



The Hammersmith Mall Residents' Association

[www.hamra.org.uk](http://www.hamra.org.uk)

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

## NEWSLETTER 6 – FEBRUARY 2015

*Editor: Victoria Timberlake*

### **Forthcoming AGM:**

**HAMRA's AGM will be held at Linden House, Upper Mall, London W6 9TA at 6:30pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Please note an earlier start than usual, to allow time for our special guest speaker Christina Smyth (see below) and drinks in the bar following the AGM.**

### **Heathrow Airport Expansion Back on the Agenda:**

Following the 2013 publication of the Davies Report on airport expansion by the Government's Airports Commission, a local residents-led committee - the Hammersmith and Fulham Commission on Airports Expansion (HFCAE) - was set up in November 2014 to review the Report's evidence, with a special focus on the impact on the borough of any Heathrow expansion. Impacts include safety, surface access, underground traffic, air quality, carbon emissions, quality of life (including noise) and the local economy. HFCAE recently submitted its findings in a report to the Airports Commission.



The full report can be read at: <http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/heathrow>

Sharing HAMRA's representation on HFCAE were Natasha Gabb, Victoria Timberlake and Stephen Claypole. We are especially grateful that **Christina Smyth, HFCAE Chair and local resident, has agreed to speak about the work of HFCAE and the impact of the possible expansion of Heathrow Airport on our borough at HAMRA's AGM on 25 February. A 6.30pm start** will give Christina time to speak about these crucial issues and stay for questions before she has to depart for her next engagement.

### **Town Hall Redevelopment and Relocation of Quaker Meeting House:**

As yet, there are no firm dates for when the Town Hall Redevelopment is likely to commence. Since planning approval was granted in 2013, there have been extensive necessary preliminary negotiations between the Council, developers and other interested parties, which are now reaching a conclusion. This included finding a new location for the Quaker Meeting House and we are delighted to announce that a site on Bradmore Park Road has been chosen and plans have now been approved. The Quakers look forward to breaking ground in their new location later in 2015. Their presence near the river will be missed, but the Garden of Rest will remain as a testimony to their 350 year life on the Mall. We wish them well in their new home.

### **Cycling Strategy Consultation:**

The Council is currently holding a consultation to develop a Cycling Strategy for the Borough. HAMRA has made a submission voicing our concerns about the on-going problem of reckless cycling on the Thames Path and requesting that measures for dealing with this are put in place as part of the new cycling strategy.

## Furnivall Gardens New Historical Sign:



Friends of Furnivall Gardens have installed a welcome new historical information sign, mapping key bygone features which are illustrated with archival photos. They were ably advised by Ruth Hutton, Coordinator, the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea; Angela Dixon, former Chair of Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group (H&FHBG), and Paul Goodacre, Team Leader Planning Division LBHF. The project was made possible by a grant from the Western Riverside Environmental Fund (WREF) which funded the garden's 2013 planting that - thanks to an abundance

of rain and sunshine last year - is thriving! Congratulations to Jane Skinner, the Friends' new chair; John King, vice chair and Una Hodgkins, new secretary who was largely responsible for the sign's research and information. [furnivallgardens@hotmail.com](mailto:furnivallgardens@hotmail.com)

## Restoring the Upper Mall Gardens.

There has been a vast improvement in the landscaping of Upper Mall Gardens, due to the perseverance of local resident, Laretta Harris, who has petitioned the council to improve the green space borders and so prevent cyclists taking short cuts across the grass. In the upper part of the gardens, the new benches, fencing and shrub border installed last year, provide a sheltered place for play and picnicking. In the lower garden, the partial re-turfing and new benches somewhat mitigated the cycle cut-through, but further plans include a raised bank with native planting, which has been proposed and submitted to the council for approval. We are currently awaiting details on how to reduce the cost of shifting much of the organic matter needed to complete the task. So spades at the ready! Your help may be needed. We are especially grateful to PC 511 Hazel Ryan of the Parks Police Service for working with us on cycling issues and to members of the Parks Department for their continued help and advice.

