



## No. 28 Spring 2013

**W**elcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. In this issue we cover such diverse subjects as the 150th anniversary of the underground (our borough joined the network just a year after the first line opened) and the centenary of Wormholt Park, celebrated with the publication of a new book. We also record the reinstatement of a First World War war memorial in the town hall, particularly poignant in view of the fact that next year is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war to end all wars.

Fulham Palace continues its upward trajectory – the new chief executive reports on all that has been going on

down there. Next door, All Saints Fulham is now in urgent need of some TLC. The bells have been knocking the stuffing out of the tower – one of the oldest structures in the borough – and the church has to raise over half a million to put things right. They are well on the way, but still need over £100,000. Please see page 7 and, if you can, do give generously.

We are also appealing for help ourselves – for example, help with updating the online database of war memorials (see page 4) and help with various other tasks, such as minute taking and newsletter indexing. If you have a little bit of time to spare, we would love to hear from you!



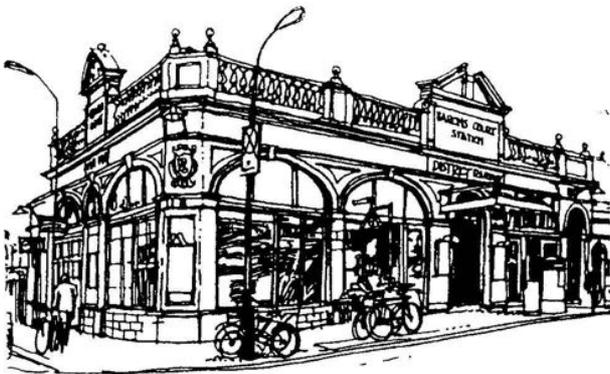
*Alfred Leete's 1927 London Underground poster promoting travel by tube to the greyhound racing at the White City stadium, close to Wood Lane station (the stadium was demolished in the 1980s). The son of Northamptonshire farmer with no formal art training, Leete became a well-known comic illustrator in the early 20th century. His most famous poster, 'Your Country Needs You' (1914), is probably the best-known war poster of all time. A new exhibition featuring 150 of the most iconic posters produced since the tube network opened in 1863 is on at the London Transport Museum until October.*

## 150 YEARS UNDERGROUND

What was the main problem on London's streets 150 years ago? Congestion, just like it is today. The solution then was to bury railway lines underneath the streets and in so doing create the world's first underground railway. The first section of line – built by the Metropolitan Railway between Paddington and Farringdon – opened in 1863, which explains why we are celebrating the underground's 150th anniversary this year. A year later our borough was connected to this network when the original 1863 line was extended west to Hammersmith – overground rather than underground. The Hammersmith & City line station opened on 13 June 1864, with train services to and from the City initially provided by the Great Western Railway. Over 600 people travelled from the station on the first day of opening, 750 on the second, and more than 900 on the third.

The first station was in Glenthorne Road. It was quite basic as the plan was to make Richmond the line's eventual terminus. In the event the Metropolitan did not extend their own line to Richmond. Instead they used the existing lines of the London & South Western Railway (L&SWR), connecting via a junction just north of Glenthorne Road with a viaduct leading to Ravenscourt Park. Part of this viaduct is still visible today as you travel beyond Ravenscourt Park station. The connection closed on 31 December 1906 shortly after the introduction of electric trains on the underground line. Meanwhile a proper terminus for the Hammersmith & City line in Hammersmith had been provided in 1868. This is today's station on Beadon Road.

North of its terminus at Hammersmith, the 1864 line had a station at Shepherd's Bush. This was replaced in 1914 by today's stations at Goldhawk Road and Shepherd's Bush (the original station was midway between the two). In 1908 an additional station at Wood Lane was opened for the White City Exhibition. Sited on the west side of Wood Lane, adjacent to White City itself, this station closed in 1952 when the White City site had ceased to be used. Most of it was demolished, but the ticket office remained as part of the new BBC complex built over the southern portion of the White City grounds.



