

Annual Report and Accounts of the Fulham Society

27 March 2021 - 26 March 2022

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

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Website www.fulhamsociety.org

II Trustees (at 26 March 2022)

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

The Society's Committee was elected at the AGM on 22rd November 2021 at Lady Margaret School:

- 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 Niel Redpath

Hon. Treasurer David Chamberlain

Hon. Secretary Barbara Skorupska

Hon. Membership Secretary Mathilde Meyrieux (co-opted in January 2022)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Binky Aylmer (Hon Minutes Secretary), Lady Fowler, Maya Donelan MBE, Kim Hawkins, Clifford Rosen, Maria Sturdy-Morton, Georgie Donnelly (co-opted in March 2022)

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 sent a copy of 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 2020-21 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 640 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 some 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/.

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.

Planning applications March 2021 to March 2022

During this year the Society has reviewed and discussed some 80 planning applications, commenting on many of these. Continuing discussions took place on major ongoing projects, where there were often new planning applications submitted for changes or additions.

The largest development under consideration was the plan for 4,500 homes at the 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 development has involved several consultation meetings and a site visit by the Society, providing opportunities for feedback about the overbearing scale of the proposed buildings.

The initial plans for the Albert & Swedish Wharf site also contained a tall block and several other objectionable aspects, but some aspects have been changed in the light of feedback, including a reduction of the block to 17 storeys. The outcome of this planning application has yet to be determined.

Planning consent was granted for a 20 storey block to replace the old Edith Summerskill block on the Lillie Road but this was then called in by the Secretary of State as there were elements that were inconsistent with both the Local Plan and the London Plan. This has since been approved, given the acknowledged need for housing, especially social housing, and the high quality of the proposed building.

There were concerns that Fulham Football Club wanted to build a pier projecting well into the river. This was strongly opposed by river users amongst others, but no planning proposal was submitted.

There were applications for very obtrusive 5G telecoms masts, first at Colehill Gardens and then on Metropolitan Open Land near All Saints School. The Society added its objections to those of many local residents and both were turned down.

Construction work was underway on the new Fulham FC riverside stand, Fulham Town Hall, the Imperial Road gasworks site (1800 new homes called "Kings Road Park") and the old Curry's/PC World site at Wandsworth Bridge (269 homes and retail space called "Hurlingham Retail Park"). The development at Lillie Bridge was completed and this includes attractive landscaping and buildings that are mostly modest in scale. Fulham FC and Hurlingham Retail Park will include new additions to the river walk.

Representatives also met with developers of large projects. While it is now expected that developers consult with the community before planning applications are submitted, and it can be useful to make comments early in the process, too often it feels that this is a box ticking exercise with little meaningful change made in response to local opinions.

As ever, proposals often showed buildings that were too high for their surroundings. We recognise that some taller buildings are permitted in particular locations in the Local Plan, in order to meet the need for local housing, especially affordable housing, but many such schemes are out of keeping with their surroundings and too often fail to contribute enough affordable housing.

However, most planning applications were more modest in scale with some relatively small developments and many domestic schemes such as small extensions, for which there are, generally, clear precedents and expectations set out in the Local Plan.

Other local issues

The Society launched its 50th anniversary walk around Fulham and included this on its website. The 8 mile walk is divided into 4 sections, each starting and ending near public transport. There are 50 points of interest along the way and even long standing residents have said they have discovered new things on the walk.

The Society continued to track the slow progress of restoring Hammersmith Bridge. The plan for much of the year was to start a ferry service between Hammersmith & Barnes and this might have included development of the wharf by the Harrods Repository building. This was due to start operating in September 2021. However, following a review of the bridge safety, the bridge was instead reopened to pedestrians and cyclists in July 2021. Arguments continued between LBHF, Government and TfL over funding and a long term solution for cars and buses.

There was a consultation over changes to the Parliamentary constituency boundaries, with most of Fulham to be included in "Fulham and Chelsea West". As this would be generally a coherent arrangement for Fulham and as the Society is strictly non-political, we decided not to respond. A final decisions will be made in 2023 after consultation in late Autumn 2022.

The Society added its voice to others calling for step free access to Putney Bridge Station in a consultation by TfL. The outcome of this was not known.

Traffic calming measures were brought in by LBHF to try and prevent "rat running" through the area east of Wandsworth Bridge road. While the Society could see the potential for much needed air quality improvements, the very poor communication of the change and the lack of consultation caused huge confusion, distrust and opposition. That change was made permanent and a new scheme to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road was mooted, as many cars diverted that way instead. 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.

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.

There were many interesting articles on the history of the area, local events and development proposals.

