

2008 UNLOCK WALK No. 25

Chelsea, the Thames, East Fulham & Battersea

MIND THE GAP

This year's walk is a loop around the Thames, where it is the gap between south London and west London. We cross the river using Wandsworth Bridge (reputedly the ugliest in the city) and Battersea Bridge, giving a fine view of Albert Bridge (for many, the prettiest).

Battersea is traditionally a working-class area but is fast changing. It's best known for its dog's home and power station. Chelsea has long been an enclave of the rich and famous. We walk along part of the high street, King's Road, with the trendiest of boutiques. We go through World's End Estate, so close geographically but almost a world away.

Our walk also goes through Sands End, part of Fulham. Its parish church, St Matthews, is the place where you'll find out more about Unlock. Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea FC is just north of our route; but St Matthew's has strong links with Fulham FC's home, Craven Cottage.

Each part of London has its distinctive character, but both sides of the river share similar features as industry has declined and luxury developments built.

THE RIVER

Look out for wildlife as well as boat traffic on the Thames. Kingfishers, herons and grey wagtails are often spotted. Just upstream from Wandsworth Bridge is the outlet of the river Wandle. Chelsea Creek is an important habitat, particularly for fish spawning.

The present Wandsworth Bridge was built in 1940. The original 1873 bridge was also not regarded for its looks: an ungainly mix of iron, brick and timber. The company that built it faced financial problems, legal objections and a flood. Vehicle traffic was light as the council on the Fulham side did not adequately maintain or even drain the roads that led to the bridge.

The original 1772 Battersea Bridge was built from wood, as there was not enough money for an elegant stone bridge. The design made it an accident black spot as boats crashed into the supports for its 17 narrow spans. It was finally replaced in 1890 with today's iron bridge, created by Sir Bazalgette, (who also designed London's sewage system) who foresaw increased traffic. As you cross the bridge, look for the peace pagoda in the park, Battersea Power Station and The Royal Hospital, home to the Chelsea Pensioners and the Chelsea Flower Show.

Albert Bridge, built in a grand Victorian manner and dedicated to the Queen's consort, was opened to traffic in 1873. Despite concerns about its strength - a police requires soldiers from Chelsea Barracks to break step when marching over it - Albert Bridge is London's only river road crossing to have never been replaced.

FULHAM RIVERSIDE

Agricultural until the late 19th century, Wandsworth Bridge brought industrial development and an expanding population to Sands End. The meadows (Lamas lands where tenants of Fulham Manor could graze cattle) were replaced with timber wharves, sawmills and factories. Fulham Borough Council opened a power station to the east of the bridge which from 1936 became the largest such municipal facility in the country, served by its own fleet of coal shippers.

LOTS ROAD

The street is dominated by the old power station, built to provide power for the Metropolitan District Railway, now District Line. It supplied power to the London underground system until 2002, providing 60% of its electricity requirement. The tube is now totally dependent on the national grid.

GLASS MOUNTAIN

St Mary's, Battersea, is set by the river and close to the heart of the original village. By the present 1775 building and where the Hovis Flour Mill once stood, looms a glass mountain. This is the Italian meaning of 'Montevetro' - an exclusive development of luxury apartments, designed to be one of London's landmark buildings and so named as its glazed river frontage slopes from 20 to 3 storeys.

BATTERSEA PARK

The marshes here were the setting of a duel in 1829 between the serving Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington and a parliamentarian who had accused him of treachery in introducing the Catholic Emancipation Act. Both deliberately fired to miss, and honour was restored.

The park was originally part of a plan by the Victorians to improve London's lower classes by providing an open-air

space for exercise and recreation, and to clean up the area. The government bought 320 acres of marshland, closed the notorious taverns and cleared 200 acres for parkland, funded by selling the rest for housing.

Opened in 1853 by Queen Victoria, it contains a children's zoo, a boating lake, a deer park and athletic grounds. The Japanese Buddhist Peace Pagoda commemorated the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima.