## Old Ship.

Together with Lord Napier Place Residents, H&FHBG and the Hammersmith Society, HAMRA successfully opposed an application for new large Young's Brewery corporate signage on the pub. This would have been out of keeping with the architectural character of the building and harmful to the setting of the Mall Conservation Area.

## Riverside Studios:

Demolition of Riverside Studios and Queens Wharf has now started and the new Studios are due to open in 2017. Although we are delighted that Riverside Studios is to stay in the borough, HAMRA remain concerned about a number of aspects of the design of the new building. We have written to the Council asking whether there is any scope for improvements to the development at this late stage.

## Planning Changes:

The new Council have introduced a number of welcome changes to the planning process, aimed at giving local people more of a say in planning matters. Interested parties and those who have commented on an application are now able to register to speak at **Planning Application Committee Meetings**, so they can voice their concerns - or support - in person. For major projects, new, independently chaired, **Planning Forums** between residents groups and developers have been set up. It is hoped that these forums will result in developers taking local people's views into much greater consideration before they submit plans for approval.

## Thames Wharf:

Rogers Stirk Harbour will be re-locating their offices and propose to redevelop Thames Wharf. Although this is outside the Mall Conservation Area, it has the potential to affect views downstream of and from Hammersmith Bridge. Jane Bain has attended two exhibitions and a recent Planning Forum on behalf of HAMRA and voiced our concerns about the proposed new building heights. We are endeavouring to ensure that the impact on Hammersmith Bridge is reduced as much as possible.

## Emery Walker Trust and William Morris Society Heritage Lottery Funding:

We are delighted to learn of a £631,100 grant from HLF as well as an additional £100,000 from a range of sources including Garfield Weston Foundation, Ashley Family Foundation and Heritage of London Trust. This will enable the partnership to launch the Arts and Crafts Hammersmith initiative in 2015 which will fund repairs, refurbishments and improvements to the two properties at Kelmscott House and 7 Hammersmith Terrace, as well as supply the means fully to preserve and conserve the heritage in their care and make it available for enjoyment and study.

Capital and conservation works at both houses will begin at the end of 2015. Kelmscott House, where the William Morris Society is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, will open as usual throughout the project. 7 Hammersmith Terrace will close in July 2015 and reopen in 2017. Booking opens early Feb. on [www.emerywalker.org.uk](http://www.emerywalker.org.uk) Fundraising for the project's final stages continues. To find out more, please contact Simon Daykin, Project Manager.

## Retrieved from the River - The Doves Type:

Between 1913 and 1917 Thomas Cobden-Sanderson, resident of Doves Passage, systematically destroyed one of the most beautiful and elegant fonts - the Doves Type, tipping it into the Thames from Hammersmith Bridge. Fast forward a hundred years and Robert Green, a typographer, undertook a personal quest to re-draft the font and create a digital facsimile of the type. At the end of last year, in collaboration with the salvage team from the Port of London Authority, he recovered a quantity of the lost metal type from the riverbed around Hammersmith Bridge.



These findings enabled him to create a refined digital facsimile, available to buy from his company, Typespec. A portion of the salvaged type will be donated to the Emery Walker Trust. (See 'Sunday Times' Supplement, 11<sup>th</sup> January for this amazing story.)

## Skittle Alley Coffee & Pantry and Saturday Farmers' Market, Black Lion Pub.

We rejoice in the new **Skittle Alley café at the Black Lion Pub**, the brainchild of local residents, Lindsay Elder and Georgina Williams. Open from 8am - 12noon, Monday - Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturdays, the coffee and freshly made juices are unbeatable. Every Saturday between 9am - 1pm they hold an organic farmers' market, including Gilcombe Farm, Somerset, with meat and dairy; Wild Country Organic, Cambridgeshire, selling organic salad and vegetables; Sally Clarke Bakery, artisan breads and pastries, and from local resident Lynfa at Little Lake Flowers, exquisitely arranged posies and bouquets. Let's support this welcome venture with our patronage. [www.skittlealley.london](http://www.skittlealley.london)

## HAMRA Contact Details:

Our Chairman, Stephen Claypole, can be contacted by email at: [chair@hamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@hamra.org.uk). For general enquiries please contact [secretary@hamra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hamra.org.uk)