

## **Old Chiswick Protection Society**

### **Autumn 2021 Newsletter**

Old Chiswick Protection Society exists to preserve and enhance the amenities of this riverside conservation area.

### **OCPS Annual General Meeting to be held via Zoom Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 7pm**

The following Committee members are due for election or re-election this year:

Sir Alan Munro, Mr Graham Clifton, Mr William Hindmarch, Mr James Stitt, Mr Simon Yardley, Mr Robert Stephenson-Padron.

If you would like to stand or would like to nominate someone to serve on the Committee, please let the Secretary know at least one week before the AGM.

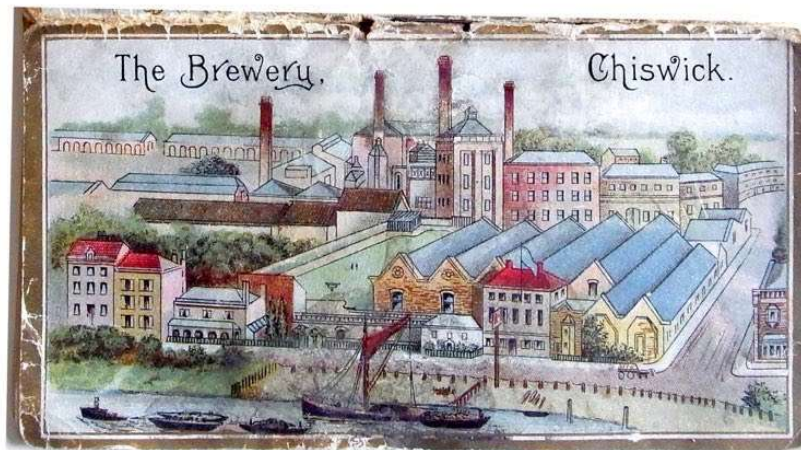
Any questions, in advance, by email to the Secretary, please: [patricialangley@me.com](mailto:patricialangley@me.com)

### **Message from the Chair**

The number of longstanding residents in the Old Chiswick Conservation Area attests to its magnetism. A deep appreciation of its historical importance and exceptional riverside position has instilled a commitment in residents to preserve its unique character. For over fifty years, the OCPS has been supported by wonderful individuals, many of them still active in the organisation today. Therefore, it was with great sadness that we learned of the deaths of two long-time OCPS members, Tony Taylor and Grania Munro, whose accomplishments and activities are recognised in this Newsletter.

Fortunately, residents new to the area – such as Bob Padron, our latest OCPS committee recruit – are motivated to make meaningful contributions that extend beyond the official boundaries of the conservation area to address matters that nonetheless benefit us all. Bob's litter-picking initiative in and around the Hogarth Roundabout is an example of his energetic engagement with our community. Read on to learn more.

