



## No. 23 Autumn 2010

**W**elcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. As usual, the autumn issue contains a full report of the Group's activities over the past year, including our events, which have been well supported. The big news this year though is the publication of PPS 5 replacing PPG 15 and PPG 16. We are grateful to have Michael Bussell to elucidate this important new document for us. Elsewhere David Broad tells the story of his suffragette great-grandmother, John Goodier spots the local ghosts of two City churches and the Archives look back to the Japan-British exhibition of 1910 and a lost house off Wood Lane, now buried beneath Westfield.

### *Chairman's Report*

#### MAIN ISSUES

Major concerns for this past year have been the proposal for the redevelopment of Hammersmith town hall, the threat to our railway heritage, changes to planning policy and the Building Schools for the Future programme. Good news has been the confirmation of the lottery bid for Fulham Palace and Bishop's Park, new listings and a new HBG plaque.

#### Our Historic Riverside

Two of the oldest and most important historic areas in the borough are Fulham Palace and its grounds (which originally included what is now Bishop's Park) and the Hammersmith Upper and Lower Malls. The latter contain a rich array of buildings dating from the 17th century, many listed. Near the Dove pub on Upper Mall is a spectacular group of listed buildings, including Kelmscott House where William Morris lived and Sussex House, a Grade II\* house dating from 1726 (*see picture on p. 5*). E Berry Webber's splendid 1930s listed Hammersmith town hall looks across Furnivall Gardens to the river.

There is good news for Fulham Palace and Bishop's Park with the granting of the lottery application (*see below*). However, there is great anxiety about the threat to the historic Hammersmith riverside from the proposals for the town hall. At the time of writing this scheme proposes: new council offices, 320 housing units in two 14-storey tower blocks; the demolition of the 1920s

*Below: Hammersmith's listed town hall from the south-east. The proposed A4 bridge and approach ramp in Playfair Avenue will be on the west side. They will be positioned close to the town hall, which was designed as freestanding building surrounded by open space.*



cinema on the corner of King Street and Playfair Avenue and its replacement with a supermarket; the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the A4; and the demolition of the town hall extension and its replacement with an open space.

The tower blocks will be the same height as the existing (and highly intrusive) Premier Inn. But because they are wider and deeper in plan, they will be bulkier. In our opinion they will have a catastrophic effect on the views of and from the riverside and they will overwhelm the neighbouring conservation areas and surrounding streetscape. As for the bridge, we consider that with its ramp and raised walkway it will seriously damage the setting of the listed town hall, a classical composition on a grand scale designed to be freestanding. The landing of the bridge on the south side of the A4 will be very close to the listed Sussex House and the Dove and will overwhelm Furnivall Gardens, a small but popular park.



*A 1905 view of 'Margate Sands' in Bishop's Park, set to be recreated as part of the Bishop's Park upgrade.*

The welcome removal of the town hall extension and its replacement with an open space is used as justification for this overblown scheme, which has grown way beyond the original planning brief and which, we believe, will cause irreparable harm far outweighing any gain. This is clearly going to be a major issue for the coming year. We are working with the Hammersmith Society and other local amenity groups who are opposed to the scheme in its present form.

### **Fulham Palace and Bishop's Park**

The Group was delighted that the lottery bid for improvements to Bishop's Park and phase 2 of the restoration of Fulham Palace was approved. We have long been concerned about the future of the walled garden and are pleased that the bothy and vinery, both of which are on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register, are to be restored. We also welcome the plan to dig out part of the moat on either side of the moat bridge at the entrance to the palace. We look forward to more of the moat being dug out in the future, when funding is available, and to the possibility of some at least of the moat being in water. We hope that it will be possible in the current phase of restoration to indicate the route of the filled-in moat on the ground with some kind of permanent marker.

Improvements to Bishop's Park include the restoration of the ornamental pond and wooden bridge, the café building and the terracotta balustrade together with a reconstruction of the Edwardian 'Margate Sands' (*see picture left*).

A welcome improvement already taking place is the demolition of the derelict changing rooms and the reinstatement of the path next to Fulham Football Club.

