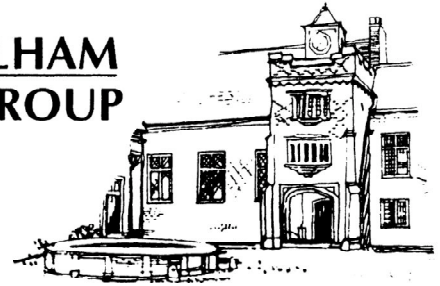




HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HISTORIC BUILDINGS GROUP

Newsletter



No. 9 Spring 2003

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. In a full issue, we have articles covering our two major areas of work: historic buildings, and parks, gardens and open spaces. Highlights include Keith Whitehouse's latest researches into the history of the last AGM venue, Bush Hall, and an account of the work of new committee member John Sheppard on dated buildings in London, particularly those in our borough. We also have a topical historical feature on White City, the huge development site between Wood Lane and the M41. First, however, we have an update on news relating to current active subjects.

The Draft London Plan

The Examination in Public into the Mayor's draft London Plan started on 3 March at City Hall and lasts for six weeks. The Group has been invited to participate. We have argued for stronger and more detailed policies for the historic environment. At the moment the plan is dominated by the Mayor's desire for growth, greater density and encouragement of tall buildings at the expense, we fear, of the historic environment, local character and views.

Streetscape and Signage

At the last AGM this was a major issue, with many members expressing their views that both could be vastly improved. The Borough is now revising its *Highway Materials and Street Furniture Guide*. We hope for a more detailed and sympathetic second edition. One of our members has carried out a photographic audit of the Riverside Walk as support for our suggestions for a new Riverside section in the *Guide*.

Fulham Football Club

The Club has announced its decision not to proceed with its existing planning permission for the redevelopment of Craven Cottage. We hope that any new proposal will retain the listed buildings, be on a smaller scale and be more sympathetic to the adjacent residential conservation areas, the two parks and the riverside.

UDP

We expect the final copies of the UDP to be published later this year. The Group secured a number of changes to the UDP which should help to preserve and enhance the character of our borough.

137 Talgarth Road Appeal

The high court allowed the owner's appeal against enforcement. However, the Secretary of State has lodged an appeal against this decision. The saga of the internal damage to this listed building is not over yet.

Chelsea Creek and Lot's Road

There is now a third application in for this site. There is some reduction in the density and an improvement to open space but there are still two tall towers proposed at the mouth of the creek and encroachment into the creek. The towers have been swapped over so that Hammersmith and Fulham now has the tallest tower at 39 storeys!

Imperial Wharf

Public consultation takes place in April on plans for the new Sands End Park and the adjacent Riverside Walk. The current applications are for a formal urban approach which includes felling the only trees still on the site! There is scant provision for local needs such as a kick-about area for kids or encouragement for wildlife and biodiversity in an area sorely in need of greening. This rare opportunity to create an exemplary new park linked with the river and the Riverside Walk must not be missed.

Frank Banfield Park

As part of the Hammersmith Embankment re-development the developers were required to make 'improvements' to Frank Banfield Park and subsequently maintain it. After public consultation the scheme has now received approval. The informal character of the park with its mounds will be retained, reinforced with additional planting, but the park will be railed. The wall separating the park from the commercial area will be lowered with rails placed on top and a new entrance made to Distillery Road.

Since boroughs are very short of money to spend on open space, the use of section 106 agreements to secure developer funds for improvements to open space is one way of achieving these much-needed upgrades. However, there is a danger, as here, that if the developer is left to design the improvements, the developer's agenda will take precedence. We have questioned the wisdom of lowering the wall because we feel it will remove the sense of enclosure and make it seem as though the park is part of the nearby office development rather than the local residential area.

The Canal

New moorings are proposed at Mitre Wharf along with improvements to the pocket park there (see article on Mary Seacole Memorial Garden below). The canal is now a conservation area and we are arguing for improvements to the landscaping and an assault on the pervasive graffiti.

