



HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HISTORIC BUILDINGS GROUP

Newsletter



No. 13 Autumn 2005

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. The centrepiece is our chairman's report, to be presented to members at our annual meeting on 6 October. We also have fascinating articles about the New Trafalgar Dispatch, William Parnell park, the bull in King Street, historic cemeteries, and, most importantly, Emery Walker House at 7 Hammersmith Terrace. The fate of this house, our very own Arts & Crafts jewel, hangs in the balance and must be decided this year.

FULHAM PALACE RESTORATION STARTS

After years of development and months of delay, work on the first phase of the restoration of Fulham Palace started in July. The work will cost £4 million and last a year. During this time the function facilities will be closed. The grounds and walled garden will remain open as normal. The museum will open only on weekend afternoons. The main Tudor courtyard will be open on weekdays – subject to the odd closure as building work requires – but close at weekends. Phase 2 may start as early as 2007 if the necessary funding is secured by then. For updates, visit the council website and click on Fulham Palace Museum in section F of the A-Z listing at the top of the home page. To check exact museum opening times, ring 020 7736 3233.

Scott Cooper, Project Director, Fulham Palace

DISPATCHES FROM TRAFALGAR

You might think there is no obvious connection between Hammersmith and Fulham and the Battle of Trafalgar, a pivotal event in both British and world history. In fact there are two interesting links.

The first relates to the news of the battle. After the death of Lord Nelson in the hour of victory on 21 October 1805, Vice Admiral Collingwood succeeded him as commander in chief. Within a few hours of the end of the battle a westerly gale arose, threatening to drive the enemy's surviving ships on to the rocks at Cape Trafalgar. Collingwood's immediate concern was to save the ships and rescue their crews. It was thus only on 26 October – five days after the battle – that he was in a position to send his famous first report on the battle back to the government in London. The dispatch was entrusted to the care of Lt John Lapenotiere, commander of HM Schooner *Pickle*, for delivery as soon as possible to William Marsden, secretary of the navy in London.

Lapenotiere sailed into Falmouth on the morning of 4 November. By noon he was en route for London, travelling in a post chaise along the old coaching road to the capital. By changing horses regularly – 21 times in all

– the lieutenant managed to maintain a remarkable speed for the time. His last change was made at Hounslow at about 15 minutes before midnight on 5 November. Lapenotiere then drove on through Isleworth, Brentford, Chiswick and Hammersmith, passing along King Street about 25 minutes past midnight on 6 November. Continuing on through Kensington and Westminster and skirting the old royal coaching stables in the area now occupied by Trafalgar Square, he arrived at the Admiralty in Whitehall at 1 am after a road journey of 37 hours and 271 miles.

Despite the lateness of the hour, navy secretary Marsden was still hard at work in the Admiralty boardroom, which still exists. Lapenotiere apparently announced to him: 'We have won a great victory, but we have lost Nelson'. Marsden immediately roused the first lord of the admiralty, Lord Barham, who ordered the Admiralty clerks to make copies of the dispatch. One was delivered to William Pitt, the prime minister, in Downing Street, by 3 am and another to King George III at Windsor by 7 am. It was thus more than two weeks after the battle that the news of the victory and the fact of Lord Nelson's death became known to the government in London.

The passage of the Trafalgar dispatch along King Street is our borough's first connection with the battle of Trafalgar. The second concerns the men who fought in the battle. Thousands served in the British ships, coming from every part of the country and from overseas as well. The muster lists for all the ships present at the battle are preserved at the National Archives at Kew. In these lists are the details of seven men who gave their birthplaces as either Hammersmith or Fulham when they signed up. Listed in age order, the Hammersmith men were James Douglass, 36, George Frost, 28, George Wayman, 27, William Wittick, 24, and John Kelly, 21; the Fulham men were Thomas Flowers, 41, and William Twitchen, 24.

John Kelly was a Royal Marine. The rest were all ordinary sailors. Interestingly, three of the sailors – Douglass, Wittick and Twitchin – all served on HMS *Colossus*, a new 76-gun two-decker launched at Deptford in 1803. *Colossus* suffered higher casualties than other British ships at Trafalgar, with 40 dead and 160 wounded. One of the wounded was James Douglass, who suffered injuries to his right leg.

Douglass married a Hammersmith lady at Fulham (presumably at All Saints) in 1816. Ten years later, by which time he was 60, he was awarded a Greenwich Hospital pension in recognition of his 11-year naval

career – and perhaps also because of the wounds he had sustained at Trafalgar. In March 1810 Marine John Kelly was discharged because of ‘derangement of intellect’. He was only 26 at the time. Perhaps his illness was something to do with his experiences during the battle five years before. Further research may reveal what became of the other men.

