



Issue No. 34 Spring 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of the HBG newsletter. Since our last number two new structures in the borough have been statutorily listed: the war memorial at the former St John's Church, now part of Godolphin & Latymer School and the *Reclining Woman* sculpture beside the Great West Road, close to St Peter's Church. We have details of these, plus the fascinating background to another listed structure in the borough, currently on Historic England's *Heritage at Risk Register*, but about which there may be some good news in the not too distant future. This is the mausoleum in St Mary's Cemetery containing the remains of a prominent 19th century Spanish sherry maker who left his London home to the Spanish government for use as an embassy, a function it still fulfils today.

We also report on campaigns for two new conservation areas (one in the Old Oak Park Royal area in the north of the borough and the other in the east around Earl's Court/Lillie Road) and for a D-Day information panel in St Paul's Gardens. Caroline Walker writes about her great-uncle Max Gill, brother of Eric Gill who featured in the last number. And historical and archaeological investigations are telling us more about St Peter's Square and Ravenscourt Park, both at one time owned and developed by George Scott.

Andrew Duncan, editor, Historic Buildings Group

Below: detail of Max Gill's splendid Wonderground Map of London Town, produced for the underground network in 1914 and hung in every station. See Max Gill article on page 5.



PLANNING MATTERS

Below is a snapshot of the current work. Can we remind members to keep us informed of any local developments that may give cause for concern? Whilst we cannot alter officers' recommendations, we will continue to draw their attention to the vital importance of safeguarding the historic fabric of the borough.

Cambridge House We have responded to the planning application for this office redevelopment of the former aircraft and piano factory in Cambridge Grove W6 (see Newsletter 33). The proposal is to increase the office space by 50% (notably by a six storey extension to the eastern side) and add two new houses in adjacent Banim Street.

Triangle site Beadon Road W6 An appeal by the developer Romulus Construction is due to be held on 13-14 July. The Group continues to oppose this large office and mixed use scheme, which involves the demolition of a building of merit and single storey shops in Beadon Road.

Fulham Town Hall Dorey Ventures have appealed the Council's refusal. An appeal inquiry is scheduled for November 2016.

Chelsea Football Stadium Committee members have attended several presentations given by the development team. The proposal is to demolish the existing stadium and rebuild an enlarged one increasing the capacity from 40-60,000. The new stadium will feature buttresses clad in brick. We have issues with the impact of the proposed structure overlooking the Brompton Cemetery and the adjacent conservation areas, and we have sent these comments to the Council.

Flanagan Laurence, the Group has commented on the current proposals which are for serviced apartments with hopefully a cinema in the basement. The height is similar to the Dorsett Hotel (formerly the Pavilion then the Odeon cinema) and the proposed frontage contains echoes of 1930s Art Deco cinema design.

St Augustine's RC Church and Priory, Fulham Palace Road The proposal is to refurbish the interior of the church, reorder much of the rest of the site, provide a café, open landscape area and a small tower building to house the Augustinian friars.

Thames Wharf The proposed redevelopment of the landmark Rogers Stirk Harbour building and neighbouring wharf has stalled. The stumbling block would appear to be the failure of the developer and the Council to agree the terms of the Section 106 agreement. The Group trusts that a photographic record (to be lodged with the Borough archives) and an archaeological investigation will be secured in the final agreement.

Fulham Gas Works From the standpoint of public realm and retention of historic features, the recently presented scheme seems well thought out. However, the Group has concerns over the height of the proposed tower block. It is important for the HBG to ensure the listed gas holder (No 2) is adequately protected. We are pleased that the architect is embracing the other heritage structures.

Old Oak Common See Chairman's Report on next page.

Telephone Masts We and other groups have successfully encouraged the Council to refuse several applications for the erection of mono poles and street cabinets.



Chelsea FC's first stadium at Stamford Bridge, designed by noted football architect Archibald Leitch who also designed the listed stand at Fulham FC. The stadium stands on former athletic grounds bought by the Mears brothers in 1904.

