

# THE HISTORY OF YOUR AREA

**Munster Road was first recorded in 1397 when it was a rough path running through farmland known as 'Fulham Fields' which stretched from North End Road to the River Thames. The path was then known as 'Mustow' meaning 'meeting place' as used by members of the people's council. The name changed many times over the years, finally becoming Munster Road in 1890.**

In the 16th century the area was dominated by Munster House. Set in eight acres at the junction with Fulham Road the house became known as 'Monster House' due to two hideous stone lions adorning its frontage. It stood for around 400 years and was used variously as a school and a lunatic asylum before being demolished in 1894.

Cole Hill House was built later, in 1770, and designed by Fulham born architect, Henry Holland, whose work includes the Brighton Pavilion. It sat on what is now Colehill Lane, an ancient 15th century way originally called Colys Hill. Skirting its grounds was a lane known as 'Devil's Alley' – said to be haunted and feared by locals, it was roughly where Gowan and Wardo Avenues are now.

By the mid 17th century, the roads around Fulham were in a shocking state and the government decided to charge tolls to pay for repairs. A toll gate was erected on Munster Road charging six pence for a coach and horses or five pence for twenty sheep – the Royal carriages on their way to and from the Fulham Ferry did not

have to pay. Despite this the roads never improved and tolls were abolished in 1865.

At the end of the 19th century William Gibbs & John Flew – two builders from Dorset began building houses in the area. They ran an extremely successful business employing around a thousand men. Their building works stretched to almost two acres on the site of Munster Farm - where Filmer Road is now. The houses were considered modest at the time and lived in mainly by tradesmen and labourers. In 1880 a dustcart depot was opened on Munster Road – a hundred years later a smart development called Mustow Place was built in its place – highlighting the start of the area's remarkable transformation.

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Munster Road c.1910