### **Archaeology**

Archaeology has featured in our work in the last year (*see details in last newsletter*). An excavation has recently been taking place at St Paul's church, Hammersmith, where the new extension is being built over part of the old graveyard. We hope to have a full report in our next newsletter.

### **Railway Heritage**

Following the concerns reported in our last newsletter about the railway heritage at Old Oak Common, the Group had a most interesting and useful site visit, courtesy of Crossrail, to the former Great Western Railway locomotive depot opened in 1906. We were joined by representatives from English Heritage, the council and the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society, and guided by members of Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) who are compiling an assessment report on the site and its surviving buildings and structures for Crossrail. We saw the last remaining turntable, which we were told is to be moved to the preserved Swanage Railway for continued use, and we looked into a number of buildings, including the 'Factory', a maintenance shed depicted on the cover of our last newsletter. The Group was reassured to see that the recording levels being proposed by PCA were appropriate for the particular buildings and other features that we saw. At the time of writing we await sight of their assessment report.



*The one remaining locomotive turntable in the old Great Western depot at Old Oak Common in the north of the borough. The turntable pit is from 1906 when the depot opened. The large two-bayed building in the middle distance is the 'Factory', the Great Western's maintenance shed depicted on the cover of our last newsletter. The site now belongs to Crossrail.*

## Planning Policy

A major new **Planning Policy Statement PPS 5** on the Historic Environment has been published (*see article on page 5*). This replaces PPG15, 'Planning and the Historic Environment', and PPG16, 'Archaeology and Planning'. It is an improvement on the draft document of which we, along with most other heritage organisations, were critical. We wait to see how effective it will prove to be. We are pleased about the emphasis on recording, something that as members know we have been supporting for a long time, and the guidance that copies of research documents should be sent to local archives. We also welcome the recognition of 'artistic interest' as one criterion for acceptance as part of our built heritage. This would cover public sculpture.

The long running and detailed work on the **Draft Replacement London Plan** continues. We are pleased that the Group was called to give verbal evidence to the examination in public on heritage issues including the policies on 'local distinctiveness', heritage assets, archaeology, heritage-led regeneration and high buildings and views.

## Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

During the year **new listings** were Peterborough School and the current Queensmill School, which share the Clancarty Road site, and Queen's Manor School (previously called Queensmill) on Lysia Street, both now listed Grade II.

There was one addition to the **Buildings at Risk Register**: Wormholt Library and Infant Welfare Centre, Hemlock Road, W12. The Group was instrumental in getting this listed and we shall continue to press for its restoration. We continue to be concerned about 34 Black Lion Lane W6, where restoration work started and then stopped. Kent House railings have at last been reinstated.

**Sale of Listed Buildings** The council has announced its intention to dispose of further listed buildings it owns. Previously the ex-St Paul's high master's house in Hammersmith Road, the Castle Club and Wormholt Library had been put up for sale. The Group is concerned



*Starch Green may not get its pond back (as shown here in this 1906 view), but we are hopeful that the historic junction of Askew Road and Goldhawk Road can one day be 'green' again.*

that these listed buildings should be fully restored by their new owners and that civic buildings like Fulham Town Hall and Hammersmith Library should retain some kind of public use as they are symbols of civic pride.

Our work on the **Local Development Framework** continues. We hope that the final core strategy will support heritage-led regeneration and include enhancement of our conservation areas.

Another **HBG plaque** was unveiled this year on Townmead Road School (*picture in last newsletter*). We are very pleased at the interest these are plaques are creating and have others in the planning stage. The picture here shows mayor Alex Karmel with the late councillor Antony Lillis, cabinet member for children's services, at last year's



unveiling of our D-Day plaque at the old St Paul's School site in Hammersmith Road on the event's 65th anniversary. Sadly, Antony died shortly after. Antony was a good friend to the Group and supported our work of recording and commemorating the past for the benefit of the present and the future. Before his early death we were discussing a 'living history' project with him, which would have recorded local people's first-hand memories of their life and experiences in the borough and elsewhere during the last world war and in some rare cases in the First World War. Children would learn history from those who had lived it. Antony is much missed.

## OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE

We welcome the higher priority being given to our parks and open spaces, many of which have a long history (*see report in last newsletter*). It is important that landscaping plans take into account the history of an open space or park and its historic character and if relevant its original design. We share the concerns of the Friends of Furnivall Gardens about the effect of the proposals for the Hammersmith town hall redevelopment scheme on that open space.

Sadly I reported last year we had to object to the plans for **Shepherd's Bush Common** because they would change the historic character of the common. We still hope the borough will make amendments before referring the proposals to DEFRA. The Common has the historic character of a village green, not an urban park, and this character should be respected and restored. We hope that the design philosophy of 'less is more' will prevail.

We continue to press for improved green landscaping at **Starch Green** as part of the adjacent development at 282-288 Goldhawk Road so that this historic open space can again live up to its name (*see picture left*).

## Schools

During the year we have responded in detail to a number of draft planning briefs for the development of some of our historic schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme. This programme for secondary schools is now on hold because of government cuts. We hope all the work that went into masterplans will not be wasted and that when building takes place in the future, the alterations will not be piecemeal as has happened in the past.

A planning application has been made for moving Cambridge School to the Phoenix High School campus. Disappointingly, the application proposes the demolition of the **Bryony Centre** (see picture in Newsletter 21) rather than incorporating it into the new campus. The Bryony Centre is a charming, between the wars, 'village school' opened in 1931 and now used for adult education classes. It was one of the original public buildings on the Wormholt Estate. Built of red brick with clay-tile hipped roofs and timber-framed windows, it evokes the cottage image so typical of the Wormholt Estate, the conservation area and the garden suburb movement in general. We oppose its demolition.

## BRIEF UPDATES

**Large redevelopment sites** Not surprisingly in the present economic climate, many of the large, approved redevelopment schemes have not progressed since my last report. These include Hammersmith Embankment, Stewart's Garage, Lots Road, the Seagrave Road car park site and Imperial Wharf phase 3.

**NCP Car Park in Beadon Road** We have been told the 'Armadillo' will not proceed and a new application has been made for the site.

**Olympia** The 'Aparthotel' received approval on appeal, but we understand may not now be built on the lorry park next to Sir Joseph Emberton's 1929 Olympia Two building. A new planning application involves changes to the listed building.

**Palace Wharf** No further news since last year's report.

**Fulham Wharf** This has been bought by Sainsbury's and we have attended pre-application meetings along with representatives from the Fulham Society and the West London River Group. We are pleased that the classical façade is to be retained and incorporated in the new scheme for a superstore and housing with an extension of the Riverside Walk.

**The Palais** I represented the Group at the public inquiry into the proposal for the redevelopment of the Palais and am delighted that the appeal was refused. We expect another application and hope that this time (a) it will be designed to respect the surrounding historic buildings and conservation area and (b) will provide an appropriate replacement of the historic music venue which introduced jazz into this country when the Original Dixieland Jazz Band visited in 1919.

## Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year takes place on Wednesday 3 November at Holy Trinity, Brook Green, an 1851 church listed Grade II\*. The meeting will be preceded by a tour of the building – more details in the annual meeting mailing. We hope to see you there.

## Our Work

As you can see, our work is varied and considerable and always interesting. I am deeply grateful to the officers and the committee members who do so much work and also to all the members who help on individual projects. We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to join us and help with any aspect of our work.

*Angela Dixon*

## THE SIEGE OF HAMMERSMITH

For six weeks during the summer of 1906, the tow path outside No. 32 Upper Mall, Hammersmith – the home of Mrs Dora Montefiore, formidable suffragette leader and my great-grandmother – was the scene of widely-reported daily demonstrations and speeches of solidarity from suffrage groups converging from all over London. Described in newspapers at the time as 'The Siege of Hammersmith', the disturbance ended without injury, while the suffragette movement, from which Mrs Montefiore subsequently split, moved on to considerably more eye-catching and violent protests.



