



**The Hammersmith Society**

**Newsletter – August 2006**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 10 September** Regents Canal Boat Trip : see Hammersmith from the canal as it winds through the north of our area – and then journey leisurely on a Sunday afternoon westwards to Greenford  
See details below.

**Thursday 21st September** Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group AGM at 7pm at Holy Innocents Church, Paddenswick Road, includes a guided tour of the building The theme of this year's AGM is 'Historic Churches and their Alteration and Extension'

Welcome to this first newsletter since I took over as Chairman at our AGM in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael McDermott our previous Chairman for all his fantastic work for the Society over his three year term of office. I have a lot to live up to! I much look forward to all the challenges that this new role for me will bring – I have already discovered how much Michael had to do!

At the AGM we also welcomed Melanie Whitlock to her new role as Hon Secretary and elected the new committee. The audited accounts were not available for the AGM but will be distributed to members.

If you would like to come along to one of our committee meetings (held about every six weeks) to see the sort of things we discuss do please let us know – we shall be delighted to see you. I can always be contacted on either 020 8748 0284 or by email to [aficlarke@gmail.com](mailto:aficlarke@gmail.com)

Angela Clarke

**THE HAMMERSMITH SOCIETY ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2006**

**A**nnual Environment Award 2006 was given to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for *StreetSmart*. This is the Council's New bible for street design. It is still only Volume 1 but it quite simply sets out the agenda for good streetscape design. The Hammersmith Society and the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group can reasonably claim some credit for the birth of this document and what it represents. How many AGMs of this Society have we had to berate the Council for tawdry streetscape problems?

Well, all that looks set to change. With the booklet only having been published in November 2005 the success of the refurbished King Street is the first realisation of that policy and has been recognised by the Society in making this award to the Council. We know everything cannot be changed overnight but it's all heading in right direction at last.

**N**ancye Goulden Award 2006 This award is for smaller-scale improvements in Hammersmith. It was been awarded in 2006 to 186 -188 Shepherds Bush Road.

Jasmine Studios (Client); Glyn Emrys (Partner) and Ian May (Project Architect) of A-EM Architects.

This has always been a strange little site, nuzzling next to the old Osram Light Bulb factory and opposite the broad end of Brook Green. For many years it was a collection of rather broken down Arts and Craft style education buildings. Something rather French about it and just one of those forgotten uncared for corners with Hammersmith and City Line on west side of the site. Well now it is been transformed into a very attractive collection of buildings – part refurbishment - part new with interesting steeply pitched roofs providing north lights to photographers’ studios. It is a very nicely designed and detailed development. The integration of the old buildings with the new is excellent. The new forms and the landscape are simple and cool and the new building stacks up ingeniously against the rather bland end flank wall of the old Osram building, which is now Access Storage.

## **J**ANE MERCER AWARD FOR CO-OPERATION, COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION

The Hammersmith Society has this year introduced a new award to be given for initiatives of benefit to Hammersmith which have involved proactive co-operation, collaboration and communication. This award is in memory of former Chairman of the Society Jane Mercer who died during 2005.

This first award is made to all those involved in preparing the master-plan for the White City Opportunity Area for the useful Stakeholder consultation meetings which have been organised by Good Relations and OMA (the Office for Metropolitan Architecture) - architects and masterplanners on behalf of the landowners. Many useful suggestions have been made by local community groups and individuals at these meetings which have been taken on board by OMA and the master plan adjusted accordingly.

The White City Opportunity Area presents regeneration opportunities for the W12 area and beyond. Internationally renowned OMA architect Rem Koolhaas, has designed the draft master-plan for the site which sets out the different types of land uses such as offices, housing and community uses, open space, and transport links on behalf of the consortium of landowners who include Helical Bar plc, Morley Fund Management, BBC, Land Securities plc, Lattice Group Pension Scheme and Marks & Spencer.

## **W**.OODEN SPOON AWARDS : awarded for things that should not be happening in Hammersmith!

”The Winners” in 2006 were:

### 1. **Thames Water plc** for :

- a) Repeated flooding of properties in Askew Road area with sewage due poor maintenance of the drainage system.
- b) Further discharges of raw sewage into the Thames on average once a week.
- c) Erection of warning signs to river users in respect of sewage outfalls which look particularly unsightly for users of the Thames Path, especially the one in Furnival Gardens. These warning signs were formerly fixed to the river wall and thus not visible from the land!

2. **Premier Travel Inn** (Former Vencourt Hotel/House) for their signage and lighting which looks like airport landing lights when travelling west down King Street.

3. **The owner of 33 Paddenswick Road** for demolishing almost the entire house without approval

4 **Owners in Conservation Areas** who act very insensitively in the treatment of their front gardens. Recent examples of this have been in Dalling Road.

5. **H Samuel and Co** (clock and watch merchants) for their inability to mend their own clock on Kings Mall. It is stuck at 9.15 but then you could say it is right twice a day!

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## Canal Trip : Sunday 10 September

Members and their families and guests can either join at Paddington Basin at 12noon or at the Sainsburys car park, Ladbroke Grove at 1pm to travel by boat to Greenford (chosen as near public transport links to come back to Hammersmith!) enjoying the interesting scenery on the way: ultramodern redeveloped Paddington Basin, Victorian Kensal Green Cemetery, some industrial areas and then after crossing the North Circular Road by aqueduct it becomes rural going past Horsenden Hill and through Perivale Wood (which boasts 70 species of birds).

