

U3A Bikers
Hammersmith, Fulham Riversides and Fulham Palace
Tuesday 1st March 2022

It was chilly and drizzling, as the group met at Brockwell Park Lido before cycling our normal route to Clapham Common and Wandsworth Common.

Fortunately, the drizzle had stopped before we cycled past Wandsworth Prison and then straight on down Allfarthing Lane to Wandsworth Shopping Centre, where we turned right (using a cycle crossing).

After a short stretch along the busy Garratt Lane using cycle and bus lanes, we went straight ahead along Ram St. and past the new development at Youngs Brewery before turning down onto the Thames Path to cycle along to Putney Bridge.

We stopped at Putney Pantry in St Mary's Church, Putney, and the hot drinks were very welcome, as was the chance to chat.

After coffee we crossed over to re-join the Thames Path, cycling west towards Hammersmith Bridge (with a brief detour to view the London Wetland Centre) and past Harrods Depository.

At Hammersmith Bridge, we crossed the river but had to push our bikes since the bridge had been closed again to cycles!



After crossing the bridge, we cycled east along the Thames Path north of the river until leaving the river at Craven Cottage, Fulham FC's Ground.

We then cycled along quiet roads to reach Bishops Park for lunch, with another welcoming café to warm up again.

After lunch we had a quick look at the historic Fulham Palace (home to Bishop of London until 1973).

Since heavy rain was forecast, it was agreed we would return when there was better weather to explore the extensive gardens.

Before leaving Bishops Park (originally part of Fulham Palace's grounds), we paused to view the memorial to the International Brigade from Hammersmith and Fulham who fought in the Spanish Civil War.



Leaving Bishops Park, we followed national cycle route 4 to Chelsea Harbour and Lots Road before joining the cycle route along the Embankment. We crossed Albert Bridge and into Battersea Park before cycling back to Brockwell Lido before the heavy rain started.

Riders

Martin, Joe & Jane, John & Denise, Juliet, Gisella, Chris, David & Irene, Mary & Andrew

References:

<https://www.hammersmithbridge.org.uk/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammersmith_Bridge

<https://www.fulhampalace.org/>

Ride leaders: Andrew and Mary Burke

Report by Andrew Burke, 2nd March 2022

Notes:**St Mary's Church, Putney**

St. Mary's Church (the Church of St. Mary the Virgin), Putney has been a centre of Christian worship on this site from at least the 13th century. In 1647, during the English Civil War, the church was the site of the Putney Debates on the English constitution. It has been Grade II* listed since 1955.

Hammersmith Bridge

Hammersmith Bridge is a suspension bridge over the River Thames, linking Hammersmith and Barnes. The current bridge (Grade II* listed) was designed by civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette and is the second permanent bridge on the site.

Fulham Palace

As the home of 120 Bishops of London over 1,300 years, Fulham Palace embodies their power, wealth and passions. The look of the Palace has changed dramatically over time as each Bishop made alterations to suit their own taste, commissioning leading architects and landscape designers to remodel the house and create spectacular gardens.

Fulham Palace was the residence of the Bishop of London until 1973. It was once one of the most powerful positions in the country and the different Bishops have played a major role in shaping British history, being involved in many important national and international events — from signing the Magna Carta to performing coronations and overseeing the church's activities in the British colonies.