Battersea Park hosted an exhibition of football in January 1864, during which the first game under the rules of the new 'Football Association' was played. Wanderers FC, winners of the first FA Cup in 1872, had their home ground in the park.

The Park has in recent years been restored to its former glory and is worth a stop off on your walk, maybe to have a picnic if the weather looks good.

If you would like to know more about Unlock's work you can either check out the Unlock website www.unlock-urban.org.uk, or contact the Unlock National Office and request an information pack. (Donations to cover the cost of postage and packing are welcome!)

Resources to help you do many of these things are available on the Unlock website www.unlock-urban.org.uk, or from the National Office.

Please work with us to ensure that the 2008 walk generates more income to fund Unlock's vital work. You can do this by:

- **Seriously and prayerfully** consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work.
- **Sponsorship** - get as many sponsors as you can, by explaining to them what you are raising money for; and ensure that they gift aid their sponsorship wherever possible.
- **Donations** - you can make a personal donation to Unlock's work, either on a one off basis, or better yet, at regular intervals.
- **Promoting Unlock's work in your church or area** - put up a display in your church, or write something for your church magazine.
- **Bring along some friends** - encourage new people to join you for an Unlock London Walk experience in 2008.
- **Through your Church** - persuade your church to give funds to support Unlock as part of its regular missionary giving.
- **Through people of power and influence!** - with so many walkers, some of you must know people who are trustees of charitable funds, or directors of companies, or just rich and benevolent, that might be interested in supporting Unlock. See if you can persuade them to take an interest and put them in touch with Unlock.

As if the challenge of doing the walk were not enough - this year I'd like to offer all Unlock walkers an additional challenge in two parts:

1. Check out the Unlock website www.unlock-urban.org.uk, to find out more about what we do.
2. Seriously and prayerfully consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work.

Dawn Lonsdale (Chief Officer)

don't forget >>>

- A-Z map of London (if you have one)
- Many of the churches on the route will provide refreshments
- A snack or picnic lunch (some food is usually available on the route too)
- We walk whatever the weather
- Look for things to pray about as you walk



Further details & more copies of this map are available from www.unlock-urban.org.uk, or from the Unlock National Office: Unlock, Handsworth Parish Centre, Handsworth, Sheffield, S13 9BZ. Telephone: 0114 2939 060



Townhouses on Prince of Wales Drive, overlooking Battersea Park

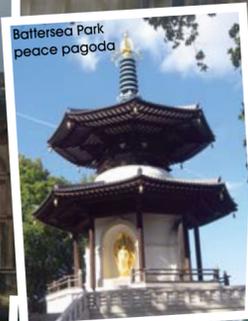
Riverboats by Cheyne Walk



Battersea Power station



New Riverside development, Battersea



Battersea Park peace pagoda



Sculpture of children by Battersea Bridge



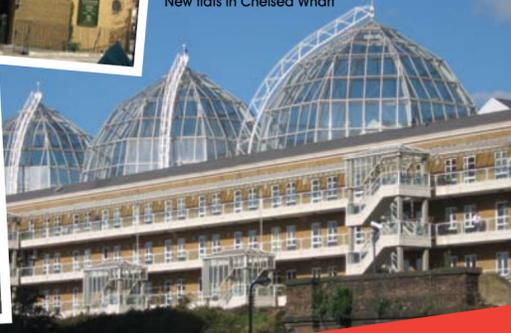
Tower blocks on Somerset estate



Our Lady's RC Church, Stephen Dale Rd



Swan sculpture by Battersea Bridge



New flats in Chelsea Wharf

In Victorian days, this was the site of Cremorne Pleasure Gardens. The ornate gates are now at a park entrance. Visitors were entertained by circus performers, bands, fairground rides and hot-air balloon flights. Due to gaslight, the fun didn't have to stop when it got dark. The crowds grew rowdier, and in 1877, its licence renewal was refused.

