

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY



Annual Report 2010

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

23 St James's Gardens, London W11 4RE

www.kensingtonsociety.org

The objects of the Society are to preserve and improve the amenities of Kensington for the public benefit by stimulating interest in its history and records, promoting good architecture and planning in its future development, and by protecting, preserving and improving its buildings, open spaces and other features of beauty or historic interest.

The Kensington Society has received the following awards 2008 – 2010:

The Kensington Society was awarded the **2010 Gold Standard**:

GOLD STANDARD 2010
Awarded for Excellence in Representing Residents



The Kensington Society Annual Report 2008 won a **Highly Commended award** in the publication category for the London Forum of Civic Amenity Societies, which are held every two years.



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Registered Charity No. 267778

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

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His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

PRESIDENT

Sir Ronald Arculus KCMG, KCVO

VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Snowdon, GCVO

General The Lord Ramsbotham of Kensington GCB, CBE

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TREASURER AND LICENSING: Anthony Lee

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GAMBLING POLICY: Charles Lutyens

K&C PARTNERSHIP: Celia Rees-Jenkins OBE

Charles Booth-Clibborn

Dianne Gabitass

Philip Roberts

Holly Smith

Anthony Walker: co-opted

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the time of change, as politicians keep telling us. So we are considering how changes may impact on our Society and what, if anything, we should do about it.

First, the Council has to economise and some services will have to be pruned. More local autonomy could indeed be useful. Perhaps, changes may lead to the loss of fewer planning cases on appeal? This has long been a hindrance, as the Council has been reluctant to risk cases going to appeal, as losing meant paying costs and these, of course, fall on Council taxpayers. On the other hand, the Government apparently proposes that house extensions no longer need to obtain planning consent. Where are we going?

Secondly, there is talk of mergers with neighbouring Councils. Already there are some services (for example, street cleaning) which are shared to save costs. How much more scope is there for this? One difficulty is that there are differences in procedures and problems, especially in the case of Westminster, less so for Hammersmith and Fulham. How much money could be saved? A major worry for Kensington and Chelsea residents would be our parking procedures. We do not want the borough parking to become “zoned”, as in Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham. At the time of writing, there is little detail available about how all this will work.

Then there will also be change in the Council's planning department. The Society too has changed through the adoption of our new Constitution, which regularises our position with the Charities Commission; this puts a lot of work behind us and should be advantageous in the future.

Meanwhile, a number of cause célèbres have continued to occupy us. The future of the Commonwealth Institute is still uncertain. Will the Design Centre have the funds to move in? How much harm will the over-large, new buildings cause?

We have been active over the plans for major redevelopment of Kensington Palace, one of the Borough's principal assets, of which more use can be made. However, I trust that popularisation will not go too far. It is after all a Royal Palace, where Queen Victoria resided when she was young.

There are, in residential areas, a number of clusters of small shops, cafes, restaurants etc. These are important to many residents, especially those who are less mobile or who want a personal service. We can all support small enterprises which may struggle to survive in these austere times. The Council has studied the problem, though there is



Kensington Palace 2010

not much it can do about it except perhaps a change of use. As for the High Street shopping areas, the Council has also published a useful draft guidance on shop fronts, where more harmony and unity could certainly be achieved by a cohesive Kensington style. The Society has commented on the draft and hope that tighter controls, and our request to improve quality, are reflected in the final document.

Major redevelopment schemes do not always cause uniform reactions amongst residents. For example, the plans for Exhibition Road, inspired by a Dutch project on a smaller scale, aroused varied reactions. Some of our criticisms were answered, but to my mind there is still a doubt about how much traffic will merely be diverted along Queen's Gate? Pressures on the museums have caused them to seek outside funding and this too may cause problems. We are much concerned by the increasing commercial exploitation of the grounds of the Natural History Museum. The *Albertopolis* buildings expand in the spaces within the site, but spaces around the principal buildings, which are visible to passers-by, should remain open and green where appropriate.

Opinions were also divided over the promised removal of the western zone from the Congestion Charge, which was finally ousted on 24 December 2010.

The excessive redevelopment of the de Vere Gardens site, opposite Kensington Palace — which gives it added visual importance — caused much opposition from the strong Victoria Road Residents' Association, which succeeded in modifying parts of the plan. The site will be shrouded for some time to come, before we can see if it looks well or ill in its strategic location.

