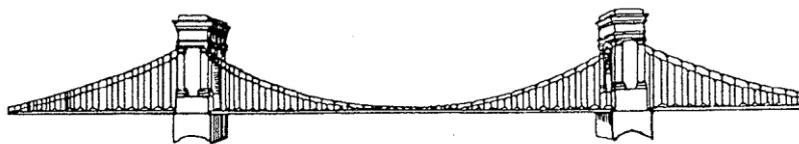


# FULHAM & HAMMERSMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FULHAM AND HAMMERSMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 263906

## NEWSLETTER

No.154

Autumn 2022

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**THURSDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30PM**

**THE THAMES: ITS MYTHS & MYSTERIES, a talk by Robert Stephenson**

The murky Thames, the life blood of London for centuries, has been a focus for sacred rites and popular superstition since ancient times. This illustrated overview, besides covering the basic facts and figures, will consider the ritual deposition of artefacts, legends, Cleopatra's Needle, Deadman's Hole, the execution of pirates, modern murders and the Thames Barrier.

*Robert Stephenson is a qualified City of London guide and a tour leader at Brompton, Kensal Green and Margravine cemeteries. He has taught on London for twenty years.*

**VENUE:** St Clement's Church Hall,  
St Clement's 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).  
FREE (Non-members £3 includes refreshments)

**Thursday, 20 October at 7.30pm**

**AT HOME WITH THE HOGARTHS, a talk by Val Bott**

Val Bott will give us a talk on an exhibition at Hogarth's House, Chiswick. She will use contemporary portraits to introduce the Hogarth family and their relations by marriage, their servants and household, and their friends and neighbours in Chiswick, Brentford and Hammersmith who would have visited regularly. The family acquired Hogarth's House in 1749 and the last relative, Mary Lewis, lived there until she died in 1808. The exhibition is open free until 6 November, Tuesdays-Sundays, 12 noon to 5pm. To visit: Hogarth's House, Hogarth Lane, Great West Road, W4 2QN. Bus 190

VENUE: St Clement's Church Hall (see above for details)

**Thursday, 24 November 7.30pm**

**50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 49th AGM
3. Annual Report (see below)
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Election of Independent Examiner
7. Results of survey
8. Future of the Society.
- 9.. Any other business

**NOMINATIONS** for Officers and Committee (new members especially) are invited and can be made at the AGM or to any Committee member prior to the meeting.

**ANNUAL REPORT** for the year ending 31st March,2022

There was a visit to Margravine Cemetery, an Askew Road Walk, and a Walk from Furnival Gardens to Chiswick Church.

VENUE: St Clement's Church Hall (Details as above).

Following the meeting there will be a short talk by Sue Pierson who writes:-

The initial research for 'Parson's Green, the irregular triangle', was done by me, Sue, but my husband Lance, who was a perfectionist, kept on at me to follow up parts of my research! And I am very glad he did. The book was almost ready for the printers last summer but cancer robbed Lance of seeing the book in print. I hope to encourage you to buy the book, only £6, by telling you about some of the other interesting people who lived round the Green and I might ask you some questions to see how well you know the area.

And one by Jane Bowden-Dan

I read this fascinating book *Parson's Green: 'The irregular triangle'* written by the Piersons, shortly after it was published by FHHS, It told me that a fine house (Hollybush) on the Green was leased by an Admiral - Sir Charles Wager (1666-1743). Coincidentally, just a few weeks earlier I had happened to take a wonderful (post-COVID) musical tour of Westminster Abbey with The Purcell Choir. We chanced upon the impressive tomb of Admiral Wager. This has a bas-relief which shows his famous naval engagement, with the inscription: "The destroying & taking the SPANISH GALLEONS A.D.1708".

So having an interest in 18th century Naval matters myself, and with a name like Wager, I guessed that "he would be a good bet"! to research further, I therefore did more reading

about Wager's naval career during the Wars of the Spanish Succession, and afterwards as an MP and senior administrator of the Navy.

I shall tell you something about this; the book, *Parson's Green: 'The irregular triangle'* hints - unexpectedly - hints at other Naval links here in Fulham, which might be something else to explore in future.

**PLEASE BRING THIS AGENDA WITH YOU TO MEETING IF ATTENDING> THANK YOU**

Thank you for all of you who responded to the survey, Susan Richards has summarised it as follows:-

### **SURVEY RESPONSES**

At the beginning of August we asked members to fill in a survey for us so that we could see how you felt about events organized by FHHS, about locations for events, and about possible reasons for non-attendance at events. We also asked if any one would be willing to join the committee and to take over particular tasks such as Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

So far we have received 19 responses and are happy to receive more by the time of our AGM in November. We need to know the views of members so that we can make decisions about the future of the society.

Members did not appear to be worried about the possibility of contracting Covid as a result of attending meetings and events. Most people were happy with the two venues...St Clement's and St Etheldreda's. Suggestions were made for other venues which have been noted. St Clement's is convenient for those coming from both Fulham and Hammersmith and has been booked for our Autumn talks and AGM. However, it isn't convenient for everyone and, interestingly, we had responses from Sussex, Scotland, rural Bucks and County Durham who obviously cannot make any meetings but want to stay in touch with the area!

Weekdays were preferred for meetings and events. No particular day came out on top. It did seem very clear, though, that everyone leads busy lives and has other commitments which can change things at the last minute. Members emphasized the need for as much advance notice as possible of events and for reminders, perhaps a week before.

Two persons very kindly offered to join the committee, one as Treasurer, but by Zoom rather than in person.