12 Wellesley Road The Group has objected to the demolition of the existing Aston Martin garage and its replacement by an over large and insensitive office development.

The Walkabout, Shepherds Bush Green Having attending further presentations with the architects

Advertisements We frequently object to large advertisements on flank walls. We are therefore delighted that the Council has had a 100% success rate in getting these advertisements removed. This makes all our letter writing and attendance at appeal hearings worthwhile.

Estate Agents' Boards We supported the Council's application for a regulation 7 to prohibit the display of estate agents' boards in Avonmore and Olympia, Gunter Estate, Hammersmith Grove, and Harwood Road conservation areas for a further ten years.

Shepherds Bush Market Members may well have heard that the Court of Appeal has overturned the decision of the Secretary of State to uphold a compulsory purchase order for land adjoining the market. For the time being this effectively blocks the development from going ahead.

Nicolas Fernley, chair, HBG planning sub-committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have continued to take a special interest in the Old Oak Park Royal area, somewhere I have been looking at very closely for the past 20 years.

The **Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation** (OPDC) published its draft local plan at the beginning of February. The Group has commented on various aspects: heritage (of which there is little left in the Hammersmith part of the plan); building design; and open space. We specifically commented on the **canal** and **Wormwood Scrubs**. On heritage our comments included areas outside our borough because the local plan covers the entire development corporation area. I also wrote a commentary on the English Heritage (now Historic England) Evidence Base Document. This has been circulated through the Grand Union Alliance. The Old Oak Park Royal Community Facebook page has many photographs of the area, and I am leading some walks for Acton Arts Forum around the Acton part of the development area. The brick buildings along the east side of Scrubs Lane backing on to St Mary's Cemetery have been proposed by the OPDC as a conservation area (to be called the **Cumberland Park Factory Conservation Area**). We have written in support.

In addition to the main Cargiant site, there are smaller developments by other organisations. Genesis housing association has a plan for the old train crew hostel site and property developers Aurora are looking at the east side of Scrubs Lane south of the proposed Cumberland Park Factory conservation area. We have persuaded the developers and architects of the Cargiant site to consider retaining some existing structures.

John Goodier, chairman, Historic Buildings Group

RAVENSCOURT REVELATIONS

Findings of the first ever archaeological dig carried out in Ravenscourt Park last autumn not only have important implications for future management of the park. They will also involve changes to several Council planning documents.

Commissioned by the Friends in partnership with the Museum of London and funded by a small grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, archaeologists from Archaeology South-East (part of UCL) opened three trial trenches on sites suggested by the previous year's geophysical survey. The investigation successfully identified the western external wall of the mansion, and confirmed the survival of its ancient cellars. Nearby brick culverts were related to the infilling of the medieval moat, an operation that took

place shortly before the last private owner, George Scott, bought the estate in 1812.

Meanwhile our ongoing research into primary sources shows that many published descriptions of the former Palingswick estate and its history are simply inaccurate, with errors in names and dates copied from one to another. The earliest map so far found dates back to the time of Elizabeth I, but some of the names in later versions offer clues that Palingswick manor has earlier origins than previously suspected. The Friends, with the help of the Museum, intend to go on exploring.

Annabelle May, chair, Friends of Ravenscourt Park

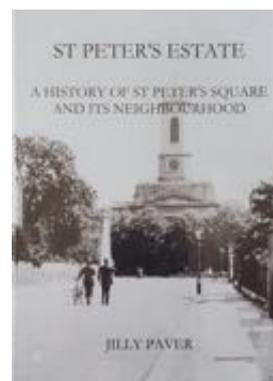


Ravenscourt Park's lost mansion, bombed in the Second World War and now the subject of archaeological investigations commissioned by the Friends of Ravenscourt Park in partnership with the Museum of London.

ST PETER'S PARTICULARS

Did you know that in the early 20th century, when the St Peter's Square gardens were very neglected, the square was sold to a developer who started building houses on the west side of the gardens? Or that in the early plans for the new A4 extension it was suggested that there should be a crossing with a road leading from King Street to Hammersmith Terrace which was to drive straight through the west side of the square?

