

THE HISTORY OF YOUR AREA

Until the 17th century Peterborough Road had been known as Parsons Green Lane. The name change was the result of the construction of Peterborough House by the Earl of Peterborough on a twenty acre site opposite Parsons Green. Renowned for its beautiful gardens, the house was spectacular and situated roughly where Quarrendon and Chipstead Streets are now. Charles, the 3rd Earl Peterborough, entertained many of the literati of the day there, including Swift, Pope and Voltaire.

Like a number of other fine mansions, it ended its days as a lunatic asylum and was demolished at the end of the 19th century. Following improvements to the transport system, the sale and intensive development of large plots of land was common around this time. Wandsworth Bridge had been built in 1873 and a new link, Wandsworth Bridge Road, was formed between New Kings Road, Wandsworth and settlements south of the River Thames.

Irish builder, Jimmy Nichols, built the first houses on the exclusive Peterborough Estate in 1888 with modest two storey terraces in Peterborough and Coniger Roads advertised for sale at £300. The houses sold quickly and his financial success encouraged him to turn more of the adjoining fields into houses. His elaborately decorated terraces in wide streets were built over a single period and unlike other developments contributed to the area's unified appearance with many of the houses carrying his trademark terracotta lion. It is said that Nichols overordered the number of lions he needed so gave each house a lion of its own and one to share with the house next door.

Fulham's earliest inhabitants were farmers and market gardeners many of whom originated from Kent. When these professions disappeared they found work as housebuilders and labourers, suggesting their villages back home as street names. Most names on the Peterborough Estate are derived from places in Kent while Perrymead Street pays tribute to the orchards of Peterborough House on which it was built. Jimmy Nichols apparently named Coniger Road himself and is thought to be a misspelling of Conigar mountain near his home in County Cork.

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Bishops Park 361 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6TA
Parsons Green 783 Fulham Road London SW6 5HD

Sales

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020 7731 3333

Lettings

Selina Garcia sgarcia@sullivanthomas.co.uk
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sullivanthomas.co.uk

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Peterborough Road c. 1905

You chose: **Peterborough Estate**

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