

Tales of the Thames Path

from Hammersmith to Chelsea



A Guide by Local Children



1 Black Lion Pub Ghost Story

In the early 1800s the Black Lion pub in Hammersmith was rumoured to be haunted by a ghost! The terrifying ghost roamed the streets and lanes around a nearby graveyard.

Did you know that a lady was scared by the 'ghost' and never recovered from the shock and died soon after?

Local men decided to hunt the Ghost but accidentally shot an innocent man in the process.

Come along to the Thames Path to discover more yourself!

*There are birds that always fly
High, high up in the sky
But in times more polluted
Like the Industrial factories with
their chimneys sooted
Factories sending water to the east
And the quality is not the best
All the herons in the sky
And in the winter saying bye bye
Lots of people in the boats
All of them wearing fluffy coats*

Nikoden - St Peters CE School



2 Kelmscott House/William Morris

Kelmscott House is a Georgian mansion at 26 Upper Mall. William Morris lived here and made beautiful carpets and designed wallpapers which were very popular in England. He was a revolutionary force in Victorian Britain: his work as an artist, designer, craftsman, writer and socialist dramatically changed the fashions and thinking of the era. He lived at Kelmscott House from 1878 to 1896. In 1891 he founded the Kelmscott Press to publish limited-edition illustrated books.



The basement and coach house serve as headquarters for the William Morris Society. Kelmscott House Museum is open to the public Thursdays and Saturday from 2-5 p.m. More info at www.williammorrissociety.org



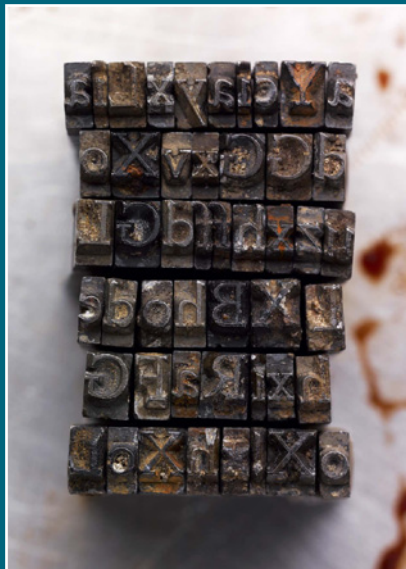
4 Dove Pub

The Dove Pub, originally a coffee house, is probably one of the oldest and best known pubs in Hammersmith. Did you know that this pub holds the Guinness World Record of the world's smallest public bar?

The Dove Pub has a poem above the doorway: *"Children may not come inside, although an awful lot have tried, come inside yourself we plead, but keep your dog upon a lead"*

3 The Doves Press/Doves Type

The Doves Press was founded in 1900 by Thomas Cobden-Sanderson and Emery Walker, who also designed the Doves Type. Due to a bitter feud between the two partners, in 1916 after the Doves Press was shut down, Cobden-Sanderson dumped the type into the Thames river to prevent others from using it. Almost a century later, Robert Green worked to recover the metal type and has managed to reproduce the font for use today. **We are using the Doves typeface in this guide!**



5 Furnival Gardens/ Hammersmith Creek

Furnival Gardens was once the site of Hammersmith Creek where many industries

and breweries all thrived nearby. It was a very different place! Did you know that Hammersmith Creek was filled in in 1936?

flourished 150 years ago. Boat builders, fisheries, malt houses

Now the water runs underground in a big pipe underneath the gardens out into the River Thames.

Many people enjoy the Thames Path here; cycling, walking, running and relaxing. What do you like best about the Thames?

6 Hammersmith Bridge

Hammersmith Bridge was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and was opened in 1887.

The current bridge was built to replace the first suspension bridge over the Thames that was designed by William Tierney Clark. By the 1870s, the old bridge was not strong enough to support the weight of heavy traffic. People were alarmed in 1870 when around 12,000 people crowded onto the bridge to watch the University Boat Race and the old bridge almost collapsed!



Have you noticed a plaque on the middle of the bridge handrail? Near midnight on 27th December 1919, Lieutenant Charles Campbell Wood from the Royal Air Force, dived from the

upstream footway of the bridge into the Thames to rescue a drowning woman. Although Wood saved her life, he later died from injuries he suffered during the rescue.



