Lillie ward

For whatever reason, the east end of neighbourhoods either tend to, or are imagined to, be their dowdier side. This is true of the eastern side of Fulham: the original settlements of North End, Walham Green and Sands End. Although these earlier settlements sprung up in broadly the same medieval period, in terms of the emergence of Fulham as one cohesive neighbourhood, East Fulham is older than West.

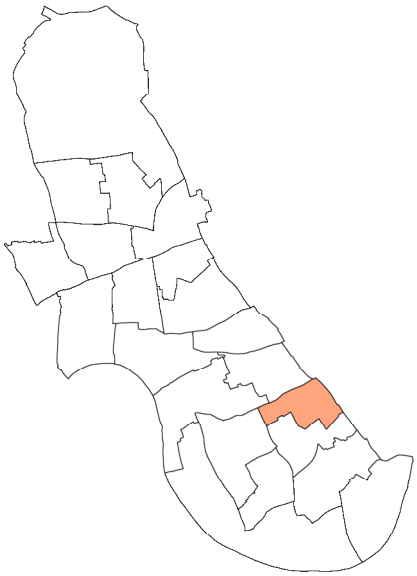
That's because London expanded from the centre outwards and so began on the eastern side. When Fulham borough was founded in 1900, much of the recognisable street pattern in the east had been laid out and houses and businesses begun, when large tracts of the Bishop's Palace side was still undeveloped.

The east also contained the railway lines, the major repair yard at Lillie Bridge, some sizeable factories and warehouses, and the Imperial Gas, Light and Coke plant in Sandford Manor. In other words, as well as being more heavily populated, it also contained areas that the Luftwaffe were ordered to take out during The Blitz. And, as a result, although Fulham wasn't a massive target during the Second World War, it took more bomb damage than the western side of the borough.

Several of Hammersmith and Fulham's council wards emerge from association with developers. If you are reading these profiles alphabetically then the relationship between Addison and Joseph Addison; of the Gunters with Avonmore, George Wimpey with Grove has been critical to their development as neighbourhoods.

Sir John Scott Lillie, the man who gives his name to this ward, lived in this part of town. His house, The Hermitage, stood approximately where Thaxton Road is today and the extensive grounds form most of the West Ken estate and some of the Lillie Bridge depot adjoining it. He has a school, a road, a bridge and a ward named after him.

Lillie was an army man. But he was far more: an entrepreneur, a radical Member of Parliament, an inventor, one of the earliest anti-vivisectionists and, as a native Irishman, a supporter of Daniel O'Connell, the Catholic leader who led the fight for independence from Britain. Lillie is largely responsible for creating what became the borough boundary with Kensington and Chelsea.



One of his investments was the Kensington Canal - a northwards extension of Sandford Creek up to West Brompton. This eventually became the course of the West London railway. The construction of the canal required a service road: today's Seagrave Road.

Today, Seagrave Road is quite diverse. It includes the London Oratory School, the gated-off Brompton Park Crescent development, an ambulance station and a mix of street-fronting properties. More recently it's also undergone some major residential development: Lillie Square, part of the wider Earls Court regeneration plan.

Sir John also opened the Lillie Arms pub, at the top of Seagrave Road, somewhat bizarrely now renamed the Lillie Langtry - there is no link between that actress and this area.

Sir John was near neighbours and friends with the Gunter family; they who owned a large chunk of Chelsea and what is now Avonmore ward. Although most discussion of the Gunter estate covers the large, cohesive section of western Chelsea, their estate also included a fair acreage of Fulham, including the area south east of Lillie Road.

This area, the Beaufort House estate, was originally market gardens and farmland. Here was built parts of Seddlescombe Road, Racton Road, Anselm Road, Ongar and Micklethwaite Roads and the feature street: Tamworth Street.

These streets are unlike any in Fulham. Ongar Road, the top of Seagrave Road, Rickett Street and Merrington Road appear very much South Kensington overspill in their style of grand four storey subdivided houses.

Micklethwaite, Tamworth and parts of Seddlescombe and Racton Roads have a unique style entirely: arts and crafts rustic, designed loosely to an architectural master plan for the entire estate. Further south is arguably the grandest road in the area: Walham Grove, with its mature plane trees and almost entirely intact, unaltered town houses with basements.



Most of these streets survived The Blitz unscathed - perhaps with one or two infill properties. There are infill council blocks in Racton and Anselm Roads, for example: Da Palma Court (named after one of Lillie ward's councillors - Jose Da Palma).

But a large section of Fulham west of North End Road did not. One of the most damaged sites was an area either side of Lillie Road, from Bramber Road and Queens Club Gardens south to St Thomas's Way.

In pre-war Fulham this was an area of tight alleys and long terraced street some lacking amenities but others a continuation of the sort of streets that exist today: like Hartismere and Rylston and Estcourt - streets that would not remotely be considered slums today. But there were no amenities, no open space, no Fulham Pools (at least not where they are now) and no school.

Roads that no longer exist, like Lintaine Grove, Pownall Place, Mulgrave Road, Jervis Road, Silvio Street, Kenneth Road, Goodson Road, Lillie Passage, Coomer Road, and Mooltan Street criss-crossed this area. The principal problem that Fulham Council needed to fix was not principally of slums but of serious and widespread destruction of the neighbourhood.

These ravaged, rubble-strewn bombsites became Normand Park, Normand Croft Primary School and the Clem Attlee Court estate: Fulham's largest council estate. The borough council purchased the entire site for £135,000. Today a one-bed former council flat in one of the low-rise blocks on that estate goes for far more than double that.

Hammersmith and Fulham is generally fortunate in that its councils tended to shun the radical architectural designs for council blocks that often quickly came to blight the lives of council tenants whose misfortune was to live in them. There are relatively few tower blocks. Most estates typify the "chalet" tenement style, albeit differing in aesthetic style depending on when they were built.

