

FULHAM LOCALS

SUMMER





Siân Harrington



ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Through the stories of the Bishops of London, Fulham Palace chronicles over 1300 years of English history. Now local people can help preserve the buildings for future generations to enjoy

Until very recently, the striking façade of Fulham Palace, for 12 centuries the home of the Bishops of London, has been covered with a huge shroud imitating the Tudor brickwork. That has now gone, but there are still signs of building work in progress.

It's all part of an ambitious £3.8 million restoration project being masterminded by Fulham Palace Trust. 'That brickwork is 500 years old and some of it really needs to be replaced,' explains Siân Harrington, the Chief Executive. 'So, we are running a Sponsor a Brick campaign. It's a fantastic way for local residents to literally build the Palace's future. We have two types of brick available (each is hand-made and fired in a wood kiln)

costing £20 or £50. The sponsor can sign their brick and it will then be placed in the walls for centuries to come.'

Following 18 months of intensive preparation and planning, specialist contractors finally began work in February. 'When the last Bishop left Fulham Palace in 1973, it was in a fairly bad state of repair,' says Siân. 'While we're focusing primarily on preserving the fabric of the building, in particular the Tudor courtyard, we're also taking the opportunity to improve how we tell the fascinating story of the Palace.

'We will have a welcome area, a museum and exhibition space near the main entrance and we're going to bring remarkable rooms such

as the Great Hall to life with new historical interpretations. We'll even have pods suspended from the ceiling in which visitors will be able to hear the everyday sounds of the Palace in the past.'

Even before Fulham Palace became the residence of Waldhere, the Bishop of London circa 700, there is archaeological evidence of the site's occupation by Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman settlers. From Tudor times, it was largely a 'rural' summer retreat, only in the 20th century becoming the Bishop's principal home. Until 1939, the Palace (over 100 rooms) was occupied by one family and a full retinue of servants. Today, it still belongs to the Church and is leased to the Trust: the Grade One-listed buildings comprise a Tudor manor house with Georgian additions and a Victorian chapel.

The Palace will remain open during the works, which are due to be completed in May next year. So, the Trust's popular programme of events and activities for all ages will continue as usual. These include the weekly Palace Explorers sessions for children aged two to four years-old, concerts and open-air cinema

evenings, History tours and Garden walks (once enclosed by the longest moat in England, 13 acres still remain of the original 36). The Palace will also continue to be available for hire for weddings and private and corporate special occasions and parties.

'In addition, we'll be putting on a series of guided "Hard Hat" tours that provide a unique glimpse of the hidden interiors that are not usually open to visitors,' says Siân. 'And our Site Manager, Steve Bevan, will be hosting Q&A talks to give a behind-the-scenes insight into the restoration scheme.

'There's already so much to see and do here all year round, both inside the Palace and in the beautiful gardens. We would love everyone to come along and see exactly what we're doing. And, of course, sponsor a brick!'

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KEEP IT LOCAL!

Welcome to the first issue of Fulham Locals, the new quarterly magazine dedicated to meeting the local people and showcasing the businesses that do so much to give Fulham its unique character.

If you've visited Fulham Palace recently you can't fail to have noticed that restoration works are underway (the usual programme of events isn't affected). Siân Harrington, Chief Executive of the Palace Trust, reveals just how we can all help preserve the historic buildings for future generations.

West London Action for Children (WLAC) was founded in 1917 and, since then, its mission to help vulnerable children and their families in Fulham and Hammersmith has never changed. Jess Webber is WLAC's youngest patron and she told us more about the charity's work in the community.

Also in this issue we meet Dr Hala Mahfoud, who owns and runs an independent health and beauty clinic on the New Kings Road, the team at Naz Zeneldeen's hairdressing and gentlemen's grooming salons and Stephanie Villalba of Chelsea Fine Arts, who uses her own proven method to teach children and adults to draw and paint.

We welcome all feedback about the magazine and if you would like to be featured in the next issue, do get in touch.