*Suffragettes marching on Hammersmith's Upper Mall during the siege of 'Fort Montefiore' in 1906.*

Mrs Montefiore had refused to pay her income tax so long as women did not have the vote. The 'siege' of her 'barricaded' house, 'Fort Montefiore', on the Upper Mall – if truth be told a pretty kid-gloved affair – ended on 3 July 1906 when bailiffs, having been barred entry by Mrs Montefiore and her maids since 23 May, forcibly entered using a crowbar and confiscated silver cutlery and other household items to the value of the income tax owed, some £18. Mrs Montefiore was away at the time supporting suffragettes on trial at Marylebone police

court. Her maid, also a suffragist, was present, but wisely stood by while the bailiffs entered. Less than a fortnight later Mrs Montefiore, supported by further demonstrating suffragettes, attended H.T. Eleden and Sons' Auction Rooms in Railway Approach, Goldhawk Road, and bought back everything that had been taken for some £20!

Mrs Montefiore had moved as a widow to Clare Lodge, 32 Upper Mall, in 1892 when her son began attending St Paul's School. She was wealthy: her father, Francis Fuller, was one of the instigators of the 1851 Great Exhibition and a railway line builder in Surrey and her late husband was a prosperous merchant. She had a fluent pen, acquired as her father's secretary at home and abroad, and she was a capable linguist, speaking German, French and Russian. After the death of her husband, George Barrow Montefiore, in Australia in 1889, her outrage at the legal disabilities of a widowed mother combined with the bubbling suffrage movement in New South Wales to propel her into a lifetime of political activism. Once installed on the Upper Mall, she also became devoted to the ideas of William Morris, her near neighbour for the last four years of his life.

In October 1906 she was imprisoned in Holloway for demonstrating illegally in the lobby of the House of Commons. On entering Holloway prison she wrote: 'My brothers and sisters were mostly apathetic about or hostile to my militant work, so I determined to send for no-one of my own relatives, but I was surrounded by many good friends and fellow-workers who had come to give us a word of cheer'. Shortly after, she broke with the Pankhursts, left the Upper Mall and went to spend the winter with her daughter in Italy. Thereafter she travelled ceaselessly at her own expense – to the Dominions, the United States and on the continent to attend Socialist and Communist Party congresses. In 1913 she was briefly imprisoned in Dublin for leading a campaign to transfer the children of poor Irish workers to foster homes in England. In 1915 and 1916 she worked with Voluntary Aid Detachments and French cooks in the Pas de Calais running 'Cantines des Dames Anglaises' for French soldiers resting from the trenches. After the war she was one of the co-founders of the Communist Party of Great Britain. In the summer of 1924 she attended the Moscow International Congress as a delegate of the Australian Communist Party.

Towards the end of her life Dora moved to Crowborough and then Bexhill and Hastings for her health. She died in 1933 at the age of 83. Her surviving daughter, my grandmother, led an entirely non-political life. But is it, I wonder, pure coincidence that after one of her sons, my father, was born in King Street, one of my brothers should have lived in the 1970s on the Mall for two years when teaching at Latymer and that my own house for the past 10 years after working abroad should be less than half a mile from the site of the 'Siege of Hammersmith'? Perhaps not – the pull of familiar place and local association may be stronger than we suppose...

*David Broad, Historic Buildings Group*

## PLANNING FOR THE PAST

Planning Policy Statement 5 (hereafter PPS5) has finally been published, setting out the government's planning policy on the conservation of the historic environment. It replaces the two long-established planning policy guides: PPG 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment), and PPG 16 (Archaeology and Planning). PPS5 is considerably shorter than these two documents, setting out policy and policy principles, but is complemented by a more substantial *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* published by English Heritage.

Published at almost the same time as the new PPS5 and the related *Practice Guide* was the government's *Statement on the Historic Environment for England* (2010), which embodies the vision 'that the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that government gives it proper recognition, and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation'. So this document is a statement of intent, arguing and illustrating the thesis that the historic environment does indeed have values (in diverse ways) that warrant its proper care, conservation and understanding. PPS5 refers to the government's *Statement*, and points out that 'planning has a central role to play in conserving our heritage assets and utilising the historic environment in creating sustainable places'. The historic environment policies in PPS5 are seen as enabling 'the government's vision for the historic environment as set out in the 2010 *Statement* to be implemented through the planning system, where appropriate'.