Another major concern affecting many of us is the many side effects of excessive refurbishing of private properties by developers or insensitive buyers. There was a time when this process was limited to redecoration, and perhaps rewiring and re-plumbing; while exteriors were usually unaffected and indeed benefited from redecoration. Then along came the fashion for penthouses with roof gardens, or terraces for entertaining. When going up became too difficult, then going down was another option, but one which caused more problems. Excavation to basement level

was followed by applications for two floor basements, and/or excavation beneath gardens. Do people really need not only underground pools, but bars, saunas, gyms etc? Side effects may include not only dust and noise, and disruption caused by heavy traffic to and from site, but damage to neighbouring properties, such as cracking of walls or ceilings, damage to foundations or even to gardens by changing underground water flows, and loss of trees. Pavements can be blocked and even parts of the public highway and skips can be parked in front of sites for months, sometimes years, as is the case with the Duchess of Bedford Walk. The alterations themselves may also be offensive, if they do not conform to local style. Much of this could surely be avoided by more stringent regulation and more rigorous enforcement?

The Royal Parks are a precious and unique asset, valued by residents and visitors alike. They are constantly under threat though, as the Government's subsidy is under pressure, so the Royal Parks are required to raise more money themselves from donors and — here's the rub — from more commercialisation. I say 'more' because there is already too much. This is strongly resisted by the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, whom we support. Outside events are intrusive and can cause damage and loss of the amenity for peaceful private users of the parks. So far, Hyde Park has suffered more than Kensington Gardens. I particularly remember kicking off a campaign waged by the Society to prevent the Diana Garden taking over the space south of the Palace, which is one of the most used areas for its expanse of trees and turf. We agreed, in exchange for scrapping the scheme, to the modernisation of the existing children's playground and the so-called Diana Walkway (little used). We thought this included abandoning the proposed giant fountain in the Round Pond, but this came up again later. I was obliged to tell the Minister concerned that we would not have it in Kensington Gardens; it was moved to the Serpentine swimming area and is now a circular stream rather than a fountain. I also asked Gordon Brown (Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time) to ensure that outside funding was used for all of this, because the Royal Parks could not be expected to fund maintenance costs. He said "yes, yes", but in the event it was "no, no" and the Parks had to find the money, which means less for trees and flowers.

We shall have to continue the fight against commercialisation of the parks, especially as it is reported that the Mayor of London is likely to take them over and he will want to raise money from commercial exploitation and thus, might wish to popularise the parks to an undesirable extent. As I write, I read a headline in *The Times* which I quote:

"Boris will turn the Royal Parks into a noisy playground of sports pitches and rock gigs." We have been warned.



Picture Michael Bach

Trees in Kensington Gardens

All these things need our attention. It is not just the case of opposing development as such, but of getting a proper balance in regulating usage while respecting the architecture and ambience of a remarkable and distinctive part of London. It has its own style and one which is to be retained and, if possible, enhanced by appreciative development.

We are indeed sometimes accused of "always objecting". We have reviewed in the last year over 2,000 applications and we objected to just 140 of them, of which 40% were refused. Of delegated decisions (those taken by an officer and not referred to the Planning Committee of the Council) on 100 cases last year, 44 out of the 100 to which the Society objected were refused. Not a bad record. When we object, we do so in a professional way and only if it is important.

We keep constantly in mind our main objective, which is "to improve the amenities of Kensington for the public benefit by stimulating interest in its history and records, promoting good architecture and planning its future development, and by protecting, preserving and improving its buildings, open spaces and other features of beauty or historic interest".

I commend the Annual Report 2010 to you all.

Sir Ronald Arculus

SIR RONALD ARCULUS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010



General the Lord Ramsbotham and the Mayor, Councillor Tim Coleridge

The 57th Annual General Meeting of The Kensington Society was held on 29 April 2010. Around 150 members attended, in spite of the third Leadership debate between David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Gordon Brown taking place on the same evening. Sir Ronald Arculus, the President, welcomed the members, the Leader and the Mayor of the Royal Borough.

Nick Ross, former presenter of BBC's Crimewatch programme, gave an

inspiring address on temptation and opportunity. His main concern was that populism and dogma, rather than scientific method, was driving decisions over ways to reduce crime. Reducing crime is fundamentally about balancing opportunity and risk. If opportunity is high and the risk of being caught is low, crime rates will rise. Nick's conclusion is that the best way to reduce crime is to design out temptation. He would like to see less opinionated debate around deterrents and more evidence collected and tested through scientific method.