Neil

Neil McKelvie, Editor

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CAN WE HELP YOU TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS?

Keep Things Local is a media business with a unique local focus. We publish five flagship magazines (Fulham Locals, Chelsea Locals, Chiswick Locals, Richmond Locals and Hammersmith Locals) and more launches are planned for Autumn and Winter.

The prime focus of each of these seasonal magazines is to profile and support independent traders and businesses. This is achieved through advertorials which are written, designed and photographed by our experienced in-house team.

In addition to featuring in the magazines, every advertorial is also published on our website (www.KeepThingsLocal.com) and in our newsletters and social media.

If you want to promote your business, call 07956 391739 or email connect@keepthingslocal.com



Naz, Antonio, Anouzka, Valentino, Joanna and Jay

THE CUTTING EDGE

First-class professional hair care with a personal touch at Naz Zeneldeen

'My philosophy is to treat clients in the same way that I like to be treated – and I must admit, I'm quite a fussy customer,' smiles Naz Zeneldeen. 'So that means we provide a friendly individual service and, most importantly, we always do the very best we can.'

Specialising in cutting, colouring and styling hair (men and women) and gentlemen's grooming, Naz owns two elegant adjoining salons on Wandsworth Bridge Road. 'Every new client is different, so we take the time and trouble to chat and get to know them,' he continues. 'Then we can decide what approach to follow and, of course, we're happy to give advice and make suggestions. Our priority is that the

customer leaves completely satisfied. If a client truly isn't happy with the experience, they shouldn't have to pay.'

Originally from Syria, Naz learned his trade as a teenager in the family hair salon. He came to the UK in 2006 and opened his Fulham business in 2013 (he acquired the next door premises in 2016). Naz is supported by a highly experienced team of professionals – Antonio, Anouzka, Valentino, Joanna and Jay – who are accomplished all-rounders. 'We pride ourselves on precision cutting and, in particular, colouring,' says Naz. 'Our products are ammonia and sulphate-free and, whether you want a tint, full head treatment, highlights or lowlights, we will achieve the result you want.'

Advertorial

The gentlemen's grooming services include haircuts, beard and moustache trimming and Naz's signature luxury hot towel shave. 'We cleanse, exfoliate and treat the skin before providing an outstanding shave with a straight razor,' explains Naz. 'I think it's the best traditional shave in London.'

One of the hallmarks of the business is impeccable customer service. Naz offers complementary drinks and, thanks to the Bonbon Café, clients can also order snacks, breakfasts and lunches. Naz is delighted that since the grooming salon opened his female customers have brought along their partners. 'We've become a focal point in the local community,' he says. 'Many people now come as families and we know them all. That's lovely.'

Naz Zeneldeen

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Dr Hala Mahfoud

LOOK GOOD AND FEEL FABULOUS

The best products, the latest technological equipment and friendly professional therapists... Dr Hala Mahfoud and her team provide high quality specialist health and beauty treatments

'I was delighted to acquire this business,' recalls Dr Hala Mahfoud. 'The previous owners only focused on basic cleansing and waxing. My vision was much more ambitious. I wanted to build a doctor-led health and beauty clinic offering the best range of aesthetic and wellbeing treatments in a professional, comfortable environment.'

Since opening in January 2017, Dr Hala has achieved exactly that. She has introduced a host of exciting new treatments and, in the process, invested substantially in technologically advanced medical equipment.

'I didn't actually plan to do so,' Dr Hala admits with a smile. 'But when a patient comes to us with a specific request, I never like to

disappoint them. Having the latest machines means we can easily tailor our approach according to age, the nature of the condition and budget. Patients don't have to go to different places for different treatments.'

Having studied medicine in Syria, Dr Hala came to the UK in 1997, working as a Consultant in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Sexual Health in NHS hospitals. In recent years she has focused increasingly on aesthetics and the New Kings Road clinic is the culmination of her passion for working in the health and beauty sector.