WORLD'S END ESTATE

The origin of the name is obscure, but there has been a pub on the Kings Road called 'The Worlds End' since the 1600s. It was one of the poorest areas in Chelsea and was often bombed during the Blitz.

The six towers of 20 storeys, linked by low-rise buildings were built in the 1980s and still dominate the skyline. The council development included shops, school, church and community centre as well as communal gardens on the first floor. After a period of decline, the estate is on the up, and it is home to a vibrant community of over a hundred nationalities.

Local churches have invested in the area with prayer and practically. The Trust Community Centre, which we pass in the centre of the estate, is a project of Holy Trinity, Brompton. It runs youth and children's work, English language and other classes. Chelsea Community Church, one of the checkpoints on the walk, is one of the churches serving the estate.

CHELSEA

The small village of Chelsea, originally a Saxon settlement, developed as a riverside resort for courtiers and wealthy Londoners from the 15th century. Sir Thomas Moore, later beheaded for treason for refusing to accept Henry VIII's claim to be head of the church, built a house here in about 1520. Henry VIII acquired the manor of Chelsea in 1536 and the future Queen Elizabeth I was a resident for a time.

The King's Road takes its name from the 17th century, when it was King Charles II's private thoroughfare between Whitehall and Hampton Court, a route which passed the home of his mistress Nell Gwynne.

The noted physician, scientist and collector (from plants to coins), Sir Hans Sloane, bought the Manor of Chelsea in 1712 from Lord Cheyne. His fantastic collections were the founding core of the British Museum and the Natural History Museum.

Chelsea became known as a centre for London's artistic life in the late 19th century, with a socially mixed and rather Bohemian society. However, by the end of the last century it was again largely an enclave of the rich.

CHEYNE WALK

An astonishing number of prominent people, including Thomas Moore, Henry VIII and Sir Hans Sloane, lived on Cheyne Walk. Artistic residents of the 19th century include: writer George Eliot, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter, artist James Whistler; writer Henry James and the painter JMW Turner.

Other residents were Isambard Brunel, PM Lloyd George, and suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst. Musical legends to have called it home include composer Vaughan Williams, and the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards and Mick Jagger.

BATTERSEA

The name comes from Baldric's Ey, (Isle) meaning an area surrounded by marsh or water. Battersea was once a market garden for London, as well as growing lavender for perfume production. Its rural era ended with the coming of the railways, and on this part of the walk you won't go far without going under or over a railway line. They are all going through Clapham Junction Station, the busiest in Europe, with 2,000 trains passing through 16 platforms each day.

A surviving factory building is Price's Candle Works on York Road, now being turned into luxury flats. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's Battersea Power Station still dominates the skyline as it has since 1933. Closed for over 20 years, the huge listed building still awaits its next use, despite many redevelopment plans.



THE UNLOCK LONDON WALK NO. 25

SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2008 9AM to 5PM

Chelsea, the Thames, East Fulham & Battersea



St. Georges wharf, Wandsworth

World's End estate

Kings Road

Albert Bridge

MIND THE GAP

The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:

- To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK (see below*)
- To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address
- To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas - Come and see what God is doing in the city.
- To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.
- To give 100s of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London

*Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities, where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local support group, is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence by:

Unlocking real life stories of urban people
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
Releasing life changing skills & confidence

The 2007 walk raised £24,000; £4,000 more than in 2006. As a result of that extra £4,000 raised in 2007 we are in a position to run 1 more project in a deprived inner city area in the UK. If you can help us raise another extra £4,000 in 2008 we will be able to initiate further Unlock development projects in UK cities. We are currently working to begin projects in Sheffield, Birmingham and Liverpool. More could follow, but only if the funding can be raised. The Unlock walk is Unlock's primary source of funding; we have great difficulty accessing funds from anywhere else. The future of our work is almost entirely dependent on the money you raise for us through the Unlock London walk.



Registered Charity: 313454