As part of the Trafalgar 200 celebrations, the journey taken by the original Trafalgar dispatch is being commemorated by a recreation and the presentation of a New Trafalgar Dispatch to towns along the route. Hammersmith’s turn comes on 7 September, when the post chaise, horses and the actor playing Lapenotiere will arrive in St Peter’s Square W6 around 1.00pm. The procession will assemble on the west side of the square and leave about 1.45pm for the presentation of the dispatch to the mayor outside the town hall about 2.15pm. Afterwards a special Trafalgar Way plaque will be unveiled on the Salutation Inn at 154 King Street. Mounted police and other supporting groups like sea scouts and horse rangers will help make the occasion a colourful, fun pageant for all the family. More information will be published in the Council magazine, *HFM*, nearer the time.

Bill White, New Trafalgar Dispatch

HAMMERSMITH’S ARTS & CRAFTS JEWEL

‘There is now no other Morris interior in London to equal it... and the way the walls are hung with a mixture of photographs, watercolours and illuminated manuscripts and the way the twinkling light from the Thames at the bottom of the garden shines on the blues and greens of Morris papers and fabrics and old brown hand-made furniture, leads one in to a kingdom that can never be created again. This house and its contents must be preserved.’

For anyone with more than a passing interest in the Arts & Crafts movement these words will no doubt strike a chord. How could an interior associated with William Morris, a figure whose followers around the world now number in their millions, be under threat? But the words quoted above are even more remarkable when one learns that they were written more than 40 years ago, that the writer was John Betjeman, and that the danger that all this might be lost is still very real.

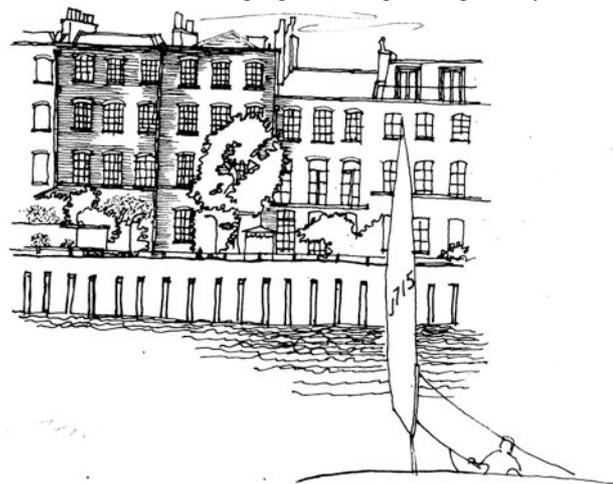
The interior in question is in Hammersmith Terrace, hidden inside a tall, slightly austere Georgian riverside house, only a few hundred yards upstream from William Morris’s own London home, Kelmscott House. From 1903 to 1933 it was the home of Emery Walker (1851-1933, *left*), the man who inspired and advised Morris in his last great project, the Kelmscott Press. Towards the end of

his life Morris said that he ‘did not think the day complete without a sight of Emery Walker’. Walker



fulfilled a similar role of friend and supporter to that other bulwark of the Arts & Crafts movement, Philip Webb, who designed Red House in Bexleyheath for Morris when he first got married. When Webb died in 1915 he left all his possessions to Emery Walker.

As a result of these friendships, Walker’s home contains an unrivalled collection of furnishings and mementoes from the key figures of the Arts & Crafts movement. There are woven hangings and rugs designed by Morris



7 Hammersmith Terrace (extreme left): the Georgian terrace home of Morris’ great friend, Emery Walker

for his own home, plan chests, cabinets, bookcases and glasses designed by Webb for himself or for Morris, as well as choice pieces of furniture and metalware by Cotswolds artists such as Ernest Gimson and the Barnsley brothers. Every room in the house has original Morris wallpaper, the only house in the world of which this can be said.

The survival of the interior at 7 Hammersmith Terrace is in some ways a testament to the affection Walker inspired in people, including his own family. At his death in 1933 he left the house to his only daughter Dorothy, who never married. Dorothy was a great enthusiast for the Arts & Crafts movement, had grown up with Morris and Webb and venerated her father’s memory. As a result she strove to keep the house as it had been in his lifetime, a mission that was pursued by her companion, Elizabeth de Haas, who arrived in Hammersmith in 1948. Miss de Haas inherited the house in 1963 and devoted the following 36 years of her life to preserving the interior and trying to secure its future after her death. In the early 1990s she sold Emery Walker’s library of private press books to Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, which has the best Arts & Crafts collection outside the V&A, in order to set up a charitable trust, the Emery Walker Trust, to acquire the house on her death. The trustees are all nominated by relevant institutions such as the V&A and the Art Workers Guild.