Lord Ramsbotham thanked Nick for a speech that had educated, informed and entertained in equal measure. He recalled that in 1997 Tony Blair had promoted a slogan "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime". In practice, 'causes' had been substituted by 'causers' with predictably dire results. Public perceptions are still skewed. Money is being poured into new prisons, but this is no solution given that re-offending rates are up by 12%.

The business of the AGM then took place, chaired by Sir Ronald Arculus:

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were confirmed. Hilary Temple proposed with Martin Frame seconding.

The 2009 Annual Report and Accounts were adopted. Neil Osborne proposed with Colin MacMillan seconding.

Michael Bach reported as Chair of the Planning Committee. He said that the role of the Society involves shadowing the activities of the Council's Department of Planning and Borough Development, as well as the transport and environment aspects of

the Transport, Environment and Leisure Services Department. It's a big brief. In the past year, the Society has commented on the Borough's new development plan and on 150+ planning cases of all sizes. We have also supported the Council on planning appeals. A key concern is that the Council does not appear to be enforcing its own policy over keeping works within a development site and minimising suspension of parking places.



Nicholas Hopkins, Chairman of The Friends of Holland Park, and the Leader, Sir Merrick Cockell

Amanda Frame as Chairman of the Executive Committee said that the Society's objectives remain as sound as ever after 57 years. The Society does not want to preserve Kensington in aspic. We want both to preserve and improve our quality of life; through buildings, parks, the rich variety of our shops, and other communal services, such as post offices; and protect residents from poor construction site management and the loss of small shops. She noted that following the Charity Commission's advice, the Executive Committee, along with our legal advisors, was working to update the Society's constitution. The Annual Report goes from strength to strength, with the 2008 report winning a highly commended award in the publications category of the London Forum of Civic Amenity Societies. She thanked Emma Juhasz, editor, and Nicko Dalton, designer, for their excellent work. The events programme planned and run by Gill Foley's has been well attended.

The 12 members standing for election to the Executive Committee were proposed by Sir Ronald Arculus and seconded by Lord Ramsbotham and approved unanimously. They are: Michael Bach; Richard Chaplin; Charles Booth-Clibborn; Angela Darwin JP; Gill Foley; Amanda Frame; Dianne Gabitass; Anthony Lee; Charles Lutyens; Celia Rees-Jenkins OBE; Philip Roberts and Holly Smith.

Richard Chaplin and Anthony Lee were proposed as Hon Secretary and Treasurer respectively by Sir Ronald Arculus and seconded by Lord Ramsbotham.

Other Business: A member asked the Society to lobby to retain a post office in Kensington, to strong acclaim. Robert Freeman, an RBKC councillor, proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for their sterling work during the year.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

RICHARD CHAPLIN

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held at Vicarage Gate Centre on Thursday 11 November 2010 at 6.30pm.

Richard Chaplin as Hon Secretary confirmed that the meeting had a valid quorum with more than 20 members of the Society present and a further eight corporate members voting by valid proxy.

Amanda Frame as Chairman of the Executive Committee welcomed those present. She apologized for the absence of the President, Sir Ronald Arculus, and the Vice President, General the Lord Ramsbotham. She briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to adopt a new constitution and cancel the previous constitution and rules; to elect Trustees until the AGM on 11 April 2011; and to confirm the appointment of the Patron, President and Vice Presidents of the Society.

The Chair would be elected by the Trustees at their next meeting. Subject to it being adopted, the new constitution would come into effect at the close of the meeting.

Three resolutions were introduced by Richard Chaplin who invited those present to comment before each vote was moved, but no comments were made.

- The first resolution was that the draft constitution circulated to members on 5 October 2010 should be adopted as the Constitution of The Kensington Society with the 1974 constitution and rules cancelled. Proposed by Clive Wilson and seconded by Caroline MacMillan, the resolution was carried unanimously.
- The second resolution was that the following should be elected as trustees and officers of the Society until the next AGM on 11 April 2011: Richard Chaplin (Hon Secretary); Anthony Lee (Hon Treasurer); Michael Bach; Charles Booth–Clibborn; Angela Darwin JP; Gill Foley; Amanda Frame; Dianne Gabitass; Charles Lutyens; Celia Rees–Jenkins OBE; Philip Roberts; and Holly Smith. Proposed by Chris Kohut and seconded by David Charlesworth, the resolution was carried unanimously.
- The third resolution was that the following appointments should be confirmed: HRH the Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO (Patron); Sir Ronald Arculus KCMG KCVO (President); The Rt Hon the Earl of Snowdon GCVO (Vice President); General the Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE (Vice President). Proposed by Gill Foley and seconded by Celia Rees–Jenkins, the resolution was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 6.40pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We knew this year was going to be busy, but we were surprised at the level and diversity. Localism and the Big Society are all the rage and if the Government's plans are realised, there will be even more work to do in 2011. The Kensington Society and our associated societies are going to need your help.

PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

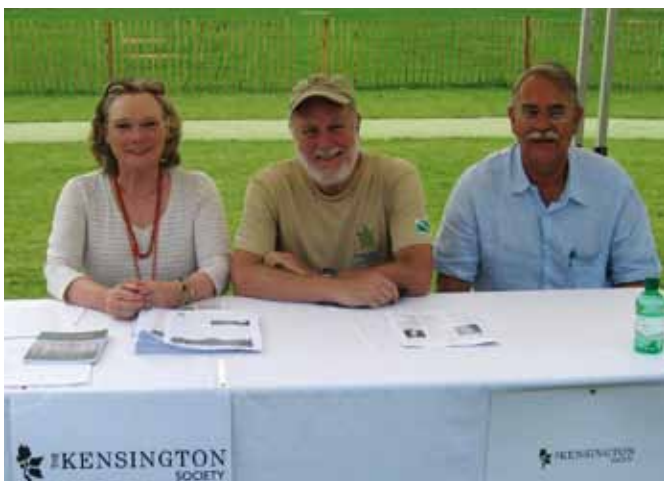
For 2010 Michael Bach has reported on the planning issues. Philip Roberts and Hilary Temple have assisted in the planning process and we hope to have other members join in the expanding task soon. The new constitution, which updated the 1974 version, was unanimously approved by the required quorum of members at a special general meeting on 11 November. All trustees have signed the document which is with the Charity Commission for final approval. Angela Darwin has diligently worked on processing the increase in subscription fee; a task more difficult than envisaged.

The accounts are now on an accrual basis which has allowed us to match incoming revenue against the expenses and budget for the future. The solicitor fees paid to Charles Russell were the only exception to the expenses this year. Next year we hope to redesign and update the website.



Postcard of the Natural History Museum as conceived by Waterhouse

Postcard courtesy of T. Cartwright-Loebel



Environment Day with Amanda, Michael and Philip

This month the Society was awarded the Gold Standard Award, the Council's website notes that we are "a long established Society in the Borough... which continues an impressive track record representing residents". The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 11 April 2011 in Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8 5RQ — entrance off Eldon Road — 6.30pm for 7.00pm. The speaker will be Dr Paul Thompson, Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art.

Gill Foley has organised four events this year, which were well attended and enjoyed by all. Celia Rees-Jenkins has continued in her excellent representation of the Society on the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership and the North Kensington Environment Project. The Society has been active in many other areas, such as participating in the Environment Day on 5 June in Holland Park where we met residents and answered questions concerning a variety of issues.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

We also have attended and addressed many Planning and Applications Committee meetings. We opposed the final closing of the Royal Mail Post Office on Westbourne Grove, where there had been postal service for over 100 years. There is currently an application for the change of use of the Kensington High Street post office, but we are optimistic that this time the Council has responded to community pressure and has persuaded the Post Office to find alternative premises. The W11 area has no post office and, as a result of closures in Chelsea, Kensington High Street and Westbourne Grove there are no sorting offices left within the Borough.



Localism and the Big Society are the buzz at the moment. The Government has great plans, yet to be defined, as to how the local community is going to become the "neighbourhood army". The Decentralisation and Localism Bill, as it is called, is to be published after my report must go to print, however, there are certain aspects we already know. The Government says it will hand down power to the Town Hall and to the local communities. Local communities will be able to shape the character of their neighbourhoods. It is very exciting. We have struggled too long against the acceptance of development, which will radically change the character of Kensington. Commonwealth Institute and the imposition of three large blocks of flats, the loss of parts of the grade I listed building and the gardens; Holland Park School and the sale of the playing area; the Odeon; the over-development of Warwick Road; the loss of over 150 arcade shops to one large retailer on Portobello Road; and perhaps the one issue all of our members are concerned about, subterranean development and construction disturbance. However, we fear that the optimism must be tempered with realism.

