp facilities were squalid. A thought struck one of the prisoners, Major Percy Flood, that even back home in England, many children also grew up lacking opportunities, decent facilities and good square meals. Determined that something good should come out of the war, he hatched a plan to set up a boy's club in one of England's cities. Support grew and in February 1945, at an open camp meeting, it was agreed to draw up a Trust and start to raise money. Funding promises were made, raffles were held, artists sold paintings and by the time the camp was liberated, £13,000 had been raised. Back in England, they found a suitable empty site in overcrowded Fulham, cleared of housing by German bombing. Astonishingly, the Government refused permission to build the Club, and it was only after a letter was sent to Prime Minister Clem Attlee, himself a former boy's club leader, that the decision was reversed and Government funding of £12,000 was added. Two prefabricated Nissen huts were set up and the Club welcomed its first members in 1948 before its official opening in 1949 by the Duke of Edinburgh, with Clem Attlee, Percy Flood and many ex POWs in attendance. Rebuilt and enlarged since, the Club retains some of its original Trustees and supporters as well as its big hearted mission under the dynamic leadership of manager Danny Volino and Trustee Chairman Nick Browne.

As a Charity, the Trust depends on volunteers and financial support from generous donors and from grants where available. If you are able to help, the Club would love to hear from you.



Roll Call by Gordon Horner of the Royal Artillery, one of the pictures raffled to raise funds.

PLANNING

Hartopp & Lannoy Point, Dawes Road/Pellant Road (2022/01346)

Planning consent was granted in February for this Council development comprising two blocks ranging from 3 to 7 storeys high and providing 134 flats, 112 of which will be “affordable” as well as a reasonable amount of outside space. Permission is currently being sought for the construction management plan and other matters. The new buildings replace two 14 storey tower blocks containing 112 flats completed in 1970 - and condemned as unsafe in 2019. It is good to see ugly tower blocks being replaced by energy efficient low rise buildings. We expect construction will begin soon.



Fulham Football Club allows fans to enjoy the new River Walk but denies entry to the public



Following the partial opening of the new Riverside Stand last Summer, The Fulham Society contacted the Club last Autumn about their legal obligation to open the new section of the river walk contained in the Section 106 agreement. No progress was made, so we made a formal complaint to the Council in January. The Council eventually rejected our complaint, using what seems to be a flawed legal assessment, so we have appealed. They have promised to reconsider and we have told them we won't let the matter rest because the people of Fulham have a right to

expect the Council to uphold and enforce planning agreements. The photo, taken in July 2022 shows fans enjoying the terrace that the public should also have access to.

Gas Works (“Kings Road Park”), Imperial Road (2018/02100/COMB)



33 new proposals, each containing a number of documents, have been submitted by developer St William Homes in April, May and June, largely addressing how the planning conditions for particular aspects of this development will be met. The more interesting ones relate to the design of public open spaces, but all are extremely technical and detailed. The drawing (from 2023/01147) shows the landscaping of the whole site. Note the round Grade II listed gas holder, the oldest in the world, preserved from the site's past life as the Imperial Gas Light & Coke Company. Below the gas holder is the play area (“Park South”), the two restored Grade II listed buildings, a public square and then the WW1&2 war memorial gardens shown in red dotted lines. There is 6 acres of open space in this site, containing 1800 homes. Residents are due to move in from 2024 and the public will be able to enjoy a walk through the site to the new park.

Albert & Swedish Wharf (2021/03898/FUL)

There is no news on the proposed 250/300 home development next to Wandsworth Bridge, consisting of several tower blocks, one at 17 storeys, as well as a raised section of river walk. The stalling of progress on the submitted planning application suggests that there may be a rethink under way or behind the scenes negotiations with Council officials.



The Fulham Society had expressed considerable concerns about the height and density of the buildings, their proximity to the existing pavement, and the width of the river walk. We feel that a development here should be well designed, respecting its sensitive Thames-side location, sympathetic to its surroundings in the Sands End Conservation area and making adequate provision for genuinely affordable housing.

Hammersmith Bridge

Following the public consultation in March on plans for the “temporary truss” double decker bridge proposal drawn up by Foster & Partners, a “Request for an EIA Screening Opinion” document has been submitted to the Council. This curiously named document makes the case that a full formal Environmental Impact Assessment is not needed, but nevertheless sets out the key environmental impacts during construction and operation of the temporary structure. The document includes a project timeline and discussion of the likely effects of imposing a toll. There is also discussion on heritage aspects, contamination, vehicle movements etc, so a “must read” for anyone following this closely or living near the bridge. We expect a full planning application to be submitted shortly. While Hammersmith Bridge is just outside Fulham, the effects will, of course, be very significant for Fulham residents.