*Serving both the Piccadilly and District lines, Barons Court station was built in 1905. Thanks to the efforts of the late Allan Day, an HBG member, the station was listed in 1985 and had informative history boards installed on the platforms.*

## Hello District line

In 1874 the Metropolitan & District Railway (MDR) – the great rival to the pioneering Metropolitan – arrived at Hammersmith in a station now in the middle of the Broadway shopping centre. Three years later this service was extended west towards Richmond, also using the track of the L&SWR. In our borough the stations on what we now call the District line are of various dates: West Kensington (originally North End), 1874; Barons Court, 1905; Ravenscourt Park, 1873 (Ravenscourt Park, on the L&SWR, was originally called Shaftesbury Road).

In 1880 the MDR opened a branch from Earls Court to Putney Bridge with intermediate stations at Walham Green and Parsons Green. Nine years later this line was extended using L&SWR track to East Putney and on to Wimbledon. Walham Green was renamed Fulham Broadway in 1952. A new station was built inside the Fulham Broadway shopping centre in 2003. The original façade and ticket office of the old station survive and are now listed.

## Central line

London's first underground lines were built using the cut-and-cover method, the track being laid in a shallow cutting excavated along the street, which was then roofed over. However, cut-and-cover was expensive and disruptive. Before the non-disruptive alternative – tunnelling – could become a reality, engineers had to overcome three technical barriers: they had to develop a safe, reliable means of boring through the London clay; they needed a way to move passengers up and down at deep-level stations; and they needed a clean alternative to steam power for the trains. When all these barriers had been overcome, London was ready for its first proper tube line – the City & South London Railway, opened in 1890. More deep tube lines followed, including the Central line. The Central line arrived in Shepherd's Bush in 1900 and was the first proper tube line in our borough.

In 1908 the Central line built their own Wood Lane station on the reversing loop to the north of the station (different from the Wood Lane station on the Hammersmith & City line, which was across the road on the BBC side). This survived until after the war by which time a new station at White City had been opened. The Central's Wood Lane was then closed and eventually demolished apart from the façade bearing the station's name, which remained for many years on the east side of Wood Lane before being dismantled and placed in store at the London Transport Museum. The Group tried but failed to have this façade reinstated in the new Wood Lane station, opened as part of the Westfield development in 2008.

## Piccadilly line reaches Hammersmith

In 1906 the tube, as distinct from the cut-and-cover underground, reached Hammersmith in the form of the Underground Electric Railway (UER). In 1932 the UER – by now the Piccadilly line – took over much of the Metropolitan & District line track, a move which required a major rebuild of Hammersmith station.

## Post Nationalisation

Very little happened to the underground after nationalization in 1933. Plans were worked up to provide bus and train interchange and commercial units at Hammersmith, but they came to nothing. A similar fate befell Norman Foster's spectacular 1977 solution to the problems of the undoubtedly difficult site. In the early 1990s Hammersmith station (the Piccadilly and District line one) was redeveloped in a much less interesting style, but Group members persuaded designers to include tiling and lettering from the original Victorian station.

In Shepherd's Bush the development of the complex that eventually became Westfield has had a considerable effect on the underground. The depot of 1900 was replaced in 2007 by a complete new depot a little to the west and below ground. The Central line station has a new ticket hall and entrance designed by Westfield's team. The same team also designed the overground station opposite. As mentioned above, a new Wood Lane station has been built across the road from the original Hammersmith & City line Wood Lane. Designed by Ian Richie Architects and built by Costains, it is a fine addition to the borough's transport facilities.

This account however does not cover all the stations in the borough. The newest station is West Ashfield. It was built in 2009 and opened in 2010. It is situated on the third floor of Ashfield House, the red office block behind West Kensington station. It has just the one platform and is used to train TfL staff!

*John Goodier, Historic Buildings Group*

## GOOD NEWS FOR KENT HOUSE

Kent House, dating from the early 1760s, is a handsome listed house on the riverside and one of the borough's older buildings. At one time it was on the English Heritage 'at risk' list and has long been of concern to the Group. Although the previous owner made the building weatherproof, cleaned the brickwork (so revealing the original striking golden colour) and restored the front railings, the handsome overthrow and interior details, it has remained empty for some time. The house has a new owner who plans to complete the restoration work.