7 Fulham Reach - Industrial to Residential

Fulham Reach, the area between Hammersmith and Craven Cottage, started to become more industrial during the Victorian times until the 1970s. There were many different industries in this area: distilleries, oils, marble, sugar and cake factories. Now it is more residential and there are also a few office buildings.

In the Victorian times, the Harrods Depot (on the other side of the river) used to store furniture.

The Lyons factory, long ago, used to make ice cream, cakes and all sorts of sweets. Did you know the Manbre and Garton sugar factory was next door to Lyons and were supplied with liquid sugar directly through a pipe!

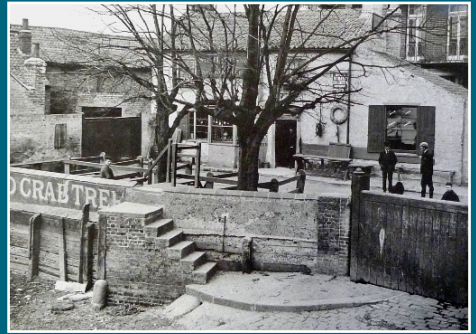
There is a jetty by Palace Wharf where they used to bring in goods such as marble. There isn't much of the Jetty left, but now it is a great place for birdwatching. Can you spot any cormorants?



8

The Crabtree Pub

A long time ago Crabtree was a tiny hamlet, consisting of some half a dozen houses, inhabited by gardeners and brick makers. In the 1760s the pub had been known as 'The Pot House' named after a pottery operating in the area. It later changed its name to 'The Three Jolly Gardeners' and only later took the name of the area. The 'new' Crabtree pub was rebuilt in 1898. It is situated next to a Thames river beach which is overhung by a willow tree. There is great viewing point next to the Crabtree!



“Did you know the River Thames source is near the village of Kemble in Gloucestershire?”

Walking through the river

Looking here and there

Upset for all the mess but doesn't really care

He'll figure it out alone and make it all OK

Because he keeps flowing over and over every day

He's just a myth no need to fear

Every minute every hour every day he'll be there

Just take your time little seaweed, the old guy will always be there

By Megan and Cem - Christ Church Primary School

9

Craven Cottage

Did you know Fulham Football Club is the oldest football club in London?

Craven Cottage has been the home stadium for Fulham Football Club since 1896. The name comes from the original cottage that was there a long time ago when this area was more rural. It was originally a royal hunting lodge but a fire destroyed it in 1888.

The stand on Stevenage Road celebrated its centenary in the 2005–2006 season and, following the death of Fulham FC's favourite, former England captain Johnny Haynes, the Stevenage Road Stand was renamed the Johnny Haynes Stand. It is the oldest remaining football stand in professional football.



Both the Johnny Haynes stand and Craven Cottage remain among the finest examples of old football architecture.





10 Bishops Park

In 1884 the Bishops of London gave the land to the local government and the park was opened in 1893. The park runs from Fulham Football Club to Putney Bridge.

Did you know that in the early 1900s Bishops Park had a place called The Sands? It was like a beach, with lots of sand, water to paddle in and even some boats to make it look like the seaside! And that's why there is a modern beach there today...

Did you know Fulham Palace has over 100 rooms? Some are very small! Bishop Creighton (1897-1901) was continually getting lost when he lived there.

11 Fulham Palace

Fulham Palace is the oldest building in this area. It is a beautiful place where the Bishops of London lived from around 700 until 1975. That's a very long time!

The gardens of Fulham Palace are important botanical gardens. During WWI part of the grounds were converted into allotments to grow food and help the war effort. There are also some remarkable trees around Fulham Palace. Can you find the large holm oak? It is believed to be 500



years old. There is also the 'Bishops' Tree' a carved Cedar of Lebanon tree trunk with bishop figures.

Something else to look out for when visiting the palace is the moat. It is the largest moated site in Medieval England. Admission to the palace and its grounds is free of charge. More info at www.fulhampalace.org.