Chelsea Football Club Licensing application

Chelsea initially filed 2 premises licence applications with H&F – one related to the concourse and plaza around Stamford bridge on both match days and non-match days, and other related to a marquee for events on non-match days.

Both of these elicited a huge negative response from local residents, and Chelsea has now withdrawn both of them. They have listened to local concerns and are now planning a series of discussions both with small groups and will be scheduling regular residents’ meetings to provide broader updates and provide a forum for dialogue and discussion.

Magnet site, Hurlingham Road (2022/03707/FUL)

At the end of June, the developers submitted a planning appeal on the basis that the Council has failed to issue a decision within reasonable time. It seems that the Council were unhappy with two particular aspects of the development proposals: the affordable housing obligation would be delivered offsite and parking stress would be exacerbated on local roads. Presumably the Council wanted them to change their proposals and they don't wish to do so. They have asked for the Appeal process to include a hearing because of its complexity and because it has "generated a level of local interest". You could say that!

The proposal is for a 2 and 3 storey development above the existing retail warehouse to provide 11 residential units. Magnet is now leaving the site and has a new showroom on Fulham High Street, so a new tenant will be sought for this controversial site. The developers propose to submit an application for a simple change of use from Class E to B8 so that they retain the potential to lease the space when Magnet fully vacate.

Local residents are obviously very concerned about the effects of the proposed new residential development, traffic implications, overlooking of gardens in Edenhurst Avenue etc, and then on the effect of a new commercial tenant and the traffic and noise they might bring to the area.

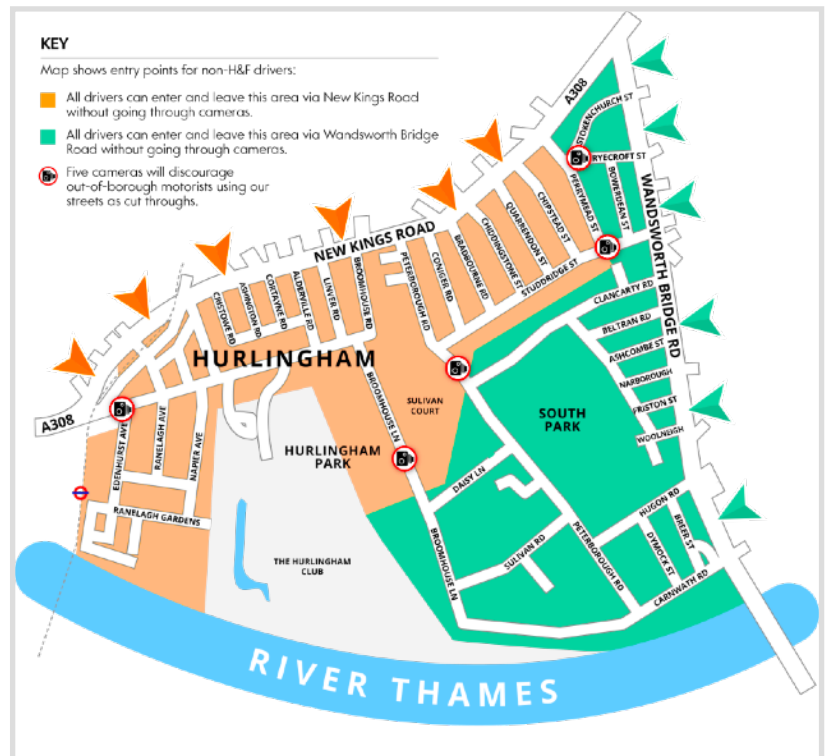
160-164 Hurlingham Road Care Home (2023/00349/FUL)

Immediately opposite the Magnet site, on the other side of Hurlingham Road, this proposal for the conversion of the previous garage site into a Care Home, is still awaiting a final decision. Huge concern is being felt locally about the implications for the development of two such large sites at possibly the same time.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

The new “Clean Air” traffic restrictions are killing local businesses

The new traffic restrictions between the New Kings Road and the Wandsworth Bridge Road now generate half of all the enquiries to the Fulham Society website. A great deal of confusion exists about what is and is not permitted by residents, visitors and business users. £130 fines are now being levied on “offenders” who drive through the area.