Since the Emery Walker Trust inherited the house in 1999, it has undertaken essential works to the structure and services, and had the textiles treated to arrest the work of moth and carpet beetle. In keeping with its remit

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HISTORIC BUILDINGS GROUP

Chairman's Report

August 2005

We have had another busy year. The Lots Road inquiry lasted for over a month early in the year and the Group was represented every day. The planning regime set up under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 1994, billed as 'simpler and quicker', is in fact very complicated and has already involved considerable time. The survey of public sculpture in the borough is completed and a copy of the three volumes covering over 220 sculptures is now in the borough archives. Streetscape and landscaping have become major issues, including illegal advertisements and inadequate landscaping of the public realm. We have continued to research for the next edition of our *Local List*, to respond to planning applications and to contribute detailed work on conservation area profiles.

LOTS ROAD AND CHELSEA CREEK

The Lots Road inquiry lasted for over a month in the spring and the Group, represented by the chairman, worked closely with other local groups who were objecting to the scheme. These groups included the Chelsea Harbour Residents' Association, the Lots Road Action Group, the Chelsea Society and the West London River Group. The chairman gave detailed evidence on the effects of the proposal on the Sands End conservation area and the views along the river. The inquiry coincided with the Turner, Whistler, Monet exhibition at Tate Britain which the inspector himself went to see. Through their evocative paintings of the river at Chelsea, Turner and Whistler demonstrated the beauty of the Thames and became in effect silent witnesses for the modern objectors by showing what damage the scheme would do to river views. Key issues were, one, the appropriateness of two very tall buildings (25 storeys and 37 storeys) at the mouth of Chelsea Creek intruding on views of the power station and, two, the importance of context for a building. The developer lauded Sir Terry Farrell's design for the quality of its architecture. The objectors' basic case was that 'a good building in the wrong place is not a good building'. The decision is expected in November. Those giving evidence very much appreciated the support given by members who attended the inquiry.

CONSERVATION AREAS

This year we have worked on the drafts of several conservation area profiles and are pleased that the Council has accepted the bulk of our suggestions. We have also commented on the final versions of St Mary's Cemetery and Barons Court, both of which are now in printed form and available from the Council. We contributed a lot of research to the Imperial Square conservation area profile and are delighted that the Council has accepted our recommendation to extend the

conservation area to include the historic part of the Imperial Gasworks site in Sands End. We are particularly pleased at this recognition of the importance of industrial archaeology.

LANDSCAPING

The setting of buildings and their landscaping has become a major issue during the year. The Group is very lucky to have landscape architect Nick Fernley on its committee. Nick is able to give us professional advice on what is possible and practical, and we are very grateful to him for it.

The usual problem we encounter is that decisions on landscaping – which is widely regarded by developers as secondary to the development itself – are left until late in the planning process by which time so many other things have been fixed that there is little room for change or improvement. The former **Hammersmith Pumping Station** is a good recent example. Here the landscaping was reserved when the main decision was made. When the scheme came back to committee for landscaping decisions, we thought that the developer's proposals were inadequate. They failed to take into account the public views from outside the site, which had been of considerable concern at the earlier consultation. Working with the Hammersmith Society, we have won



The mortuary chapel of Conde de Bayona Maroni de Misa in St Mary's Roman Catholic cemetery, Kensal Green (see left and page 7)

improvements to the scheme, but now fixed parameters such as the footprint of new buildings, underground pipes and the positioning of bicycle racks have severely limited the possibilities for tree planting. Landscaping is an important part of any development; yet it is also a very small part of the cost. We consider that it should be given attention at a much earlier stage, especially in relation to the public realm. Space should be designed in from the start

to allow for the planting of significant trees and for the natural spreading of their roots and canopies.

The Group was concerned at the uncared-for boundary between **Fulham Football Club and Bishop's Park**. We successfully argued for a landscaping improvement as

planning gain for the new stand, but were very disappointed at the unimaginative scheme proposed by the club. Nick Fernley prepared an alternative scheme which was accepted and subsequently planted. Sadly, it has not been maintained and some plants have died. We trust they will be replaced in the autumn planting season.

Fulham Football Club's current application for extending the Hammersmith stand will have a marked effect on **Stevenage Park**. Again Nick Fernley has prepared a modest but practical improvement plan which we hope will be accepted. We will be pressing the importance of landscaping on the Council in the consultation on the new Local Development Framework (LDF).

THE RIVER

The work to restore **Broomhouse Drawdock** and open up this public access point to the river once again is almost completed. Sadly, the archaeological investigation did not reveal any more of the old causeway under the concrete. However, we now have a steady slope down to the water as in the early photographs. We hope that what remains of the causeway will be restored in a further phase of work.

