

U3A Bike Rides Fulham Palace Tuesday 6th October 2026

We could not have asked for a better day as we met at Brockwell Lido on a chilly but sunny autumn morning.



After our group photo, we set off on a familiar route to Clapham Common and Battersea Park before using a new route along the Thames Path coming out at St Mary's Church, Putney (where we've often stopped for our coffee and catch up) before crossing Putney Bridge. The Thames looked splendid as we cycled along in the sun. It was high tide and we could see the sweep of the river against the autumn shades of the trees.

We used the large advance cycle box on the south side of Putney Bridge to get into the bus lane ahead of the traffic to cross the bridge, and then turned into Bishops Park. We stopped to look at the memorial of the volunteers from Hammersmith and Fulham who died fighting Fascism in the Spanish Civil War. We cycled on before turning into the grounds of Fulham Palace and finding the bike parking, insufficient for all the group and so we made use of the adjacent railings to secure our bikes. The group walked alongside the house to find the café for hot drinks and/or lunch.



Suitably refreshed we split into small groups to explore the gardens. Members were very impressed by the walled garden which had been well maintained during the heat wave so that plants had survived. Several had not known about Fulham Palace and planned to visit again in the Spring to see the flowers in bloom. Some people also explored the house and its

exhibitions, coming out into the Tudor courtyard of historic Fulham Palace, which had been home to Bishop of London for 1,400 years, until 1973.



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

Riders; Andrew, John D, Denise, Valerie, Jo, Alex, Gisela, Joyce, Julia, Daniela and Mark.

Reference:

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

Ride leaders: Andrew and John D

Report by Andrew **and photos** by Daniela, October 2026

Next Ride: Friday 23rd October Brompton Cemetery

Notes:

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.