At a recent meeting called by local businesses based on and near the New Kings Road and the Wandsworth Bridge Road, restaurants, cafes, butchers, estate agents, builders merchants, furniture and clothes stores all explained to Council representatives that they had lost significant revenues, pushing some into loss as fixed costs are high and their margins were often very small. This was largely because of the severe congestion on the main roads caused by the schemes for much of the day, and also because customers were concerned about being fined or caught in a huge jam and felt it easier to go elsewhere. The no right turn from the New Kings Road into Wandsworth Bridge Road also caused great difficulty and pushed congestion into Fulham Broadway.

Sadly many companies present said they would have no choice but to give up their leases and relocate outside the borough. The businesses are concerned about upsetting some of the local customers they rely on by campaigning publicly on this very divisive issue. However the loss of independent long standing shops and restaurants is a real risk and we cannot take these vibrant retail communities for granted.

The Fulham Society made the point that the absence of proper independent consultation on the scheme and poor communication had made matters far worse than was necessary even if the scheme were to continue in some form. For example, the damage could be reduced by simple measures like limiting the hours of operation to 7am-6pm, exempting Ubers as well as electric and hybrid cars and redesigning some junctions. We also believe the “trial” should be suspended for the period when Wandsworth Bridge is closed as the trial will provide no useful information. For businesses, however, this all might be too little and too late.

The Hammersmith Society is opposed to the scheme outright and have made the point that national/European initiatives such as new car standards, and London wide schemes like the ULEZ have a much greater effect on air quality, which in any case is improving in our borough.

Wandsworth Bridge Closure

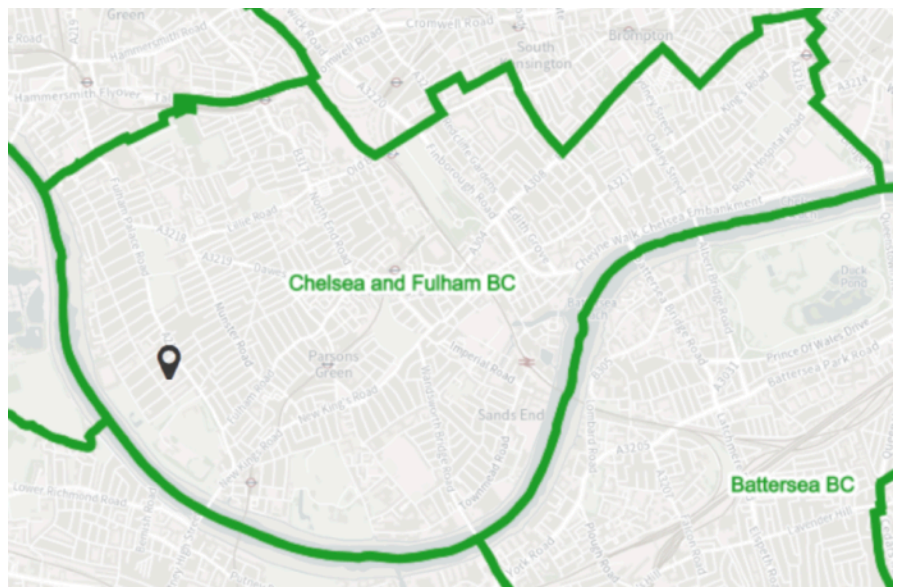
Wandsworth Council have announced the closure of Wandsworth Bridge to vehicles from Monday 24th July for “approximately” 10 weeks until the end of September. A one way system, controlled by Marshalls, will permit pedestrians to cross on pathways just 1.2 meters wide on either side of the bridge. Cyclists will have to dismount and walk with their bikes. Preliminary enabling works are already underway. The 295 and 28 bus routes will be diverted but no information is yet available on that. Road diversions will suggest use of Putney Bridge instead, despite the huge congestion there caused by the closure of Hammersmith Bridge.

Riverside studios site for sale

Huge losses incurred by Riverside Trust, the owner of the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith forced the company into administration at the end of March. This was blamed mainly on the rise in energy prices. In April, the administrator instructed Savills to put the remaining 191 year lease for the premises occupied by RS up for sale. A Section 106 agreement negotiated at the time of the redevelopment requires the premises to be used principally as an arts centre with ancillary uses, so we are hopeful for its future. Meanwhile, the arts complex continues to operate a full programme, with leases and concessions continuing as before. Although just outside Fulham, many people love this venue and it needs our support more than ever.