The Fire Station in Shepherd's Bush Road

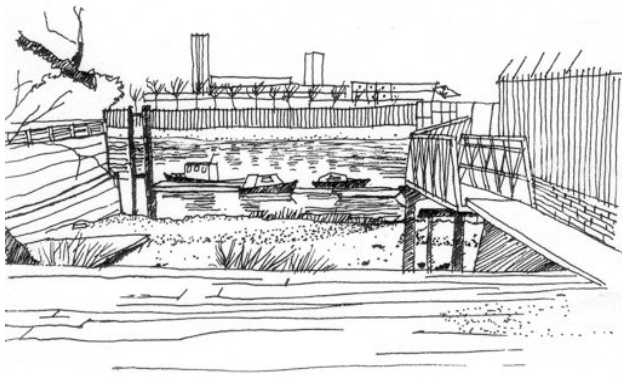
We have welcomed the application for the re-use of the listed fire station which makes minimum and sympathetic alterations to the front. The converted station would be a bar/restaurant on the ground floor with flats above in the former firemen's quarters.

Olympia

The application for a very dense development on the Olympia car park site is going to appeal later in the year. The Group is concerned with the effect on the adjacent conservation areas and the historic Olympia site. If permission is granted we have asked for an archaeological investigation to establish the line of Counter's Creek, which we understand is culverted and runs through the site.

Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea

Two projects involving historic areas in the borough are among the first proposed for action: the restoration of Broomhouse Drawdock and improvements to the Riverside Walk and Becket's Wharf just downstream of Hammersmith Bridge.



Broomhouse Dock, the ancient ferry landing at the southern end of Broomhouse Lane

White City

White City's designation as an 'Opportunity Area' in the London Plan will involve the drafting of a 'development framework' for the area. White City is an area of change but also an historic area. The Group has requested to be included in the consultation on this framework at the earliest opportunity. Under the present planning application for the site, the developers are obliged to save the former White City entrance arch near the Shepherd's Bush roundabout and re-erect it elsewhere. A new application has now been submitted for demolition of the arch. The Group will continue to argue for its retention.

An article later in the newsletter recounts the long and interesting history of the White City exhibition grounds and stadium.

St Paul's Church, Hammersmith

The church has applied to build an extension between the listed church and the flyover. At the moment the proposal does not include restoration of the listed tombs and management of the churchyard to prevent car parking. As the churchyard and listed tombs are on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register, we consider both should be included in any proposal.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Fulham Palace

Following its award of a stage one development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in September last year, Fulham Palace advertised for a project director in February. The palace will be putting in its bid for stage two approval later this year and work will begin in June 2004 at the earliest. The focus of the bid is the restoration of Bishop Sherlock's 18th-century dining room, the third major historic room within the museum's part of the palace. Once restored, the room will continue to be used as it is at the moment, in other words for work with schools, temporary exhibitions and other events. Provided that the stage two bid is approved, a grant of £2,480,000 will be made. Much of this money will fund essential work on the building to preserve it for the future. The restoration of the vinery, gardens and ancillary buildings will be the focus of a second bid. There will be a programme of public consultation later this spring. Anyone wishing to make any comments meanwhile can leave them at the museum desk at Fulham Palace, or send them to the Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, London W6. The Group is now officially involved with the work at Fulham Palace following the recent invitation to our chairman to join the palace management board.

The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

The Lyric opened for business in 1895 with an ornate fin-de-siècle gilt and velvet auditorium built by renowned Victorian theatre architect Frank Matcham. It was designed as an intimate opera house, and still possesses an orchestra pit and remarkable acoustics.

Over the last century, the theatre has undergone an extraordinary series of changes. It went into decline during the First World War, but was reinvented as a fashionable venue in the 1920s by the brilliant actor-manager Nigel Playfair. After the Second World War, the Lyric presented artists such as ex-Navy drag queens and Joyce Grenfell. In 1947 Elizabeth Welch sang in the first of a decade of famous Lyric Revues, culminating in a season of hits with Kenneth Williams, Maggie Smith, Sheila Hancock and Beryl Reid in the late 1950s. In 1958 Pinter's *The Birthday Party* received its first (disastrously reviewed) performances here. In 1966 the theatre went dark after a decade of box office failure and was demolished, amidst huge public outcry, to make way for a proposed office and shopping complex.