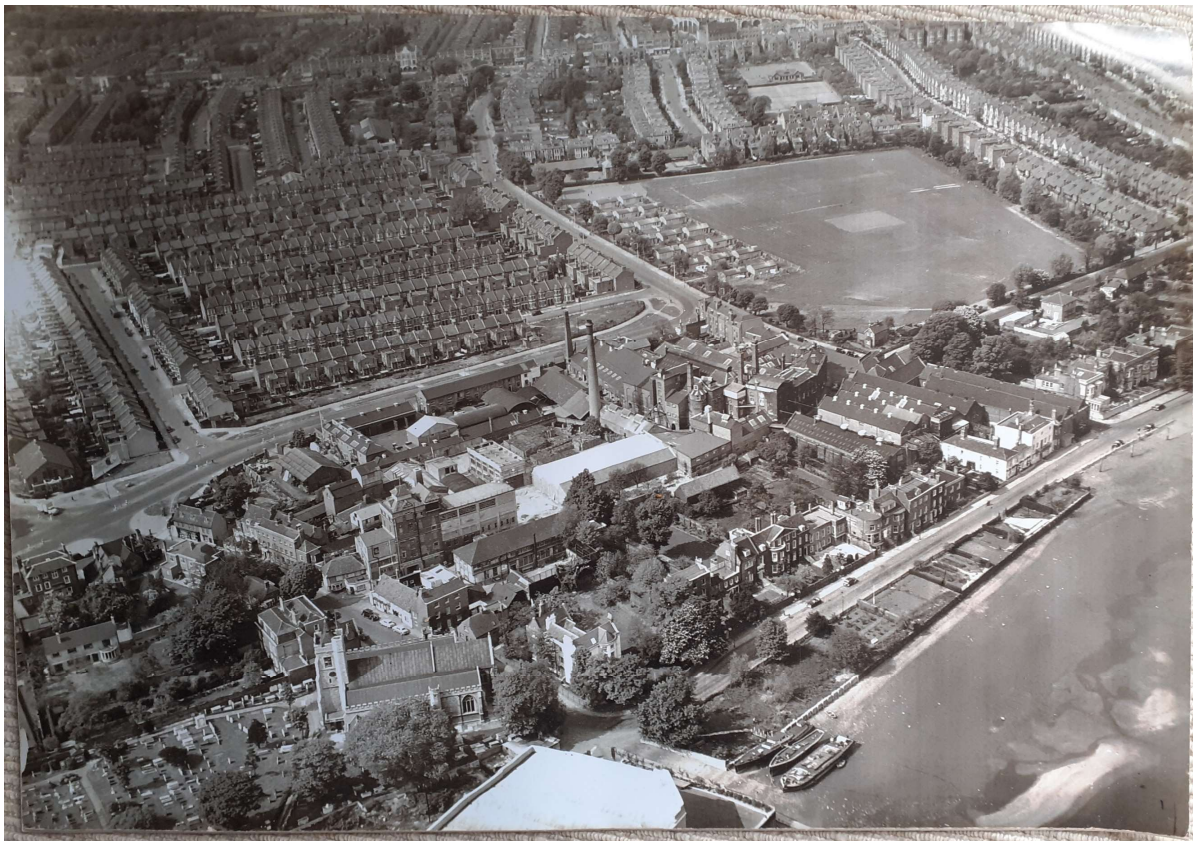
There is always something to do for anyone who would like to get involved. This winter, as in most years, the willows on Chiswick Eyot will be pollarded and volunteers are invited to help bundle withies that will be used around the Eyot to protect it against further erosion. It's actually fun and I would encourage everyone to try it for a few hours. You won't regret it!



*A postcard of the Brewery in 1890*

In the next Newsletter we will present an interesting piece of research into a somewhat neglected aspect of Old Chiswick – garden walls. A while back, it became apparent that there were more remnants of important seventeenth century boundary walls scattered in the area than the two parts listed by Historic England. OCPS decided to ask a conservation architect to search out as many of these as he could find, with the consent of householders, and report on the identification and condition of what remains. We have recently received his well-illustrated findings and will share these first with the householders and then in the spring 2022 Newsletter.

Living in and around Old Chiswick inevitably inspires a sense of responsibility to maintain and protect it for everyone to enjoy. Equally importantly, it generates a sense of community that I personally have never experienced in my 35 years living in London. It is a privilege to live here, to know my neighbours and to be a part of such a close-knit community in a city of nine million people.



*An aerial photograph of Old Chiswick from c.1954, before the building of the Great West Road.  
With thanks to Alice Nissen for unearthing it and sending it to OCPS.*



## Message from the President

Sadly, as Stephanie writes in her Message from the Chair, this summer the OCPS lost two of its finest members.

As many of you will know, we also lost Lady Grania Munro of Eynham House, Chiswick Mall. Grania was a radiant and welcoming personality, an artist, a *de facto* diplomat, a charity worker and much, much more.

