



FULHAM AND HAMMERSMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 263906

No.138

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 5 April at 7:30 pm

St Clements Church Hall, Fulham Palace Road, SW6 6DS
(near corner of Crabtree Lane)

Buses: 74, 220, 424, 430 (stop outside)
190, 211, 295 (stop nearby in Lillie Road)

Refreshments will be available before and after the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 44th AGM
3. Annual Report (see below)
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Any other business (If notified before the meeting)

ANNUAL REPORT for the year ending 31 March 2016.

Events during the year included visits to V&A Cloth-workers Centre, Fulham Town Hall, Croydon Airport, Merton/Morden Hall, Albert Memorial, Hogarth House and talks on Medical Developments in Nelson's Navy, Christina Broom the Fulham based female pioneer of commercial photography and the Palace Foreshores from Richmond to Greenwich. There was a Christmas Meal at the Rocket in Putney and the website has become the focus for a number of queries about Hammersmith and Fulham's recent past ranging from lost streets, lost relatives to schools and children's homes. We need more help to answer the queries! We also need nominees for the Committee as a couple of long standing members have dropped out.

NOMINATIONS for Officers and Committee are invited and can be made at the AGM or to any member of the committee beforehand. Volunteers most welcome.

After the formal business John Hampshire will give a talk on **"WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU LIVE!"** how the borough has changed seen through the census from its earliest days at the beginning of the 19th Century.

PROGRAMME

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO OUR MEETINGS

Tuesday 10 May at 7:30pm

PLAYED IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

Simon Inglis, who edits the Played in Britain series for English Heritage, offers a lively illustrated lecture on the surprisingly rich and varied sporting and recreational heritage of Fulham and Hammersmith. Here is athletics as described by Wilkie Collins at Lillie Bridge, billiards on Fulham Palace Road, skittles with AP Herbert at the Black Lion and a plasterer called Joseph Bickley, whose 'secret formula' had racket-wielding aristocrats queuing at his workshop on Lillie Road. We shall hear how a Scottish engineer nipped between Stevenage Road and Fulham Road during the summer of 1905 to build new stadiums for rivals Fulham and Chelsea, and how a squash court in the grounds of Latymer School was one of seven sports-related buildings listed by English Heritage in 2014-15 as a result of Inglis's latest, award winning book, Played in London - Charting the Heritage of a City at Play. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/played-in-london/>. Also to be revealed is how, in 1878, a field in Fulham hosted what is thought to have been the first sporting event ever to have taken place under floodlights in Britain. If not interested in sport, don't be put off. The evening's focus is on architecture and social history, with some capital fun guaranteed.

Talk will be held in St Clements Church Hall (see details above under AGM)

Tuesday 14 June 7pm

FROM PALACE TO PRISON – A WALK AROUND FULHAM OLD TOWN

Fulham as well as a palace has a prison, some of the buildings still survive. We will look at the site of the wooden Fulham Bridge and the ferry crossing, where the first Mercedes cars in Britain were built, the temperance billiard hall now a pub, the Fulham war memorial garden where a plaque commemorates a Victoria Cross winner, the surviving kiln of Fulham Pottery, the road that gave its name to a lavatory system and much more. A walk not to be missed. Led by Keith Whitehouse.

Meet outside the Eight Bells pub, 89 Fulham High Street. near the river at 7pm (one of Fulham's oldest pubs that has stood here for over 400 years) and perhaps a drink afterwards.



Sunday 24th July 3-5pm

SUMMER TEAPARTY

Come and enjoy tea, cakes and conversation at 48 Peterborough Road, SW6 3EB on Sunday 24th July from 3 to 5pm the home of Sue and Lance Pierson. If it is fine we can spill into the garden. Parking is free. Parson's Green is the nearest station a 10 to 15 minute walk away. Buses 28 and 295 go along the Wandsworth Bridge Road which is 5 minutes walk away. Number 48 is 2 doors from the junction with Daisy Lane.

REVIEW OF EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MEAL

On December 14th, 18 of us enjoyed a Christmas meal at 'The Rocket' in Putney. It was an enjoyable social occasion though the self-service first course was not so satisfactory. It was remarkably good value for a 2 course meal and a drink of your choice. The Christmas pudding was delicious! However, it would be good to find somewhere in the Borough for another time. Can anyone recommend such a place?

PALACE FORESHORES

On 16 February we heard from Natalie Cohen Head of Community Archaeology at the Museum of London Archaeology (www.mola.org.uk). Natalie took us on a journey downstream from Richmond to Greenwich focusing on the Palaces by the Thames; including our own Fulham Palace. Much of the work done to record archaeology found in the Thames is with the help of the Foreshore Recording and Observation Group (obviously shortened to FROG) a team of MOLA trained volunteers. Between tides they regularly look for objects or changes in the topography of the shore. In Fulham alone they have recorded the old pilings for the previous Fulham/Putney Bridge and have discovered the timbers of fish traps and possible steps or a landing jetty, the former dating back to 10th century and other timbers dating to 7th century. We heard how the action of the ferries and other vessels had helped the search as scouring occurs and reveals new detail at every spring tide low-water. Down at the Palace of Westminster a WWII bomb had damaged the river-wall to the gardens and a number of finds date to this time. At the Tower huge cannon balls were found and at Greenwich the remains of a Tudor pier have been plotted. Sadly any timbers are not recovered as the process of preserving them is too expensive and they are eventually lost to the Thames tidal action. All in all a great talk delivered by a passionate enthusiast. Anyone wishing to volunteer should look at: <http://www.mola.org.uk/thames-discovery-programme-partnership> .



SUBSCRIPTIONS of £8 or £5 (Concessions) are now **over due**, for details of how to pay or to join contact John Hampshire fhhslist@gmail.com .

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

We have an extensive catalogue of books and pamphlets about the Fulham and Hammersmith area and its history. Do visit our website for details of these and our activities. There is also a blog and a lively *Contact Us* section with questions and some answers about the borough's past.

www.fhhs.org.uk