Dr Hala is particularly proud of her three state-of-the-art laser machines. 'I'm the only gynaecologist in the UK to have the

Advertorial

FemiLift,' she explains. 'It provides medically proven, non-surgical relief from stress urinary incontinence and can be used very effectively in cases of vaginal dryness and tightness and for cosmetic external vaginal remodelling; the Harmony XL Pro lifts and refreshes skin and is ideal for scar, acne and vascular lesion treatment and mole and tattoo removal; and the Soprano ICE Platinum laser has revolutionised hair removal – it is suitable for all skin types and is fast, safe and pain-free.'

Among the many other services provided by Dr Hala's team are cellulite and stretch mark reduction using a non-invasive technique combining radio-frequency and ultrasound, powerful HydraFacial skin cleansing, botox, fillers and herbal and chemical peels, mesotherapy to rejuvenate the skin and stimulate hair growth and micro-needling to promote the production of collagen and assist with anti-ageing.

All new clients see Dr Hala (the initial consultation is free as is skin screening) and she leads a team of fully qualified therapists. 'We understand that no two people are the same,' says Dr Hala. 'That's why we take the time to talk to patients and devise a bespoke approach. We're proud of what we do and we always want to achieve the best outcome.'

Treatments include:

- * **Microneedling:** stimulate collagen production and help combat ageing
- * **Facial rejuvenation:** brighten skin, soften wrinkles and reduce dark circles
- * **HydraFacial:** all-in-one facial cleansing, exfoliating and hydrating
- * **Plexr soft surgery:** lift the eyes and face and minimise acne and scar tissue
- * **Vitamin IV infusion:** improve energy levels, lighten skin and detox
- * **Full body contouring:** combine radio frequency and ultrasound to address body issues
- * **LPG Endermologie:** tighten skin, target fat and beat cellulite with natural stimulation

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Stephanie Villalba



IT'S ALL IN THE METHOD

Stephanie Villalba and her tutors inspire children of all ages to learn artistic skills. Over the summer the team will be running holiday classes at their Chelsea and Ravenscourt Park studios

‘I am convinced that every child – whether they are naturally gifted or an absolute beginner – can learn to draw and paint,’ emphasises Stephanie Villalba of Chelsea Fine Arts. ‘If they follow a proven teaching method and receive personal attention, they will then acquire the core skills without which creativity will always be limited.’

From two large, light studios (one in Chelsea Wharf with views across the Thames and the other just opposite Ravenscourt Park) Stephanie and her friendly, experienced team teach children (ages 8-18) of all standards to master classical artistic techniques.

Over the summer they are running five weeks of holiday art classes in both studios. There are two sessions to choose from each day: in the mornings from 10.30am to 1pm and in the afternoons from 2.30pm to 5pm.

All the materials are provided and these are included in the cost. ‘To make the most of the classes – and to finish a piece of work – I would recommend that each student takes at least three to five sessions,’ says Stephanie.

Students are taught on an individual basis and they work from observation using an exciting variety of mediums, from paint, pencil and

pastel to charcoal and collage. ‘In the age bracket that we teach, children love to draw realistically,’ Stephanie explains. ‘It’s wonderful to see their self-confidence grow and their happy faces when they leave with their own completed work. To be able to paint and draw is a gift that lasts a lifetime.’

The Chelsea Fine Arts method is founded on the belief that artistic ability can only be discovered once basic skills are learned. ‘We’re not teaching talent – that cannot be taught,’ says Stephanie. ‘Our approach is based on encouraging students to observe and then critically analyse what they see. Focusing on tone and line, we break down how they view objects; then, from these simple building blocks, they can develop their own original vision.’

Stephanie is keen to stress that no experience is needed to make the most of the classes. ‘Yesterday two young children came for the first time. They were nervous, but they loved it. Those students are so satisfying to teach. Often the ones that progress the fastest are those who arrive knowing nothing.’

Over the summer Chelsea Fine Arts is running five weeks of holiday classes at its spacious studios in Chelsea and Ravenscourt Park. Students can choose to attend either mornings (10.30am-1pm) or afternoons (2.30-5pm).