The indefatigable Tony Taylor was ever present on the Executive Committee over the last decades. He spent many hours working on our behalf on traffic and other matters. A well-deserved tribute to Tony and his work for and outside of the OCPS appears below, written by Cliff, a committee member and a friend of Tony's.

Grania Munro and Tony Taylor both lived good and full lives. They will be much missed by OCPS.

## Grania Munro

Grania married Alan Munro (now Emeritus President of the OCPS) in Beirut in 1962, where they had been posted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Beirut was in its heyday: colourful, sophisticated and exotic. They must have been a handsome couple and cut quite a dash there.

The next year, on a break from foreign service, they found rooms to rent in Ferry House in Church Street, and well over half a century of association with Old Chiswick was born. After a year or so, Alan and Grania bought Eynham House, which, as with many houses on the Mall, was still suffering from war damage. Grania set out to make it their London family home when their FCO duties allowed. And she succeeded. The house is now a beautiful home, filled with a lifetime of mementos of foreign duties, with Grania's art, with children and grandchildren. Grania was particularly fond of the garden, which she kept immaculately. This year, and for the first time, Alan has himself produced the annual Chiswick Mall Pear Chutney from garden fruit using Grania's 50-year-old recipe. I felt honoured to get a jar.



At the time of Grania's arrival in Old Chiswick in the 1960s, the OCPS was run by Dr Christina Shaw (Morton House) and architect Robert Benson (Walpole House). It wasn't long before both Alan and Grania were drawn into doing sterling work for the Society.

Grania was responsible for rejuvenating the Society's approach to the two excellent books which it has published about Old Chiswick. She ensured that they were reprinted and that a number of local bookshops were supplied and resupplied. She also had a major hand in the most recent edition of *Life and Work in Old Chiswick* by Humphrey Arthure; this was brought out in 2007 with significant updates to the text and new illustrations that Grania persuaded Michael Manser RA and others to pen. (See further down the Newsletter for details of how to acquire copies of the books).

Grania was also the main architect and hostess of the OCPS summer party, which she ran at Eynham House until the lockdown of 2020 made that impossible. Both Grania and Alan welcomed the whole of the Society into their lovely garden and she was always keen to say that she hoped she could host many more after the pandemic was over.



by Grania

Outside of the OCPS, Grania was a talented artist. She produced the poignant image of her children on the foreshore shown here, but latterly also 'wrote' powerful religious icons.

When overseas postings allowed, Grania worked with many local charities over the years. She assisted Hounslow with literacy work and Queen Charlotte's Hospital with the Multiple Birth Foundation, as well as working with refuges for women who had been the subject of domestic violence, and procuring furniture and equipment for old people's homes in the borough.

Grania was a model diplomat's spouse. Alan tells of her many qualities in his memoir *Keeping the Flag Flying*, in which, in truth, Grania - and not Lebanon, Libya, Saudi or Brazil - is the main character. Her calm hospitality is exemplified by the story of her effortlessly serving dinner to a visiting VIP from London while dealing with and eventually dispatching a dining-room rat with a broom-stick in Riyadh!

## Tony Taylor



As you will have read in the messages from the Chair and the President, a neighbour, friend and stalwart committee member of the OCPS has died recently. Tony was a zealous supporter of the Society, always willing to dispense sound advice and to work tirelessly on many projects over the years. He was well known to the local councillors who were drawn into Tony's domain, which included detailed knowledge of many things but notably tunnels, flyunders and roads.

In his career as a senior partner at one of London's biggest chartered surveyors after an earlier job with British Rail, Tony was marked out for his vision and enterprise. His company were the instigators of Brent Cross, built by Hammersons, the first out-of-town and American-style indoor shopping centre in the UK, which opened in 1976. Tony later went on to start a subsidiary for his company in Spain, to advise on the early property boom there.

His love of jazz, which led to his active promotion of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, was only matched by his passion for sailing, which he and his wife, Bunty, enjoyed in semi-retirement during the nineties, spending nearly a decade exploring the Caribbean and the east coast of the USA, making many friends.