These are just a couple of nuggets taken from a new book on St Peter's Square and the local area written by Jilly Paver. *St Peter's Estate: A History of St Peter's Square and its Neighbourhood* follows from a local history



photographic exhibition mounted by Jilly and her husband Brian two summers ago, and is a response to many subsequent requests for the exhibition material to be preserved and made more widely available in a book. Jilly's new work outlines the original development, growth and change of the area over the last 200 years. It includes newly researched information,

photographs, maps and anecdotal accounts from times past.

Jilly has done a great deal of research and has spoken to residents who have lived in the neighbourhood, some for over eighty years. She was born in the square and has lived in the area for most of her life, so she has actually witnessed much of its recent history herself. Childhood friends have added details of life in the 1940s when the square was home to artists, actors, and writers and was called the bohemian capital of London.



The Runner, a sculpture made in 1879 by local artist Sir William Blake Richmond. His family later gave the work to the borough. In 1926 the Council erected it in St Peter's Square gardens as a memorial to the artist.

'This is a very detailed and fascinating book, a must not just for local residents, but for those with a general interest in local history.' The book is 100 pages with over 60 illustrations, photographs and maps. It can be ordered by calling 020 8748 2828 or emailing st.peters-estate@btconnect.com. Please include contact details (telephone number or email address) when ordering. The price is £7.50 if you can collect from St Peter's Villas or £10 to include postage.

Thanks to Jilly Paver for the above information - Ed.

NEW LISTINGS IN THE BOROUGH

Historic England has recently listed two structures in the borough, both at Grade II. One is the WW1 war memorial in the former church of St John the Evangelist in Glenthorne Road, now used by Godolphin and Latymer School. The other is the 1959 Karel Vogel sculpture *Reclining Woman*, sited right by the Great West Road, just next to St Peter's Church. The sculpture, probably unnoticed by the majority of motorists who speed by every day, was commissioned by the LCC as part of their Patronage of the Arts scheme 'to provide visual amenity as compensation for a major road scheme'. It was first identified by the HBG and the Council during the historic sculpture survey of the borough carried out by the

late John Sheppard. The survey has proved to be an invaluable resource and can be viewed on the Council's website (<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning/urban-design-and-conservation/sculpture-search>). The quote above about visual amenity comes from the *Reclining Woman* listing citation which has lots more information about the sculpture's context (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1431422>).



This 1959 sculpture by Karel Vogel, entitled *Reclining Woman* and positioned next to the Great West Road by St Peter's Church, has recently been listed at Grade II by Historic England.

MISA MAUSOLEUM

The Grade II listed mausoleum of the Conde de Bayona, Marques de Misa, in St Mary's Cemetery in the north of the borough is currently on Historic England's *Heritage at Risk Register*. Historic England have pledged a substantial grant towards its restoration, the Heritage of London Trust have agreed to donate £5,000 and the HBG £1,000. It is hoped that further donations will soon be forthcoming to enable works to commence. Meanwhile, readers may be interested in the story behind the mausoleum.

The mausoleum is dedicated to Manuel Misa y Bertemati, born in 1815 in Bayona in Galicia. Having gained a doctorate in law from Santiago de Compostela University, he then joined his brother, Buenaventura, in the sherry

business. His brother had vineyards and a bodega (storehouse for wines). He eventually came to London to open up new markets here, and many years later settled in England, marrying Elena Bushroy in 1867 with whom he had a son and a daughter.

Spanish embassy

Whilst in England, he set up the first chamber of commerce for Spain, and was an important donor towards the construction of Westminster Cathedral, apparently paying for the decorative windows. Perhaps more importantly, he gave his London home, 39 Chesham Place/24 Belgrave Square, to the people of Spain and it became the Spanish Embassy, as it is now. It was in recognition of these acts of philanthropy and business promotion that he was awarded the titles of Conde de Bayona (making him in effect the first Earl of Bayona), and, later, in 1889, Marquis de Misa 'with full grandee status' by the Spanish Crown. He was also awarded the Grand Cross and Commander of Isabella the Catholic and other honours. He and his brother have streets named after them in Jerez and he is adopted as a 'son' of the city.