- Week 1: 9-13 July**
- Week 2: 16-20 July**
- Week 3: 6-10 August**
- Week 4: 13-17 August**
- Week 5: 20-24 August**

Chelsea Fine Arts - Chelsea Studio
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Ravenscourt Park Studio
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Matt Goslett

THE HOUSE HUNTER

Whether you are upsizing, downsizing or putting a first foot on the property ladder, Matt Goslett is the property detective

Are you looking for a home with particular specifications? Or would you like more outdoor space or an extra guest room? Whatever the brief, independent property consultant Matt Goslett can make your dreams come true.

Matt specialises in the West London area and he covers the spectrum of residential searches. 'Most importantly, I only represent

the purchaser, whereas an estate agent always acts for the vendor,' he explains. 'And where an agent can only show what's on their books, I cover the entire market.'

Two of Matt's recent successful projects perfectly sum up his bespoke service. 'A client came to me simply because she was desperate to have two bedrooms. I found a lovely flat within her budget

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on the top floor of a smart terrace in W14. At the other end of the scale, an artist commissioned me to locate a spacious studio; previously, he had been using the upstairs reception of his house. I discovered an old 1500 square foot recording studio. He loved it – and bought it!

Matt takes a detailed brief from each client. 'No two are the same and I must have a clear idea of what is required. That's why I drill down beyond the fundamentals of budget, location and number of rooms to try to find value. For example, does the client need to be near a school or public transport links? Or an open space or shops? Do they want a garden, a garage or a parking space? On occasion, I can also find off-market properties and, of course, if the budget is unrealistic, I say so.'

Armed with the requisite information, Matt scours the market for properties that match the search criteria. 'I see as many places as it takes for as long as it takes. Then I present the most promising prospects and arrange viewings. I also conduct the price negotiations and can put clients in touch with a solicitor, mortgage broker and, if needed, reputable contractors.

'I provide a completely personal approach,' Matt says. 'And I take great pride and pleasure in finding my clients their new homes.'

Matt Goslett
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Sophie May

BUILDING EXCELLENCE

Whitehall Construction has the expertise to take any project from design to completion

Sophie and Daniel May recently completed a rebuilding project on their new home. When they moved in, she was pregnant – the couple already had two young children – and they needed everything finished before the birth. Here Sophie recalls the experience of working with Jason Wilkinson of West London company, Whitehall Construction.

'It was a major undertaking as nothing had been done to the property for 30 years. We wanted a kitchen extension, a side return, a basement utility room and an extra loft bedroom. The decor was dated, so it also made sense to redecorate the whole house in one go. In the end, no room was left untouched.

Given that Daniel and I were working full-time, micro-managing was out of the question. It was essential that we could trust Jason to work on his own initiative. That's where I really appreciated the communication process. He was on our wavelength, always available and very hands-on. The site team was equally accommodating. To start with we lived in the house and they were friendly and caused minimum fuss.

Jason also proved helpful with practical design decisions and ensured we had no nasty surprises. One potential problem arose with the basement. When we dug down to get a good head height, the Structural Engineer said

Advertorial

that it required underpinning. We hadn't expected that. Jason just got on with it and absorbed the costs. I'm sure other issues arose, but he found solutions without ever making it a problem for us.

The job took six months and, amazingly, it was finished two weeks early and on budget. I can't recommend Jason and Whitehall Construction highly enough.'



Jason Wilkinson

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Jess Webber



GIVING CHILDREN A BETTER CHANCE

Jess Webber is the youngest patron of West London Action for Children. Last year this remarkable local charity celebrated its 100th anniversary – and, as she explains, its work is as relevant as ever

Jess Webber recently accepted an invitation to become West London Action for Children’s (WLAC) newest and youngest patron. She is clearly very proud. ‘Whenever I go into WLAC’s office, I’m genuinely in awe of the team and what they achieve,’ she says.