The first of the planned **information boards** along the river went up in the open space between the Old Ship pub and Hammersmith Terrace in time for this year's university boat race. It has been well received and so far – at the time of writing – has survived attention by vandals. The Group worked with the Council on the prototype and provided the historical information in conjunction with the Archives. It identifies landmarks and has historical and ecological information. Considerable effort has gone in to establishing a design and style which could be used as a template for future boards along the riverside. The opinions of Group members would be welcome before we start on the next information boards.

NEW PLANNING LEGISLATION

In last year's report I referred to the major changes that were taking place to the planning system and the concern about how the mayor was interpreting his London Plan, which is the strategic planning guidance for London. Our concern had increased during the year. The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is still the statutory development plan for the borough until the LDF, now evolving, takes over in 2008. However, at the Lots Road inquiry the mayor appeared to support the argument that policies in the London Plan to 'build dense and build high' took precedence over all other policies in the London Plan and the local UDPs. The mayor supports the Allied Carpets site application (258-264 Goldhawk Road W12) and in doing so ignores overwhelming objections on the grounds of non-conformity with other UDP policies and damage to the Ravenscourt conservation area. The appeal is scheduled for June next year. The Group will appear at the inquiry and give detailed evidence on the Ravenscourt Conservation Area.

The new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act stresses the need for the community to be involved at an early

stage in development schemes. This is so far more noted in the breach than the observance, but the White City opportunity area is a good example of early consultation. The Group was part of the first stakeholder's forum on the thinking for the master plan for this large area in north Hammersmith. We will continue to contribute to this. On another occasion recently we were invited to a 'consultation' which was just to 'explain' what was already a planning application. Not exactly 'early' or 'consultation' in our view!

The procedure for drafting the LDF, a portfolio of new planning documents, is under way. The Statement of Community Involvement was published in June and there will be consultation on Issues and Options in the autumn. The Group will be responding to these in detail as it is vital that the policies on the environment that have evolved in the borough over a long period and are widely supported should be maintained.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH AND WHITE CITY

The work on improvements to the streetscape around Shepherds Bush Common continues and is very welcome. Shepherds Bush is an individual part of the borough retaining a strong character of its own. This was recognised recently in the 'Clone Towns' report, which rated Shepherd's Bush far more highly for its individuality than many other parts of London, including Hammersmith and Fulham centres. The Council is now



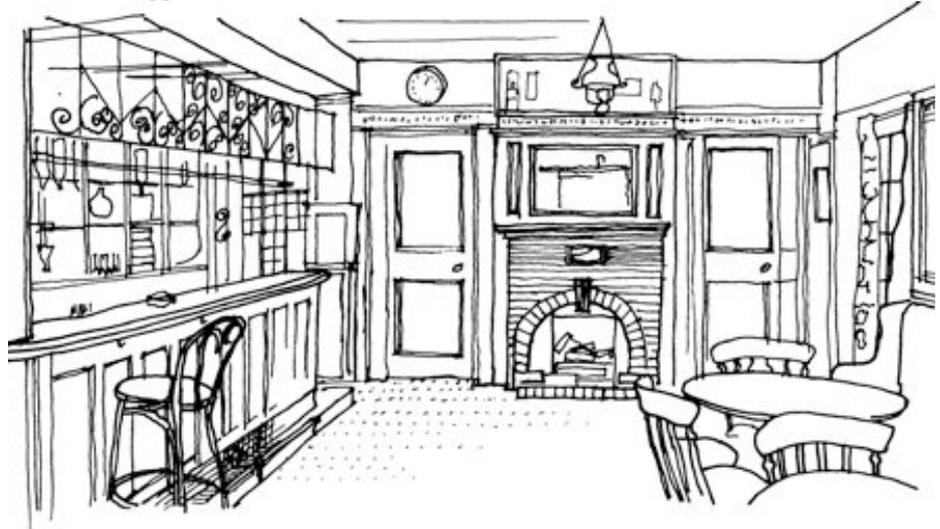
The Campbell family vault in St Mary's Roman Catholic cemetery at Kensal Green (see pages 3 and 7)

considering introducing a building improvement grant scheme for the parade of shops on Uxbridge Road to the north of the common. This parade is an eclectic mix of period and style. We have long advocated restoration of its frontage and we welcome the present grant idea with one caveat, that the improvements reflect the character of each building and do not try to make the parade a run of identical or even similar shop fronts as has been done elsewhere in London. We would be opposed to this robust, urban street being given an 'arty' makeover!