## LEST WE FORGET

On Remembrance Sunday 2012 a restored war memorial was unveiled in the foyer of Hammersmith town hall by the mayor, Councillor Belinda Donovan. The memorial had been erected by the staff of the then Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith to commemorate fourteen of their colleagues who were killed on active service during

the First World War. It is made of Derbyshire stone and is the work of G Hawkins of Goldhawk Road. It had originally been installed at Hammersmith's old town hall in Shepherd's Bush Road, demolished in the 1960s. It is a bit of a mystery why the memorial was not reinstated in the present town hall when it was built in the 1930s.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HAMMERSMITH BOROUGH COUNCIL TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1919.			
NAME	RANK	REGIMENT	DATE OF DEATH
<b>BOROUGH ENGINEER &amp; SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT</b>			
H. J. AYLOTT	D/S	ROYAL ENGINEERS	5-1-16
I. DIXON	P/O	ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS	21-1-19
A. GARRARD	P/O	QUEENS ROYAL WEST SURREY	14-9-14
G. M. GREEN	PION	ROYAL ENGINEERS	15-1-17
J. HADLEY	P/O	6 <sup>th</sup> LONDON	4-1-18
I. TYSOE	2/L	DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY	31-5-17
<b>CEMETERY DEPARTMENT</b>			
T. WATKINSON	P/O	18 <sup>th</sup> MIDDLESEX	28-9-17
<b>ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT</b>			
T. AMBROSE	P/O	KINGS OWN ROYAL LANCs	5-1-15
T. BROWN	P/O	5 <sup>th</sup> ROYAL FUSILIERS	28-6-15
A. COOK	G/S	ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY	29-12-17
J. LAKE	P/O	KINGS ROYAL RIFLE CORPS	5-8-15
T. H. MEACOCK	S/L	15 <sup>th</sup> LONDON	6-11-17
<b>PUBLIC BATHS &amp; WASHHOUSE DEPARTMENT</b>			
A. HORNBY	L/C	5 <sup>th</sup> ROYAL BERKS	30-11-17
<b>PUBLIC LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT</b>			
E. MAYHEW	P/O	10 <sup>th</sup> MIDDLESEX	27-12-17

*Hammersmith council's First World War war memorial, recently reinstated in the town hall. It used to be in the old town hall in Shepherd's Bush Road, demolished in the 1960s.*

## Chance find

Members of the Group were on a tour of the archives when the memorial was spotted by acting chairman John Goodier right at the back of the storeroom, face to the wall, dusty but safe. It was decided then and there that the Group would do its best to get it re-erected in a suitable public place in the town hall and have it re-dedicated. We are very grateful for the help and support of council officers, particularly conservation officer Adam O'Neil and the mayor, Councillor Belinda Donovan, in achieving this.

Fourteen names are listed on the memorial: H J Aylott, I Dixon, A Garrard, G M Green, J Hadley, I Tysoe, T W Atkinson, T Ambrose, T Brown, A Cook, J Lake, T H Meacock, A Hornby, E Mayhew. So far we only know a little about one of them: Sergeant Thomas H Meacock. He lived at 77 Harbord Street in Fulham and worked as a fitter in the council's electricity department. He died in Egypt in 1917 aged 25. If anyone has information about any of the people commemorated on the memorial, please let us know via email at [info@hfhbg.org.uk](mailto:info@hfhbg.org.uk). Maybe some family members still live in the area?

We are delighted that the memorial is now up in the foyer of Hammersmith town hall where all can see it.

### War memorials online

Adam O'Neil has added the reinstated memorial to the online war memorials database published by the War Memorials Trust, Imperial War Museum and English Heritage at [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk). The Group has been asked by Adam to help check the entries on the database for Hammersmith and Fulham. It is likely that the major war memorials are included, but smaller and less well known ones may have been missed, especially those in churches, schools and community centres. The database includes memorials to individuals and small groups, specific regiments, company staff and memorials to the civilian dead. May we ask members of the Group to check for unrecorded memorials in any likely building that they use or visit? If you find an unrecorded memorial please notify the War Memorials Trust via the web address above, copying in Adam O'Neil at [adam.o'neill@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:adam.o'neill@lbhf.gov.uk) and the Group at [info@hfhbg.org.uk](mailto:info@hfhbg.org.uk). Entering Hammersmith in the search facility will bring up all the entries in the borough (ie in both Hammersmith AND Fulham). This is a good opportunity for members of the Group to get involved in historic recording.

