


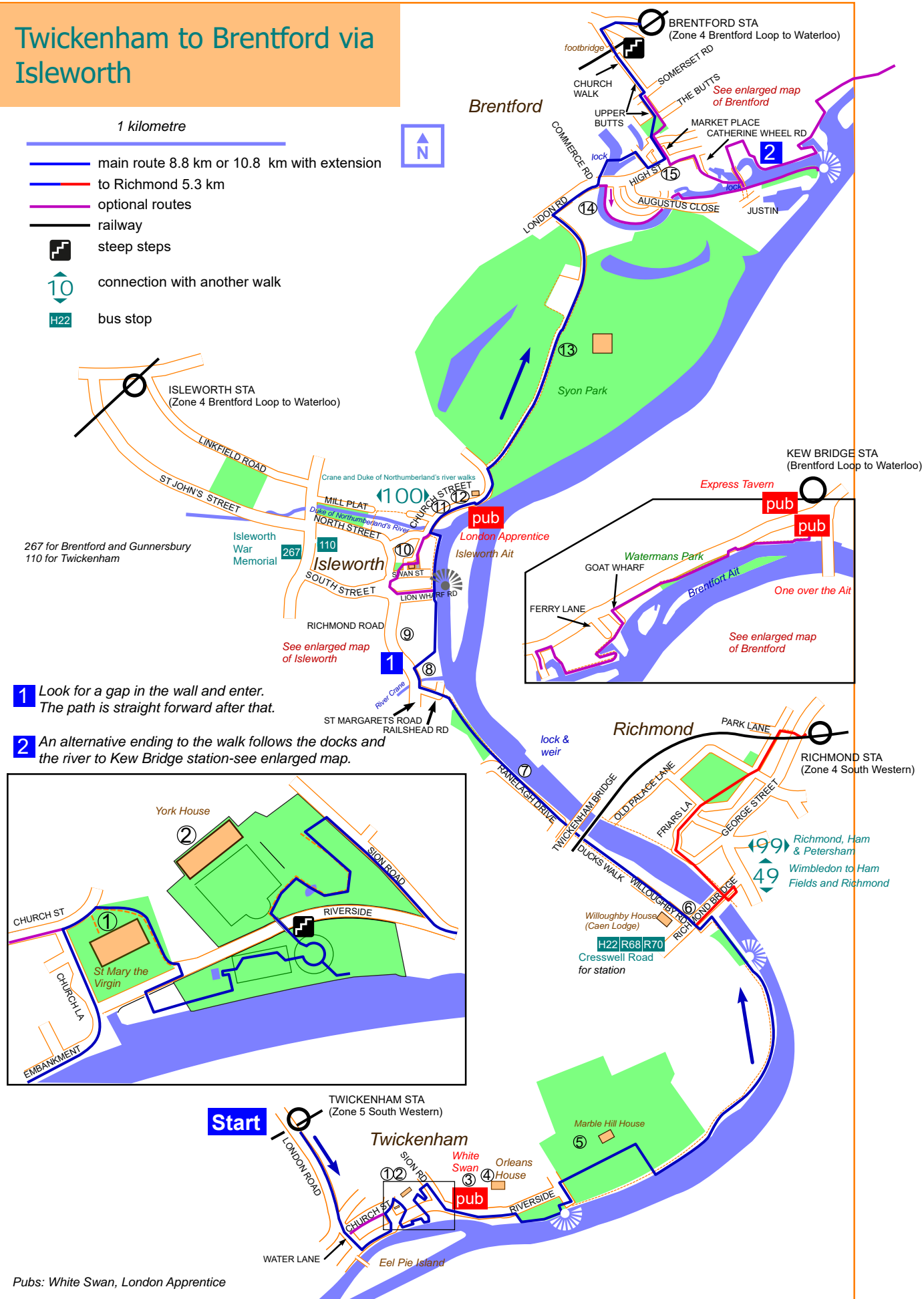


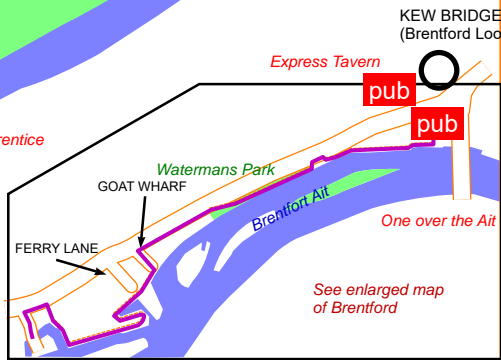
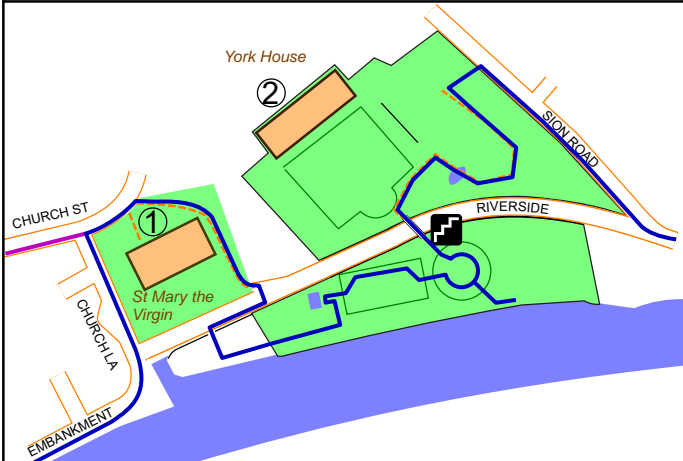
# Twickenham to Brentford via Isleworth

1 kilometre

