

Wandsworth. This ancient settlement goes back beyond the Norman Conquest. The first iron railway (1861) brought stone from Merstham to the Thames. Some centuries earlier came the Huguenots. They began brewing, iron-working and other industries.

West Hill Primary School. Originally the offices of the Moody & Sankey mission, built earlier this century.

All Saints Church. The present building of 1775-76 replaced a medieval church. The architect was William Inge.

Wandsworth Plain. Church Row is a handsome terrace of Queen Anne houses.

Armory Way. Here stage-coach drivers took on armed men before making the dangerous crossing of Putney Heath.

Fulham. The name means 'a lake of birds'.

Lots Road area. The power station is being demolished and the whole area being redeveloped. The £160 million Scheme centres on a cluster of tower blocks and house-boat moorings. You will get a good view of this complex across the Thames from Battersea.

THE ROUTE WAS DEVISED AND RESEARCHED BY BASIL CRACKNELL AND CHRIS KEY.

CHELSEA

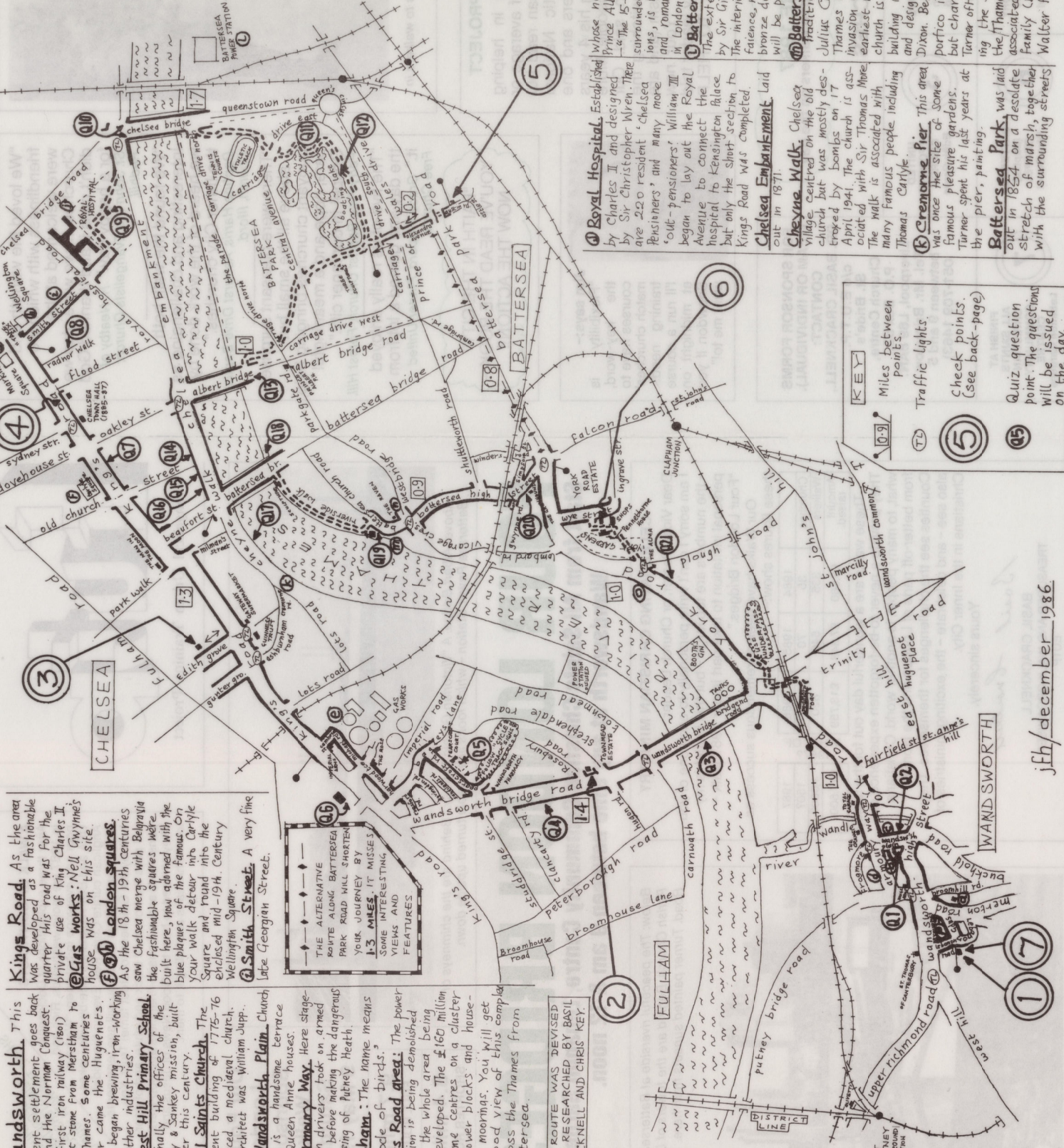
Kings Road. As the area was developed as a fashionable quarter this road was for the private use of King Charles II.