*Angela Dixon, Historic Buildings Group*

### WORMHOLT PARK

*The Friends of Wormholt Park have recently published an illustrated history of the park (buying details on back page). Here the author gives us a sneak preview and tells us how the book came about.*

My grandparents moved to Gayford Road in Shepherds Bush about a hundred years ago. They organised street parties for the 1935 jubilee and the 1937 coronation. When my grandfather died just before the start of the Second World War, my grandmother moved to Thorpebank Road. My parents married in 1944 and set up home in the same road. They helped organise the 1945 VE day and 1953 coronation street parties.

Following family tradition, I helped organise street parties for the golden jubilee in 2002 and the royal wedding in 2011. For each of these parties I put on a local history display. Subsequently, I was invited to help with the Wormholt Park centenary celebrations in September 2011. I was pleased to do this as I had known the park all my life. My history timeline and photographic display proved so popular that the Friends of Wormholt Park asked me to write a book about the park.

#### Snake-infested wood

The book starts by looking at the early history of the area. The name 'Wormholt' first appeared in 1189 and is actually a combination of the old English Worme or Wyrme and Holt, which indicates the area was once a snake-infested wood. By the 19th century the manor of Wormholt Barns was split into two parts: Wormholt and Eynham lands. Later it changed to Old Oak Farm and Wormholt Farm. By 1845 Old Oak Farm consisted of over 368 acres divided into 32 fields.



*Queuing for plants and produce in Wormholt Park during the Second World War. Flower beds were planted with cabbages and the greenhouse was used to grow tomatoes and cucumbers. Even after the war ended there were still food shortages and rationing so the allotments remained up to December 1950.*

In the early 1900s the ecclesiastical commissioners decided to sell parts of the Wormholt and Old Oak farms for development. Part of the deal between the commissioners and Hammersmith council was for a donation of a piece of land of approximately 7¾ acres for recreational purposes. After some delays the new Wormholt Park was opened on Tuesday 27 June 1911.

A century later the park looked sad and neglected so in 2009 a small group of concerned locals got together to campaign for better maintenance and facilities, and to encourage greater use of the park by local residents. Word of their work spread and the Friends of Wormholt Park were formed. Coincidentally their very first event was a picnic in the park on Sunday 26 June 2011. We later found out this was just a day before the centenary!

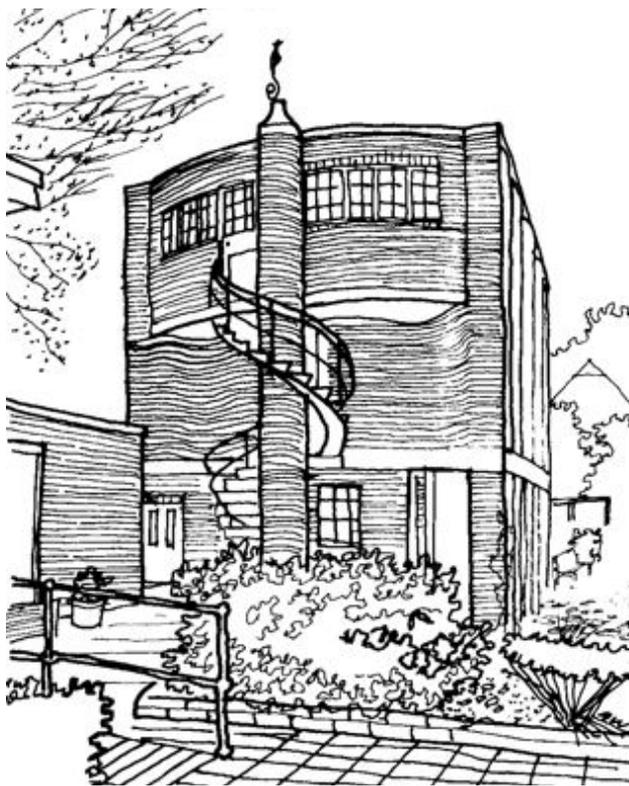
If you visit the park now you will see construction work underway on the old swimming pool site on Bloemfontein Road. Hammersmith & Fulham council has secured around £1m from the developers, Building Better Health, through a Section 106 agreement. The money will be spent on redeveloping Wormholt Park and the local highways around the park. Consultations are in the final stages and, once all the feedback has been assessed, a further detailed plan will be drawn up. This will be used in applying for external grants and funding schemes to boost the money committed to refurbishing the park. Work is likely to begin in 2014.