There are very few blocks that look like they were constructed out of lego, where dark nooks fostered crime and residents feared to venture outside at night. The closest Fulham came to crossing the line from innovative solutions that met housing need to fetishised architectural absurdities and were poorly constructed was the Clem.

The first blocks on the estate opened in 1955. The radical architecture was largely confined to the three Y-shaped 11-storey blocks: Jim Griffiths, Tom Williams and Hugh Dalton Houses - at that time the highest blocks ever built here. Later, two 16-storey system-built tower blocks: Herbert Morrison and Edith Summerskill Houses, were added. There was 7-storey sheltered housing block named after (then) East Fulham MP Michael Stewart, and alongside it Stafford Cripps House - a chalet style taller than usual block of maisonettes.

PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR

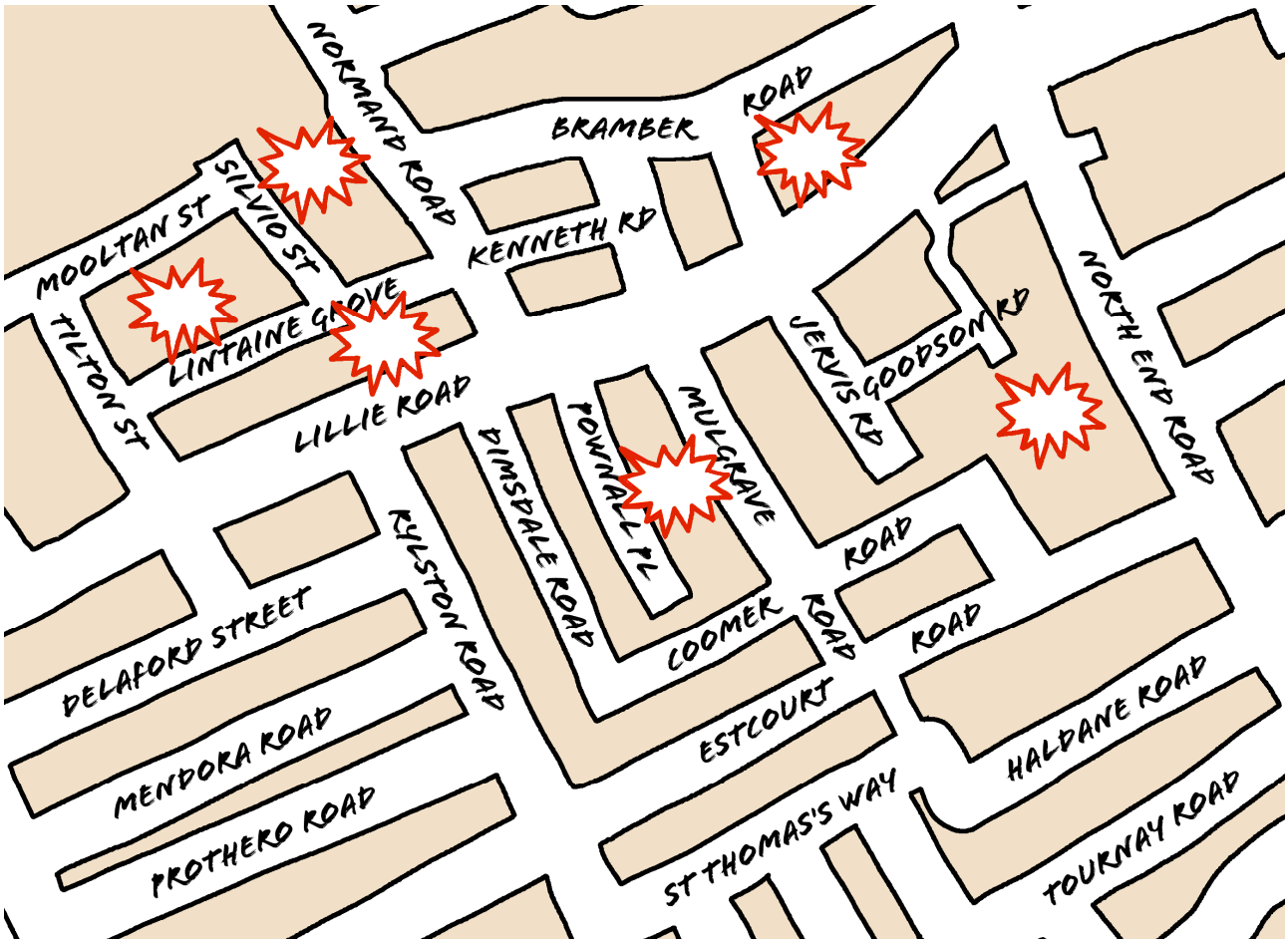
Redevelopment scheme south of Lillie Road

FULHAM COUNCIL proposed to spend £135,000 on acquiring property for a big housing and redevelopment scheme on a blitzed area on the south side of Lillie Road. The purchase price is based on a tentative estimate of the cost of acquiring all the properties affected.

The Housing Committee have reported to the borough council that among the bombed areas the council had in mind for housing development was "part of the Lillie Road area south of Lillie Road and east of Pownall Place up to the frontage of Bramber Road and bounded on the south by Coomber Road."

"The area comprises houses, housing sites and shops and other commercial and industrial buildings and premises, all of which suffered extensive war damage," states the committee. 'In our view it is eminently suited to and ripe for housing development by the council. We have obtained a tentative estimate of the cost of acquiring all the properties affected, which amounts to £135,000."

The committee add that the opportunity has recently occurred of acquiring by agreement the freehold interests in two of the properties in the area. "Negotiations with the owners have resulted in tentative agreement on terms which appear to us to be reasonable," state the committee.



Bomb damage map of Lillie ward

Controlled entry systems had not been invented when the Y-blocks and high rises were built so the entrances were dingy, vandalised and urinated in. There was a small maze at the bottom between multiple entrances to the blocks, some leading to the lifts, others to the refuse chutes, and others straight out the other side.

