



The Hammersmith Mall Residents' Association

www.hamra.org.uk

*Caring for The Mall Conservation Area
(Designated 1971)*

NEWSLETTER 5 – FEBRUARY 2014

Editor: Victoria Timberlake

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, with information about HAMRA and a round-up of some of the local issues and activities affecting the Mall Conservation Area over the last 12 months.

Our Current Chair

The current Chair of HAMRA, Stephen Claypole, is a veteran of global broadcast news. He was a BBC correspondent in Northern Ireland during The Troubles, former head of newsgathering at the Corporation and the founding CEO of the worldwide video agency Associated Press Television News (APTN). He is now Chairman of DMA-Media Ltd, the London-based content creation and editorial outsourcing company. He is a Fellow of the Royal Television Society. Stephen lives in Digby Mansions on the eastern edge of the Hammersmith Mall Conservation Area. Stephen can be contacted by email at: chair@hamra.org.uk



Forthcoming AGM:

The 4th HAMRA AGM will be held at Linden House, Upper Mall, London W6 9TA at 8:30pm on Wednesday 26th February 2014. Please put this date in your diary. The AGM will include a presentation by guest speaker Allan Baird, of Chartered Practice Architects Ltd, describing the emerging proposals for a new Flyunder to bury the A4 Great West Road between Barons Court and Hogarth Roundabout.

Town Hall Redevelopment:



Following extensive consultation with HAMRA, Save our Skyline and other local groups, new plans for the King Street Redevelopment Scheme were approved in November 2013. The development will be no taller than the existing Town Hall Extension (a considerable reduction on the 15 stories originally proposed) and will include a new three-screen Curzon community cinema; new homes and retail space; replacement Council offices and a new town square with the ceremonial steps to the old Town Hall reinstated. The existing Town

Hall Extension will be retained, redesigned and re-clad in glass, to provide a glazed in, double-height atrium containing cafes, shops and the entrance to the cinema above. The Thomas Pocklington Trust properties will be retained and the bridge across the A4 to Furnivall Gardens has been scrapped. The new scheme is a vast improvement on the previous proposals and, with some minor reservations, is broadly welcomed by HAMRA, the Hammersmith Society and other local groups.

Relocation of Quaker Meeting House:

Sadly, the Hammersmith Quaker Meeting House on Nigel Playfair Avenue will close at the end of the summer to make way for the Town Hall redevelopment. The original meeting house, destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944, was situated at 28 Lower Mall, with its burial ground extending back under what is now the Great West Road. As the Council required this site for the new Furnivall Gardens, the Quakers requested that a part of the old burial ground be set aside as a garden of rest. This peaceful little part of Furnivall Gardens remains as a lasting commemoration of the Quakers' more than 350 year presence by the river. The new Quaker Meeting House on Bradmore Park Road will open in the summer of 2015.

Furnivall Gardens

The last few months have been very busy in Furnivall Gardens, Jane Skinner reports. Following our 2013 Western Riverside Environmental Fund (WREF) grant of nearly £20,000, we have been working with the Friends and the Council on a plan to thicken up the vegetation along the A4 boundary and provide two new historical signboards.

We held two planting days on the last two Saturdays in November. Luckily, the beautiful weather encouraged hosts of volunteers on both days. The first Saturday we planted 2,000 small whips of native trees. Whips need little watering and are therefore more likely to survive, while native species will provide good native wildlife habitats. The next week we planted about 4,000 (!) bluebell and snowdrop bulbs and about 30 trees. We will be putting up chestnut temporary fencing for the next



year or so to try and protect the planting and trees. As well as the help given by residents and park visitors, we also had help from LBHF, Thrive Gardening charity and the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (who provided the tools and gloves), to all of whom we are very grateful.