*Peter Trott, Friends of Wormholt Park*

## OUR ACTING CHAIRMAN WRITES...

I took over as chairman of the Group at the last annual meeting in October 2012. I would like to welcome Angela Clarke and Annabel Clarke as new members with considerable experience of planning matters and other local activities. I also welcome Tony Boys. He is active locally and brings to the Group computer expertise. This will be particularly useful as we explore ways of migrating our *Local List* into a more convenient format, perhaps suitable for online publication. I would like to thank Marie-Louise Jennings for chairing the Group from 2011–2012 and Mike Plumbe for his magnificent work laying out and then managing our *Local List* since 1989.

The first event of my chairmanship was the unveiling of the restored war memorial in the town hall. New and more acceptable proposals are emerging for the town hall site. The BBC Television Centre will be another important site. The listed parts will be retained and the BBC will still have a presence as they will continue to use studios 1-3 and occupy some of the office space. One side effect of redevelopment generally is that we are involved in the research, design and wording of our heritage plaques. These are attached to new buildings and recall earlier uses of the site.



*We are delighted to learn that the squash court at Rivercourt House, built in the early 1930s by J E M Macgregor for Naomi and Dick Mitchison, is recommended for listing at Grade II with Group Value. The late John Sheppard, who compiled the Group's sculpture survey (now on the council's website – google 'lbhf sculpture'), wrote about it in our Newsletter 14 (2006). The building is adorned with sculptural embellishments by the distinguished artist and Hammersmith resident Gertrude Hermes. Naomi Mitchison was a prominent mid-20th century writer and social activist.*

As well as the major sites, we are involved in many small developments as well. The Group keeps a watching brief on these and covers those of historic or streetscape importance. Public houses are a particular concern because, by their nature, they are usually of superior design and add to the street scene. The council has announced a large capital project to increase school capacity in the borough. The Group will take an interest in the design of new build and alterations. In all planning matters we work with other amenity and civic groups across the borough.

## Importance of archives

The provision of access to the borough's local history collection and archives is a concern to the Group. The archives are used in our historical research and in research carried out by developers in fulfilment of their statutory obligation to provide a site history. They are also of value to many family, architectural and industrial historians, both professional and amateur, not only from our borough and the UK but overseas as well. The archives of the Group are deposited in the borough archives (*see back page for more on this issue – Ed.*).

I would like to see the Group's membership more involved in the Group's work. You the members are our eyes and ears on the ground. In due course we hope our *Local List* will be published online and that it will then be easier for you to suggest additions and corrections. In the meantime you are invited to do the same with the online database of war memorials (see above, page 4). I hope we can return to our programme of walks and visits. We are seeking a minutes secretary for the Groups' six meetings over the year (*more details on back page*).

*John Goodier, Historic Buildings Group*

## CONSERVATION AREA PROFILES

We are delighted that work has now started on completing the missing conservation area profiles, beginning with the Grand Union Canal conservation area in the north of the borough. The Group supplied a draft for that and, where it is able, will continue to help with information and illustrations for other profiles.

## PUSHING AHEAD AT THE PALACE

Fulham Palace Trust was established in April 2011. Since then the trust has been establishing its board of trustees and setting up management systems. The former chief executive, Scott Cooper, left in September 2012. I took over in November 2012. My background is in museums and historic sites and I had previously been manager of a number of historic houses and gardens in London, including Osterley Park, Sutton House, and Bruce Castle. We have a small team of staff here at Fulham and couldn't do without our wonderful army of volunteers.

The aims of Fulham Palace Trust are broadly speaking to encourage education through exhibitions and collections and to broaden access to the site and its rich history,

horticulture and architecture. As readers of this newsletter will know, the history of the site is hugely significant and we have many great stories to tell.



*Truly a sight for sore eyes – the restored vinery and knot garden at Fulham Palace. We are pleased to report that both the Gothic Lodge and the garden walls/bothy have now been removed from English Heritage's at risk register following their refurbishment.*

The site has been very lucky in attracting Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and local authority funding for restoration. Phase I of the restoration of the Palace repaired the main roof and the key Georgian rooms of the Palace. With Phase II, completed in 2011, we were able to bring back the bothies to use as mess rooms and potting sheds for the gardeners, to rebuild the vinery, and to restore the stables and kit them out as an education centre. The restoration of Bishops Park was completed as part of this project. To learn more about Bishops Park and recent work there, why not come on one of our 'just turn up' park walks this summer. Dates are 12 June, 13 July, 14 August and 7 September. Meet 2pm at the Putney Bridge entrance to Bishops Park. No booking is required and the walks are free.