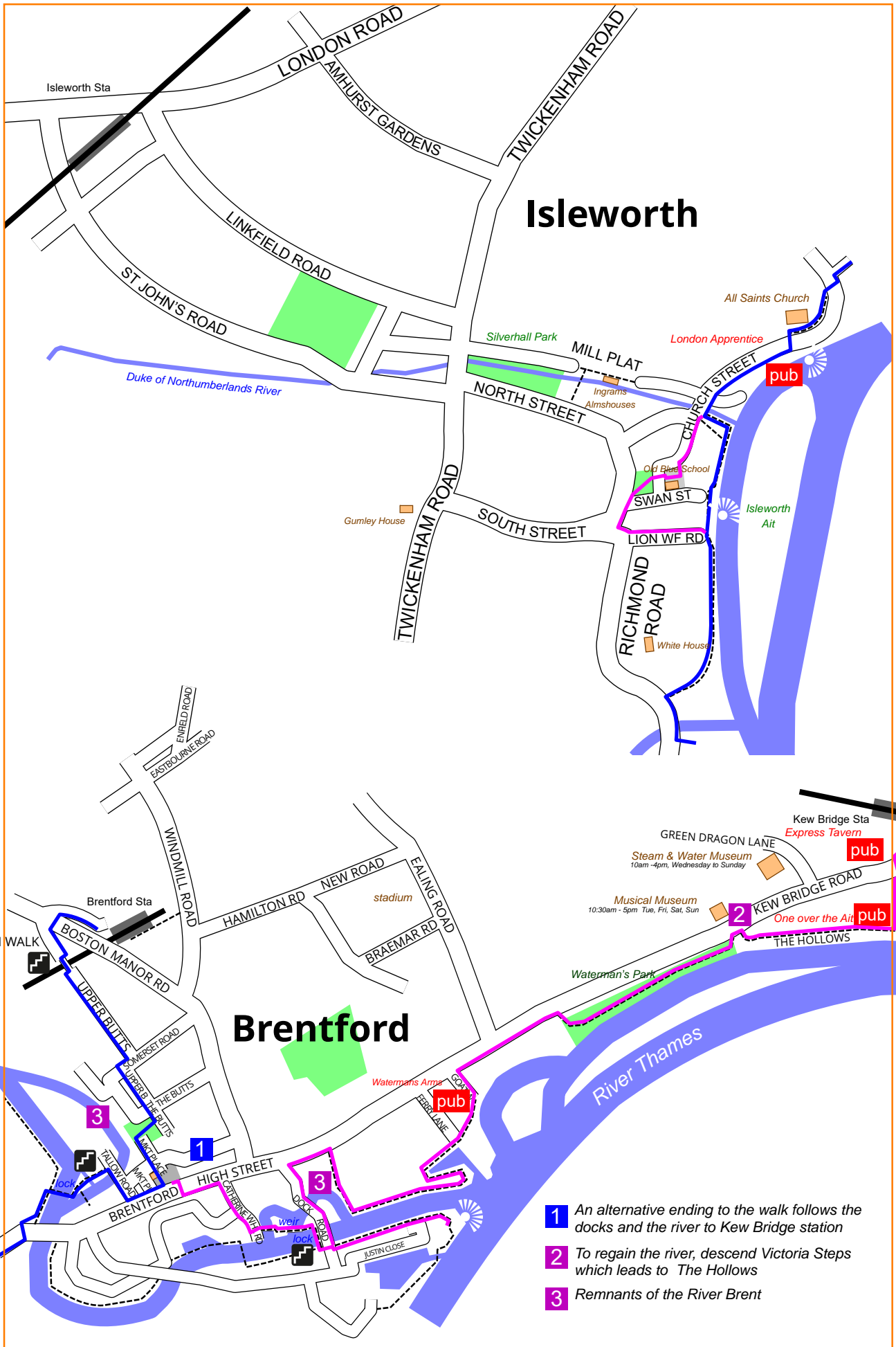
- main route 8.8 km or 10.8 km with extension
- to Richmond 5.3 km
- optional routes
- railway
-  steep steps
-  connection with another walk
-  bus stop