I have heard such statements as "we are now going to stop all subterranean development in our area". No matter how the devolution of controls is handled the current planning policies will stay in place...until they are changed. Policies are not easily changed... it took five years for the Core Strategy to be finalised. Do not misunderstand our sentiment. We want change. We want stronger controls over what Kensington will be like in the future. Many areas in this Borough are well represented by vocal, active and reasonable people who work through their local conservation society, residents' or tenants' association. However, there are areas where no one is active — and it is not only the less well-off areas which are the less active but also some of the wealthiest. However, it is those areas under pressure from change



Photographs of good and poor construction site management

that will need most help, particularly if Planning Aid for London no longer has the resources. Who is going to represent them?

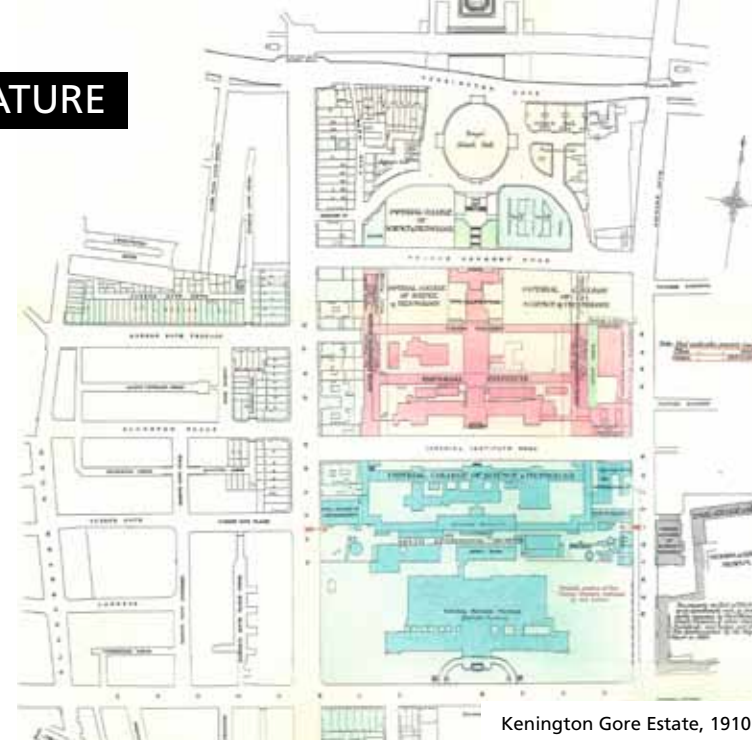
We also know that though as many as 7,000 homes are at risk of flooding, we have not yet been successful in persuading the local residents to exert pressure, which will force Ofwat to allow the funding of Counter's Creek Sewer works. We fear that without the public pressure Ofwat will not approve the works, which are so desperately needed. In addition, we have not been successful in influencing the Council to oppose basements in areas which have been flooded several times in the last 30 years. If we cannot obtain action when your own home is at risk, how is localism going to work.

Localism is not only about planning. It is about every aspect of everyday life from police relations, rubbish collection, street cleaning, our residents' parking restrictions, how our open spaces are managed, and how our schools are performing. It is about local people taking responsibility for managing their neighbourhood.

Local Societies, like the ones which are members of the Kensington Society and who spell out their activities within the annual report, represent the vocal public. They will need to demonstrate that they represent their area. If localism is to be successful we must work hard to generate a consensus to make sure that policies are changed, and quickly, to shape and manage our neighbourhoods. We cannot do this alone. Often in the past the Chairman's report has ended with a plea for support and I do so again. We need your help and your neighbours' help to tackle the challenges we face. The Kensington Society will be there with you.

AMANDA FRAME

FEATURE



copyright the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

THE CONSORT'S CULTURAL CENTRE

If you have visited South Kensington's cultural and educational quarter recently, you will know that the area is undergoing a transformation. Exhibition Road, which runs through the heart of the area, is being turned into a kerb-free single surface. This change is meant to accommodate the needs of the 11.5 million visitors who flock to the area each year and allow them better access to its unique collection of museums and institutes. Exhibition Road was built in the late 1850s to commemorate an event which brought around six million visitors to the area. This event not only brought the masses, but it transformed Kensington and the St Margaret's Westminster (as it was known then) from a sleepy rural suburb, full of market and horticultural gardens and country estates, into an urban and cultural centre.