Parliamentary Boundary Change Review

This long review has concluded and most of Fulham is now contained in the new “Chelsea & Fulham” constituency. The small part of Fulham north of the Talgarth Road is part of the Hammersmith & Chiswick constituency.



New Action on Disability Centre in Fulham

A new centre has opened on the Clem Atlee Estate to help people with disabilities in a number of ways, with financial support from the local Council. See the Action on Disability website for details.

Fulham Palace Trust declares a “Microclimate Emergency”

A year ago, the Trust launched its biodiversity and climate change policy. Outcomes have included composting cafe waste for use in the gardens (including takeaway cups, plates and cutlery which are biodegradable), growing vegetables organically and running a learning and engagement programme to allow volunteers and others to get involved.

Now the Trust has declared a microclimate emergency, along with the Chelsea Physic Garden. The aim is to study and respond to local climate trends. They believe there is huge potential for local gardeners, many of whom first connected with horticulture during the pandemic, to contribute. The Trust also wants to collaborate with other like minded local organisations.

Heathrow Airport Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 consultation

Comments on their plan are open until 17th July. This is your chance to have a say on what's important, how best to encourage quieter aircraft, noise mitigation schemes, operating restrictions and how the airport should engage with local communities. Click [here](#) to respond. The Fulham Society will be reviewing in more detail before responding.

LOCAL EVENTS

Fulham Society events

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

Friday 7th July:

Music by the Bridge (see right)

14th & 15th July: Jazz on the lawn at Fulham Palace with the 606 Jazz Club



Friday 14th
19:30–22:00.
Noel McCalla &
Derek Nash
Tickets £20
Saturday 15th
1930-2200 Tony
Kofi & Vimala
Rowe Tickets £20

Great music in our beautiful church
Everyone welcome
Friday 7th July 7.15 -8pm
Free Entry
Wine and soft drinks available
Doors and bar open from 6.45pm
Any donations will be used to support
the mission and ministry of All Saints Church

Juliette Giovacchini -cello, Dominika Maszczyńska, Piano
A summer cornucopia of much loved favourites:

The poster for 'Music By the Bridge' features a photograph of two women performing in a church. One woman is seated at a grand piano, and the other is seated next to her, playing a cello. The background shows the interior of a church with wooden paneling and a large window.

22nd - 30 July Bishops Park

Tuff Nutterz: The UK's biggest inflatable obstacle maze at 300m long for kids and their families.

From the Archives: Post war modernism in Fulham



Have you ever wondered how a piece of modernist architecture landed in amongst the Victorian terraces of Reporton Road? The local [Archives](#) have the answer. Reporton Road originally continued to Filmer Road, but bomb damage in 1940/41 and the V2 raids of 1944 created gaps. In August 1945 the Council erected 8 pre-fab bungalows on the site opposite the church and in 1951 replaced 53-57 with in-fill flats that although different in style fitted the profile of the terrace.

Later, the Council wanted to replace the pre-fabs with permanent housing, but knew that tower blocks, favoured by architects, were unpopular with residents. So they commissioned architects Higgins and Ney to produce a modern design for the large site opposite the church, blocking off Reporton Road. Higgins proposed 'High-Deck Living' as a low-rise alternative, with ground floor flats around a central garage and two two floor maisonettes above, each flat facing onto a high level street above the garage, creating a safe area for children. There are 34 homes, now known as 19-60 St Peter's Terrace. The now cut-off houses at 1-17 Reporton Road became St Peter's Terrace too.

You can discover all sorts of local history at Hammersmith & Fulham Local History Records and Archives search room and collections, based at the Hammersmith Library on the Shepherds Bush Road, just off Hammersmith Broadway.

For many years most of the archives have also been stored in the Lilla Huset Building at the base of the The Ark on the Talgarth Road by the Hammersmith Flyover.

Documents held include the administrative records of the council and other local bodies, historical maps, plans, newspapers, photographic prints and negatives, posters, books and birth, death, marriage and cemetery records. Residents and organisations have also deposited material. However, the Lilla Huset is going and the archives in store will be moved to an offsite facility in Cheshire. Uncatalogued materials must be boxed, labelled and documented so they can in future be recalled, catalogued and made accessible.






A proposal to move the search room to a new building adjacent to the new Town Hall and Civic Campus is being considered and some construction may be complete by summer 2024. If you would be interested in helping to sort out the archives before they leave the Borough please contact annaig.boyer@lbhf.gov.uk

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, Georgie Donnelly, Larens Paulmann

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

CONTACT US

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