- 1** Look for a gap in the wall and enter. The path is straight forward after that.
- 2** An alternative ending to the walk follows the docks and the river to Kew Bridge station-see enlarged map.



Pubs: White Swan, London Apprentice



## walk notes

### **Twickenham to Brentford via Isleworth**

*This is a peaceful and varied walk along the river on the less crowded side, plus a park walk and two old centres. We start the walk with a choice to follow the Embankment or take the attractive Church Street.*

#### **1. St Mary's Twickenham**

The first record of a Vicar of Twickenham was in the early thirteenth century, although the original church pre-dates this. All that remains of the medieval church is the tower, constructed of Kentish Rag. Following the collapse of the main building in 1713, Sir Godfrey Kneller of Whitton initiated the red brick nave and interior to the plans of John James of Greenwich - a classic example of the architecture of the period, paid for by subscription. The vestry was enlarged in 1975, in the same style as the nave. Alexander Pope is buried in the nave. His grotto is occasionally open but not on our route.

#### **2. York House**

This walk includes an exploration of York House grounds, including a balustraded riverside stretch, ornate fountains and a cast iron urinal! The Twickenham building did not take its name from being a residence of a Duke of York. The central portion of York House dates to the 1630s and derives its name from the Yorke family, owners of farming land in the area in 1446. It was built for Andrew Pitcarne, a courtier of King Charles I. When he died it was sold to Edward Montagu, 2nd Earl of Manchester and then re-sold in 1661 to Henry Hyde, the son of Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, the Lord Chancellor. In 1864 the property was acquired by the Orleans Pretender, Philippe, Comte de Paris. He returned to France following the defeat of Napoleon III in the Franco-Prussian War but from 1896 to 1906 the then Orleanist pretender Philippe, Duc d'Orléans reacquired the house he'd been born in. York House was acquired by Twickenham Urban District Council in 1924 and after major alterations became the council's offices.

#### **3. White Swan**

The original deeds to the pub date the pub right back to 1640, making it the oldest surviving pub in Twickenham. A delightful spot with a garden by the Thames, across the road.

#### **4. Orleans House**

Orleans House was built in 1710 on land owned by Yorke Farm, by John James for the politician and diplomat James Johnston. Henri

Duc d'Aumale purchased and renamed it in 1852. It was also home to his children the Prince de Condé and the Duc de Guise. After the deaths of the Cunards, who had owned the estate since 1882, Orleans House was purchased by a firm of ballast and gravel merchants. The main house and link buildings were demolished. Thanks to the timely intervention of Mrs Nellie Ionides (1883-1962), who occupied Riverside House next door, the Octagon Room and some other buildings were saved. She hosted sparkling Edwardian-style dinner parties there on special occasions, bringing all the food from Riverside House.

When Nellie Ionides died she bequeathed the buildings and site, and a collection of some 450 portraits and local topographical views to the Borough of Twickenham. Over the next ten years, the buildings adjoining the Octagon Room were transformed to create a contemporary gallery space. Opened in 1972 it has staged, on average, six exhibitions per year.