12 All Saints Church

Here are three fun facts about this church:

- There has been a church on this site for more than 900 years!
- The tower is from the 15th century and is 30 metres high! (The rest of the church was rebuilt in 1880)
- There are ten Bishops of London buried in the Churchyard.

Also, while you visit All Saints Church don't miss the opportunity to visit Church Lane! There are many interesting building on this road: Sir William Powell's Almshouses (originally built somewhere else in Fulham and rebuilt there in 1869), Georgian houses numbers 5 and 6 (can you spot the fire insurance mark?) and The Temperance Pub with its beautiful art-deco design.



13 Putney Bridge

Putney Bridge was built by the fantastic Sir Joseph Bazalgette in 1886. It is a five-span structure, built of stone and granite. Putney Bridge is often very busy on Saturdays when Fulham F.C. are playing at home.

Before Putney Bridge was built, there used to be a wooden bridge called Fulham Bridge which was narrow and weaker. There was

also a place called the Swan Drawdock, where goods were brought in barges and a depot where these goods were stored (the Swan Wharf).

Did you know Putney Bridge marks the starting point of the Oxford and Cambridge Universities' Boat Race? The first one took place in 1845!



*Some people always worry,
Others are not sorry,
But Old Father Thames is
care-free,
He doesn't worry,
He's always sorry,
He is not like normal folks,*



*Whatever the end may be,
But old Father Thames keeps
rolling along,
Down to the mighty sea.
Old Father Thames keeps
rolling along...
...down to the mighty sea...*

Jeremie - Sullivan CE School (inspired by the Old Father Thames Song, original words by Raymond Wallace)

Birds you might find on the Thames River



Pied Wagtail



The Thames Path mostly follows the river, but in some sections follow roads or designated paths. The Thames Path is marked by the signposts on this map is also a cycle route, please use it along the path.

There are many public transport links along the path. On this guide the main London Underground stations are marked. For up to date information please check the Transport for London website. There are plenty of cafes, pubs and restaurants along the path. Please note that this guide's focus is the north bank of the river along the south bank which you can use to walk or cycle. Enjoy your visit!

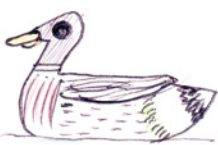


riverside path, however in some places
ted footpaths away from the river.

pecial 'acorn' sign. Most of the route
e be aware of pedestrians when cycling

along the route. We have included
ground, Overground and River Bus
lease visit www.tfl.gov.uk.

enities to find along the path. Please
n bank of the river, there is also a path
se to create circular walks.



Mallard Ducks



Broadway

uth
Park



Gull



Starling

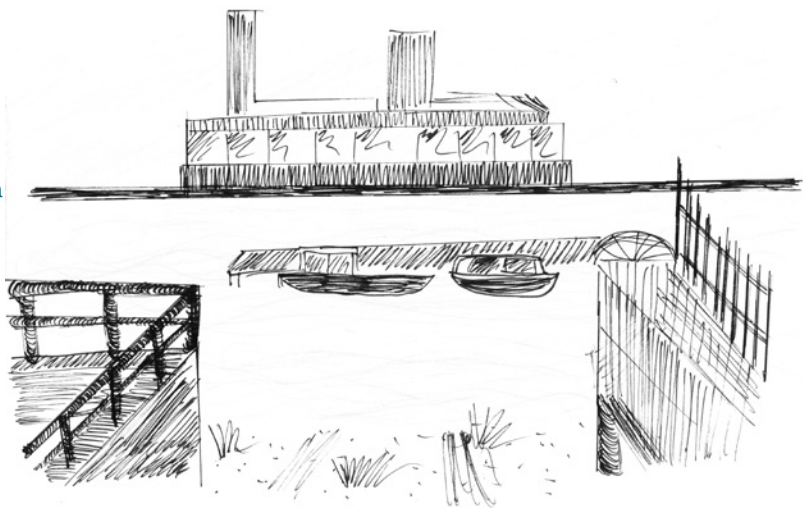


14 The Hurlingham Club

The Hurlingham Club was established in 1867, originally as a pigeon shooting club. The club has the last remaining natural (not embanked) Thames foreshore section in Central London. This is a wonderful area for wildlife (and birdwatching!).