*Sussex House, the Grade II\* house of c1726 on Hammersmith Upper Mall whose setting is threatened by the Hammersmith town hall redevelopment scheme and associated plans (see above, p. 1).*

Over-used and loose words such as 'assets' and 'sustainable' grate with me, but at least we are provided with clear and encouraging definitions of some terms. A heritage asset is 'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of

significance meriting consideration in planning decisions'. Such assets can be 'designated' (world heritage site, scheduled monument, listed building, protected wreck site, registered park or garden, registered battlefield or conservation area), but they can also be 'assets identified by the local authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process (including local listing)'.

Those last three words are potentially of great importance to the HBG, and others, who in the past have found that 'non-designated' heritage (e.g. an unlisted building outside a conservation area) has very little protection; arguments for its retention or careful alteration or conservation, however well-informed, have been too often ignored. In particular, they offer hope where the significance of an asset has yet to be identified and assessed. The PPS calls for local authorities to hold evidence of the historic environment and heritage assets in their area, including the provision of or access to an 'historic environment record' which provides information on the heritage assets of the area – and this information should be publicly documented, so that it is available to all.

The intention of the PPS is clearly to bring all aspects of heritage under one 'holistic' umbrella for planning purposes, including features both above and below ground, and planning applications will need to describe and assess the potential significance of all affected heritage assets. This is a continuation of the expectations of PPG 15 and PPG 16, but there is surely sense in unifying the overall strategy for heritage.

Local planning authorities should themselves then consider and assess the significance of assets and the implications of the proposals, and – again encouragingly – they are urged to seek advice on assets and potential effects from third parties with relevant community or other interests. This certainly appears to include local societies such as the HBG: the *Practice Guide* specifically recognises this in Annex 1. Under 'third sector and other local resources' it is noted that 'local groups and organisations can be a very useful source of information. Local museums (including their catalogues); heritage centres; local history and archaeology societies, such as the Greater London Industrial Archaeological [sic] Society [www.glias.org.uk](http://www.glias.org.uk); local special interest groups; and civic amenity societies can all be potential sources of data for the assessment of significance'. You can't put it more clearly than that!

Local authorities are urged to require recording of heritage assets where loss of all or part of their significance will occur if a planning application is granted. This should be undertaken by the applicant (by implication at the applicant's expense), and should in scope be proportionate to the significance to be lost. Recording should be published, and deposited with the local historic environment record to add to available knowledge. Archive material should be deposited with a local museum or similar body. All very welcome!

For 'designated' heritage assets such as listed buildings, the presumption in favour of retention rather than loss is restated. Appropriate re-use possibilities must have been explored through both commercial and charitable routes, and consent to removal should be granted only if the benefits of restoring the site to use outweigh the loss of or damage to heritage assets (although one can foresee vigorous arguments on both sides as to what constitutes benefits, loss and damage, when commercial interests are to be weighed against cultural significance!).

These are what strike me as the most relevant policy requirements in the PPS. The complementary *Practice Guide* expands on many of the issues. It does lack the often-prescriptive guidance on acceptable and unacceptable alterations to listed buildings that was annexed to PPG 15, and this is doubtless one reason why the new PPS has been criticised. In the end, we will have to see how it, and the *Practice Guide*, are applied by local authorities – and we must also wait to see what, if anything, the new government chooses to modify.

In the current climate of austerity, it is probable that fewer redevelopment schemes will be launched, but equally probable that efforts will be made to derive more productive use from existing buildings and sites by alterations and clearance. So councils can expect to be kept busy, and the new PPS5 and the *Practice Guide* will surely soon be well-thumbed in planning departments!

*Michael Bussell*

#### **JEWEL OF A HOUSE**

One of the borough's lost mansions, Wood House used to stand on the east side of Wood Lane to the north of Shepherd's Bush Green.