#### **5. Marble Hill House**

Marble Hill House was built between 1724 and 1729 for Henrietta Howard, mistress of George II and later Countess of Suffolk. Her friend Henry Herbert, 9th Earl of Pembroke and his protégé Roger Morris were the architect and builder respectively. The house is a very fine, very early example of the Palladian style of architecture. See <http://www.marblehillsociety.org.uk/pages/2009/05/history-of-house.shtml>

#### **6. Richmond Bridge**

The bridge was first opened in 1777 to replace a ferry. 90 Commissioners were nominated to be responsible for building and maintaining a bridge, using Portland stone, architect James Paine. Funds were raised through a tontine, which lasted until 1859. The bridge was widened last century.

From the early 1830's the land in Twickenham Park, adjacent to Richmond Road and near the bridge, was sold for development. A series of villas were built, the first of which was Caen Lodge, now known as Willoughby House.

#### **7. Richmond Lock**

PLA owns and operates Richmond Lock and Weir, which is also the base for the Upper River Harbour Service patrols between Putney and Teddington Lock. The weir comprises three vertical steel sluice gates suspended from a footbridge. Each gate weighs 32.6 tonnes and is 20 metres wide

and 3.64 metres in depth.

For around two hours each side of high tide, the sluice gates are raised into the footbridge structure above, allowing ships and boats to pass through the barrage. For the rest of the day the sluice gates are closed and passing river traffic must use the lock alongside the barrage. The period of free navigation can be dramatically changed according to prevailing conditions. The sluice gates ensure that the water level between Richmond Lock and Teddington Lock is maintained at or above half-tide level. (Of the Thames' 346km total length, almost half is tidal. This section, which is known as the Tideway, stretches all the way from the sea to the lock on the river in Teddington)

The structure was officially opened by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1894.

### 8. Railshead

The name Railshead was applied to this area as early as 1408. Owned by the medieval lords of Isleworth it was called Isleworth Weir, and the stakes (or rails) at its upper end gave their name to the Railshead. This weir was broken down by 1538, but lord of the manor the Duke of Somerset set up another one. In 1549, local fishermen petitioned the City of London's Court of Aldermen to remove it. There was also a great deal of complaint during Elizabeth 1st's reign about illegal weirs for the supply of lampreys, including in 1578 the one at Isleworth built by the Duke of Somerset.

The first bridge over the Crane at Railshead, carrying the road to Twickenham, seems to have been a footbridge. In 1670 Charles II gave £50 to one "Baker, Justice of the Peace for Middlesex" towards the erection of a coach bridge of brick "at a place called the Rails Head, Thistleworth [Isleworth], on the way to Richmond Ferry". The current bridge was built in the 18th century.

The river Crane, over which the bridge passes was originally the location of mills, and upstream was a gunpowder works. Railshead Ferry across the Thames (now closed) dated from the reign of George III.

### 9. White House/Nazareth House

Behind the long, tall brick wall on Richmond Road is The White House (Grade II), lavishly rebuilt in 1832 by Edward Blore for George III's chaplain, Sir William Cooper. The old riverside road from Twickenham to Isleworth was closed to allow the estate to extend to the Thames. After becoming a convent of the Sisters of Nazareth for many years, the listed

White House, chapels and stables, together with many new buildings, built around a green space now form a gated housing development.

### 10. Isleworth Riverside

Isleworth goes back to prehistoric times.

There was settlement in Roman times, and in



Saxon times the Manor of Isleworth was coterminous with the Hundred of Isleworth, which covered three later parishes of Heston, Isleworth and Twickenham.

Its north-eastern boundary was the Brent. Beside the Thames, the early settlement benefited from river traffic and from providing it services, was surrounded by market gardens supplying London, and had a large corn mill.

No mills or warehouses remain, but the industrial character of narrow roads and paths to a riverside crane, the canalised waterway and stone bridge (itself listed grade II) remain. At the south end of narrow Church Street, are two squares (one green) created mostly in 1986-8: an instant townscape with terrace houses, office and a riverside pub, all developed by Speyhawk.

The development incorporates Holland House (Grade II), late 18th century with a 1840's façade and John Day House (Grade II), which is stone-fronted.

The dominant centrepiece is the Tudor Gothic Old Blue School (Grade II) of 1841-2 by C F Maltby in an unusual pale brick and with a little turret clock and crenelations.