Gas works. Nell Gwynne's house was on this site.

London squares. As the 18th-19th centuries saw Chelsea merge with Belgravia the fashionable squares were built here, now adorned with the blue plaques of the famous. On your walk detract into Carlyle Square and round into the enclosed mid-19th century Wellington Square.

Smith Street. A very fine late Georgian Street.

THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE ALONG BATTERSEA PARK ROAD WILL SHORTEN YOUR JOURNEY BY 1.3 MILES. IT MISSES SOME INTERESTING VIEWS AND FEATURES.



A Note on the Bridges.

Chelsea Bridge. Thomas Page's suspension bridge of 1851-58 had elaborate cast-iron towers. The present bridge was built in 1934-37.

Albert Bridge. Like many things associated with the prince, this is a Victorian Gothic fantasy. It is in wrought iron, and was built 1871-73. The designer was R.M. Ordish.

Battersea Bridge. The old wooden bridge by Henry Holland was built in 1771-2. We are familiar with it from a painting by Whistler. It was replaced in 1886-90 by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, with five cast-iron ribbed arches.

Railway Bridge. 1861-63 by William Baker of the London & North Western Railway. Five 144-foot river spans of wrought iron arches.

Wandsworth Bridge. 1936-1940. Replaces a bridge of 1870-73.

[INFORMATION BY MALCOLM TUCKER, THE BUILDING OF ENGLAND - LONDON 2 (AUTUMN 1983), p. 714.]

Royal Hospital. Established by Charles II and designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The are 220 resident 'Chelsea Pensioners', and many more 'sold-pensioners'. William III began to lay out the Royal Avenue to connect the hospital to Kensington Palace but only the short section to Kings Road was completed.

Chelsea Embankment. Laid out in 1871.

Cheyne Walk. Chelsea village centred on the old church but was mostly destroyed by bombs on 17 April 1941. The church is associated with Sir Thomas More and designed by Joseph Dixon. Behind the Tuscan portico is an incongruous but charming oriel window. Turner often sat here enjoying the sunsets across the Thames. The church is associated with the St John family (Bolingbroke). Sir Walter founded an ancient

Battersea Parish Church. Tradition has it that Julius Caesar forced the Thames here during his invasion of Britain. The earliest mention of the church is 1157. The present building is of 1775-76 and designed by Joseph Dixon. Behind the Tuscan portico is an incongruous but charming oriel window. Turner often sat here enjoying the sunsets across the Thames. The church is associated with the St John family (Bolingbroke). Sir Walter founded an ancient

Cremorne Pier. This area was once the site of some famous pleasure gardens. Turner spent his last years at the pier, painting.

Battersea Park. was laid out in 1854 on a desolate stretch of marsh, together with the surrounding streets

Cheltenham. As it spread out the parish church 'fostered' 16 daughters. An area once famous for brigands and duel had become a fashionable suburb but as industry spread the well-off people left.

York Road. The Archbishop of York once had his house here. Opposite Plough Road is Price's candle factory, on the site of the home of Cardinal Wolsey.

A project officer's War. 36 we lived at 22, Morten Road (Battersea). This was 1940-1941 and I and my sister were around with gas masks and we were dashed into shelters, as the air was so bad one night a death-decked land of

planning room as father in

it was yesterday as a thing

jth/december 1986