*A rare view of Wood House north of Shepherd's Bush Green. Its site is now covered by Westfield and White City tube.*

Thomas Faulkner in his *History and Antiquities of the Parish of Hammersmith*, published in 1839, stated categorically that Wood House was built by the late John Bridge of Ludgate Hill, the celebrated goldsmith. An original plan showing the improvements made between 1827 and 1831 suggests, however, that the house was much older, probably 17th century. Whatever age it was, Bridge added a gallery to the house containing a collection of Burmese artefacts and other museum

objects. Outside, he laid out extensive pleasure grounds ornamented with statues, grottoes, walkways, subterranean passageways and shrubberies. John Bridge (1755-1834) was a partner in a successful firm of goldsmiths and jewellers known as Rundell and Bridge. He was a wealthy man, unmarried, and bought the Wood House estate towards the end of his life. On his death in 1834 it passed to his brother.

George Bridge lived at Wood House together with his family and servants for many years. By the 1870s the property was leased out. In 1889 proposals were put forward to convert the 10-acre estate into a public pleasure garden and recreation ground known as Woodhouse Park. Objections by local residents to the granting of a music and dance licence put an end to plans for a large exhibition on the site, but in May 1894 Woodhouse Park formally opened. The object was 'to create a select and refined resort at Kensington [sic] for afternoon tea, as well as a site for historical, industrial and technical exhibitions, bazaars and fetes'. A notable feature was a full size model of Stonehenge As It Was, accompanied by over 50 illustrations displayed in an art gallery (possibly the original museum building). A large piece of ground known as the Arena was set aside for ballooning displays and visitors could ascend in the *Majestic*, the largest captive balloon in the world.

Despite these treats the venture proved a failure. 'On a fine Saturday afternoon, with balloons and other attractions, only from 40 to 50 persons paid the sixpence for admission', ran one report. Embarrassingly, the large police presence requested by the organisers to control the crowds had to be reduced to a solitary constable, and even he was subsequently ordered to stand down. In 1896 the Central London Railway Company compulsorily purchased the estate for the construction of a terminus and electricity generating station. The site of the old house with its large grounds now lies buried beneath Westfield and White City tube station.

*Anne Wheeldon, Hammersmith & Fulham Archives*

## GARDEN OF PEACE

100 years ago this year the extensive White City open-air exhibition site at Shepherd's Bush hosted the Japan-British Exhibition. The event included gardens, temples and tea-houses created by Japanese designers and workmen. Both Japan and Britain exhibited numerous artistic creations, as well as manufacturing products, in the permanent palaces and halls on the site. Altogether more than eight million people visited the exhibition, which also included three replica villages staffed by men, women and children who had travelled from Japan. Entertainers such as ju-jitsu experts, sumo wrestlers, actors and dancers performed for the visiting crowds.

The centenary has been marked locally in two ways, firstly by the restoration of the Garden of Peace, a remnant of the exhibition included in Hammersmith Park when the latter opened in 1955, and secondly by an exhibition at the Museum of Fulham Palace mounted by the borough archives.

In the Garden of Peace, maple and cherry trees have been planted, the pond rehabilitated and enlarged and a play area created for children, with rocks surrounded by a gravel garden representing the story of the Crane and the Turtle (both symbolising long life) and their journey to the place of eternal happiness. The Forest Garden contains trees and mounds representing Japan's ancient mountains such as Mount Fuji.



*One of the native villages created for the Japan-British exhibition held on the White City exhibition ground 100 years ago this year.*

The restored garden was formally opened in May this year (more information on the Japan Society website). The exhibition at Fulham Palace ran over the summer and closed in September.

*Jane Kimber, Hammersmith & Fulham Archives*

## OUT AND ABOUT

The last year's events began with a visit in October 2009 to Sandycombe Lodge, built in 1812 on the site of Pope's Villa in Twickenham by JMW Turner, one-time resident of Upper Mall, Hammersmith. The house is quite small and remarkably intact, with many original features. We were guided by Catherine Parry-Wingfield, founder and chair of The Friends of Turner's House, and we were the guests of the owner, Professor Livermore. He gave us an insight into the house's history, its restoration and its contents. Sadly, we were the last group he received at his home. He died in March 2010, aged 95.