### **First class horticulturalists**

The Phase II lottery project also provided funds for ongoing learning and community development work in the palace and Bishops Park. This includes developing the school programme, bringing in family audiences, increasing volunteer involvement and training garden apprentices to become the next generation of first class horticulturalists. The HLF funding for this work continues until early 2015, when we will hope to have secured further funding to continue this important work.

We have already been successful in receiving funding for our learning and outreach work. In 2012 this allowed us to run a community archaeology project, as reported in the last HBG newsletter. We would like to make this an annual project if we can, exploring different areas of the site.

We also have great plans for continued capital improvements. In 2012 we were able to restore and refurbish the lodges as residential accommodation. Both lodges are now let, bringing in valuable income to the

trust. In the future we would like to restore the chapel, the Tudor courtyard, the great hall and garden, find space for a bigger museum and reinstate the moat. We have started the first phase of the garden restoration by producing a masterplan. More on this in subsequent newsletters. We are all really excited about the potential at Fulham Palace and I'm keen to hear your views. You can easily contact me through the palace website.

*Sian Harrington, Fulham Palace Trust*

## **OUR 2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

Our annual meeting for 2012 was held on 24 October in the community hall at Stoll in Fulham Road. Originally established as War Seal Mansions, these flats were built for injured First World War ex-servicemen. Later they were renamed Stoll Mansions after their eponymous founder, theatrical impresario Sir Oswald Stoll. The chairman, Marie-Lou Jennings, welcomed some 60 members, Group members, representatives of other groups and professional friends to the 24th annual meeting of the Group, now celebrating its silver jubilee.

The first of two visiting speakers was Dr Alan Powers, reader in architecture and cultural history at the University of Greenwich, former guest curator at Kettles Yard and the Design Museum, honorary FRIBA and a recent chairman of the Twentieth Century Society.

Dr Powers gave a most interesting commentary on twentieth century buildings in Hammersmith and Fulham. These ranged from Stoll Mansions (1917-23), very much



*An early 20th-century view of Hammersmith drawdock and Queen's Wharf, just downstream of Hammersmith Bridge at the river end of Queen Caroline Street. When the river was an important transport artery for goods, drawdocks enabled boats to unload cargo into carts at low tide. Sadly, over the years the historic importance of our drawdocks has been overlooked and unsympathetic changes have been made to them. Permission has recently been granted for a development on Queen's Wharf on the downstream side of the drawdock. The Group was concerned that the development would damage the setting of Hammersmith Bridge and the riverside views along the Mall and worked with other societies to achieve a less dominant development than was originally proposed. We also argued for restoration of the drawdock as part of the development.*

in Edwardian style, to the Maggie's Centre at Charing Cross hospital, actually opened in the early 21st century. Local Modernist buildings of the 1930s, including Hammersmith town hall, the Royal Masonic hospital and Burlington Danes school, carry external sculptured forms as well as features in which function is displayed as form, for example in staircases. Other buildings are embellished with murals, notably Greenside school (by Gordon Cullen) and Watson House (by John Piper). A well-proportioned but functional Hammersmith police station (1938) demonstrates how a Palladian façade can be lightened by eccentric spacing of its traditional Palladian windows. Similarly, the well designed 'classical' building at 5 Brook Green (1980s) is enlivened by a very unexpected arched dormer. Little known but important dwellings in the borough include the 1960s dwellings at Reporton Road, Fulham, designed by Theo Crosby and showing how Corbusian principles could be applied to low-rise buildings. Dr Powers' lively and interesting talk was received with warm applause.



### TOWERING APPEAL

Along with the Royal Masonic Hospital and the tomb of Frederick Young in Hammersmith cemetery, the tower at All Saints church, Fulham, has recently been added to English Heritage's buildings at risk register. The case of All Saints is particularly pressing as money is urgently needed to repair the belfry and now the church has discovered that even more work is necessary than had previously been thought. In total the church is £110,000 short of its target. Visit the website for details of how to donate.