Fortunately Matcham's auditorium was preserved. When the theatre reopened in a modern shell on its present site in King Street in 1979 the original auditorium was

painstakingly reconstructed. The new Lyric has two performance spaces: the 550-seat Matcham auditorium, now suspended two floors above street-level in a concrete and glass box, and a versatile 110-seat contemporary Studio.

Despite its beautiful auditorium, however, the Lyric suffers from dingy backstage and entrance areas, makeshift rehearsal facilities, and no education room to accommodate its extensive programme of work with local children and young people. Like many theatres, the Lyric has also weathered years of standstill funding, which at times have brought it to the brink of closure. In 1998 it received an additional blow when the capping of Arts Council lottery capital grants forced plans for a major building project to be postponed.

Better news arrived in 2001 with a significant uplift in core funding from London Arts as part of the National Theatre Review, and two new injections of project funding from the Arts Council of England. The first has allowed the theatre to invest more in its work on stage and in the community, and the second will help it to build exciting and much needed new facilities, including an entrance on the Lyric Square, a ground-level café, and improved disabled access throughout the building. The building work, which will cost £2,608,000, will also provide the Lyric with its first dedicated education room, and a rehearsal space, both situated within the main building. In 2002 the theatre's new development department launched a major campaign to raise matching funding of £1,446,500 for all aspects of the new work.

Bush Hall

This year the Group held its AGM in the recently refurbished and little known Bush Hall at 310 Uxbridge Road. Keith Whitehouse has researched the building's history for this newsletter. Originally called the Carlton Academy and Palace of Dancing, the hall was opened in 1907 by William Hurndall, a dancing teacher and proprietor of several dance halls in London. At the official opening on 25 November Hurndall's band played with himself acting as MC assisted by his son. 240 people attended by invitation.

The hall was 67 feet long by 33 feet wide and designed in the Italian style. Advertised as 'the most elegant and best appointed' dance hall in west London, it boasted a sectionally sprung floor, sliding roofs, electric light and ventilation and mechanical heating.

In 1942 the London County Council converted the hall into a wartime British Restaurant. Ten years later the hall reopened as a dance hall. In subsequent years the hall was used as a bingo hall and amusement arcade, a rehearsal space for pop groups, and most recently as the Carlton snooker club. Now called Bush Hall, it has been completely refurbished by husband and wife team Charlie Raworth and Emma Hutchinson for use as a venue for acoustic, folk, jazz and classical music.

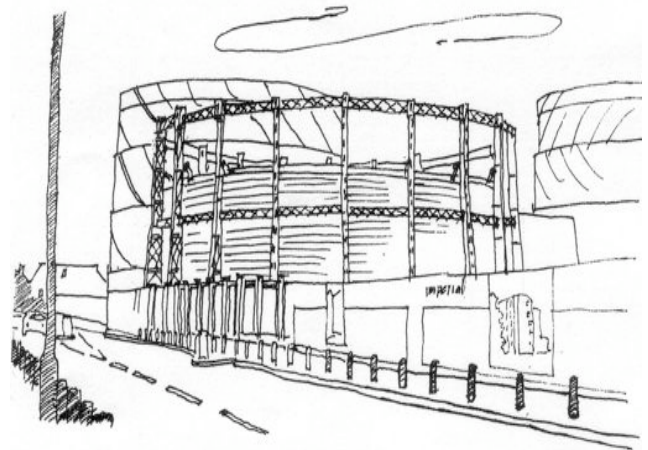
Montague Burton, the Tailor of Taste

New Group committee member John Sheppard has been

investigating the story of Burtons' shops in London. Our borough has two buildings which began life as branches of Burton's, the family firm which was once were the world's biggest tailor: 8 King Street, on the corner with Hammersmith Grove, and 312 North End Road, on the corner with Haldane Road. Both are now fast-food outlets. However, cast your eyes up to first and second floors and you will find two good examples of the characteristic neo-Egyptian style of architecture favoured by the Burtons: 'modern temples of commerce' as they called them. The North End Road branch in particular commends itself: two elevations of white terracotta tiling, ionic capitals, volutes, palmettes and escutcheons with the logo at centre second floor, MONTAGUE BURTON BUILDING.