We will miss his generosity, his energy and his boundless enthusiasm. Our thoughts go out to Bunty and the family.

## Planning

### Island House

Island House is a double-fronted 5-storey house, between Norfolk House and Swan House on Chiswick Mall. It is Grade II listed. The house was acquired two years ago, the previous occupant having lived there for 36 years. A very detailed planning application and listed-building consent has been submitted to renovate the property. The works include the reconstruction and re-modelling of the front boundary wall, the lowering of the light wells and ground floor to improve head height, alterations to the fenestration and a full internal renovation. A single-storey extension is proposed to the rear, as well as a small pavilion in the river garden. Over the years, there have been many minor alterations to Island House; these proposals aim to bring the building back to the fine state that it was in when constructed, but make it suitable for current habitation.

## Neighbourhood Watch Update

We have experienced a small increase in the theft of bicycles and in theft from motor vehicles, including catalytic converters. However, crime levels remain low for our area. The police are giving crime prevention advice through their OWL messaging service, especially useful as the nights draw in. If you are interested in receiving OWLs, please contact pennybarltrop@aol.com and we can set you up on the system.

## Roads and Traffic

TfL has recently installed signs on the Hogarth Roundabout and elsewhere to warn us of the new ULEZ regulations arriving on 25th October. Unfortunately, the original positioning of the sign at the top of Church Street obscured the 40mph-limit sign on the approach from the river to the top of Church Street and, in the opposite direction, approaching Church Street from the roundabout, the new HGV sign was partially blocked out. OCPS sent pictures to TfL; it acknowledged its mistake and has now rectified the problem.



Photographs:  
Graham Clifton

TfL was also alerted to graffiti on the roundabout traffic signage, on safety grounds. It acknowledged this and removed it within a few days.

Other discussions with TfL continue. We have given feedback on the effect of restricting HGV movement in Church Street, we are prompting TfL to share upcoming plans for the Hogarth Roundabout safety scheme and we are again pushing for pedestrian signage in the subway (which has previously been agreed).

The culling of flyposting on the roundabout has been restarted, following the post-Covid festival season.

## **The Cemetery Green Flag Award Application and the Old Burial Ground Arboretum**

A meeting was held with the Green Flag (GF) inspector in early September, along with Dukes Meadows Trust, Hounslow Council and a representative from the Church. The Council is keen to gain GF recognition and OCPS is supporting this, along with Dukes Meadows Trust and St Nicholas Church.

The Arboretum project is separate from the GF application, but a successful application may mean that resources could be available from the Council. At the meeting, the Council informed us that funds have just been allocated to refurbish the water distribution network in the cemetery.

More planting will be taking place later this year, which will be agreed in the autumn with LBH/GreenSpace. GreenSpace360 is Hounslow Council's wholly-owned contractor for parks.

**STOP PRESS:** We have just heard that the Old Burial Ground has been awarded the Green Flag accreditation. The fledging arboretum played a part in this; volunteers are invited to contact [kathleenhealy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathleenhealy@hotmail.co.uk) to discuss tree sponsorship and to help with watering and on-going maintenance.

## **Hogarth Triangle**

The latest update from Transport for London is that their contractors are in the process of procuring shrubs and will be planting these as soon as they arrive. They are aware of the weeds and will be preparing the ground prior to planting. They anticipate that the work will be completed by the end of November.

## **Tackling Litter on the Hogarth Roundabout**

*This report is from the newest member of the committee, Robert Stephenson-Padron, whose personal initiative this is.*

'Clean streets are healthy streets' goes the Keep Britain Tidy adage. Well, if that's the case, the Hogarth Roundabout is not healthy, being continuously plagued by litter.