Great Exhibition, 1851

Copyright: Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was the inspiration of Albert, the Prince Consort and the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was president. As the Industrial Revolution opened up the world to free trade, they felt that Britain and the Empire should have an opportunity to flaunt their products to the world. Prince Albert wanted, therefore, to set up a self-financing 'Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations', which would be a collection of works in art and industry 'for the purpose of exhibition, competition and of encouragement'.

The Exhibition took place in Hyde Park, just north of the cultural site today and was based in a giant greenhouse, The Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton (1803–1865). The building was made of iron and wood, it was 1,848ft long, 456ft wide and a maximum height of 108ft (which incorporated the park's trees), and it had more than 14,000 exhibitors from around the world. The Exhibition ran for 141 days and was a huge success. The building was disassembled in 1852 and moved to Sydenham, where it reopened in 1854, only to burn down in 1936.

While the exhibition was open, Prince Albert and the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 (an executive body that was set up to organise the Exhibition) made enquiries about how science and the arts were being promoted around the country. It was revealed that inadequate measures were being made; therefore, when the Exhibition closed — making a profit of £186,000 (approx. £10,800,000 at today's prices) — Prince Albert and the Commission decided to use the money to fund and build an area with institutions devoted to industrial education that could benefit the whole country. With extra funds from the Government, the Commission set about buying the estate of Brompton, comprising of 87 acres, to develop into a cultural quarter.

The building and funding of the area went through many exhaustive stages, but between 1855 and 1856 the 'main square', bounded by Kensington Gore, Exhibition Road, Cromwell Road and Queen's Gate (as it exists today), was established and development of the area began. A large swathe of the plans (20 acres) was dedicated to the Royal Horticultural Society's elaborate Italianate garden, which was open from 1861 to 1886. The southern portion of the 'main square' was initially devoted to the International Exhibition of 1862, which was not a success, although it attracted many

visitors. The main criticism was of the design of the building — designed by Captain Francis Fowke (1823–1865), a Royal Engineer who was responsible for many of the buildings in South Kensington — which was considered to be the 'ugliest building in England'. It was subsequently demolished, part of it was actually blown up by the Royal Engineers, and the area was earmarked for a new Museum of Natural History.

Prince Albert was the main driving force behind the redevelopment of the area, which is commonly known now as *Albertopolis*, until his untimely death of typhoid in 1861. His aim was that teaching institutions and illustrative collections would be located together. One of his greatest hopes was that the National Gallery, which housed a collection bought by the Government, would be moved there. This dream was never to be realised, but in 1855 Parliament granted £55,000 to construct a temporary museum at the south-east corner of Exhibition Road and this was the catalyst for Albert's dream to rapidly become a reality.

THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM (1857)

The South Kensington Museum, as it was known, was initially financed to house the Marlborough House Collection — Marlborough House was home to the Department of Practical Art (became the Department for Science and Art in 1853), which opened the Museum of Manufactures there in 1852. The Prince of Wales, however, decided he wanted to move his household there (1859), so the collection needed to be re-housed. The collection at Marlborough House did not have a coherent focus; it was mix of art and architecture, as well as contemporary manufacturing. This became more confused at the South Kensington Museum, as the building also became home to the Museum of Ornamental Art, the Sheepshanks Gallery, the Patent Museum, and the Museum of Animal Products, the Food Collection, the Museum of Construction and the Educational Museum. Sir Henry Cole (1808–1882), a civil servant and one of the leading figures in the regeneration of the area, became the first Superintendent of the museum — he was also the designer of the first postage stamp, and creator of the first Christmas card. He never ran the museum in the way we understand their function today. His priority was for the museum to be a school of art and science, to which the public were also admitted — on one floor you could view a Turner and then on another, you could see salmon and trout hatch in the hatcheries.



RBKC Local Studies Library

The original entrance to the Museum: 'The Boilers'

The Museum was built in Brompton in 1855, it was a prefabricated iron structure and it was soon christened the “Brompton Boilers”, because it looked like steam boilers lying side by side. It was opened on 22 June 1857 by Queen Victoria. Cole wanted the museum to bring education to the masses and this was achieved with the use of gas jets, which allowed the museum to open two evenings a week, so the working-class people could come to visit it; Cole hoped “the evening opening of Public Museums may furnish as a powerful antidote to the gin palace”. In the first month it had 14,000 visitors. The Museum’s eclectic collection expanded rapidly and T.H. Huxley began a campaign to set up a Science Museum, while it became increasingly clear that a new building would be required for the art collection.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM (1909)

In 1860, Captain Fowke proposed an expansion plan for the South Kensington Museum, which included a range of buildings centred on a block, incorporating a lecture theatre and refreshment rooms. This was completed in 1869 and it became the main entrance of the museum until a competition was held for an entirely new structure.