Website and Social Media

During the year we tracked the usage of our new www.fulhamsociety.org website as well as the Twitter and Instagram feeds to ensure material was relevant, interesting and up to date. We were delighted that this had attracted more traffic to our site and helped to raise the profile of the Society in our 50th anniversary year (2021). Much of this was due to our new Communications Committee Member Clifford Rosen who joined in May 2021.

Local events and liaison:

The Covid-19 lockdown for much of Spring/early summer 2021 caused many cancellations of events with which we would otherwise have been involved, including the Parsons Green Fair in July. Restrictions were gradually eased but a limit on 30 people at outdoor events remained until 19th July, lifted a day before the Society's annual Summer Party. Free at last, members flocked to the event, although inevitably some had to miss it because social isolation measures were required if a close contact contracted the virus.

During the year the Society liaised with the borough archivist who had been charged with investigating local links to slavery in the light of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. It was interesting to review the role of Sir Nicholas Crispe, a prominent and wealthy merchant who facilitated the slave trade and lived in Brandenburg House (demolished, on the site of today's Fulham Reach). Crispe Road in Hammersmith is named after him and he is buried at St Paul's Hammersmith

(he helped fund the previous building). His coat of arms (horseshoes) appears on the borough's arms and there was speculation that this would have to be changed. The Society would have been happy to publicise any report, but it appears that none was written.

The Society continues to support or liaise with a range of other groups and societies from time to time 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).

Visits, walks and talks

Sadly there were few events because of the Covid-19 lockdown in Spring/summer 2021 but we organised a walk, talk and tea in Brompton Cemetery in March 2022, which was well attended and much enjoyed despite heavy rain.

The launch of our 50th anniversary walk around Fulham in 2021 enabled many people to enjoy an interesting walk on their own or with friends using the downloadable pdf guides.

The Fulham Society's Front Garden Competition

This was started in Summer 2018 with the aim of improving the environment and appearance of Fulham and to promote the Fulham Society. It ran in 2019 with more entries, and prizes were awarded at the Society's Summer Party. In 2020 the competition and party were cancelled due to the pandemic, but we resumed the competition in 2021 and again prizes were awarded at the Summer party in July 2021. We were sorry to say goodbye to Anne Soutry, the Committee member responsible for organising the competition at the 2021 AGM, but were delighted to welcome Georgie Donnelly as her replacement in March 2022. Georgie is a local artist and previous winner of the competition.

Donations

As set out in the Financial Report, we made no donations during the year, which is 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" rather than an "independent examination" as a more accurate description. The annual accounts for 2021/22 are attached to this document and will be presented to the 2022 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 2022, the Society's funds amounted to £26,121, which is within this range. The Reserves Policy is summarised with the financial report at the AGM every November. It is also available on request. From time to time the Committee reviews the Reserves Policy but so far have decided not to change it 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 21st November 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Isobel Hill-Smith,
Chairman

THE FULHAM SOCIETY

Receipts and Payments for Years to 26th March

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Subscriptions & Donations	£ 3,938	£ 4,111
Net Income from Functions ¹	£ 518	
Income from investments JH Deposit a/c & Env fund	£ 419	£ 423
Gift aid & other income		£ 1,596
	<u>£ 4,875</u>	<u>£ 6,130</u>
Payments		
Printing, Post, Stationery, Web	£ 2,103	£ 4,726
Dues and Subs ²	£ 80	£ 65
Charges, Insurance, Miscellaneous	£ 708	
Front Garden Competition	£ 2,062	
AGM	£ 218	
Donations		£ 4,600
	<u>£ 5,171</u>	<u>£ 9,391</u>
Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	<u>(£ 296)</u>	<u>(£ 3,261)</u>

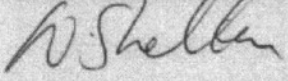
Balance Sheets at 26th March

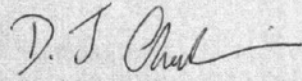
	2022	2021
Accumulated funds		
as at 26 th March of Previous Year	£ 26,417	£ 29,678
Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	<u>(£ 296)</u>	<u>(£ 3,261)</u>
Carried forward	<u>£ 26,121</u>	<u>£ 26,417</u>
Represented by		
Lloyds Current account	£ 886	£ 1,182
Lloyds Deposit a/c Environment Improvement Fund	£ 5,235	£ 5,235
Julian Hodge Deposit Account	£ 10,000	£ 10,000
M&G Funds at cost ³	<u>£ 10,000</u>	<u>£ 10,000</u>
	<u>£ 26,121</u>	<u>£ 26,417</u>

Notes for Year ending 26th March 2022

1	Summer Party	£ 521
2	West London River Group	£ 20
	London Forum	£ 45
	Parsons Green Fair	£ 15
3	Market value at 25th 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