Nonetheless, despite the litany of crime stories available online emanating from the estate; the problems it has had with drugs and gangs, and the only marginal diminution of deprivation on the estate, the Clem has never quite been as bad as sometimes gets depicted; and many of the design mistakes I've just detailed were fixed.

The western end of the estate, where the sub-level garages were, was cleared in the mid 1990s, along with one of the Y blocks and a couple of the smaller blocks, and new housing association homes: houses built around cul-de-sacs, with better play and community facilities, replaced them. Further housing association blocks have been built on the North End Road side of the estate in Coomer Place and at the new Mo Mowlam House.

The remainder of the estate was far more conventional (and successful), comprising very much smaller blocks set around a large green. But architects made other bad mistakes on the estate, like creating sub-ground garages with very poor quality children's play areas on top. Few kids would go near because of crime or the fear of it; few car owners would leave their cars underneath for the same reasons.

And there were plenty of innovations that the planners of Clem Attlee Court got right, right from the start. They provided a library at the entrance to the estate. All the ground floor flats and maisonettes got back gardens - which in the 1950s was a radical concept. There was that huge central public green.

It wasn't just post war cabinet minister after whom the blocks were named. Edith Summerskill was MP for Fulham West. Michael Stewart, though he did eventually serve as Foreign Secretary, was MP for Fulham East and then the combined Fulham constituency. There were two Tom Williams' who served as Labour MPs but one was MP for Hammersmith South.

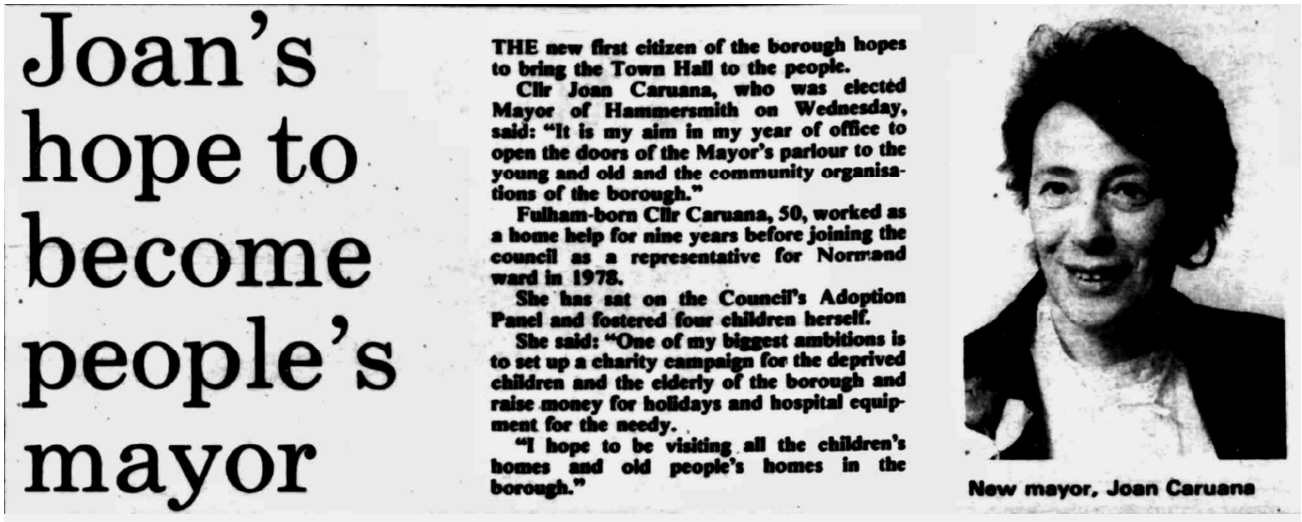
The newer housing association section departed from that naming policy further with a mix of later national politicians like John Smith and Barbara Castle, and local councillors like Margaret Ingram, who never represented the estate but lived in John Strachey House and Len Freeman.

There is one councillor who is not mentioned on any of the developments on the estate and who probably should be: Joan Caruana. Joan served for 24 years and was mayor of the borough four times, the first mayor when Labour returned to power in 1986. Joan was classic "old" Fulham with a gravelly voice honed from decades of chain smoking, and a fruity vocabulary, known throughout her ward, especially on the council estates.

But North End Road, especially here, is also a focal point for the communities living either side, being the main shopping centre in Fulham, with a well-known street market and formerly the only department store in the area: Barbers.

Barbers was the go-to shop for pretty much anything you needed in a time when North End Road was a far more affluent shopping centre than it is today; when it had a large Sainsbury's and a Marks and Spencer and a British Home Stores.

The North End Road store occupied the terrace between Armadale and Eustace Road: it's still there but has been broken up into several smaller shops. And the proprietor



Joan's hope to become people's mayor

THE new first citizen of the borough hopes to bring the Town Hall to the people.

Cllr Joan Caruana, who was elected Mayor of Hammersmith on Wednesday, said: "It is my aim in my year of office to open the doors of the Mayor's parlour to the young and old and the community organisations of the borough."

Fulham-born Cllr Caruana, 50, worked as a home help for nine years before joining the council as a representative for Normand ward in 1978.

She has sat on the Council's Adoption Panel and fostered four children herself.

She said: "One of my biggest ambitions is to set up a charity campaign for the deprived children and the elderly of the borough and raise money for holidays and hospital equipment for the needy.

"I hope to be visiting all the children's homes and old people's homes in the borough."

New mayor, Joan Caruana

Clem Attlee Court was born into the old Lillie ward on Fulham Borough council, but not until the end of its existence. But it came to be the fulcrum around which several different wards have been drawn.