He died on 9 January 1903. We believe he was interred in the mausoleum. According to the Cemetery Trust, the records of ownership of the mausoleum were lost in a fire. The sherry business run by the brothers appears to have been on a grand scale: it produced 1800 butts in October 1873, a record still unbroken. It traded successfully into the 1970s when it was bought out by Rumasa, although continuing to produce sherries under its own name. In turn Rumasa was sold to Harveys in 1979. Harveys merged it with five other bodegas and put the whole group up for sale. There remains one surviving product carrying Misa's name, the Marques de Misa brandy, produced by Williams & Humbert.

Adam O'Neill, LBHF, with thanks to Historic England

MAX GILL SANS ERIC

In the last HBG newsletter I wrote an article about Eric Gill and his connection with Hammersmith. In this number my attention turns to his talented younger brother Macdonald, better known as Max (see left). The Gill brothers were my great-uncles.



Artistic like his famous brother, Max worked as an architect and graphic artist. He was acclaimed in his day for pictorial poster maps for London Underground, the GPO and the Empire Marketing Board. His painted maps decorate

the House of Commons and Lindisfarne Castle while his alphabet for the military headstone is still used today.

Born in Brighton in 1884, Max was named after the writer George MacDonald, who lived in Upper Mall at The Retreat, later renamed Kelmscott House by William Morris. The Gills later moved to Chichester then Bognor, where 16-year old Max was apprenticed to a local architect. In 1903 he joined a firm in Lincoln's Inn, where he shared lodgings with his brother. Their passion for lettering, inspired by Edward Johnston, calligraphy tutor at the Central School of Arts & Crafts, led to a string of memorial collaborations.

After Eric and his young family moved to 20 Black Lion Lane, Max became a frequent visitor. There were also lively discussions with their friends in Hammersmith Terrace, including printer Emery Walker, social worker Douglas Pepler, and especially the calligraphy tutor Edward Johnston. Max became god-father to Johnston's youngest child, Priscilla.

In 1906 Eric, now an outspoken agnostic, kindly offered Max, a fervent Anglo-Catholic, lodgings with the family. Max, however, wisely heeded their mother's warning: 'You and Eric do not agree upon matters of religion and it would not be helpful for your work if you and he were constantly in danger of argument on the subject!' In 1907 Eric and family moved to Ditchling in Sussex, followed a few years later by Johnston.

So Max remained at Lincoln's Inn until 1912 when he moved to the Temple. Here in 1914 he created his comic poster *The Wonderground Map of London Town* (see page 1) for London Underground. This parody of the capital and its inhabitants was adored by tube passengers who found it so absorbing 'they miss their trains yet still go on smiling'. His illustrations for Eleanor Farjeon's first literary success *Nursery Rhymes of London Town* (1916) mined the same vein of humour with visual puns on place-names such as Hammersmith and Brook Green (see right).



In the 1920s Max returned to Hammersmith to refurbish the chapel at St Paul's boys' school. Long since demolished, the building and its interior now survive only in old photographs.

In 1933, although married with three children, Max began a relationship with Priscilla Johnston, a 22-year-old resident of St Peter's Square. She assisted him on the impressive *Map of the North Atlantic* for the first class dining salon of RMS Queen Mary, which was painted in the Hammersmith timber store of Waring & Gillows in Cambridge Road (now Cambridge Grove). In January 1936, the vast warehouse was the unlikely venue for the map's send-off party. The arrival of a string of expensive cars prompted the porter to declare that the guests were a 'very nice class of person'!

Two years later Max left his wife Muriel and in 1946 married Priscilla. Tragically, he died just months later in January 1947. Find out more at www.macdonaldgill.com.

Caroline Walker

CA STATUS FOR LILLIE ENCLAVE?