One kindly offered to organize the odd event.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our questions. We need to decide at our AGM whether the society has a future. Our problems are low attendance at meetings and events and a need to find volunteers for roles on the committee. Please do come to the AGM or give us your views if you haven't already done so. It is essential for the future of the society and whether we can keep going.

## OTHER EVENTS Report of Visit

### Visit to All saints Church Putney

In July a group of 18 society members visited the grade II\* listed building of All Saints church Putney common. This late example of Victorian Arts and craft has decorative ceilings and a wonderful collection of stained glass, which is the only London Morris and Co stained glass work.

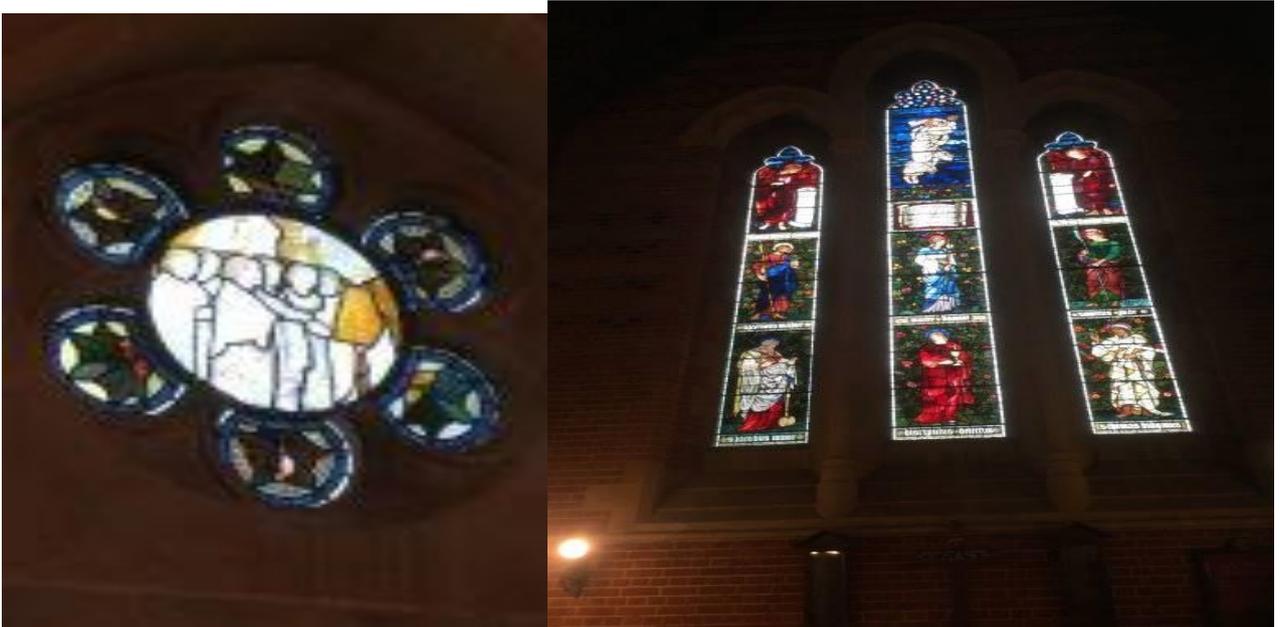
Built by the architect George Street, on land donated by Earl Spencer, it was a collaboration between him William Morris and Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Lack of initial funds meant it took nearly 75 years to complete the church dating from 1874.

Many of the window designs were done by Burne-Jones, although Morris did 6, designs that were first used in other churches including in Calcutta

The North wall has 7 Old Testament figures in windows that were installed from 1884-1910.

The west wall window featuring 7 more designs was installed in 1883 from funds raised by the congregation.

There is also a wonderful reredos designed by George Street and painted by John Roddham Stanhope Spencer





## **FUTURE EVENTS**

We still aim to organise a trip to Old Oak before the arrival of HS2. We still hope to reschedule the planned tour of the Cinema Museum . . . If you have ideas for a future event or could deliver one then please make contact [fulhammoat@gmail.com](mailto:fulhammoat@gmail.com)

## **NOTES**

### **YOUR COMMITTEE**

We urgently need a significant injection of new talent into the committee, in particular the following positions necessitated by moves out of the area and personal circumstances:

Honorary Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Webmaster  
Newsletter Editor

None of these roles are onerous but would benefit from some new attention. They are being fulfilled temporarily by members with other heavy commitments. In particular anyone with knowledge of social media and or website use in a non-technical way would be most welcome. (We use Wordpress so the emphasis is on content and not on coding. So would suit anyone familiar with Microsoft Office or using blogs).

### **MEMBERSHIP & FRIENDS OF FHHS**

We have an extensive email contact list of Friends many of whom live outside the borough but wish to maintain contact. Our paying members are a rather smaller list and we send out our Newsletter by email to most who have an email address and by post to those who haven't or have specifically requested a physical copy. It is important to keep up your subscriptions which are £12 or £8 for concessions payable to Acting Hon Treasurer 78 Harbord Street LONDON SW6 6PJ. (upto Nov 2022) New address to be advised, Send email to Keith if Urgent for details [fulhammoat@gmail.com](mailto:fulhammoat@gmail.com)

Members will get the first invitation to our events; only later being extended to others. Our current Membership list includes those who have paid in either of the last 2 years, understanding that many have not been able to get out and about and payment of subscriptions was probably not at the top of people's priority list. We will continue to notify friends and members of new posts on the website.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

There is an extensive list of publications on our website including the new edition of Hammersmith Bridge contact Sue Pierson for orders, 020 7731 6544 or [sue@lancepierson.org](mailto:sue@lancepierson.org) and of course "Parsons Green" has been published.