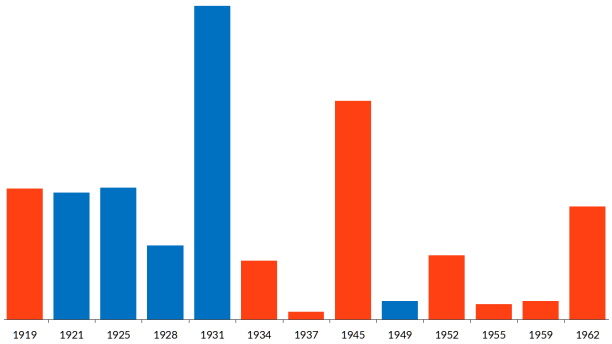
There was the old Lillie ward (1900-1965) and the new one (2022-date), there was Halford ward (1964-1978) and a very similar later replacement called Fulham Broadway (2002-2022) and, in between these years, three wards that covered central and east Fulham: Normand, Eel Brook and Walham (1978-2002).

It makes some sense to look at the two current wards of Lillie and Walham Green as one section: East Fulham, rather than two, not least because of all those different configurations of wards that have been drawn here. Sometimes, for example, North End Road has been regarded as where the boundary should be drawn: that was the case when Walham ward existed to the east and Normand and Eel Brook to its west.

of Barbers was a Lillie ward councillor: Fred Barber, a Municipal Reformer who represented his patch from 1922 to 1934. He was mayor in 1928 and donated the beautiful Fulham Mayoral chain to the borough.

Until the late 1940s, the Conservatives could always depend on Barons Court, Hurlingham and Town wards for thirteen councillors while, from the mid 1930s Labour usually won Margravine, Munster, Sands End and Walham for twenty-one seats. Lillie was the swing marginal.

That meant it went the way Fulham borough went - nearly all the time. Moderate and Municipal Reform from 1900 to 1934 (bar the Labour win in 1919), then Labour from 1934 to 1949 and from 1953 to 1964. But it was typically only won by small majorities and, even when that was not the case, it would swing by large amounts between elections.



Majorities in Lillie ward, 1919-1962

The original Lillie ward straddled Lillie Road: Queens Club Gardens and the ABC streets: Archel, Bramber and Chesson, were included. It stretched south as far as Dawes Road, Halford Road and the district line.

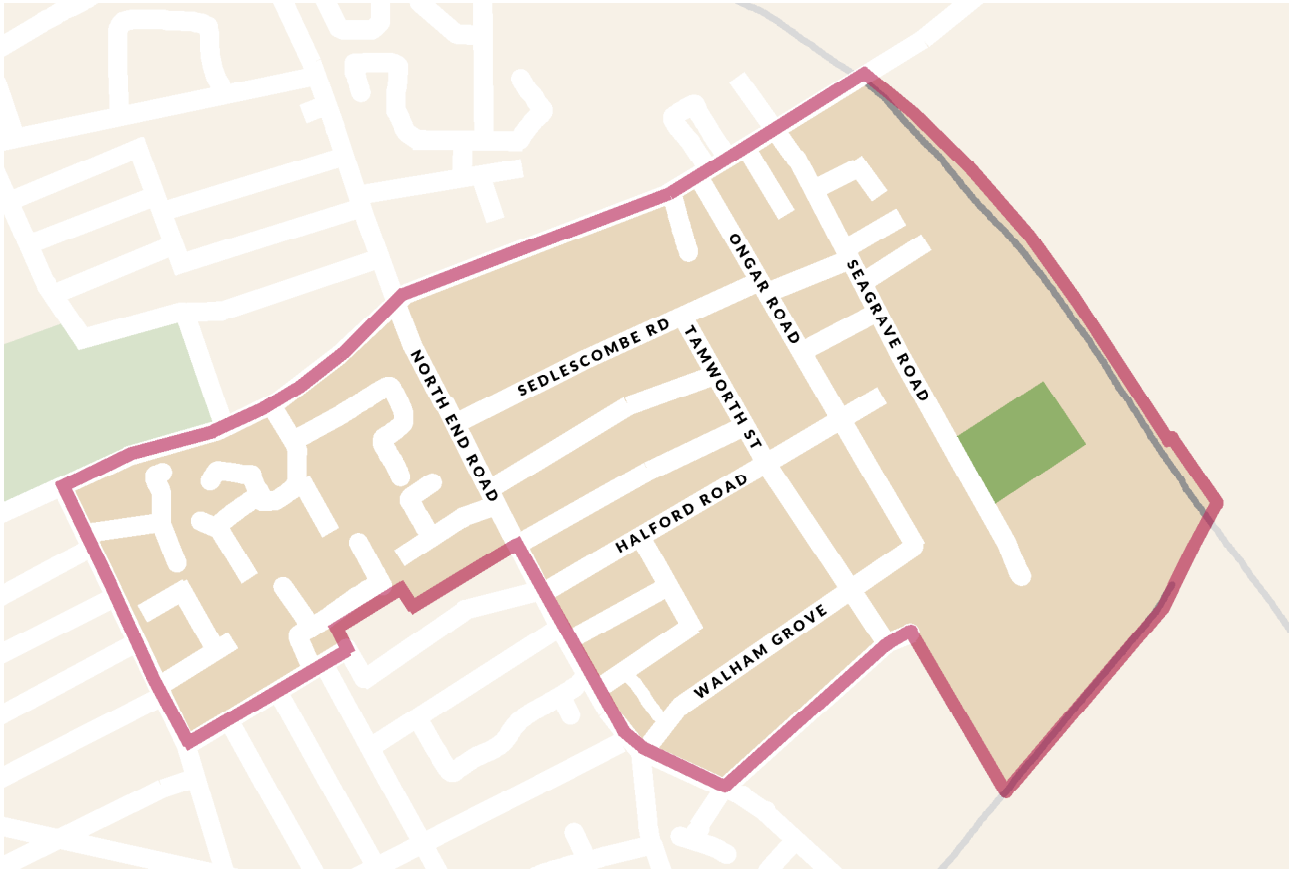
There were three reasons why Lillie was so marginal. First, there wasn't any council housing until the end of the ward's existence. Second, the ward was very mixed throughout: there was a healthy Labour minority in majority Conservative streets, and vice versa. Third, heavily Conservative Queen's Club Gardens was within the ward: and that always kept the Tories competitive even as Fulham swung to Labour.