The White City Shopping development, which includes the new underground station at Shepherds Bush, proceeds slowly under the new owners, Westfield. Completion will probably be autumn 2007 or spring 2008. There is no further news about incorporating the early London Transport sign from the original Wood Lane Station frontage into the new station to be built in Wood Lane. We continue to press for this, along with the completion of the terrace of cottages in Shepherds Bush Place and the re-creation of the original iconic White City Arch, perhaps as a smaller scale replica to provide both a visual clue to the origin of the area's name and a monument to the first London Olympics held at White City in 1908.

PUBS

The Group is delighted that the **Hope and Anchor** in Macbeth Street W6 has been listed Grade II. This was one of the pubs recommended for listing by CAMRA because of its unspoilt 1930s' interior. We supported the listing and provided the photographic record. The listing states: 'Public house c1936 for Truman's... Particularly fine and intact example of an inter-war pub in Neo-Georgian style... The remarkably intact interior... includes the survival of plan with Public Bar to the front and the Saloon Bar to the rear. These rooms each contain their original bar counters, bar-back and panelling in polished hardwood and lettering advertising Truman's Ales. Also surviving are panelled half height screens at the entrance, a Truman's mirror and clocks, two brick fireplaces with nautical theme brick plaques, fitted seating at the perimeter and the spittoon trough in the saloon bar with chequerwork tiling'.



The 1930s' back parlour of the recently-listed Hope and Anchor pub in Macbeth Street, W6

FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

This year Fulham Football Club celebrates the centenary of its Stevenage Road stand complete with its original turnstiles. Designed by football ground specialist Archibald Leitch, the stand is now listed, as is Craven Cottage, another of Leitch's works. These are rare survivors of early football ground buildings, as the listing notes. To celebrate the centenary, Simon Inglis, author of *Engineering Archie*, a book about Leitch, is giving a lecture at the club on 13 October (*see back page for details – booking required*).

The club has recently been granted listed building consent for alterations to the roof, side façades and interior of the Stevenage Road stand. The Group had also asked for full restoration of the turnstiles and improvements to the street scene outside. We will continue to press for this.

There is also an application for extending the **Hammersmith stand** to accommodate more hospitality facilities. This involves increasing the height by 3 metres and extending the footprint to the boundary with the park. The Group is concerned at the **effect on Stevenage Park and the Riverside**. The increase in size will add to the overwhelming effect of the stand and increase shade in the park – an unneighbourly development.

STREETSCAPE

The borough's new **Streetscape Design Guide** has not yet been published. However we are very pleased that ahead of its publication the Council has started to make improvements to the streetscape in Hammersmith Centre and Fulham Centre along the lines of what was begun last year round Shepherd's Bush Common. Rectangular

paving – in some places York stone – good granite kerbs and simplified street furniture and signage are replacing a hotch-potch of small pavers, square paving and tarmac. However we are anxious that no **historic paving materials** should be removed in the name of uniformity.

The traditional granite cobbles, or 'pub kerbs', installed to take the weight of the barrels when unloaded from a brewer's dray, are an example. We have reminded the Council that there should be specific guidance for the **Riverside Walk** included in the design guide. As a footpath next to a nature conservation area, which should be part of a green chain along the river, it needs a different approach to a path alongside a highway. The Group has done a photo audit of the riverside walk to demonstrate what needs to be improved.

The problem of **illegal billboards** continues. The proliferation of large and intrusive advertisements often on the gable ends of buildings is damaging the street scene. Now many are not only illuminated, but also have 'balconies' extending out over the street so they are even more of an intrusion. We have had some success in getting signs removed, but we continue to press the Council to take the necessary powers to deal with these advertisements in a quicker and more effective way.

SCULPTURE SURVEY

In the last newsletter committee member John Sheppard reported on the survey of public sculpture in the borough that he had undertaken over the last two years on behalf of the Group. Now complete in three volumes, it contains 220 entries ranging from major works by Henry Moore, Leon Underwood and Sir Anthony Caro, to war memorials, reliefs on the front of civic buildings and familiar pub sculptures of red lions and cockerels. Each entry includes a photo of each sculpture and notes on the artist when known and how the works came to be where they are. Thanks to a grant from the Council, five copies have now been made, one of which is available for reference in the borough archives. John will be keeping the survey under review and producing supplements in

the future. We thank him for an amazing amount of devoted work on behalf of the Group and congratulate him on the completion of a fascinating project. We are grateful to the many people who helped John with information. Members will be able to hear all about John's work and see a copy of the survey at the annual meeting (*see below*).