In the 1920s and 1930s the chain was expanding nationwide at an average of thirty branches a year. At its peak there were 80 Burton premises dotted around London. Half of these have disappeared completely. Of the remainder, sometimes nothing survives other than a characteristic foundation stone, always black, roughly a foot square, always incised with the same form of words, always laid by members of the Burton family, always at pavement level, and usually at each end of the frontage.

At 312 North End Road, flanking what is now a Macdonalds fire exit in Haldane Road, there is THIS STONE LAID BY BARBARA JESSIE BURTON 1931 and THIS STONE LAID BY RICHARD MONTAGUE BURTON 1931. Jessie Burton was the founder's only daughter and Richard Burton was one of the founder's three sons. At 8 King Street, flanking the side entrance in Hammersmith Grove, the stones (now overpainted grey) were laid in 1939 by Raymond Montague Burton and Stanley Howard Burton.



No. 7 Gasholder, Imperial Gasworks, c1880

The North End Road building has claims to be among the best surviving examples in London of the chain's house-style. It was recently scaffolded and has emerged with the central relief logo at last weeded. But the top of the North End Road elevation is now rough concrete instead of terracotta, and the tiling at the corner is covered by some (hopefully temporary) jury-rigged green netting, presumably put there to prevent debris falling on Macdonalds' customers.

Dated buildings in Hammersmith and Fulham

Since 1995 Group committee member John Sheppard has been walking round London searching out buildings with dates on display: dates of first stone, completion, opening, rebuilding, restoration, extension or enlargement; dates on stone plaques, rainwater heads, weathervanes, gates, clockfaces, projecting brackets, sundials and many other architectural embellishments. All are entered on a database. At the time of writing John's database has 9378 capital-wide entries, of which 354 are to be found in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The latter will be listed chronologically as a supplement to the fourth edition of the Group's *Local List*.



Dorville Row, 200-224 King Street, W6; built between 1761-64 and named after John Dorville

Among John's personal favourites in the borough are Hammersmith Bridge (1887), Fulham Fire Station (1896), the Glasshouse studios in Lettice Street (1906) and the Salutation pub in King Street (1910). But his real number one is the 1853 stone plaque on the south-west side of Fulham Palace's Fitzjames Quadrangle, the section rebuilt by Bishop Blomfield with painted diapering to echo the original 16th-century brickwork of the other three elevations.

Apart from sentiment, there is a good reason, says John, for gathering this date information: where plaques are neglected on worthwhile buildings, the database offers ammunition to chivvy owners. Two local date plaques, for example, requiring some conservation work are those on the lodge by the gate of Fulham Palace Road cemetery (1865) and on the Parson's Green Health Clinic (1957). Both have been excessively over-painted and are virtually illegible as a result. John is continuing his urban perambulations. Updates on results for our borough will appear in future newsletters.

Pubs

The Group has just heard that the planning appeal held in February for the Finnegan's Wake pub (formerly The Duke Of Cornwall) on Fulham Palace Road, built in 1933, has been dismissed on the grounds of damaging a building on the Local Register and within the Hammersmith Broadway Conservation Area. Angela Dixon and Alex Karmel gave evidence for the Group at the appeal. Included in the plans

was an alteration to the front of the building which retained many of its original features. The inspector noted that this good example of an art deco building was on the Local Register. The Group supported an amendment to the Revised UDP adding extra protection for original shop fronts. For the future, we are particularly pleased at the recognition of the status of the Local Register and the effect of the new policy on retaining original shop fronts. On another pubs matter, the Wheatsheaf in Fulham Road has made a welcome return to its old name after a spell as The Sporting Rat.