When the boroughs were amalgamated, Lillie Road became the northern boundary of a new Halford ward. With the Clem Attlee estate built and Queens Club Gardens moved to Gibbs Green ward, Halford was massively Labour: they won with over 70% of the vote in 1964. Even though it was one of the long list of wards Labour lost in 1968 it is again some measure of its leftward lean that the Tories could only snatch it by just over 200 votes.

Fast forward to 1974 and you can see the beginnings of the gentrification-fueled Conservative advance in Fulham. Labour still won easily but far less impressively than 1964 when 1971 was a better year for Labour overall.

This Tory growth was not something Labour took sufficiently seriously at the electoral review prior to 1978. They were far more bothered about the marginal status of Gibbs Green ward, and the perennial problem of where to put Queen's Club Gardens.

Labour came up with the idea of creating an entirely new ward - an unusual ward - comprising the Clem Attlee estate from SW6, Queen's Club Gardens, the ABC streets and the new Maystar estate from W14, and the streets



Fulham Chronicle
Friday February 26, 1937

Lillie Ward By-election

Counting the Votes.

"I now have a slightly better view of the Labour Party than I had before. I thought you were very terrible people but in this election you fought hard and fair." So said Mr. R.B. Danks, the unsuccessful Municipal Reform candidate at the Fulham Borough Council by-election in Lillie ward, speaking after the declaration of the result at Fulham Town Hall on Thursday night last week.

For a by-election the contest aroused unusual interest. This was probably explained by the imminence of the London County Council election. Of the 11,001 local government electors on the register in Lillie ward, 3,966 went to the poll, representing a percentage of 36.05. There were three voting stations: Star Road school, North End Road School, and Halford Road School. The highest number of voters at any booth during one hour was recorded at North End Road School between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., when 101 people voted at it. Actually, this was the peak hour; the total number of voters at all three stations being 859. The next highest was 615 between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. The lowest was 70 during the first hour from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Political Opponents Talk Things Over.

The Town Clerk (Mr. W. Townend) had made the customary efficient arrangements for counting the votes at the Town Hall. The ballot boxes were speedily conveyed from the voting stations as soon as possible after polling ceased at 9 p.m. Before 9.30 the counting clerks were well on with the task. During the count supporters on both sides chatted freely together. The respective agents (Captain Parsons and Mr Johnson), anxiously watched the progress of events at the tables. The Mayor (Alderman C. Lancaster J.P.) had a long chat with Mr. Danks, the Municipal Reform candidate. The figures were declared at 10.23 p.m. Mr Hutchinson was a clear winner with 2,146 votes to his opponent's 1,811.

Proposing the customary vote of thanks to the Town Clerk as the Returning Officer, and to his staff, Mr. Hutchinson said he regarded his victory not so much as a personal tribute to the progressive work of the Labour majority on the Borough Council. The by-election had been a miniature parliamentary election. He hoped that under the guidance of the experienced members of the Council he would be an acquisition to the borough. "I am particularly pleased at this result," he said, "and I hope it is an indication of what is going to happen at the London County Council election."

Enjoyed Every Moment.

Having warmly shaken hands with his successful opponent, Mr. Danks seconded the vote of thanks. "I want to congratulate Mr. Hutchinson on the way he conducted this election," he said. "He has won on his merits and I have no excuse to make. No candidate could have had more enthusiastic workers than I had. From the start of the campaign I had the greatest admiration for them. We fought well and I enjoyed every moment. I have got a slightly better view of the Labour Party than I had before. I thought you were terrible people but in this election you fought hard and fair. If on either side we stretched one or two points, that is permissible in an election. I hope that in the future we may have the pleasure of meeting again in the same pleasant way."

The supporters of Mr. Hutchinson celebrated his victory by singing The Red Flag. This was clearly heard by a large crowd waiting outside the Fulham Road entrance to the Town Hall for the result. "We want Lester" they immediately began to chant, and kept it up until the Labour candidate came down from the counting hall. As Mr. Hutchinson left the building with prominent members of the Labour Party he was vociferously cheered by his highly elated supporters.

immediately west of Queens Club Gardens from W6. Normand ward should enough Labour voters to contain Queens Club Gardens and removing that mansion block development from Gibbs Green should make that ward safe.

That just about held if we're just looking at these two wards. Labour scraped a win in Normand by 82 votes. And they won Gibbs Green by 116 - unlikely that they would have done with Queen's Club Gardens still within it. But then the Conservatives won the wards the rest of Halford had been turned into: Eel Brook by twelve votes and Walham by 174.

1978 was a terrible year for Labour nationally, of course, coming towards the end of a struggling government that had lost its majority in the Commons. But then 1982 was barely any better, with the entrance of the SDP Liberal Alliance into the fray. In these East Fulham wards the Alliance took broadly similar amounts of votes from the Conservatives and Labour, though enough more from the Tories in Eel Brook to oust them.

1986 saw a massive swing to Labour in Normand and Gibbs Green particularly: clearly wards with big council estates were finally fired up again to turn out. Labour also gained Walham and held Eel Brook, though on a much

smaller swings that heralded trouble in both wards in 1990.

Those majorities crumbled again in 1990: Eel Brook and Walham were gained by the Conservatives, and Labour was reined-in in both Gibbs Green and Normand. They recovered a little in 1994 but, in 1998, when the western third of the Clem had been decanted for redevelopment the Tories again almost snatched Normand: Labour's lower majority falling to just 41 votes.