In the grounds of the Hurlingham Club used to stand Broom House, home of the Sullivan family. They were very influential in the area, specially Charlotte Sullivan. She was a local benefactress and naturalist. She was very kind and did a lot of good work for the local people. Broom House was demolished in 1911 after Charlotte Sullivan died.

Charlotte Sullivan founded the Parson's Green Club and gave money to found St Dionysius and St Matthew's churches, as well as a library in Wandsworth Bridge Road. She also ran the Elizabethan School on Broomhouse Lane which was built by her family.



15 Broomhouse dock

The Broomhouse dock is one of many drawdocks found along the Thames Path and provides an access point to river. In the past, people would use horses and carts to get to the foreshore to load or unload barges. The barges would settle on the foreshore at low tide, the horses would then pull (or draw) the carts up a slope to the wharves and factories in the area.

The part of the riverside next to Broomhouse dock was known as Petrofina Wharf where petroleum products were stored until the late 1980s.

We are lucky to now have the Thames Path by the riverside for people to enjoy the riverside, before it would have been too dangerous!



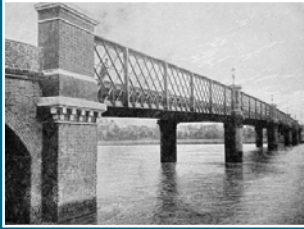
The Elizabethan School was named after Mrs Sullivan, Charlotte's mother who died while Charlotte was young. Now the school is a house where somebody lives.



16 Wandsworth Bridge

The original Wandsworth Bridge was a iron toll bridge built in 1873. It was narrow and too weak to carry buses.

In 1937 the old bridge was demolished and the new bridge opened in 1940. As this was during the war, the new bridge was painted in dull shades of blue to camouflage it against German air raids.



Did you know? Most London bridges were originally privately built and tolled: you had to pay to use them and also for goods and animals being transported across.

18 Imperial Wharf/Chelsea Harbour

Imperial Wharf today is a residential area that is full of nice flats and is a clean and healthy place, but it wasn't always like this... Back then, instead of homes there were factories and power stations which polluted the area. It was an unhealthy environment, dirty and grimy.

Chelsea Harbour was the biggest construction project in the United Kingdom in the 1980s. It was built on the site of a coal yard and a Victorian-era railway coaling dock on the River Thames.



17 Fulham Jetty

In the past, barges brought coal up the river and the cranes on the Fulham jetty would put it on a conveyor belt and transport it to Fulham Power station to produce electricity.



Fulham Power Station was built in 1936 by Fulham Borough Council, replacing an earlier one which stood on the same site from 1901. During the Second World War the station and its ships were targets during bombing raids. It was finally closed in 1978. Did you know that next to Fulham power station was the The Kops brewery? It was opened in 1890 and the first factory to brew non-alcoholic beer in the United Kingdom!

Fulham Jetty will become an environmental centre for the whole community and it's expected to open in 2018.

19 Lots Road/Lots Power Station/Counters Creek

The creek is called Counters or Chelsea Creek and is one of London's so-called 'lost' rivers. It used to run from Kensal Green to the Thames. By the early 19th century it had become an open sewer, then a canal and later a railway line covered it.

Lots Road Power Station opened in 1905 and at the time it was the biggest power station in the world! Its energy powered most of the London underground. In the 1960s, it converted from coal to gas and the number of chimneys reduced from the original four to only two. It was shut down in 2002.



20 Cremorne Gardens

Did you know that Cremorne Gardens opened in 1845 and used to be a pleasure garden? Before that it was a sports ground and before that, a farm!

Pleasure gardens were noisy and colourful

places where Victorian people went for entertainment, dancing, and picnics. One attraction at Cremorne Gardens was a lady called Madame Genevieve, who crossed the River Thames on a tightrope. Balloon ascents were popular in those days!

James Whistler and Walter Greaves, famous artists who lived locally, painted several pictures of the pleasure gardens.