Archaeology

Last year an excavation at 31-35 Fulham High Street found shards of Roman pottery and revealed activity from the 12th century through to the 17th century, including a medieval well. The first the Group – or indeed the council and the borough archives – heard about these finds was in a call from the press. By then it was impossible to see anything as the developers were on site. As a result of this unsatisfactory situation the Group now asks that the council includes a condition in relevant planning applications that they are notified of any finds in time for the archives and interested local parties to view the finds on site.

PARKS, GARDENS AND OPEN SPACES

Memorial Gardens

A small park on the north bank of the Grand Union canal is to be rejuvenated as a memorial to 19th-century black nurse Mary Seacole. The park is next to Mitre Bridge, which crosses the Grand Union Canal at its intersection with Scrubs Lane and the West London railway line. It is also very near to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery where Mary is buried. Born in 1805, Mary Seacole pioneered herbal remedies at a time when there were few doctors and no artificial drugs. Mary used her knowledge to great effect on the Crimean battlefields and her work parallels that of Florence Nightingale.

The memorial garden is intended to raise awareness of Mary's life and work. The park is being created through a partnership between Groundwork West London, Sustrans, the Mary Seacole Foundation, Hammersmith & Fulham Council and London's Waterway Partnership. The partnership is looking for ideas and opinions from local people who use the site or have strong feelings about how it should be developed. For more information, please contact Jo Anthony at Groundwork West London on 020 8743 3040 or email johanna@gwk-wl.org.uk.

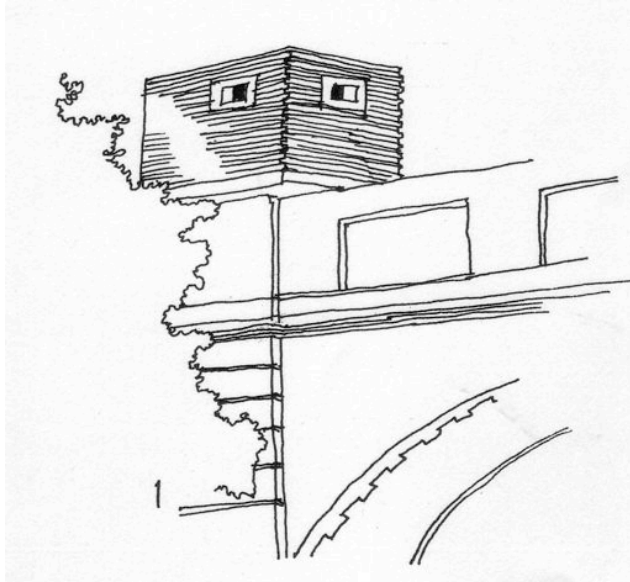
Group committee member John Goodier points out that in addition to the new Mary Seacole garden the borough has at least two existing memorial parks which have interesting if little known historical connections. The first is Gwendwr Garden on the Gunter estate. The land for the garden, which had once been tennis courts, was donated to Fulham council by the Gunter Estate in memory of people killed during World War II air raids, particularly the one on the night of 20 February 1944 when many people on the Gunter estate itself lost their lives. The area was laid out as

a small park of just under an acre by the council with funds provided by Mr R G Gunter. The park was opened in July 1948 and named Gwendwr Garden after the Welsh home of the Gunter family. The park has a sunken area with formal pond, an area of lawn with specimen trees and some shrub planting. A statue which once graced it – *Meditation* by Cawthra – has unfortunately disappeared, but the commemorative plaque remains. The park forms a quiet oasis between the North end Road and Talgarth Road.