The boundary review prior to the 2002 elections abolished Normand ward and replaced it with a near-replica of Halford - Fulham Broadway ward - that most observers expected the Conservatives to gain. Yet Labour held on, if only by knife-edge majorities ranging from 34 to 93.

Labour would have benefited from the new Clem Attlee housing being occupied, but either they got a huge turnout from that estate, the Peabody estate in Lillie Road and the Lewis Trust in Vanston Place, or the Conservatives under-performed in the streets that had been increasingly strong for them in the old Eel Brook and Walham sections.

The Conservatives did win Fulham Broadway in 2006 and 2010 - and very comfortably too. But then Labour regained it as they recaptured the borough in 2014, on a huge 15% swing. A swing of that size was extraordinary; and perhaps it is again all about how motivated the Clem Attlee estate was motivated to turn out for Labour. That, of course, was the determinant of how comfortably - or not - the party had won Normand, after all.

Two-storey homes to replace high rise flats

£10.6 million redevelopment of Clem Attlee estate is welcomed. Report by **RUTH HUGHES**

PLANS for the new-look Clem Attlee estate have been unveiled following months of discussions and negotiations.

The high-rise blocks of the Hugh Gaitskell and Hugh Dalton houses will be demolished and replaced by 138 two and three-storey homes complete with gardens.

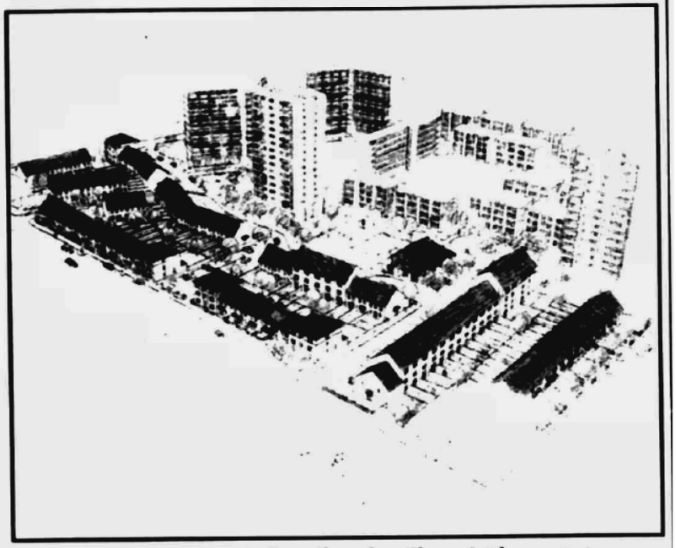
And a new community hall and better playground facilities will also be included in the £10.6 million development put forward by Wimpey Homes and Notting Hill Housing Trust. The plan was chosen by the council's policy resources and urgency committee at a recent meeting. However, Nye Bevan House looks set to be saved and refurbished in the redevelopment of the estate, which was opened by Labour's first post-war prime minister, Lord Attlee, in 1957.

Work is scheduled to begin in the winter, following negotiations with tenants who have expressed concern over a number of issues including the method of demolition on the 160 households. Arrangements for rehousing residents are under way.

Four other developers were in the running for the contract funded by a housing association grant and private money but the partnership bid from Wimpey and the NHHT came closest to the guidelines set out by the council said housing chairman, Ron Browne.

"The standard of submissions was generally high but we feel that the Wimpey bid came closest to achieving the aims of both the council and the tenants," said Cllr Browne.

"It's undoubtedly an exciting opportunity to revitalise Clem Attlee, bringing a quality and attractive new development together with new facilities which will benefit the whole estate. We're sure that the tenants will be delighted."



Artist's impression of plans for the Clem Attlee estate

Ward councillor and former mayor Joan Caruana said she was looking forward to a new era for Clem Attlee.

"They chose very wisely. In the years to come Clem Attlee estate will be brilliant," said Cllr Caruana this week.

"It was good to choose a contractor based in the borough because it will pick up our economy and employment," she added.

Summary of results for Lillie ward

	Con	Lab	LD	Grn	Oths
Lillie ward					
1900	48.5		51.5		
1903	46.0		54.0		
1906	59.6	11.1	29.3		
1909	56.8		30.2		
1912	62.6		37.4		
1917B	Unop				
1919	40.6	59.4			
1922	59.1	40.9			
1925	54.9	36.0	9.1		
1928	55.3	44.7			
1931	73.1	27.9			
1932B	46.3	37.7			16.0
1934	44.5	55.5			
1937B	45.8	54.2			
1937	47.3	52.7			
1945	26.8	58.3			15.0
1949	49.4	45.9	4.7		
1953	44.2	55.8			
1956	46.3	53.7			
1959	46.6	53.4			
1962	25.5	43.8	14.8		15.9
Halford ward					
1964	28.6	71.4			
1965B	29.1	58.0	12.9		
1968	53.0	41.6			
1971	30.0	64.7	5.3		
1974	36.0	64.0			
Normand ward					
1978	44.1	48.1	1.8		6.0
1982	36.5	44.0	18.6		
1986	26.6	59.6	12.8		1.0
1990	39.1	52.8	4.3		3.7
1994	35.0	53.1	12.0		
1998	42.1	47.0	10.9		
Fulham Broadway ward					
2002	44.8	47.7	7.5		
2006	50.2	35.0	7.6	7.2	
2010	49.8	30.0	20.2		
2014	41.3	51.8	7.0		
2018	35.7	55.5	8.8		
2019B	25.3	44.2	30.4		
Lillie ward					
2022	25.3	63.5	11.2		
2025B	30.5	40.4	18.4	10.7	
2026	28.4	35.9	8.8	17.2	9.7

Postal votes played a major part: 29% of all ballots cast in this ward in 2014 were by post - the highest share of all the marginals. Overall turnout in the part of the ward that includes Clem Attlee Court was dramatically higher than 2010: each of the ward's three polling districts contributed an almost exact third of the vote instead of the two more Conservative ones driving turnout four years earlier. Labour gained 200 more votes in 2014 compared to 2010. And in 2018, Labour widened their lead further.