‘Everyone is friendly and caring and the therapists are so dedicated to the charity’s work. I’ve watched children and their parents leave after a session or group activity and you can really see that a load has been lifted from their shoulders. It’s just incredible to witness how much real progress can be made in a safe, supportive environment.’

Last year West London Action for Children (WLAC), celebrated its centenary. Since it was founded in 1917 to address ‘the problems of

moral evils affecting children’ the charity has constantly adapted, reflecting society’s attitude towards young people in crisis. One thing, however, has never changed: its mission to help vulnerable children and their families in the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

Today, WLAC is a fully professional operation funded entirely by grants and donations. Where troubled children may once have been seen as objects to be removed from irresponsible parents and problem homes, they and their families are now regarded as clients and, as such, they receive the highest possible standard of care.

WLAC’s work, originally an intervention in desperate situations, is now solution-focused,

dynamic and client-orientated. The charity currently helps over 500 people and is staffed by highly qualified psychotherapists and counsellors who offer tailor-made individual and family therapy and also run projects in local schools and drop-in centres.

Jess, who grew up in Ravenscourt Park and now lives in Hammersmith, is a graduate of the Drama Centre and is beginning her acting career. She has a long-standing family connection with WLAC. ‘My mother is a trustee of the charity and when I was young, about 11 or 12 years old, she helped to arrange trips for the children to places like London Zoo and Thorpe Park. I was lucky enough to go along and join in and, from that point on, I always took part in volunteer activities such as fun runs.

‘Then, before I started at drama school, the charity’s administrator took a month’s leave to prepare for her wedding and honeymoon. I was trained up to take over her role on a temporary basis. After that, every time someone was on holiday I used to go back to help with child care or fundraising events. I’m now a Project Manager. Last year, I was involved in organising the successful Promises Auction for our centenary appeal – it raised over £30,000.’

As a WLAC patron, Jess acts as an ambassador for the charity’s work. ‘I’m enjoying it,’ she says. ‘I’m the youngest they’ve ever had – it’s quite an honour – and I want to help to raise our profile and find new volunteers, in particular amongst my own age group. Hopefully, when I’ve got some acting jobs, I’ll be able to use my contacts in that world to spread the word even more!’

‘WLAC does provide a truly amazing service for children and their families who have nowhere else to go. What’s so lovely is to see children and mums meeting up and then hear them laughing and enjoying themselves.’

West London Action for Children

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Toby and Charlotte

MUSIC MAESTROS

Learn to play the violin the Suzuki way

Toby Walker started learning the violin aged five and Charlotte Clemson at three. Both are ‘Suzuki kids’ who followed the teaching philosophy of Dr Shinichi Suzuki. They run Suzuki schools in West London and Charlotte teaches her group lessons at St Clement’s Church Hall on Fulham Palace Road.

Dr Suzuki developed a unique, globally recognised method that enables children to play to their best ability while absorbing key life skills at the same time. ‘Children start young (three-plus) when skills are easily mastered and they learn in a natural way by listening and repeating,’ explains Toby. ‘Lessons are on a one-to-one and group basis; making music is about communicating, so playing socially from the beginning is vital.’

Parental involvement is integral to the Suzuki approach. ‘Parents don’t need prior musical knowledge, but they do take an active role,’ says Toby. ‘They attend the lessons and then lead practice sessions at home; that creates a strong bond between them and their children, and with us as teachers.

‘Using the Suzuki method, Charlotte and I believe that every child can learn the violin. It’s not about being “naturally musical” – it’s about being inspired and having fun.’

Bridge Suzuki Music

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Read online: www.keepthingslocal.com



Keith Patterson



Joe, Marvin and Clay

COOL KITCHENS

Whether your taste is Shaker or minimalist, West London Kitchens can design a bespoke solution tailored to your budget and lifestyle

The contemporary kitchen needs to be a perfect mix of stylish design and flexible practicality, with enough space for cooking and eating, hosting dinner parties and simply socialising with friends and family.