Nick Shatford, welfare and health manager of Stoll, explained the history of the foundation, the shape of its property portfolio and how the residents' profile had changed over the years – from ex-military and long-term to today's homeless. The organisation offers them support in areas such as health, money matters, training for work, outreach and networking. With this help, residents usually move on to greater independence. Nick Shatford's insightful talk was received with much enthusiasm

In her address Marie-Lou Jennings first referred to her recent report printed in the autumn newsletter and then brought the meeting up to date on major issues including the King Street regeneration project, national and local planning policy and the borough's archives. She expressed her gratitude to existing committee members – with special mention of three who were standing down – and welcomed three new candidates. She had very much enjoyed her year as chairman and was standing down herself only because of a resurgence of her professional work. She wished the Group well and said she would follow its progress with interest.

A full committee of 15 was elected en bloc, with John Goodier taking over the lead as acting chairman.

At the end of the meeting Dr Andy Duncan, vice-chairman, thanked Marie-Lou Jennings for her considerable contribution over the year and the latter invited everyone to stay on for fellowship and jubilee celebration. A retiring collection raised some £80 towards Stoll's work.

*Richard Scott, Historic Buildings Group*

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Since the last newsletter, two of the Group's blue plaques have been installed in the borough. One is on the site of the Paragon sign works in Shepherds Bush. The other, commemorating Russian ballet dancer and teacher Nicolai Legat, is on Colet House in Talgarth Road (unveiled by the mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham on 9 April 2013). We shall be covering both in the next newsletter. We are receiving regular requests for our plaques and several more are being discussed.

In addition to our own plaques, we are also involved with local information boards. We have recently worked with the Thames Strategy-Kew to Chelsea on an information board at Beckett's Wharf. This is the raised seating area at the river end of Queen Caroline Street, just downstream of Hammersmith Bridge. The board highlights historic sites along both sides of the river and also features local wildlife. It was officially unveiled by the mayor, Councillor Belinda Donovan, on 22 October 2012. This is the second panel along the Riverside Walk following an original Hammersmith Mall board which was introduced in nearby Furnivall Gardens three years ago. Plans are underway for a third information board in Bishops Park. If you are interested in discussing (or funding) any further information boards or other projects along the river please contact the Thames Strategy direct. Their coordinator is Ruth Hutton at [ruth.hutton@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.hutton@lbhf.gov.uk).

*Angela Dixon, Historic Buildings Group*

**1. HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE** was opened in 1861. It was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, chief engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works. Bazalgette retained the plans and dimensions of previous bridges on the same site, built in 1827. This bridge – the first on the river between Putney and Kew – links the White Tower to the Hammersmith. Upper Mall. Thomas Clark also designed the 1887 Clark Bridge in Putney. The first bridge across the Chiswick, Clark lived locally and is buried in St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, where there is a memorial to him, depicting the bridge at Hammersmith.

**2. HAMMERSMITH DRAWDOCK** was the local river access point for Hammersmith when the river was used for commercial traffic. A paved way led down to the drawdock so that horse-drawn carts could load and unload goods from boats. The drawdock was used for the first time in 1760. The dock was connected to the village by Queen Street, Queen Street, which later renamed Queen Caroline Street after George IV's queen who lived locally for a short time.

**3. BECKETT'S WHARF** is named after the Beckett brothers, large builders and boat owners in the 1700s. It has previously been known as Robert's Quay/Wharf and in the decades either side of 1800 as Gun Wharf when it was the site of a factory for boring gun barrels on a new principle.

**4. QUEEN'S WHARF** was the local river access point for Hammersmith when the river was used for commercial traffic. A paved way led down to the drawdock so that horse-drawn carts could load and unload goods from boats. The drawdock was used for the first time in 1760. The dock was connected to the village by Queen Street, Queen Street, which later renamed Queen Caroline Street after George IV's queen who lived locally for a short time.

**5. RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** is an arts complex with a cinema, live theatre and TV studios. It began life as a factory in the 1860s and in the early 20th century was home to Caproni's motor of aeroplanes. The Triumph Film Company converted it into studios in the 1920s. The first film made there was 'The Sunlight' by the Sunlight Film Company in 1924. The Sunlight Film Company was founded by James Neeson and Margaret Neeson. The Sunlight Film Company was founded by James Neeson and Margaret Neeson. The Sunlight Film Company was founded by James Neeson and Margaret Neeson.

