

# THE HISTORY OF YOUR AREA

**When Walham Green became Fulham Broadway in 1936 the area was already a vibrant centre of commercial and social activity. But a settlement here was recorded as early as 1449 - situated around a triangular green which lay between the Broadway and Vanston Place. The hamlet had a manor house and pond as well as stocks and a whipping post, last used in 1826 when two men were punished for stealing fruit. The pond was filled in in 1814 and was later to become the site of St John's Church built in 1828.**

On the left of our photograph is the entrance to the stalls of the Granville Theatre which opened in 1898. Lavishly decorated and designed by Frank Matcham, architect of the London Coliseum, it could seat almost 1200 people in red plush splendour and saw many music hall stars of the day cross its stage. Despite fierce protests it was demolished in 1971, its sacrifice paving the way for similar theatres to be recognised as listed buildings.

On the right are the offices of the Fulham Chronicle from where the first newspaper was published in 1888. In those days it cost half a penny and was known as the 'Ha'penny Hot'un'. Today, of course, it is free.

Running south of Fulham Broadway is the earliest estate development to be built in Fulham. Moore Park is first mentioned in 1857, and its name, along with that of Maxwell and Waterford Roads, are derived from the estate owner, Robert Perceval Maxwell, who lived at Moore Hill in County Waterford. Some of the roads were named after the

local pub – Britannia Road, developed in 1852, took its name from the Britannia Inn, while Wandon and Holmead Roads were originally called Bull Lane and Bull Alley after the Bull Inn.

Nearby Stamford Bridge first opened as an athletics stadium in 1877, but in 1905 the lease was acquired by Gus and Joseph Mears who offered it to Fulham FC as their home ground. When they turned it down the brothers decided to create their own team and Chelsea FC was born.

The opening of Walham Green station in 1880 (it was renamed Fulham Broadway in 1952) secured the area's future. From village green to the hub of social and municipal activity, Fulham Broadway has never looked back.

All our historical cards are available to download from our website.

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Fulham Broadway c. 1900