In summer 2019 one of the Labour councillors resigned. The ensuing by-election came at the peak of Brexit-related, Theresa May-created tumult: a not especially great time for Labour given it was split over its approach to leaving the EU, but as disastrous in a heavily-Remain voting ward for the Conservatives as it would have been beneficial in a Leave-supporting area beyond London. The party that stood to benefit most, as they had in June's Euro-elections was the Lib Dems.

Had the election been decided solely on on-the-day, in-person votes there might have been a huge upset. But Labour's strength in postal votes and on the Clem ensured they held on - not easily, but comfortably enough. The Conservatives came a distant third in a ward they'd held until five years earlier.

Labour had never been happy with the wards imposed on the borough in 2002. They disliked how large they had to be to allow for three councillors, cutting across natural communities just to meet an arbitrary requirement - annual elections - that never happened in any event.

Politically, they also disliked the big council estates in central Fulham: Lancaster and Fulham Courts and Barclay Close, being wasted in Town ward. So they proposed two 2-councillor wards in East-Central Fulham. A recreated Lillie ward in the north, and a new Walham Green ward in the south. Despite the names, the successor to the old Walham ward is Lillie. A more favourable version of Eel Brook was the antecedent to Walham Green.

Lillie ward is the Gunter estate with Clem Attlee Court bolted onto it, and is the somewhat better ward for Labour because the Gunter side is still a lot more mixed. The best Conservative part of the old Walham ward was always Moore Park - the area south of the Chelsea Football Club ground on Fulham Road and that is in neither of these wards: it's part of the very safe Parson's Green and Sandford. Without this section, Walham would likely never have elected Conservative councillors.

That said, the areas east of North End Road are much larger than the Clem and have seen a lot of new exclusive

housing constructed: Lillie Square, Rainsborough Square and the Landau Building for example. If this area ever were to line up behind the Conservatives then even if every single voter on the Clem turned out for Labour they would lose the ward by a mile. Fortunately, from their perspective, they did not.

In fact it was Labour that won Lillie by a country mile in its first election, 2022. Labour took 63.5% and the Conservatives, still recovering from that devastating by-election in 2019 when they clearly lost masses of support in the streets to the east of North End Road, on just 25%. The Lib Dems collapsed from 30% in that by-election to just 11%, again demonstrating their incapacity to build on positive results in this borough.

Then another by-election in February 2025 when newly-elected Chelsea and Fulham Labour MP Ben Coleman resigned his council seat. The Lib Dems attempted to repeat their 2019 Fulham Broadway campaign but got nowhere having lost that potent "cancel Brexit" message.

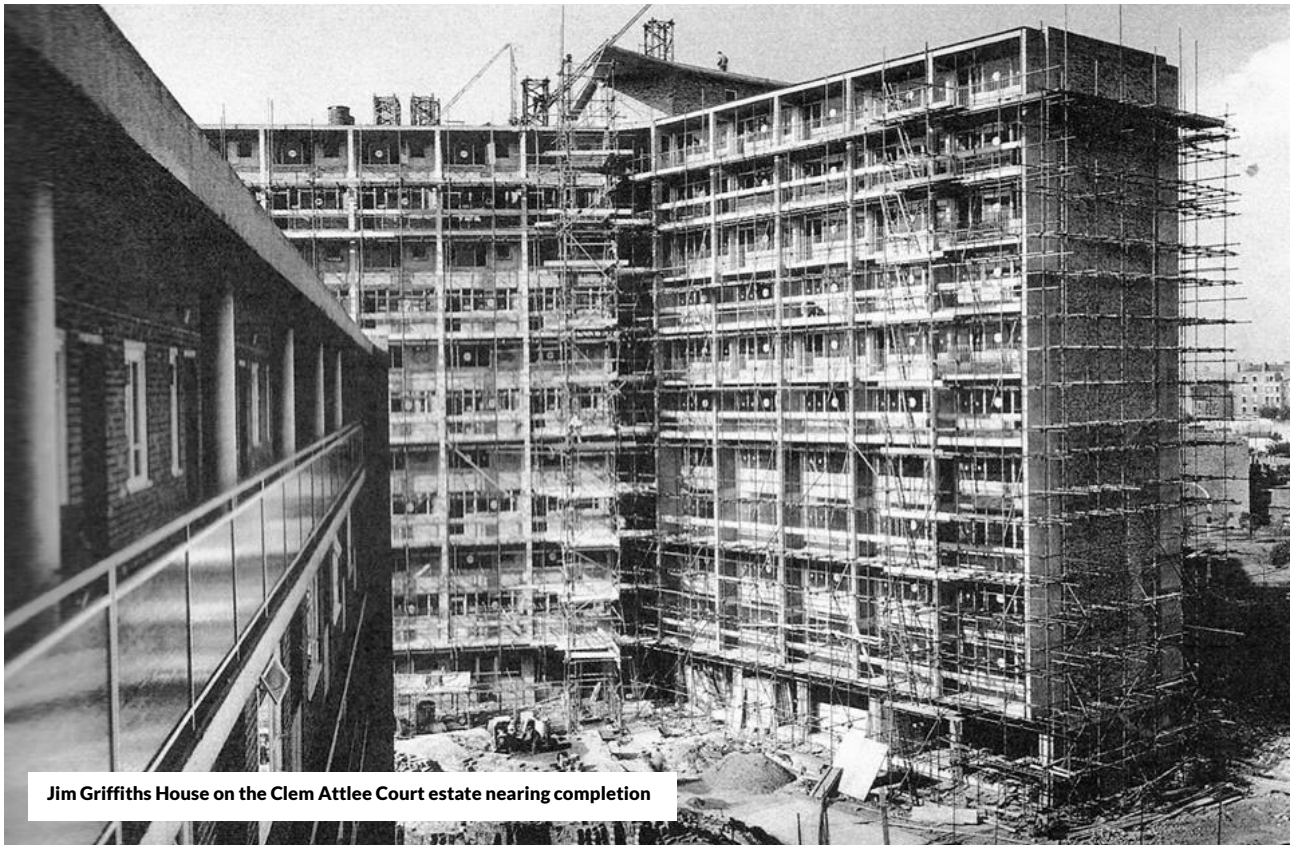
The Labour government elected just six months earlier was already unpopular and, on a relatively low turnout, Lillie ward swung back towards the Conservatives. Labour polled just 40% - down more than twenty-two percentage points on 2022. Had that loss of votes switched wholesale to the Conservatives, they'd have won - by a lot.