Off our route on Twickenham Road by South Street is Gumley House Covent School and Housing. Set back behind big gate piers and wall (Grade II), is a c1700 house (Grade II\*) built for John Gumley, the eminent cabinet and mirror-maker. The place was expanded when the convent took over in 1841.

Silverhall Gardens is what remains of Silverhall House, - the 19th century garden walls and the remains of an icehouse. Here can also be found Ingram's Almshouses (Grade II) dating from 1664.

### 11. Church Street

Church Street is notable for differing styles

and use of materials, creating an attractive feel. The ribbon of houses is basically 18th and 19th Century with later picturesque alterations. Along the narrow section is an attractive terrace of Georgian and Victorian buildings, opposite other later interestingly detailed housing and Richard Reynolds House (Grade II).

Butterfield House (Grade II) is two cottages transformed in 1971 into the Gothic style. Number 61 (Grade II) is early 19th Century finished in stucco with a tented balcony and earlier core. Number 59 (Grade II) is a two bay brick fronted house of 1825-30 with an earlier core. Numbers 55-57 (Grade II) date from the 1870's and have angular Gothic doorways. The London Apprentice Public House (Grade II) is early 18th century and made more prominent by being set at right angles to the road.

### **12.All Saints Church**

All Saints Church occupied its riverside site from the 13th century, being rebuilt in 1705, but in 1943 the whole church save the tower and parts of the stonework was burned to the ground by two boys. The rebuild was not completed until 1969. The four separate roofs, carried on columns quite independent both of each other and the walls, are panelled in Columbian pine. The central lancet window of stained glass is by Keith New and given in memory of Martin Waterston. Michael Blee was the architect.

The flat roofs project through the old windows. The ornamental sundial on the front of the Joshua Chapel was first erected in 1707 in memory of Susanna Lawes, wife of the Governor of Jamaica. Its markings are arranged to show the time in Isleworth, Jamaica, Jerusalem and Moscow.

### **13.Syon**

The Bridgettine Monastery of St Saviour and St Bridget of Syon, of the Order of St Augustine was founded in Twickenham in 1415 by Henry V. It moved to its later site before 1431 for reason of space. During the Reformation, the estate fell into the hands of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and brother to Jane Seymour. It is thought to be Somerset who began constructing a Renaissance-style house; he employed the botanist William Turner to build England's first botanical gardens at Syon and the house was largely completed by the time he was beheaded in 1552. It was inherited by John Dudley first Duke of Northumberland. Queen Mary restored the monastery, temporarily. In

1594 Queen Elizabeth I granted a lease of the manor to Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland on his marriage to Dorothy Devereux, (sister of Robert Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex), who later, in 1604, received a grant of the freehold from King James I. There were two more Percys before the line died out and inheritance transferred to a cousin, who married Hugh Smithson. He adopted the name Percy and was made the (second) first Duke of Northumberland in 1766. It was he who employed Capability Brown to remodel the park and Robert Adam to remodel the house interior, in grand style. The Park remains in the Percy family to this day. It became the new home of the Dukes of Northumberland when their Strand property was demolished in 1874.

### **14.Grand Junction Canal**

The River Brent at its lower end was canalised in 1794 as part of the Grand Junction Canal (from the Thames to Birmingham). Below the bridge, the northern bank of the canal has retained some of the older industrial character of the area, though many of the buildings are now derelict and being replaced by modern developments; the power of the locks and canal walls and the effect of the dilapidated corrugated iron dock shed at the mouth are photogenic and still enough to evoke the identity and character of the old canal. The Grand Junction became part of the Grand Union Canal in 1929. The original wooden bridge of 1224 has been replaced and widened several times.

### **15.Brentford**

Brentford pre-dates the Roman occupation of Britain, and pre-dates the founding of London itself. Originally the High Street and its buildings ran across the Ham, a common recorded from 1436. Part of the Ham north of High Street became the site of the butts required by Henry VIII and was usually known as the Butts from 1596. The Butts is the most rewarding part of Brentford, containing an enclave of late 17th and early 18th Century buildings, described by Pevsner as one of the most appealing groups of houses in West London. The central part of the area is a large informal square behind the former town hall. The space was used for a market from the later 17th and Century and in the 18th Century the Middlesex elections were held there. The developer was William Parish, Landlord of the Red Lion Inn, who acquired the land in 1663 from John Goldsmith of Boston Manor. Plots were let in the 1680's.