In the absence of the parish priest, Father Bronislaw Gostomski, Artur Lozinski was our host for a visit in February 2010 to St Andrew Bobola, a Polish Roman Catholic Church in Leysfield Road W12. Originally Presbyterian, the Victorian church has been extensively and beautifully restored as a living memorial to Poles who died during World War II. As described in newsletter 21, there are remarkable modern stained glass windows and the contents include an icon made in a Soviet POW camp by a Polish officer. Tragically, Father Gostomski, who was representing Katyn families, died along with the president of Poland and others in the Russian air crash of April 2010.

There was an excellent turnout for another tour of Fulham Palace moat, the borough's only scheduled

ancient monument and once the longest moat in England, if not Europe. The weather was appalling, but our expert guide, HBG committee member Keith Whitehouse, put on a bravura performance. His account of the moat past, present and planned, held everyone spellbound and walkers ended the visit enthused and informed, if a little damp!



*A view of Turner's house at Twickenham, Sandycombe Lodge, from W.B. Cooke's Thames Scenery (1822).*

The year's programme concluded with a visit to the Archives and Local History Centre at The Lilla Huset, 191 Talgarth Road, next to The Ark. Our hosts, Jane Kimber and Anne Wheeldon, had assembled a very interesting selection of notable objects and documents, the latter including the borough's oldest manuscript which is signed by John Milton's father. Jane gave a talk about the archives centre and the services it offers to the council, residents, schools, businesses and groups alike. The archives provide a valuable information source for the HBG and we are really grateful to Jane and Anne for their expert help and support.

Thanks to all who contributed to our events in any way, especially to those of you who paid to attend. Our events are a source of funds for both HBG and our hosts, with whom we customarily share the proceeds. Suggestions for future visits, talks or other events gratefully received (see society contact details opposite).

*Richard Scott, Hon. Sec., Historic Buildings Group*

### **GHOSTS OF CHURCHES PAST**

We have two churches in our borough which can be seen as ghosts of former City churches. One is St Dionis Parsons Green and the other is St Katherine Westway. St Dionis Parsons Green represents St Dionis Backchurch, a City church which once stood on the corner of Fenchurch Street and Lime Street behind a row of houses. Its unusual dedication to the patron saint of France no doubt reflected French influence in England in the 13th century. The church was burnt down in the Great Fire and rebuilt by Wren in 1674. Although well used in the 17th and 18th centuries, by the middle of the 19th century it was no longer required and was demolished in 1878. The proceeds of the sale of the land were used to build St Dionis Parsons Green in 1884-85 to designs by Ewan Christian. This was a new church for the growing population of Fulham. The communion table, pulpit and font from the original church were reused in the new

church. In the 1930s Martin Travers refashioned the church in the English style. Most of Travers' work has now gone, but his font cover, modelled on the tower of the original St Dionis Backchurch, remains.

In the north of the borough stands St Katherine Westway. This church's ancestor, St Katherine Colman, stood in Fenchurch Street from the 14th century until 1926. It was not affected by the Great Fire, but was rebuilt in a 'venacular Palladian' style by James Horne in the 1730s. Its final service was in 1921 when the parish was united with St Olave Hart Street. A picture of the old church can be seen in the stained glass at St Olave. Money raised from the sale of the land and fittings was used to build the new St Katherine as the church for the new Wormholt Estate. The architect was Robert Atkinson. This St Katherine's was so badly damaged by bombing in the war that it was replaced by a brand new church in 1959, to designs by J R Atkinson, son of the first architect. Virtually all the remaining fittings from the original St Katherine Colman which had been transferred to the new church were also lost in the war, but the communion railings survived. They can be seen in the 1950s St Katherine's today.

*John Goodier, Historic Buildings Group*

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### **HBG PUBLICATIONS**

*Local List* £17 members, £20 non-members. *Bradmore House* illustrated booklet, £5. Tel: 020 8748 7416.

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