It is also, as Keith Patterson, owner of West London Kitchens, recognises, a major investment. 'It's a big-ticket purchase, and we're well aware of that. That's why we take such care to achieve the best design in terms of looking good, fitting seamlessly with the client's needs and, of course, meeting the budget.

'When they come to us, some people have done extensive research; they know exactly what they want, even down to where the appliances will be placed. Others have no pre-conceived ideas, so we work with them to pinpoint what is required. The design process takes as long as it takes – but it's worth it in the end.'

Keith founded West London Kitchens in 2008, since when his team has won a reputation for craftsmanship and outstanding customer service. All the kitchens are designed and made bespoke for each client; the company specialises in German (Schüller), Italian (Aster) and English (built to order in the UK) ranges in every material, colour or finish. All come

with the latest storage options and accessories as well as a five-year guarantee.

The 2018 product list has some exciting additions. 'Through Schüller we can provide specialist utility room furniture, such as units for washing machine dryer stacks,' explains Keith. 'And our Italian kitchens now feature superb wood veneers – they are very special.'

Keith himself project manages the design and build process (he uses an experienced installation team) and is available as a point of contact. New clients can visit his showroom to see displays and make worktop, splashback and lighting decisions and they are welcome to view kitchens *in situ* in homes in the local area.

'We're a small operation and we take great pride in our kitchens,' says Keith. 'We always go the extra mile – that's why so much of our business comes from word-of-mouth recommendation from previous clients.'

West London Kitchens

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Advertorial

RED CARPET TREATMENT

Investing in a new carpet or flooring? The Carpetstore is the one-stop shop for all budgets, styles and textures

According to Clay Miller, West London is something of a hotspot for carpet moths. 'Five years ago, one in 50 customers told us it was a problem,' recalls the co-owner of The Carpetstore. 'Now, I reckon it's one in three. That's why we always ask suppliers, is it moth-proof? If it isn't, we don't touch it. All our carpets are moth-treated.'

Clay has been in the business since schooldays, when he used to join his carpet fitter uncle on jobs. He and his brother Joe have been running The Carpetstore for 25 years (Marvin Charlton is the lead estimator) and they cover the entire West London area, with many clients in Fulham. They stock a huge selection of

carpets and stair runners in wool, natural and manmade fibres (all come in a fantastic choice of colours and classic and modern designs) as well as an extensive range of vinyl, tile and laminate flooring.

'At the moment, there's a growing demand for made-to-measure bespoke rugs,' says Clay. 'Many people now prefer to have stone and wood floors in their living rooms. But they can be cold, hence the interest in rugs. We have hundreds of samples in different materials – from contemporary and classic 100% wool to Natural Sisal fibre – and customers can choose any length and a width up to five metres. We will then have the rug made for them.

Advertorial

'Runners are popular. We can cut the carpet to any size or shape, then we send it off to have the edges professionally finished with either binding tape or a whipping. And, in terms of hard flooring, we're increasingly fitting the Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) range in houses, shops and communal properties. It is water proof, scratch-resistant and hard-wearing. I've actually got it in my own home.'

With four teams of fitters, The Carpetstore service includes taking up and removing existing carpets, laying hardboard, ply and latex sub-floors and cutting and trimming doors. Whether you know an Axminster from a shagpile, you'll receive personal attention and no-nonsense practical advice.

The Carpetstore

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Stuart Birke



RIVERSIDE LIVING

With beautifully refurbished one, two and three bedroom apartments available to rent and a dedicated on-site manager, Palace Wharf in Fulham is one of West London's most desirable locations

'Whatever the issue – an essential boiler repair, a light bulb that needs changing, even the weekly shop that has to be signed for and put in the fridge – we have a Building Manager on site to help,' says Stuart Birke, Residential Land's Head of Lettings. 'And if there's ever a problem outside office hours, our tenants can call a 24-hour emergency line and we'll respond immediately. It's all part of the service.'

That level of conscientious care is a key reason why Residential Land is one of London's leading specialist property companies and an award-winning professional landlord. At Palace Wharf on Fulham's riverside, as at all its major sites across the metropolis, a Building Manager is always on hand as a friendly, visible contact.