Less than a quarter of a mile away on the west side of North End Road is another memorial park. This one was opened in 1987 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Marcus Garvey, the inspirational Jamaican politician, who died in Fulham in 1940. The park is made up of two adjoining areas. The first, coming from North End Road, is formally laid out with trees and seats. The second, near the Avonmore youth centre, has play areas and equipment and is designed for children and young people. This part of the park was refurbished last year, and a small amphitheatre and steel sculpture-cum-shelter added. Across the back of the top of the amphitheatre is set the phrase 'Follow in the Footsteps', a reference to Dr Garvey's work. The footsteps idea is taken further by setting bricks with shoeprints of local people into the edging of the paths.

St Peter's Square Gardens

Hard work by St Peter's Residents Association (SPRA) and its garden committee chairman Oliver Leigh-Wood has been recognised in two recent awards to the public gardens in the middle of St Peter's Square. The London Gardens Society awarded the garden a Certificate of Entry for the cultivation of flowers and shrubs, and London in Bloom presented a certificate in recognition of the efforts made towards enhancing London's green environment. The work was part-funded by SPRA with matching funding coming



The pill box by Putney railway bridge, c1940, is the only one in the borough, and is listed in the Local Register

from the council. Matching funding may well be available for other projects, so if you have a public open space that you would like to restore or improve for the benefit of the local community, bear this possible source of income in mind.

Wormwood Scrubs Local Nature Reserve

The council recently announced the creation of the borough's first local nature reserve. The 13-hectare site is on Wormwood Scrubs and is notable for its bio-diversity. Groundwork West London, who are responsible for the site, have employed Jason Smyth as its guardian. Jason is now hard at work turning the area into a beacon for the preservation and study of nature in the urban environment. The reserve supports a range of species, including birds, butterflies and lizards. Jason plans to develop their habitats and create new areas for them by putting up new nest boxes and planting hedgerows. He also wants to extend the lizard habitat by clearing a new south-facing bank for them. For more details, including a map of the area, see the new Scrubs website at www.groundwork.org.uk/london/scrubs/home.htm.

HISTORICAL FEATURE

The Story of White City

The White City exhibition site has a long history stretching back almost a hundred years. In the middle of the 19th century the success of the Great Exhibition of 1851 set a fashion for gigantic extravaganzas. In the opening years of the 20th century Hungarian-born Imre Kiralfy was the acknowledged king of the pre-television age spectacular. To begin with he made do with Olympia and Earl's Court as venues, though they were little more than glorified sheds. After a while he began to hanker after somewhere grander, somewhere more exotic, somewhere, in fact, like the Great Exhibition's magnificent Crystal Palace. In 1905 he found 80 acres of farmland in Shepherd's Bush and drew up plans for a completely new exhibition site, four times as big as Earl's Court and incorporating numerous palaces, an athletics ground and tracks for cars and bicycles.

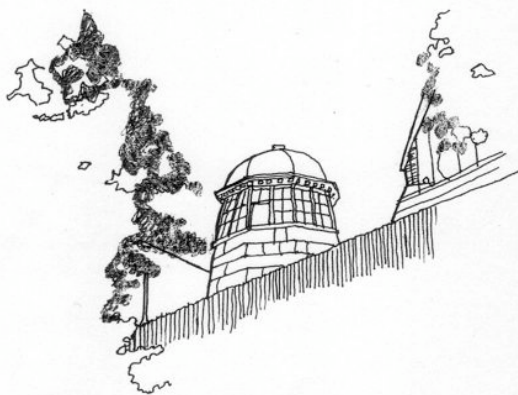
Meanwhile, on the international stage, the arms race and Germany's expansion had led to the rapprochement between England and France known as the Entente Cordiale. Ever alert to the commercial possibilities of political alliances, the French Chamber of Commerce came up with the idea of an Anglo-French exhibition to celebrate the new friendship and to promote trade and understanding between the two countries. In the City, a group of public figures headed by the Duke of Argyll set about raising money and support for the exhibition. It had been agreed that it would be held in London since Paris had staged a huge international fair just a few years before. On another international stage – this time sport rather than politics – Rome had just had to pull out of staging the next Olympic Games, having been unable to raise the necessary cash. Britain was invited to step in and play host instead. In some magical fashion all these threads came together in 1906 and it was decided that Kiralfy's new exhibition ground with its planned athletics facilities would be the venue for both the Franco-British exhibition and the Olympic Games, and that they would both take place in the summer of 1908.