Thankfully, we as a community can clean up our neighbourhood via our own initiative. As a Hounslow Environmental Champion, I called for a community meeting to be held with local stakeholders on September 9<sup>th</sup> on how we can clean up the Hogarth Roundabout. Present at the meeting were our local councillors Guy Lambert and John Todd, and representatives of Hounslow Council, Hounslow Highways, TfL, Chiswick Gate, Fuller's Brewery/Asahi and Hogarth House.



*Photographs: Robert Stephenson-Padron*

We looked at three aspects of the problem: tackling the current litter around One Burlington Lane and the Premier Inn; reducing future instances of littering; and, the continued regeneration of the Hogarth Roundabout.





With regard to current litter, Hounslow Council said they would remove it once TfL, which owns the pavement around this area of the roundabout, had weeded the non-paved areas. TfL promptly did this. Rather than wait for the Council to clear the litter, I cleared it myself on September 18<sup>th</sup>, World Clean Up Day, filling a total of ten sacks.

Next, we discussed how to prevent littering from passing cars, a much more difficult task. TfL said they do not have the resources to do this via their CCTV monitoring. Littering is a violation of Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Section 88 allows litter authorities, in this case Hounslow Council, to issue fixed penalty notices to offenders. I have asked that enforcement be stepped up.

Finally, we discussed the overall continued regeneration of the Hogarth Roundabout. One Burlington Lane, the south end of Axis House, is being converted into residential flats, due for completion in 2024. We as a community then need to push for a similar uplift to the other side of Axis House, which is occupied by Premier Inn Chiswick. After this, the buildings on the Hogarth Roundabout will, it is to be hoped, positively contribute to the surroundings of the conservation area.

Progress is being made with respect to enhancing the Hogarth Roundabout and I am confident that by working together as a community, much good will be achieved. Our future in this most gorgeous area of London, Chiswick, is bright.

### **Chiswick Eyot**

There has been little activity on Chiswick Eyot since the spring – just one corporate event, organised by Thames21 to uproot Himalayan Balsam.



*A heron making use of the willow revetment round Chiswick Eyot. Photograph: Russell Harris*

The willows on the Eyot will be professionally pollarded again this winter and we will then be looking for your help with bundling the withies and using them on and around the island. You were brilliant last winter – we hope for the same support again this year. Look out for our big signs going up again when we have dates.

We are very grateful to Ruth Hutton of the West London River Group for obtaining a grant of £3,000 from the Heathrow Community Fund. This will enable us to secure the help of Thames21 with our work on the Eyot.

## William Hogarth and Hogarth's House

The name Hogarth can elicit an array of associations, possibly unpleasant if one is thinking of the Hogarth Roundabout or the underpass. Maybe you've driven past Hogarth's House, which is uninvitingly located on the A4, and made a mental note 'must visit Hogarth's House' that was then quite forgotten. Perhaps as a local resident you visited many years ago and haven't returned, thinking there was nothing new to see. As it happens, there *are* new things to see, including the Weston Studio for learning and activities, the landscaped garden with its ancient mulberry tree, and a top notch exhibition of Paula Rego prints curated by former National Gallery curator Colin Wiggins. Do brave a stroll down the A4 and rediscover the treasures on our doorstep.



*Hogarth's House walled garden, with ancient mulberry tree*

William Hogarth (1697–1764) was a master engraver, painter and satirist. He is best known for his moralising works that were widely reproduced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and include *Marriage A-la-Mode*, *A Rake's Progress* and *Gin Alley*. His wicked sense of humour and his skill as an artist made him very successful, allowing him in 1749 to purchase what he referred to as his 'little country box by the Thames' in the quiet village of Chiswick. Hogarth divided his time between his house in Leicester Fields (now Leicester Square) and his Chiswick house; he is buried in St Nicholas churchyard. His noteworthy tomb is a short walk from Hogarth's House, and the church and burial grounds are worth a visit.