The pleasure gardens closed in 1877 but there are a few objects still there that remind us what it used to be like, such as the original 8-tonne gate.

One of the best things about Cremorne Gardens these days is the pier where you can enjoy amazing views of the River Thames and London's skyline.



*Did you know you can hire a kayak from
Kayaking London at Cremorne Gardens?
Please visit www.kayakinglondon.com
for more info.*



21 Chelsea Reach

Today there are sixty colourful houseboats on Chelsea Reach. In the past, it was very different. In 1860 it was known as Lindsey Wharf and it was used to load and unload goods and coal from boats and barges. The artist Walter Greaves owned a business with his family here. They built and rented

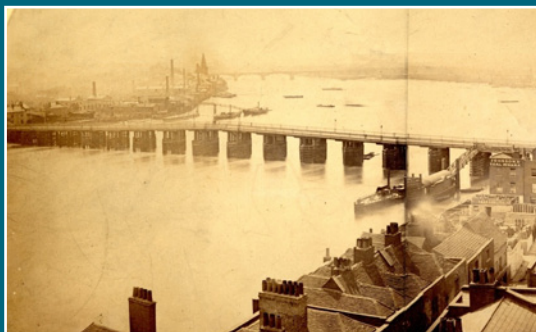
boats, sometimes using them as river taxis taking passengers up and down the river. One of the Greaves' passengers was the famous painter James Whistler. Walter Greaves introduced the American painter to the sights of the River Thames and then Greaves became his studio assistant. Sadly, they fell out with each other and stopped being friends.

22 Battersea Bridge

The current Battersea Bridge was built in 1885 and was designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette. It is the narrowest bridge over the Thames in London. It is made of iron and granite and is quite strong, but it has not always been like this!

The old Battersea Bridge was made of wood. It was notoriously hard for boats to go under it because it was very low, had 19 pillars and is on a narrow bend (or meander) in the river. Boats often crashed into it!

The old bridge was also wobbly and dangerous for people to walk across and was



painted by many famous artists like Turner, Whistler and Greaves.

Can you spot the statue of James Whistler on the corner between Cheyne Walk and Battersea Bridge?

23 Chelsea Embankment

In 1858, there was the infamous Great Stink, caused by people throwing their waste in the water because there were no sewers... and it smelt awful!

After the waste and horrible smell finally reached the Houses of Parliament, politicians decided to ask Sir Joseph Bazalgette to design and build a sewer system for London. The embankment was built as part of this grand scheme to provide London with a modern sewage system. It reclaimed marshy land next to the River Thames and contained the sewers and an underground line beneath the street. It also helps prevent local flooding and gives more space for people and vehicles.

On Cheyne Walk between Battersea and Albert bridges you can find Chelsea Old Church, a church with a long and royal heritage (www.chelseaoldchurch.org.uk)



*Time has no meaning
Like it does for you and me
Spring brings new life and Summer
carries it on
When we come to Autumn all the leaves
are gone
Winter can slow him but he will never
stop
Onwards, onwards towards the sea always
running away from you and me*

Anette- Christ Church Primary School

24 Albert Bridge

Albert Bridge was built in 1873 during the Victorian era. The original design was not very strong so between 1884 and 1887 Sir Joseph Bazalgette incorporated some elements to make it stronger and more stable.

It is nicknamed the 'Trembling Lady' because it shakes when lots of people walk over it! The sign on the toll booth tells troops to break step because when they marched together the bridge shook and that's how it got its nickname.

Now, you don't have to pay to go over the bridge but in the past these toll booths were used to collect a charge to cross the bridge.

25

Cheyne Walk & Cheyne Mews

Cheyne Walk takes its name from Lord Cheyne who owned the Manor of Chelsea until 1712. Many famous people have lived (and continue to live) in Cheyne Walk.

One of the most interesting people who lived in the area was Dante Rossetti, a Victorian painter and poet who lived at number 16. Rossetti liked to keep exotic animals and there are many stories about him. Our favourite story is when Rossetti bought a toucan, which he dressed in a cowboy hat and trained to ride his pet llama around the dining table to entertain guests!