'The Building Manager is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm,' explains Stuart. 'Their job is to solve problems both large and small and make sure that our tenants' lives run as smoothly as possible: they manage all the maintenance and cleaning contractors that come and go and can be contacted by email or phone, a WhatsApp message or by popping into the office.'

Palace Wharf is a striking former marble warehouse with a spectacular riverside location. It was built in 1907, replacing a malt house, and an extension facing Rainville Road was added in 1933. For many years the wharf was home to the Rathbone Works; this was a warehouse owned by George Jackson & Sons,

a fibrous plaster and marble business which made the plasterwork for Hammersmith's re-built Lyric Theatre.

Residential Land has a portfolio of 16 apartments at Palace Wharf. 'We have a good mix of one, two and three bedroom properties which are all available on flexible rental terms,' says Stuart. 'It's also a key part of the Building Manager's role to liaise with prospective tenants, whether families, sharers, students or corporate clients. If someone wants to view an apartment, they will be more than happy to show them around.'

While the original exterior character of the wharf has been cleverly preserved, the apartments themselves have been refurbished with meticulous attention to detail. 'From top to bottom, they have been completed to the highest standard by our own expert in-house design team,' confirms Stuart. 'They are all iPad-controlled Smart homes with state-of-the-art Miele appliances, underfloor heating in the bathrooms, digital video door entry system, even de-mister pads behind the mirrors. Many have wonderful river views and we've

deliberately retained the lovely high ceilings and Crittall double-glazed windows to keep that distinctive warehouse feel.

'Most importantly, the tenants are always able to deal directly with the Building Manager. That means the apartments can easily be tailored to their specific needs; for example, if they prefer a semi-furnished or unfurnished space, we can just remove some or all of the furniture. We try our best to accommodate all requests.'

Currently, all sizes of apartment at Palace Wharf are available for rent and new tenants can be assured of Residential Land's thorough personal service. As Stuart says: 'We take great pride in helping to get everything organised and making life simple for our tenants. You name it, and we'll try to do it!'

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Veronica Ricks

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

The Heatherley School of Fine Art teaches a wide range of full and part-time courses

‘Our teaching philosophy is based on learning to draw and paint. We also have a strong figurative emphasis; capturing the human form is an excellent way of acquiring classical techniques. Once those have been mastered, students can develop in any artistic direction, whether abstract, conceptual or figurative.’

Veronica Ricks, Principal of The Heatherley School of Fine Art, is describing the ethos of London’s oldest independent art school (it was founded in 1845). Distinguished former pupils include Rossetti, Burne Jones, Millais, Sickert, Evelyn Waugh, Franz Kline and Henry Moore and local resident Quentin Crisp was a regular life model.

Today, students can take full-time two-year diplomas in Portraiture, Sculpture, Painting and Printmaking, a Portfolio Preparation course for those returning to study and a wide range of non-selective part-time day, evening and holiday classes.

Read online: www.keepthingslocal.com

Veronica has been Principal since 2013. ‘We’ve always been avant-garde,’ she smiles. ‘From the very beginning, women were “allowed” to study life drawing alongside men. In addition, we pioneered the Open Studio in Britain. That comes from the French *atelier* system in which students of all standards share studio space and have access to a live model. There’s total flexibility when it comes to attendance; a student buys 10 sessions and can just wake up and think, I’ll go in today. There will always be a model and tutor here – even if one person turns up, the class goes ahead.’

Heatherley’s has eight fully equipped studios and plans to build a new one on the roof. The demand for extra space reflects the popularity and high quality of the courses. ‘We take students aged 18 and up – I have a 93 year-old in my carving class – and the School has a lovely family feel,’ says Veronica.

‘Whatever a student’s level of experience, whether beginners seeking to explore their artistic potential or artists who want to develop existing skills, they will find a warm welcome and expert tuition at Heatherley’s.’

The Heatherley School of Fine Art
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