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Restoring our heritage – the transformation of Fulham Palace

When Fulham Palace re-opened its doors at the beginning of November, it provided visitors with a truly magnificent array of rooms to rival any major leisure and cultural attraction in the UK. As an elegant venue for corporate hospitality and events, a museum, a contemporary exhibition space and a café-bar, Fulham Palace is second to none.

However, the Palace is unrecognisable from the sorry state it had fallen into. The degree of renovation and restoration that has taken place is far-reaching and extensive, and given the beautiful array of Grade I architecture, the work has also required significant craftsmanship.

Blending Georgian and Tudor styles, Fulham Palace boasts some truly stunning features. The restoration occurred throughout the building and grounds and included the refurbishment of Bishop Sherlock’s Dining Room, with its magnificent 1750 Rococo ceiling and perfect Palladian proportions.

Prior to 1975, the estate was owned by the Bishops of London for over 1300 years, and the Palace was their country home from at least the 11th century. The redevelopment was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Hammersmith and Fulham Council and the Fulham Palace Trust.

The inaugural exhibition at Fulham Palace,



July 06



July 06



November 06



November 06



November 06



Michael Birt’s portraits grace the walls of Fulham Palace

and US, including at the National Portrait Gallery, where he has over thirty portraits in their collection. Subjects include Alan Rickman, Harrison Ford, Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Vinnie Jones, Hugh Grant and many more.

Michael Birt Portraits, is running until Saturday 17 March 2007. The exhibition is free, spanning over 25 years of portrait photography by Michael Birt, who has worked for a variety of publications

including The Sunday Times Magazine, Glamour, The Sunday Review, The Times, New York Times Magazine and Newsweek. Michael Birt has exhibited widely throughout the UK, Europe

Fulham Palace is located on Bishops Avenue, Fulham, SW6 6EA. Opening hours vary. For further information contact Fulham Palace on 020 7736 8140 or at www.fulhampalace.org

Outstanding head teacher hangs up his cap and gown

The borough’s longest serving head teacher, John McIntosh OBE, has retired as head of the famous London Oratory School, in Fulham, after three decades of outstanding leadership.

A celebration evening was hosted in December by H&F Council to wish John a fond farewell and to pay tribute and thanks to his hard work and the outstanding legacy that he leaves behind him.

John leaves a trail of achievement at the school, which was praised by OFSTED last year as an

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outstanding school that prepares pupils well for future learning and life.

The OFSTED report praised John McIntosh’s leadership at the school, “The headmaster’s leadership is excellent and he is well supported by a very effective senior management team. Together they know the strengths and weaknesses of the school very well. The roots of the outstanding leadership and management



of the school lie in the headmaster’s own skillful leadership. He has a very clear understanding of the school’s strengths and weaknesses and has the

respect of all staff and pupils.”

The report also commented on the school’s achievements, “The London Oratory School is an



outstanding school with a distinctive ethos and vibrant environment in which pupils can flourish and reach their full potential. The school is a very caring community where teachers know the pupils very well. It provides a wealth of opportunities for pupils in the arts, sports and academic disciplines. The standards pupils achieve in public tests and examinations at all ages are outstanding.”

The London Oratory School is a popular, voluntary-aided Roman Catholic comprehensive school for boys aged 7-18 and girls aged 16-18. There are 1,358 pupils on roll.

We wish John the very best of luck for his future and send an enormous thanks and congratulations for all his hard work and for leaving an outstanding legacy at the London Oratory.



Hammersmith hospitals NHS Trust

Hammersmith hospital located on DuCane Road



Following our November front page 'Hospital services under scrutiny' we promised the Hammersmith NHS Trust a 'right to reply' piece, which is printed in full below.

St Mary's NHS Trust, The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and Imperial College London have announced plans to establish an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) which could lead to specialist hospital services being lost. Local residents are rightly concerned about bed losses as the Trust has cut 125 beds in the last year, which was one of the largest cuts in the country, forcing some residents to seek treatment miles from their homes. The Trust has also been cutting back on staff. In a bid to reduce the trusts' deficit.

The frontline staff at Hammersmith NHS Trust do an incredibly important job for the residents of

this borough and they each deserve our thanks. But, the concerns of local people are that excellent services could be moved out of the borough as part of a re-organisation of hospital services, making them less accessible to local people.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has a clear duty to scrutinise hospital services provided by the Trust, that residents rely on day in day out, and this is a duty we take very seriously.

We want to see a more considered approach to the way important changes are made to local healthcare and believe residents have a right to be informed about proposals that directly affect the care they receive. We will continue to monitor any review of services at the Trust in detail, especially the ones which propose downgrading local facilities or moving them out of the borough.



Right to reply

A message from Hammersmith NHS Trust's:

Hammersmith, Charing Cross and Queen Charlotte's hospitals are amongst the UK's leading centres for specialist and emergency hospital care, medical research and training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. They are located in this borough. Many of its 6000 staff are local residents.

The hospitals, in partnership with Imperial College, London, are an internationally known for their quality of care, breakthrough research and range of specialities which are not found in typical general hospitals.

The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust operates the three hospitals. Patients are cared for across a range of emergency and specialist services by some

of the world's leading doctors and clinical teams.

The Trust has a leading medical research role and many new medicines, surgical techniques and diagnostic methods are invented and developed here. This means Hammersmith and Fulham residents often receive the newest treatments in the NHS first.

Queen Charlotte's is a new hospital, but Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals are older and will need refurbishment and rebuilding in the future. The NHS has heavily invested in both hospitals recently, to create new treatment and operating centres, bring in the latest scanners and diagnostic technology to ensure that they are safe, hygienic and welcoming whilst new buildings are planned

and designed.

The pace of technological change is fast. Operations which would have required extensive hospital stays 10 years ago, such as heart surgery, joint replacements or cancer therapy, are now day or short stay procedures. Many diagnoses and treatments previously done in hospitals now take place in GP surgeries and local clinics.

The hospitals now diagnose and treat more people than ever before, with the shortest waiting times in memory. Most patients treated are not admitted and go home safely the same day. This allows investment in new expensive equipment from the savings of using fewer beds.

Later this year, the Trust will partner with St Mary's

and Imperial College to consult local people on proposals to create the UK's first Academic Health Sciences Centre across all the organisations at all their hospitals. Details on the consultation will be widely circulated.

This new structure for managing clinical and academic research and patient care will allow the hospitals to be more than the sum of their parts and ensure that the NHS keeps the specialist hospital services in Hammersmith and Fulham available, improving and thriving locally.

For up to date information about Hammersmith, Charing Cross and Queen Charlotte's hospitals go to www.hhnt.nhs.uk