The signs to be installed will match the ones by the Old Ship. One will show the history of the park, the changes in the street layout because of bombing or development, together with photos over the years. The second will be about the historic houses along the Mall and the personalities who lived in them. The Friends of Furnivall Gardens can be contacted on their new email address:

furnivallgardens@hotmail.co.uk

Upper Mall Open Space

LBHF Council have turfed over the cycle path shortcut through the two green spaces between the playground and the Old Ship, thanks to the prompting and continued efforts of HAMRA resident Lauretta Harris. In an attempt to discourage repeated use of the grass as a short-cut, they have planted rows of *Cornus sanguinea* and *Virburnum opulus*, two native British species. Lauretta reports that Council has committed to installing three benches within an estimated 4 – 6 weeks' time and in the interim she has asked them to install more barrier netting and Keep Off signs.

London Corinthian Sailing Club - New Pontoon for Sailors

London Corinthian Trust, the charitable body that manages the facilities for London Corinthian Sailing Club and Sons of the Thames Rowing Club at Linden House, has secured a £46,000 grant from Sport England. The £46,000 of National Lottery funding, part of the 2012 Olympics sports legacy investment, will be used to upgrade the dinghy launching facilities for LCSC through the addition of another pontoon. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of 2014 pending planning permission and approval from the Port of London Authority.

Riverside Studios Redevelopment:



In December 2013 the Council approved plans for the redevelopment of Riverside Studios on the joint Riverside Studios/Queens Wharf site. The plans are for a six to eight storey building with the Riverside Studios complex on the lower floors and

flats above and will also open up the riverside walk to the public. HAMRA and other local groups support the development in principle, as it will ensure that Riverside Studios can remain in the borough, but remain concerned that the height and massing of the development are excessive and unneighbourly and will detract from the adjacent Hammersmith Bridge.

Reckless Cycling on Thames Path.

HAMRA has made fresh representations to Hammersmith and Fulham Council over reckless cycling on The Thames path. Chairman Stephen Claypole has exchanged correspondence with Council Leader Nicholas Botterill saying that this is seen on the riverbank as an urgent issue in the run-up to the Council elections in May. Subsequently Claypole and Michael Davies, Chair of the Friends of Furnivall Gardens, met with Chris Bainbridge, Head of Transport Policy and Network Management Transportation and Highways Transport and Technical Services at the Town Hall.

Part of the problem is that the Parks police are inhibited from taking action in the Gardens because of a “lasagne” of old laws and regulations not effective in the modern age: Among others: the Upper Mall Act of 1953, an act of 1830 relating to “peddling furiously” (hardly relevant in an age of high tech gears), an old Highways Act relating to the central path in Furnivall Gardens and the fact that the Doves Passage is a “footpath not adjacent to a highway” and thus legally usable by cyclists.

Bainbridge said he and his team would look again to see whether there were any devices that would slow cyclists but not be in breach of Equalities legislation. HAMRA urged changes to the law that would make cycling illegal at “pinch-points” such as the underside of Hammersmith Bridge, the area outside The Rutland and Blue Anchor, the Doves Passage and the approaches to The Old Ship. We emphasised the need for the Parks and Safer Neighbourhood Police to be empowered to take action to serve fixed penalty notices where cycling was reckless or anti-social.

The Emery Walker Trust and the William Morris Society Lottery Funding.

The Emery Walker Trust and the William Morris Society have received initial support funding of £91,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their joint project ‘Arts and Crafts Hammersmith: Developing the Legacy of William Morris and Emery Walker’. This initiative aims to open up access to the rich collections of both organisations and the wider histories – personal, social, political – of the arts and crafts that are deeply rooted in this part of Hammersmith. This funding will enable them to progress their plans to apply for a full grant by the end of 2014.

The project involves essential conservation work to the collections of both organisations. It will also digitise them through a single web portal, allowing on-line public access to the collections for the first time. New joint programmes of education, interpretation and outreach will be offered and both houses will benefit from much-needed repairs as well as alterations designed to improve the visitor experience by creating spaces for exhibitions and better support of public activities.

Emery Walker’s House re-opens on Saturday 5th April and then every Saturday until October 2014. Visits must be pre-booked. The current exhibition at the William Morris Society’s Coach House, ‘Re-discovered Treasures’, features 10 beautiful drawings for embroidery designs for Morris and Co. (Open Thursday and Saturday afternoons until June 2014.).