BRIEF UPDATES

St Paul's Church, Hammersmith has decided to review its plans for development and is now working with Richard Griffiths Architects, designers of the extension to Southwark Cathedral. The cleaning of the interior, following the restoration of the roof and ceiling, is impressive and emphasises what a wonderful internal space it is. We are delighted the church has decided not to proceed with dividing up the interior. We await the next stage of a master plan with anticipation. The churchyard containing three listed tombs and others of interest is on the English Heritage *Buildings At Risk* register. We consider restoring these tombs a priority.



Fullers' Salutation Inn at 154 King Street, dating from 1910, will soon bear a Trafalgar Way plaque to commemorate the historic journey taken by the original Trafalgar dispatch in 1805 (see page 1)

St John's Church, Walham Green The sad state of the churchyard railings have been a shared concern of the church and the Group for some time. We welcome the proposal to restore them, straighten out the odd indentations to give a clean boundary, prune some of the trees and improve the planting in the churchyard. This church deserves a better setting than it has had in recent years and the work in the churchyard and outside in the old market place should give it that.

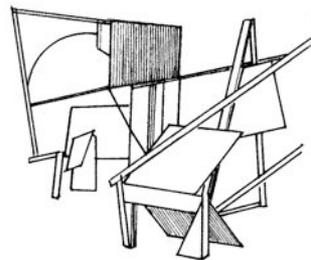
7 Hammersmith Terrace is the house lived in by both Philippe de Loutherbourg and Emery Walker (*see page 2*)

The house retains an amazing intact Arts & Crafts interior preserved from the time of Emery Walker. The Group will be working to keep the house and the contents as an historic house museum (*see article on page 2*).

Lyric Square is now completed and the fountains are giving a lot of fun to the young in the hot weather. There has been a street market in this area since the early 19th century at least. We look forward to the return of some traditional market stalls.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting this year is on 6 October at the Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College in Gliddon Road. There are full details in the mailing and we look forward to seeing you there. This year's theme is 'Sculpture' and John Sheppard will be giving us an illustrated talk on the borough's public sculpture. There will be an opportunity to see Sir Anthony Caro's *London West (right)*, which is in the grounds of the college. Designed by Bob Giles, the college is built on the site of Alfred Waterhouse's St Paul's School, opened in 1884. The Waterhouse buildings were demolished – apart from the listed High Master's House at 153 Hammersmith Road – when St Paul's moved to Barnes in the 1960s.



EVENTS

Earlier this year we had a fascinating walk round St Mary's conservation area with Vernon Farmer (*see page 7*). We also enjoyed the Hammersmith & Fulham Festival boat tour of the borough's riverside organised by the Council in association with the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea. Our newsletter editor, Dr Andy Duncan, provided an erudite commentary. More interesting events are coming up, starting with the presentation of the New Trafalgar Dispatch and unveiling of the Trafalgar Way plaque (*see picture caption opposite*) on Wednesday 7 September in King Street. In October there is a guided walk and a lecture at Fulham FC. And then in November we have the Emery Walker House symposium. Further details for all these events are on the back page.

OUR WORK

As you can see, the amount of work undertaken by the Group in research, contributing to policy and responding to proposals which affect the historic environment is considerable. I am deeply grateful to all the members who help, particularly committee members and the surveyors who work on our *Local List* of buildings. We are delighted to hear from anyone who wants to contribute to any aspect of our work.

Angela Dixon

to record and research the house, in 2002 the Trust commissioned me to catalogue the contents of the house. The research will form the basis of an illustrated catalogue to be published electronically – possibly on the Trust's website www.emerywalker.org.uk – as a definitive record of the house, its interiors and contents. Discussions are also in train for a more extended book on Emery Walker, and a conference on Walker and his house hosted jointly by the Emery Walker Trust and the Victorian Society is being held on 26 November 2005 (see back page).

In selling Emery Walker's library, Elizabeth de Haas had hoped to secure the future of the house and contents. However, the money realised by the sale – £450,000, of which the Trust still has around £350,000 – is insufficient as an endowment for the house. Consequently, last year the Trustees agreed that they needed to make a decision about the future of the house by the end of 2005, and began a consultation process to achieve this end. Last autumn they produced a consultation brief outlining six possible courses of action and took advice from a large range of heritage organisations and amenity societies.

The Trust has always been clear that its preferred option is to keep house and contents together. However, at the time the consultation brief was prepared it was equally clear that it did not see itself as a fundraising body. Transfer to a partner institution appeared to be the only practical way of saving the interior. In the year since then a number of factors have changed. As the second prong of its consultation process, the Trust opened the house to the public in 2005. Timed to coincide with the big International Arts & Crafts exhibition at the V&A, and as a result of press and television publicity, the tours were sold out before the house opened to the public. There is a waiting list of several hundred names, and the chairman of trustees has received several hundred letters from experts and ordinary visitors alike expressing the hope that house and contents can be kept together.