*Detail from the new information board at Beckett's Wharf, installed by the Thames Strategy-Kew to Chelsea with the assistance of the Group.*

## IN MEMORIAM

We record with great sadness the death of Michael McDermott, former chairman of the Hammersmith Society and one of the Group's foundation members. He wrote in Newsletter 16 about Ellen and William Craft, two runaway slaves from America who came to Hammersmith and lived in Cambridge Grove where their house became a centre of the abolitionist movement. Among many other contributions to the community over the years, Michael successfully argued for the Crafts to be commemorated locally and there is a plaque to them on a building named Craft Court on the corner of Cambridge Grove and Glenthorne Road. We express our gratitude for his contribution to the community and his support for our work over the years. He is much missed.

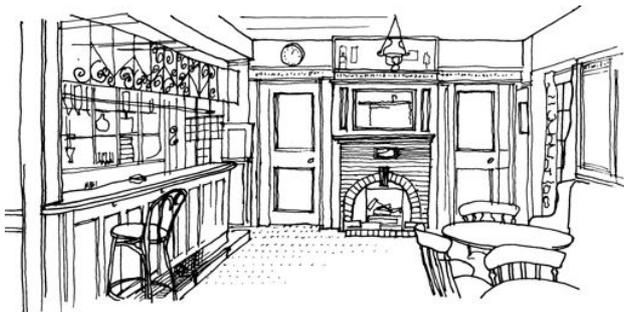
*Angela Dixon, Historic Buildings Goup*

## WORMHOLT PARK HISTORY

£3.50 from local shops: Hummingbird Café, 1 Oaklands Grove W12; Queen Adelaide, 412 Uxbridge Road W12; Glad's Café, 65 Bloemfontein Road W12; The Happiness Centre, 204 Uxbridge Road. £5.00 including p&p by mail order from Peter Trott ([peteretrott@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:peteretrott@tiscali.co.uk)) or the Friends of Wormholt Park ([wormholtpark@gmail.com](mailto:wormholtpark@gmail.com)). Book has no ISBN and is NOT sold in bookshops. All proceeds from sales go to the Friends.

## STOP PRESS – THE ARCHIVES

The Group has been very fearful for the future of the borough archives and local studies collection. The collection is currently only open on Mondays and the lease on the present building runs out in 2016. The Group is part of the Archives Consultation Group which has been working for a secure future for the archives, continuity of service and greater access. In April the council announced that provision would be made for the archives in the refurbished Hammersmith library building



## OUR BOROUGH'S HISTORIC PUBS – THE FUTURE

*We are concerned about the future of our historic pubs, with so many closing recently. An example is the White Hart in King Street, built in 1880 on the site of a much earlier pub referred to in a list of Hammersmith licensees dated 1722. Of particular concern at the moment is the Hope and Anchor in Macbeth Street. This is a former Truman's pub, built in the 1930s as part of the Riverside Gardens estate next to Hammersmith town hall. It was listed Grade II in 2005 in recognition of its unusually intact ground floor bar areas (see above) and it is included on CAMRA's inventory of national historic pub interiors. The pub has two floors of living accommodation over and a courtyard garden at the rear. Currently vacant, it is being advertised to let by KA Property. Call 0207 467 5550 for details.*

in Shepherds Bush Road. This is welcome news, but there are still concerns as the space cannot accommodate all the present archive material. Some 20% reduction is proposed plus some storage off site. In addition, at the moment there is no provision for the artefacts part of the collection such as pictures and pottery. The council has given an assurance that the Archives Consultation Group would continue to be consulted on the detailed decisions involved in the move.

## WANTED

The Group is seeking:

- a member with graphic design skills particularly to help with the reproduction of old photos
  - a minutes secretary to take the minutes at our meetings six times a year
  - old photos of local pubs showing original frontages or internal features
  - someone to prepare an index to our newsletters
- If you can help with any of the above, please email us at [info@hfhbg.org.uk](mailto:info@hfhbg.org.uk).

## LOCAL DIARY DATES

May 19: Ravenscourt Park 125th anniversary  
Oct 23: the Group's annual meeting

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- 7 Signs of the Times

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## HBG PUBLICATIONS

*Local List* £17 members, £20 non-members. *Bradmore House* illustrated booklet, £5. Tel: 07884 434631.

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

£5.00 for individuals and £15 for groups. New members are always welcome. Please contact the hon. secretary.

## NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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