The whole project was rightly billed as 'one of the most remarkable enterprises of modern times'. Work on the site, expanded to 140 acres, started in January 1907 and was

virtually complete by the time the exhibition opened in May 1908. There were 20 'palaces' for displays, including three vast machinery halls covering a total of eight acres, a lake, canals and cascade, and numerous amusements and side shows including a helter-skelter, a Canadian scenic railway and the star of the show, the flip-flap, two crane-like arms with viewing boxes at the end which rose up 200 feet above the ground in great arcs, crossing at the high point. Everything was designed in a florid Oriental style and finished in white-painted stucco, hence the popular name White City. At night – the gates didn't shut until 11pm – coloured lights picked out the buildings and illuminated the cascade, turning the whole amusement park-cum-trade fair into an Arabian Nights fairyland.

The closest underground entrance was the new station on Wood Lane built by the Metropolitan Line especially for the exhibition. But the main entrance was at Shepherd's Bush, adjacent to the Central Line station. From here, visitors walked through half a mile of hangar-like exhibition halls, raised on stanchions 30 feet above the railway and goods yards beneath, to the main site, which was north of the Metropolitan Line and west of Wood Lane. Here a feast of goodies from France and Britain and their worldwide colonies awaited them.

The Olympics started in July. The huge stadium, capable of accommodating 150,000 people, was not quite as well filled. The host country won over 50 gold medals, more than twice as many as its nearest rivals, the US. (Not surprisingly, these Olympics were the last at which the host country was also allowed to run the events!) The highpoint was the finish of the marathon. The little Italian, Pietri Dorando, came into the stadium first, but collapsed. Officials helped him up and he carried on, but then collapsed again. Having been helped up a second time, he succeeded in crossing the finishing line, only to be disqualified for accepting assistance! As compensation, the Queen gave him a special gold cup. Perhaps she felt slightly responsible, having asked for the course to be extended by 365 yards so that the finishing line was in front of the royal box.



The cupola of the old cinema at Walham Green, Fulham Broadway

By the time the exhibition closed in September, 8.5 million people had passed through the turnstiles. 'There can be no

doubt', concluded one newspaper, 'that generally speaking the Exhibition has been a success. It has encouraged trade, it has materially added to the gaiety of the metropolis, it has acted as an educational force to millions of visitors, and it has done much to cement the cordial relations existing between ourselves and our neighbours across the Channel.' It had also sparked a mini-boom in Shepherd's Bush and knocked 2d in the pound off Hammersmith's rates.

After the success of the 1908 Franco-British exhibition, many other countries expressed interest in participating in future events. The following year the Imperial International Exhibition was held, and after that the Japan-British, the Coronation (George V was crowned in 1911), the Latin-British, and in 1913 the National Gas Exhibition and Congress. 1914 was the year of the Anglo-American Exhibition, another great extravaganza featuring huge replicas of the Panama Canal, New York City and the Grand Canyon. Having opened in May as usual, it was unfortunately brought to a premature close on 11 August by the outbreak of world war a week before. As it turned out, the Anglo-American was the last exhibition to be held at White City. During the war the government took over the site. New recruits to the army were given both their medical examinations and then their basic training here before being sent abroad to fight. In some of the largest halls aeroplanes were built.

