become Labour's election agent for the borough of Wandsworth in 2000 and that Crabtree ward - with which I was strongly invested - was abolished in 2002, I stood down after eight years.

But I continued to collate and analyse election results and after each election this book of mine grew larger and larger. I strived to add value to each edition and eventually decided that 1964 was an arbitrary year to begin the volume with. Why not take the results all the way back to the founding of the two boroughs in 1900?

Not only would this produce a complete set of election results but it would also make it far easier to explain trends in Fulham and Hammersmith that did not necessarily make sense if you started looking at them only from 1964.

And so we arrive at this book - arguably too indulgent. But at least no one can suggest it's not comprehensive.

You will find in one of the clippings included in this book that former council leader Mike Goodman described my father as the "last Fulham nationalist". If I can slightly correct him: second last! I no longer live in Fulham: I've relocated just across the river to Roehampton, but Fulham will always be my manor, no matter how much it has changed and continues to change.

Some have asked why I put Fulham before Hammersmith in the title of this book. Perhaps that previous paragraph explains why; but anyone with knowledge of the area's history knows that Hammersmith emerged from Fulham; Fulham came first in so many ways (including electing a Labour council long before Hammersmith managed it). Plus it's my book: I can call it whatever I want!

There are plenty of people I wish to acknowledge beyond those I've already mentioned. I am immensely grateful to Hammersmith and Fulham Archives for giving me permission to use that wonderful photo of Fulham Borough Council in session in the beautiful Fulham Town Hall. Also for their help in digging out tomes of old council minutes from which I've been able to fill in missing councillor names and by-election results.

The press clippings I've provided - some of which I've transcribed because the original reports are too small or too faded to reproduce legibly - come from the online British Newspaper Archive. Frustratingly there are gaps in their coverage and local newspapers: the West London Advertiser, the Fulham Chronicle and the Hammersmith Gazette have all now vanished - but at least one of these papers has been digitised to provide most of the coverage of local elections up to 1990.

I have been liaising closely with the two eminent local election experts of our time: Professors Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, for some years - not just on this book but compiling, mapping and analysing local election results: it's essentially what I do with my life. Their three volumes on London election results enabled me to take the results in this book back to 1900.

There is the political family in Fulham Labour Party I was born into - far too much of which is no longer with us. The aforementioned Dick Rayner, June McMahon, Mike Goodman; characters like Demetri Stephanides who made meetings last far longer than they otherwise might, and Charlie Howard, Margaret Sondergaard, Charlie Jennings, the Steinharts, Hugh Duff and Doris Banfield; Peter Bartholmew, Will Unwin, Brendan Bird, Shirley Spiers, Margaret Ingram, Sinclair and Nita Budd (ditto Nita!), Min Birdsey, Iain Coleman and Joan Caruana. Many, many others.

And of course those who remain: Liam and Sue O'Neill, Frank and Vivienne Lukey, Andy Slaughter, Sally Powell, Millie and Barry Stead, John and Val Gorter, Gordon and Bridget Prentice, Lisa Homan, Nick Moore, Hilary Perrin and Ian Rashbrook, Cy Dougall, Billy Dann, John Garrett, Melanie Smallman - my flatmate and fellow Crabtree ward councillor; Rory Vaughan, Ghassan Karian and the others I served on the council with. Plus newer friends like Larry Culhane and Nicos Souslous.

This is a one-sided list so far so let me mention colleagues from across the aisle: Andrew Ground who comes from a similarly deep-rooted Fulham family and is a similar age; and Gerald Wombwell - a great character with a wicked sense of humour and a booming voice that could command the council chamber.

I also got on well with my Conservative counterpart in Crabtree ward for a year, Mark Simonds; and had a perhaps surprising friendship with Andrew Hands: Greg Hands' younger brother, who organised Sherbrooke ward for the Conservatives while I was organising it for Labour. Sadly, Andy died of cancer several years ago. Who knows how far he might have got in politics given his brother's success? I got to know Stephen Greenhalgh when working to save Charing Cross Hospital (first time around) and we remain on congenial terms.

I also want to thank the wonderful electors of Crabtree ward for their manifest good sense in voting me in and then re-electing me. I like to think that the area benefited a little from my eight years: the controversies like controlled parking zone T, and the achievements like Rowberry Mead and a cleaned up Thamesbank.

Many years before I became a councillor my dad had Adam Walk, which I ended up representing, named after me - he was asked to suggest the name for a new council block a couple of days after I was born when he was Chairman of Housing. I'm incredibly proud of Adam Walk: I think it's the best council estate in the borough! Whether this should be the way blocks are named is quite another matter.

This book could be described as a labour of love but I don't like such terms. Without wishing to be too self-aggrandising at least part of it is a Gray family history: between us my dad and I served thirty three years on the council; his contribution being far longer and, in many respects more consequential than mine.

As I've mentioned, many others recorded here are people who were family friends who served with my dad and maybe babysat me when I was wee. Others are people I served with or were coming through the ranks as I faded into the - this - history book.

Politics is a realm held in great contempt by the public - mostly completely understandably. But at grassroots level, and with only one or two exceptions, it comprises local people rooted in their neighbourhoods, seeking to improve the lot of the area they've been elected to represent for four years. Many of those who come to the fore are characters and a handful of these get mentions in this book.

Hammersmith and Fulham is one of the smaller London boroughs. In context it is not an especially significant borough for anyone who doesn't live there or hasn't contributed to it. It doesn't quite have the political stories of places like Wandsworth or Bermondsey or Tower Hamlets or Lambeth - though there've been a few excitements like Rate Swaps.

But this book is its electoral history.

**Adam Gray**
October 2022

## Notes

I spent a lot of time researching this book, going through council minutes and newspaper reports, and other sources of information. Alas, sometimes the detail needed was beyond reach. Hence you will occasionally find by-elections that I know happened, but not the result. Hammersmith Council minutes in particular only reported the winners of elections, not the full results.

You will also find that, for a period approximately from 1945 to 1962 (again, principally for Hammersmith results), many candidates lack first names - just their first initial. There was a fetish for newspapers to only report candidates in such a way, which is vexing. Where candidates stood before in years where their first names were provided I have endeavoured to transpose them, but the vast majority only stood once, or only during that period of limited information. If anyone is able to shed light on some of these candidates' first names do please get in touch: agray72@gmail.com. If there is a future edition of this book I will update it.

You will also find, on occasion, sepia-coloured newspaper reports about the elections. These are my reproductions of original newspaper cuttings - either because the scans I have are poor quality and illegible or beacuse newspapers used to be printed very dense and difficult to read. The reports I have transcribed verbatim, even where modern spellings or grammar might suggest I've made a typographic error.

# VOTE CONSERVATIVE

**Barons Court**

BARON
COWELL
CUSSEN
LAVER
MICHAEL
NICOL

**Sands End**

ASHPITEL
CLARK
HENRI
JACKSON
OLIVER
PAGE

**Lillie Ward**

BARKWITH
BEATTIE
BROWNE
CLARK
COATES
COCKBURN

**Walham Ward**

FETTES
JOYCE
SMITH

**Town Ward**

FOX
GALE
PICKLES
POULTER

**Margravine Ward**

EALES
EYNON
JONES
SHARRARD

**Munster Ward**

ANDREWS
BARTON
BONNEY
GREEN
HICKS
MILLOY
RUSSELL
SEARLE

**Hurlingham Ward**

LEISHMAN
MILLS
PARSONS

# ON THURSDAY, MAY 12th

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