As a result of all this goodwill the trustees are now seriously considering a fundraising campaign in order to achieve their aim. Unfortunately it now seems unlikely that the National Trust – whose officers had visited the house several times and had been enthusiastic and supportive – will be able to acquire the house, even with an endowment, in the near future, as it has its own financial and organisational issues to address. However, it has offered detailed advice about how a small trust could keep the house going, and, given the success of the 2005 opening, this may be the only viable way to preserve this internationally important interior. The trustees would welcome any offers of support (moral or financial!) and advice, and would be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to be a volunteer guide for the 2006 season (see back page for contact details).

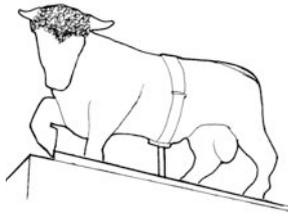
Aileen Reid, Curator, Emery Walker House

THE BLACK BULL OF HAMMERSMITH

The statue of a bull which now stands outside the Ravenscourt Arms at 257 King Street has a rather more colourful history than the simple facts in the plaques on

its plinth suggest. These plaques say that the bull originally lived on the frontage of the Black Bull in Holborn, an establishment mentioned in Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, and that when that hostelry was demolished in 1904, the statue was purchased by (solicitor and MP) Sir William Bull and brought to Hammersmith to adorn the entrance to his office. This office has now been replaced by the Ravenscourt Arms, and the bull stands alone on a ten-foot plinth between King Street and the pub frontage, which is set back some distance from the main road.

The original Black Bull was a coaching inn at 121 High Holborn. When the inn was rebuilt in 1825, the fine life-size statue of the bull, with gilt horns and hooves, and a



golden band round its body, was fixed to the front of the building, standing on a stout bracket. The year after the bull was installed, a local official (the commissioner of sewers) instructed the landlord to take it down. He

refused, whereupon the commissioner attempted to remove it himself with a storming party of over fifty men. As soon as he began work, however, the bull somehow soared majestically up to the inn's parapet, displaying a flag with the bold legend: 'I don't intrude now'. The bull won the day, and stayed in situ until the pub was demolished 78 years later.

Research in the archives of the Holborn commissioner of sewers has failed to discover *why* he would want to remove an inn sign from a first floor bracket. Perhaps it was because of the weight: when the bull was eventually taken down on 18 May 1904 it was found to weigh four and a half tons. Today our bull presents a rather sorry sight: his hide is grey rather than black, and is flaking badly. And having only come off the English Heritage *Buildings At Risk* register last year because his graffiti had been removed, he has now been sprayed with red paint again, in a rather prominent place! The Group is pressing the Council to restore him to his former glory. After his adventures over the past 180 years, this is surely the least he deserves.

John Sheppard, HBG

CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

Following the recent publication of the Council's conservation area profile for St Mary's Roman Catholic cemetery and our borough's adjacent part of Kensal Green cemetery, the Group organised a walk around the two cemeteries for members and friends on the afternoon of Saturday, 14 May 2005. The walk was led by Vernon Farmer of the Council's environment department.

Opened in 1833 by the recently formed General Cemetery Company, All Souls Kensal Green was the first commercial cemetery in London and one of the earliest cemeteries to be established in Britain. The company's plan was for a park-like layout containing catacombs, chapels, monuments and tombs amongst quiet perambulations and contemplation could take place,

following the trend started in continental cemeteries such as Paris' Père-Lachaise, opened in 1804. Nash's pupil Thomas Liddell landscaped All Souls in a style reminiscent of Regent's Park, while John William Griffith designed the cemetery's main buildings in the Greek Revival style. The quality of Liddell's work is recognised today by the cemetery's Grade II* status in English Heritage's historic parks and gardens register.

St Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, to the west of All Souls, was not opened until 1859. It was designed by Samuel J Nicholl in a rather more conservative and open style with only a few scattered mature trees. Its catacombs, chapel and lodge all show a Gothic influence. Demand for land for graves and monuments in St Mary's has been and still is so great that ground levels continue to be raised to enable burials to continue in a seemly way. The cemetery also contains 27 mausolea.

Our borough is fortunate in having the West London Crematorium and a collection of war memorials within St Mary's and its part of Kensal Green. All were inspected on the May walk, together with the seven statutory listed structures, the four locally listed buildings of merit and the other graves of noteworthy people lying within our boundary. The highlight was finding the grave of Mary Seacole, still decked with floral tributes following a ceremony earlier in the day to celebrate her bicentenary. 'Mother' Seacole was a Creole born in Jamaica who nursed soldiers in her 'British Hotel at Spring Hill', two miles from Balaclava during the Crimean War. She became known as 'the black Nightingale'.