There is nothing like the threat of the bulldozer to concentrate the mind. It turns out that we have a microcosm of the industrial revolution on the former estate of Sir John Scott Lillie at the Earls Court end of Lillie Road. Much of the area is now critically at risk from the Earls Court redevelopment plans and a local group, of which I am a member, is seeking protection through designation as a conservation area.

What we call the Lillie Enclave runs from North End Road east to the West London Railway, mainly south of Lillie Road but including Empress Place on the north side. As many readers will know, the railway line runs along what used to be Counters Creek and then the Kensington Canal, a project started by Lord Kensington in 1822. That same year Sir John Scott Lillie (1790-1868), veteran of the Peninsular War, bought the Hermitage estate by North End Lane. He thus became a neighbour of Lord Kensington and a co-investor with him and other local shareholders in a series of West London initiatives, including Lord Kensington's canal and the new Hammersmith suspension bridge.



Sir John Scott Lillie, Peninsular War veteran and purchaser of the Hermitage estate in North End, Fulham, in 1822.

In connection with the latter, Lillie created a road on his land from the canal to North End Lane to link Brompton

with Hammersmith. Lillie also laid out short stretches of unmade road to the north of his new road, now Empress Place, and a longer stretch to the south, now Seagrave Road, with Rickett Street and Roxby Place giving access to canal wharves.



The 'Jersey Lily', Lillie Langtry, mistress of the Prince of Wales, friend of Oscar Wilde and one-time Lillie Road resident.

The earliest building in the Enclave is the 1835 Lillie Langtry pub, formerly the Lillie Arms. This and the Prince of Wales pub opposite commemorate the local assignments of the heir to the throne with a popular actress of the 1870s. Lillie Langtry lived locally for a while at 62 Lillie Road where she was visited by the prince.

Lillie's tenure of his estate lasted until 1837. Extensive residential and industrial development followed. In 1867 Henry Lovibond acquired Lillie's former house, the

Hermitage, building the Cannon brewery on the site complete with private rail access. In 1868 the Midland Railway Company established its goods and coal yard behind Lovibond. In 1871 the Metropolitan and District Railway opened the Lillie Bridge engineering workshops and depot. These are just a few of the industrial ventures. There were many more, and several non-industrial ones as well, for example the Lillie Bridge Sports Grounds where W G Grace appeared, the Middlesex Volunteers rifle range, a major smallpox hospital and of course the Earls Court and Empress Hall venues for exhibitions and spectacles.

If any readers would like more information about the area or would like to support our work to achieve conservation area status, please contact me at qt@clara.co.uk.

Ann Kutek

LOST THEATRE: THE GRANVILLE

Time was when Hammersmith and Fulham had six theatres: the Granville, the Fulham Grand, the original Hammersmith Lyric, the Hammersmith Palace of Varieties, the Hammersmith King's and the Shepherds Bush Empire. The latter, featured in our last newsletter, is the only one remaining.

The Granville was designed by Frank Matcham, like the Shepherds Bush Empire and the original Lyric Theatre. It was developed by Dan Leno and Herbert Campbell. Dan Leno himself topped the opening weekly bill and then held himself over for the next two weeks! Other well-known artists to appear there included George Robey, Harry Champion, Marie Lloyd and Gracie Fields. In 1910 Bud

Flanagan worked there as a call boy and in the 1930s a very young Ernie Wise sang ‘Let’s have a tiddy in the milk bar’!



Nick Charlesworth has kindly allowed us to use his drawing of the Granville Theatre from his book *Variety at Night is Good for You*. The book covers 92 variety theatres still standing in the 1930s and 1940s, even if then used for other purposes.

The Granville was one of Matcham’s smaller gems. The entire auditorium was covered in Royal Doulton faience tiling, enabling it to be washed down, a feature which caused Dan Leno to refer to ‘these Sanitary Varieties’ at the Granville’s official opening in 1898.