William Hogarth, *Gin Lane*, 1751



William Hogarth, *Marriage A-la-Mode: 2, The Tête à Tête* 1745  
© The National Gallery, London

After Hogarth's death, the house passed through various owners until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it was saved, restored and then gifted to the local county council. It opened to the public in 1904, with an extensive collection of Hogarth's prints and replicas of furniture that featured in his prints. The house is nestled in the corner of an old walled garden which shelters an ancient mulberry tree that was planted before Hogarth bought his 'country box'. The garden has been restored and is a lovely spot to sit after a visit of the house.



The current exhibition at Hogarth's House, 'Paula Rego at Hogarth's House', was originally scheduled to end on 28<sup>th</sup> November, but has now been extended until February 2022. Colin Wiggins, who has worked with Paula Rego on several exhibitions, has curated an excellent selection of prints, lithographs and etchings that reveals how the two artists, Hogarth and Rego, are closely connected. Rego's work parodies and denounces abuse of power and rebels against coercive social norms. Indeed, Rego's series entitled *The Betrothal: Lessons: The Shipwreck, after 'Marriage a la Mode' by Hogarth* (2000) is a modern reinterpretation of arranged marriages and their disastrous consequences. One of her prints from the *Wine* series features a character taken directly from Hogarth's *Gin Alley*. Rego has gifted a set of six prints from her *Wine* series to the permanent collection at Hogarth's House.



Paula Rego, *The Betrothal: Lessons: The Shipwreck, after 'Marriage a la Mode' by Hogarth*, 2000

From November 3<sup>rd</sup> Tate Britain presents *Hogarth and Europe*. The 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of profound change. In England, Hogarth captured the energy, injustice, materialism and exploitation of the period with wit and humanity, while his contemporaries in Europe were equally engaged in social commentary and moralising through painting, etchings and print. The Tate exhibition positions Hogarth within the wider European social, political and economic context of the period by setting his work for the first time alongside paintings by his continental contemporaries such as the Venetian Pietro Longhi, Parisian Jean-Siméon Chardin and Amsterdam's Cornelis Troost.



Paula Rego, *Untitled 6 from the Wine (O Vinho) series*.  
Plate 2007, print 2020

For information about *Paula Rego at Hogarth's House* click [here](https://hogarthshouse.org/events_exhibitions/paula-rego-at-hogarths-house/)  
[https://hogarthshouse.org/events\\_exhibitions/paula-rego-at-hogarths-house/](https://hogarthshouse.org/events_exhibitions/paula-rego-at-hogarths-house/)

For *Hogarth and Europe* (from November 3<sup>rd</sup>) at Tate Britain click [here](https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/hogarth-and-europe)  
<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/hogarth-and-europe>

## **New Structure of OCPS**

As we reported in our spring Newsletter, it was agreed at an Extraordinary General Meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> that we should proceed with changing the legal structure of the Old Chiswick Protection Society to that of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A sub-committee of Patricia Langley, Russell Harris QC and James Stitt are working on this. All is quite straightforward, save for the technological difficulty of trying to work in Word from the Charity Commission's pdf mode. If you can help, please let Patricia know! (patricialangley@me.com)

## **Books on Old Chiswick**

In 1982, for the Silver Jubilee, OCPS published Humphrey Arthure's *Life and Work in Old Chiswick*, an excellent history of the conservation area, now in its third edition. This and his history of the Thornycroft Works (*Thornycroft – Shipbuilding and Motor Works in Chiswick*) are available from Bookcase in Chiswick High Road and from Rosemarie Clifton, Brampton House, Church Street.

## **OCPS Officers**

*President Emeritus*  
*President*  
*Chair*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*

Sir Alan Munro, Eynham House, Chiswick Mall  
Mr Russell Harris QC, Morton House, Chiswick Mall  
Mrs Stephanie Camu, Cedar House, Chiswick Mall  
Mr James Stitt, 8 Eyot Green  
Mrs Patricia Langley, Riverside House, Chiswick Mall

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