But while the Tories had made a reasonably big push, insufficient numbers of voters had forgiven their time in government. Decades earlier, this may not have mattered: you either voted Conservative or Labour and no-one else got a look in. But Hammersmith and Fulham was not completely immune from the fragmentation of politics and the growth of smaller parties.

So, of that 22-point Labour collapse, the Conservatives got an uplift of just over five points. The Lib Dems gained over seven and Reform, standing for the first time, won 10%. It's possible that a large chunk of the Reform vote came from Labour on the Clem: this is one ward where it shouldn't be assumed that Reform voters are all former Tories. But because the Conservatives benefited so little from Labour's slump, they lost the by-election by 111 votes. A 14% swing was not nothing, though.

In 2026 the Conservatives came closer still...or rather, Labour fell even more. This time they won just 36% - 27 points down on 2022. But the Conservatives only managed 28% - two points worse than the by-election. Those huge swings in Labour's support were back.

Because wards in this part of Fulham are so politically unstable no-one elected to represent the area can ever feel completely secure. After all, in just four years Labour's lead has gone from 38% to just 7.5%. Clever boundaries can't mitigate such a swing.



Jim Griffiths House on the Clem Attlee Court estate nearing completion

Rollcall of Lillie ward councillors

including Fulham Broadway ward (2002-2022), Normand ward (1978-2002) and Halford ward (1964-1978)

2026
- Sharon Holder
- Lydia Paynter

2025B
- Lydia Paynter

2022
- Ben Coleman
- Sharon Holder

2019B
- Helen Rowbottom

2018
- Ben Coleman
- Alan De-Ath
- Sharon Holder

2014
- Ben Coleman
- Alan De-Ath
- Sharon Holder

2010
- Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler
- Rachel Ford
- Matt Thorley

2006
- Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler
- Rachel Ford
- Aidan Burley

2002
- Dominic Church
- Andrew Jones
- Charlie Napier

1998
- Joan Caruana
- David Williams

1994
- Val Barker
- Joan Caruana

1990
- Joan Caruana
- Dan Filson

1986
- Joan Caruana
- Brian Vaughan

1982
- Joan Caruana
- Margaret Sondergaard

1978
- Joan Caruana
- Will Unwin

1974
- Alan Green
- Ian McCourt
- Sue O'Neill

1971
- Alan Green
- Sue Hedger
- Ian McCourt

1968
- William Griffen
- Marjorie Jarvis
- Nigel Parkinson

1965B
- James Beckett

1964
- Henry Babstock
- Jack Clarke
- Thomas Cox

1962
- Henry Babstock
- Catherine Clark
- Jack Clarke
- Charles Howard
- John Martyn
- Eileen Naylor

1959
- Helena Andrews
- William Bolton
- Jack Clarke
- James Moodie
- Eileen Naylor
- Grace Walter

1956
- William Ayres
- William Bolton
- Jack Clark
- Percy Coleman
- Anne Field
- Grace Walter

1953
- William Ayres
- William Bolton
- Thomas Edwards
- Anne Field
- Hugh Jones
- Florence Pusey

1949
- Percy Barkwith
- A. Beattie
- W. Browne
- Alan Clark
- Bertie Coates
- Harry Cockburn

1945
- Helena Andrews
- Percy Coleman
- James Forey
- Hugh Jones
- Florence Pusey
- G. Rushworth

1937
- Helena Andrews
- Neil Black
- Percy Coleman
- Lester Hutchinson
- Hugh Jones
- Frida Laski

1937B
- Lester Hutchinson

1934
- Percy Coleman
- Edgar Fraser
- Hugh Jones
- Frida Laski
- Jack Perotti
- Ernest Searle

1931
- Fred Barber
- Albert Everard
- Emanuel Gompers
- Frederick Joyner
- John McNaughton
- Gladys Waldron

1928
- Fred Barber
- Victor Franzini
- Emanuel Gompers
- Walter Leonard
- Christopher Milne
- William Morgan

1925
- Fred Barber
- Harry Booth
- Stephen Farley
- Victor Franzini
- Emanuel Gompers
- Thomas Speed

1922
- Fred Barber
- Harry Booth
- Stephen Farley
- Victor Franzini
- Emanuel Gompers
- Thomas Speed

1919
- John Clark
- Alice Gilliatt
- Louis Hill
- Thomas Lander
- John Lee
- George Lineham

1912
- John Bavin
- Harry Booth
- Patrick Cronin
- Charles Hovell
- Daniel Morgan
- William Waldron

1909
- John Armstrong
- John Bavin
- Harry Booth
- Patrick Cronin
- William Packover
- William Waldron

1906
- John Bavin
- Patrick Cronin
- Charles Hovell
- Henry Jones
- Abner Norman
- William Waldron

1903
- Arthur Appleby
- Edward Lee
- George Sly
- John Thomas
- Alfred Warner
- Thomas Whiteley

1900
- Ambrose Abery
- Arthur Appleby
- Henry Jones
- Edward Lee
- Alfred Warner
- Thomas Whiteley