Because of its site – bounded by Vanston Place, Jerdan Place and Fulham Broadway – the theatre was relatively small, with just under 800 seats compared with 1,855 in the Shepherds Bush Empire. This smaller capacity made it difficult to compete with the much larger surrounding theatres. In 1956 the Granville closed as a theatre. After a dozen or so years as a television studio, it finally closed its doors for good.

Over the weekend of 30 September 1971, much to the anger of local people, developers ordered a demolition ball to be dropped through the roof, fearing opposition to their plans. The site then stood empty for some years before the office block which now occupies the site was built. The loss of the Granville led to a thorough reappraisal of surviving old theatres, with many more being listed as a result.

Angela Dixon, Historic Buildings Group

D-DAY PANEL FOR ST PAUL’S?

St Paul’s Gardens, on the corner of Hammersmith Road and Colet Gardens, is the site of St Paul’s School, before it moved to Barnes in the 1960s. Soon after the beginning of the Second World War, the school was evacuated and its buildings taken over by the government. They became the military headquarters of the

alliance between Great Britain and the USA. General de Gaulle’s Free French were headquartered in Olympia nearby.

It was in the board room of old St Paul’s that the Allied commanders, led by General Ike Eisenhower and General Bernard Montgomery, planned the invasion and liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe. King George VI and the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, visited them here to approve the plans on 15 May 1944. On 6 June following, Operation Overlord started on the beaches of Normandy.

An HBG plaque on one of the gate piers of St Paul’s Gardens already commemorates the link between the site and D-Day. However, for some time local resident Heather Armitage has been campaigning for greater public acknowledgement of the historic importance of the site. An interpretation panel would provide more detailed information and of course pictures. Assisted by her team, Heather is preparing a submission to the Council requesting the installation of an information panel on St Paul’s Open Space. We fully support the proposal.

With thanks to D-Day project team member Roy Baker for the above information – Ed.



Eisenhower and Montgomery with other Allied commanders in the D-Day planning boardroom at St Paul’s School.

HBG PLAQUES UPDATE

Since 2008 HBG blue plaques have been appearing around the borough. A full list is now on our website (<http://www.hfhhg.org.uk/plaques.htm>).

The most recent is on **Palingswick House**, 241 King Street W6. Other recent arrivals are: **Citroën House**, 184 Shepherds Bush Road W6 (early car showroom and service depot used by Ford and Citroën); **72 and 101 Farm Lane** SW6 (respectively stabling and depot for horse-drawn buses); **Dungannon House**, 15 Vanston Place SW6 (site of Red Hall Picture Palace).





We need our readers' help with this picture – a woodcut by Eric Gill published in Hilary Pepler's 1915 work, *The Devil's Devices or Control Versus Service*. 'Hammersmith' is given as the subject. The question is, where are we in Hammersmith? Where is No. 27, the house in the foreground? And what is the factory with the chimney beyond the garden wall? Suggestions on an email postcard please.

STOP PRESS

Construction could be closer on the Hammersmith Town Hall/King Street Redevelopment scheme as amendments have been submitted to the approved plans for the residential block in Nigel Playfair Avenue and along the A4. This first phase of the redevelopment will include the demolition of the Cineworld cinema which has recently closed. The Group has concerns over the proposed materials at roof level.



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Credits

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HBG CONTACTS

Chairman: John Goodier, 6 Gayford Road W12 9BN
 020 8743 4966. johngoodier7421@btinternet.com
Vice-Chairman: Andrew Duncan, 19 Boileau Road
 SW13 9BJ. 07958 656 888. andy@andrewduncan.co.uk
Treasurer: Niel Redpath, 21 Bovingdon Road, London
 SW6 2AP. 020 7731 0267. nielredpath@gmail.com
Secretary: Annabel Clarke, 42 Greenside Road W12 9JG
 07940 575 590. annabelclarke@gmail.com
Membership Secretary: Sheena Barbour, 43 Cleveland
 Road SW13 0AA. 020 8876 6093.
 sheenabarbour@hotmail.co.uk
Planning Sub-Committee Chair: Nicolas Fernley
 020 8748 0219. cnfernley@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

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