Bring your own lunch/drinks etc. There will be a commentary from Del Brennan, Secretary of the Regents Canal Network, a great canal expert and enthusiast, and John Goodier of the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group (HBG) with whom we are joining for this trip. Tickets are £15.00 each and bookings can be made to Melanie Whitlock on 020 8743 1391, Email: [whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com](mailto:whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com) or by sending an sae and cheque payable to the Hammersmith Society to 38 Ashchurch Grove W12 8BU. Indicate your preferred joining point but joining details will be provided once you have been allocated a place on board. Apply quickly as it is likely to be oversubscribed.

Members will remember that three years ago we had a similar trip which started in Harlesden travelling along the Regents Canal to Camden Town. There is still lots more canal near at hand to see which we may do on a future occasion – perhaps starting where we will finish this time and going to Brentford where the canal joins the Thames.

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### LATEST NEWS

#### **Allied Carpets Site, Goldhawk Road**

Hammersmith Society gave evidence at the public inquiry dealing with the appeal by the developers against the Council's refusal of planning consent for their proposed scheme. The initial hearings took place in early June but further days had to be added at the end of July. We now await the Inspector's decision with fingers crossed that the Council's decision will not be overturned! It is an important decision as it will have implications for other sites in the future.

#### **St Paul's Church, Queen Caroline Street, central Hammersmith**

With other community representatives, Hammersmith Society has been involved in a consultation process with the authorities at St Paul's Church who need more space due to the increase in their congregation. They wish to build an extension on to the west end of the church in the existing churchyard, but their planning application was recently turned down by the Council as Councillors decided that the proposal was inappropriate in the context of this Grade II\* listed building, as aspects of the detailed design and the materials did not enhance the appearance of the existing church.

Your committee has been very complimentary over the subtle arrangement of the plan - particularly bearing in mind the two storey height restriction and the constraint of the existing west wall - but have continued to express serious concern over the external appearance of the building. As there is no way in which a modest contemporary extension can be made to 'fit in' with the design of a large and elegant neo-gothic church, which is complete in itself, we believe that particular architectural skill is required to make the extension memorable in its own right. We did not feel that this had been achieved and believe that this aspect of the design is still seriously lacking. In our view the elevational treatment is far too busy, with the totality not adding up to any more than just the sum of the parts. We are convinced that the exterior design could be vastly improved with the application of an appropriate architectural vision and skill and by significant simplification of the existing visual elements.

The proposed building is sited in one of the most visible and important locations in the centre of Hammersmith, demanding the highest quality of architectural response. We believe that this can still be achieved and for that reason the Hammersmith Society chose not to support the planning application.

### **Additional powers for the Mayor**

**D**espite the submission made by the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies (endorsed by the Hammersmith Society) objecting to the proposal that some Government Office for London roles be transferred to the Mayor, the Government has announced that the Mayor will have various new powers in two years' time. We are greatly concerned over the transfer of planning powers, especially following the overturning of the Planning Inspector's decision by John Prescott (on the Mayor's advice) and to grant planning permission for the huge proposed development at Lots Road, right on our Borough boundary. This was turned down by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the Planning Inspector following a Public Inquiry. An individual member of the HBG is seeking a Judicial Review in the High Court of the Secretary of States' action. The Hammersmith Society and other local organisations have made small financial contributions to the costs of this action as the outcome will have implications for future developments along the river.

### **St Stephen's Church, Uxbridge Road**

**A** recent planning application from the church authorities for the construction of a new church hall in the graveyard of this Grade II listed church has been turned down by the Council following united opposition from Hammersmith Society and local residents. The proposals included selling the present church hall to the neighbouring church school. We will monitor future developments on their plans closely.

### **Janet Adegoke Site, Bloemfontein Road, White City**

**T**he new swimming pool has opened to the public in the grounds of Phoenix School and plans were drawn up for the redevelopment of the former Janet Adegoke Leisure Centre Site, designed by Richard Rogers Partnership. However, your committee felt that, although the principal concept was excellent, some aspects of the scheme were flawed and needed further thought, particularly the encroachment into Wormholt Park which would entail a net loss of 6% of the current open space. We submitted our views to the Council and as a result the Planning Applications Committee decided to defer its decision on the application until after the Council's elections. Since then your committee has had two meetings with the developers, Building Better Health, the architects and Council planning officers and a revised footprint for the development has been proposed. This reduces the height of the residential element slightly to enable there to be no overall loss of land from the Park and planning gain of a planted public forecourt. No details have yet been prepared about other aspects of the scheme with which we had concerns, in particular the internal arrangement of the residential units and private open space and we will continue to monitor progress on the revised scheme.

### **Hammersmith Broadway Post Office**

**T**he Post Office have announced plans to close the main Post Office in Hammersmith Broadway, make the staff there redundant and have a new Post Office under the control of W H Smith within their shop in Kings Mall. Your committee have joined with many others in objecting to this proposal, particularly if it means fewer counter staff for what is always an extremely busy Post Office. We have also reminded the Post Office Chairman that the continuation of a Post Office was an integral and fiercely fought for requirement by them of the redevelopment of the Hammersmith Broadway central island site back in the 1980s – and for them to change their mind now as to the importance of having this easily accessible Post Office for both customers and their own collections/delivery seems quite extraordinary and unacceptable. We just hope they will listen.

### **News by email**

**I**n order to access this service please advise our new Hon Secretary, Melanie Whitlock, of your email address at [whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com](mailto:whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com)

### **Membership**

**W**e welcome a number of new members to the Society – but look forward to welcoming more. A leaflet is enclosed – please do give it to a friend or neighbour.