After the tour it was generally considered that there were many unrecorded monuments and mausolea worthy of addition to both national and local lists, and that the Group would resurvey the cemeteries and put forward recommendations.

Kensington & Chelsea have produced a conservation area proposals statement for the main part of All Souls Cemetery lying within their boundary. They are also preparing a conservation management plan as part of a bid for grant aid from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to create a secure future for the cemetery. It is hoped that a partnership can be established to produce a complementary statement and management scheme for our part of All Souls and St Mary's.

Vernon Farmer, Conservation & Design Officer, LBHF

WILLIAM PARNELL PARK

In the '30s a large five-storey block of 105 flats was erected between Stephendale and Langford Roads. The front facing Stephendale had private balconies to some flats, and the back had a walk-up entry with long communal balconies. Named after the first Labour candidate for Fulham in a general election (1892), it was laid out on a large site like a loose W. After the Second World War the surrounding area was redeveloped with more blocks of flats and a small park called Langford Park. This had some play equipment for young children but was otherwise rather formal with rose beds and grass surrounded by railings. Football was not allowed. One lad's disappointment led his mother, Mrs Scriven, to campaign for an adventure playground like the one in Holland Park. This was eventually provided in the '70s. In the '80s, after the original William Parnell flats were replaced by new mixed housing, Langford Park was enlarged and redesigned to provide a toddlers area, a quiet area near the housing for the elderly, a play area for older children and grassed and paved areas. The new park – renamed William Parnell Park in 1989 – was intended to be part of the general circulation of the area, rather than a separate space. It is still much as designed and will probably be much more heavily used in the future once the old gas works land nearby has been developed.

John Goodier, HBG

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

DIARY

- 7 Sep: Trafalgar Dispatch presentation in King Street (*see page 1*)
- 17-18 Sep: Open House weekend and Thames Festival
- 6 Oct: Group's annual meeting: Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College, Gliddon Road W14. 7pm for 8pm start
- 8 Oct: 20th Century Society architecture walk led by Ian McInnes and Angela Dixon. 11am-4pm with lunch stop near Bradmore House. Meet Ravenscourt Park tube; finish Olympia station. Tickets (£15 approx) must be obtained in advance (from 19 Sep onwards) from 20th Cent Soc: 020 7250 3857 or coordinator@c20society.org.uk
- 13 Oct: Simon Inglis lecture on Archibald Leitch. Fulham FC 6.30pm. £13. Book in advance through English Heritage 0870 333 1183
- 26 Nov: symposium on future of Emery Walker House. Tickets from Victorian Soc, 1 Priory Gardens W4 1TT. 0870 774 3698. Emery Walker House contact details: Chairman, Emery Walker Trust, 7 Hammersmith Terrace W6 9TS. emerywalkertrust@hotmail.com. 020 8741 4104
- 11 Dec and 15 Dec: Hammersmith walk led by Dr Andy Duncan. Meet 11 am Hammersmith Broadway outside Tesco. £7 – just turn up. Info: 07958 656 888 or info@leglondon.co.uk

NEW LOCAL BOOK

Images of London: Shepherds Bush and White City by Jane Kimber and Anne Wheeldon of the borough archives. Tempus, £12.99. Contains over 200 archive images, many never published before

GROUP PUBLICATIONS

Local List £17 members, £20 non-members. *Bradmore House* ills, £5 inc p&p. Both available from chairman 020 8748 7416

GROUP OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

- *Chairman*: Angela Dixon, 31 St Peter's Square W6 9NW. 020 8748 7416. dixon.angela@talk21.com
- *Treasurer*: Jo Brock, Flat 12, 43 Peterborough Road SW6 3BT. 020 7731 0363
- *Planning Secretary*: Roger Warry, 4 Ravenscourt Road W6 0UC. 020 8748 1030

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual: £5.00 for individuals and £15 for groups. If you have not already done so, please send your subscription for 2005 to the treasurer. Standing order forms (preferred) from treasurer (020 7731 0363) or pick one up at October annual meeting

NEW MEMBERS

If you care about the local historic environment, please join the Group. Further info from chairman or treasurer – contact details above
WEBSITE

Is there anyone out there who can build us a simple website? Please contact the chairman if you can help

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive information from time to time between newsletters, please ensure your email address is registered with the chairman – contact details above

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

Edit and layout: Dr Andy Duncan (andy@andrewduncan.co.uk)
Illustrations: Emery Walker p2 Art Workers Guild; Caro p6, bull p7 Nick Fernley; others Roger Warry. All © 2005
Printing: DRL, 212 King Street W6. 020 8563 8300