Just off Cheyne Walk, near the corner with Oakley Street you can find Cheyne Mews. This tiny mews road is famous because King Henry VIII and Princess Elizabeth lived here in the Chelsea Manor House. The Manor house was demolished in 1753 but part of the old garden still lies beyond the end wall of Cheyne Mews, it even contains mulberry trees planted by Queen Elizabeth!



26

Chelsea Physic Garden

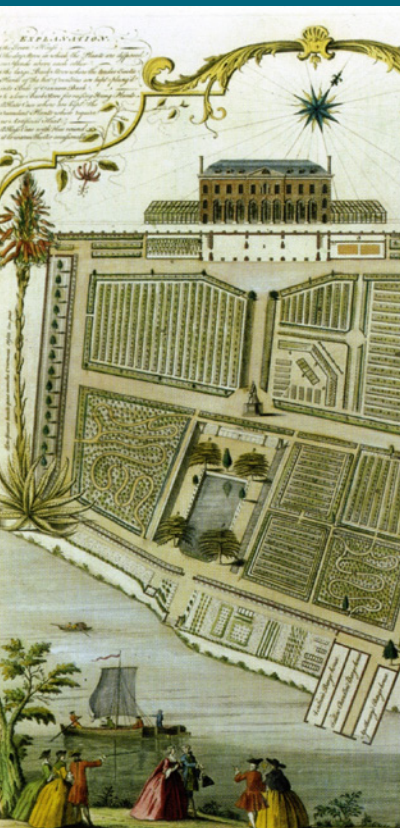
Chelsea Physic Garden was founded in 1673 to discover, cultivate and study plants for scientific and medical purposes. It is the second oldest botanical garden in Britain!

You can find hundreds of plants from all around the world at Chelsea Physic Garden, from medicinal plants to ferns, carnivorous ones and even an avocado tree.

Sir Hans Sloane, is considered the garden's saviour and thanks to him the Garden only pays £5 a year in rent! That's one of the reasons there is a big statue of him at the centre of the gardens.

The Garden had a huge impact in our country and the world, playing a key role introducing the rubber industry to Malaysia and cotton to the USA. Perhaps the most significant impact was the establishment of the tea industry in India. This was possible thanks to Victorian Garden curator and planthunter Robert Fortune who stole the secrets of the Chinese tea industry and took them to India.

For more info please go to www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk



Thames Path

The Thames Path is one of 15 National Trails in England and Wales, first opened in 1996. It follows the greatest river in England for 184 miles from its source in the Cotswold hills to the sea. Passing through peaceful water meadows, unspoilt rural villages, historical towns and cities, and finally through the heart of London to end at the Thames Barrier in Greenwich. The Thames Path is unique, it's the only long distance path to follow a river for most of its length.

In London, the path goes through the heart of the City along both banks of the river, past many places of cultural, historical, industrial and wildlife interest.

Excellent public transport links – by bus, train or boat – provide opportunities to explore the path without the need of a car.

The route is marked with a distinctive 'acorn' sign and official guides are available.

For more info, please visit: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path

NATIONAL TRAILS



Urbanwise.London

Urbanwise.London (formerly known as Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre) is a voluntary organisation which was established in 1983. The Centre has an educational role, offering opportunities to children and young people to learn about all aspects of the local urban environment.

Urbanwise.London worked with 7 local Primary Schools (*St Peters CE, Queens Manor, All Saints CE, Sullivan, Langford, Park Walk, Ashburnham Community and Christ Church*) to produce the material for this Guide. We would like to thank all children, teachers and support staff from those schools for their support during the project. We would also like to give special thanks to all our volunteers and the following organisations for their help during the project: Hammersmith and Fulham Archives, William Morris Society, Fulham F.C., Thames Explorer Trust, Fulham Palace, The Hurlingham Club, Kensington and Chelsea Archives, Barratt Homes at Fulham Riverside, Kayaking London, Chelsea Old Church and Chelsea Physic Garden.

Finally, we would like to thank Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for funding this project.

Please visit our website for more info about our work and to access the interactive map, videos and blog about the Tales of Thames Path Project: www.urbanwise.london

Urbanwise.London



Supported by
The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