After the war the government hung on to the stadium and the raised walkway halls between Shepherd's Bush and Wood Lane, but returned the actual White City to the Exhibition Company. Perhaps because of the experience of the war, the national mood had changed and there was no longer a demand for the kind of extravaganzas which had once been so popular. White City was therefore never used again, except when the Empire Marketing Board mounted its displays in the Court of Honour during the British Industries Fair in 1927-29. In 1936 Hammersmith council bought the north-west section of the site and built blocks of flats on it. Colonial names were given to the roads because this section had been the site of the colonies' exhibition halls in the original 1908 exhibition. Later on, the council acquired other parts. One, incorporating the original exhibition garden, was developed into modern Hammersmith Park. Another – the site of the original Royal Entrance and the Palace of Fine Art – was covered with houses in the 1970s. The area to the south of these houses was bought by the BBC in 1949 and used for their new television centre, opened in 1960.

Meanwhile the Greyhound Racing Association had taken over the former Olympic stadium in 1926. By the 1980s the name White City was synonymous with the dogs. But other events were also held in the arena, for example the British Empire Games in 1934, the First International Horse Show in 1947, a Billy Graham rally in 1954, and a France-Uruguay World Cup tie in 1966. In 1940 the stadium was taken over by the army once more and used as a temporary reception centre for thousands of troops evacuated from Dunkirk. Now, of course, the building has been demolished and replaced by the new BBC headquarters, but you can still trace its rounded southern end in the curve of White City Road.

The third part of the original exhibition ground – the raised halls forming a walkway between Shepherd's Bush Central Line tube station and Wood Lane – was used for the British Industries Fair mentioned earlier. Organized by the Department of Overseas Trade and then the Board of Trade, the fairs were held at Shepherd's Bush every year from 1921 to 1937, except for 1925, the year of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and 1930, when the fair moved to Olympia after complaints from buyers and exhibitors about draughty halls and the amount of walking necessary. After 1930 the main part of the fair remained at Olympia, but the textile industry section continued to use Shepherd's Bush. During the last war the government moved in once more and set up parachute factories in the halls. Afterwards, a production company built film and TV scenery in them.

Today, five out of the original seven halls survive. They are clearly visible now that the White City site has been cleared for development. If you want a closer look go into Sterne Street behind Shepherd's Bush tube station. Here you can walk along the cobbled roads beneath the floors of the halls 30 feet above. The original white entrance to the halls next to Shepherd's Bush tube station also still survives, though it has long since been shorn of its extravagant stucco decoration. It was designed by Frenchman René Patouillard-Demoriane, one of the 20 architects responsible for the original Franco-British exhibition ground. At their other end, the halls joined up with the Wood Lane tube station. This was the main entrance into White City and it too still survives, although no trains have called at it since 1959. Outside it has been painted all over in a sort of muddy red colour, but you can still make out its name and the word 'underground' on the façade.



85 Richford Street, W6, built c1938 with a green pantiled roof: we hope it will soon be on the Local Register

STOP PRESS – OLYMPIA LISTED

We are delighted to report that the Olympia Exhibition Halls with their associated function rooms have been statutorily listed. The Grand Hall and the associated minor hall, designed by Henry Edward Coe, were built as the National Agricultural Hall in 1885 and subsequently renamed Olympia. The National Hall, an annex of 1923, is by Holman and Goodharn. Olympia Two, built as the Empire Hall in 1929, is by Joseph Emberton. The listing notes that 'Olympia has played an important role in the history of exhibitions and has been the venue for many important exhibitions and events, notably equestrian shows.'

In Memoriam

We record with great sadness the death of two long-standing supporters of the Group: Harry Johnston, who led the campaign to preserve the art deco character of Baron's Keep; and Leslie Smith, who had been a member and most generous supporter of the Group from its foundation in 1987 until his recent death. We express our gratitude for all their hard work and loyal support over the years.

The Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group, established in 1987, promotes the preservation and enhancement of the borough's heritage of buildings of architectural and historic interest, their settings, and of open spaces.

The Group believes in the 'Power of Place' and is concerned with all aspects of the historic environment including conservation areas and other historic areas; open spaces, historic parks, gardens and squares; the canal and the river; landscape and views; and the public realm including street furniture and signage as well as historic buildings and their settings.

The Group is consulted by the Council on planning applications for historic buildings and conservation areas. It makes representations to Government and other national bodies on matters concerning the historic environment.