The competition was won in 1890 by the architect Aston Webb (1849–1930), the foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria in 1899 — who requested that the building be named the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) — and it was opened by Edward VII in 1909. Today, the V&A is one of the greatest museums of art and design, and holds over 3,000 years worth of artefacts from some of the world’s richest cultures.



Victoria & Albert with some of the children

Sir Henry Cole, who was the museum’s first director, was finally honoured in 1983, when the monumental terracotta and redbrick building next to the V&A, which had been built in 1874 to house the School of Naval Architects, then the Science School and subsequently Imperial College, was annexed in 1978 and reopened as the Henry Cole Wing. The museum continues to redevelop itself today, as it has started to look for new architectural designs for the Boilerhouse Yard — at present the area is walled off by a columned, stone screen built by Aston Webb (1909), which was damaged by a bomb in the WWII. The area had been earmarked for the £70 million futuristic design, The Spiral, by the modern architect Daniel Libeskind, but the funding was denied and the project abandoned in 2004. A competition was held in September last

year looking for new designs (and at the time of going to press no developments had been made as to what, if any, of the designs will be used). The V&A said that it was looking for projects, which “created a new temporary exhibition space below ground, with a courtyard at street level that would lead on to Exhibition Road and work with the new re-design of Exhibition Road”.



V&A, Henry Cole Wing

SCIENCE MUSEUM (1928)

In 1885, the Science and Engineering Collections were administratively separated from the Art Collection (about to be re-housed in the V&A) and were renamed the Science Museum. The civil servant Robert Morant and founding-editor of the journal Nature, Norman Lockyer, were instrumental in this and they argued with the government for a ‘science museum properly housed in immediate proximity to the Imperial College of Science and Technology’. Sir Hugh Bell, a well-known Middlesbrough steel magnate, chaired the committee (The Bell Committee) that recommended that a Science Museum should be part of a range of buildings from Exhibition Road to Queens Gate. Work began on a design by Sir Richard Allison (1869–1958), the architect of Selfridges, in the East block in 1913, but this was not fully completed or opened until 1928, due to WWI. Today, the Science Museum is full of machines and apparatus from across the ages, including steam engines, such as the Boulton and Watt which helped propel the Industrial Revolution, to modern medical advances in the Who am I? display at the Wellcome Wing.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (1881)

The naturalist Sir Richard Owen (1804–1892) — who became the first Director of the Natural History Museum — led a campaign for all the zoological, geological, botanical and mineralogical items from the British Museum to be housed in a new museum. Owen was not a Darwinist, he possibly fell into the same category as Prince Albert who thought science was important, but rather ‘godless’; so he ensured that the collection had large specimens of sharks and elephants added, to have “examples of the power of the Creator”.

In 1864, Captain Fowke won the competition to design a new building; however he died before he could begin construction and a new design was commissioned from a rising young architect, Alfred Waterhouse (1830–1905). Waterhouse adjusted Fowke's Renaissance design to a German Romanesque, which was more in keeping with the other buildings that were being built in South Kensington at the time.



The Shark Room at the Natural History Museum

RBKC Local Studies Library

His extraordinary, almost cathedral-like, design of the Waterhouse Building was opened to the public in 1881.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (1893)

Amongst the 1960s architecture of Imperial College stands the Queen's Tower, the only surviving part of the Imperial Institute. Designed by Thomas Colcutt (1840–1924), the Institute was built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It was intended to be a place of research with resources and raw materials of the Empire, and to provide a meeting place for overseas visitors.

The original building was 700ft long with the Queen's Tower in the centre and two other small copper-roofed Renaissance towers to the east and west. It took six years to build and opened in 1893. The building never achieved its purpose, however, and by 1899, the University of London had taken over half of it. Between 1902 and 1953 various other organisations used it for administrative buildings and by 1953 it was felt that Imperial College needed to expand. In 1956 it was decided that the Institute should be demolished.

The Imperial Institute Tower

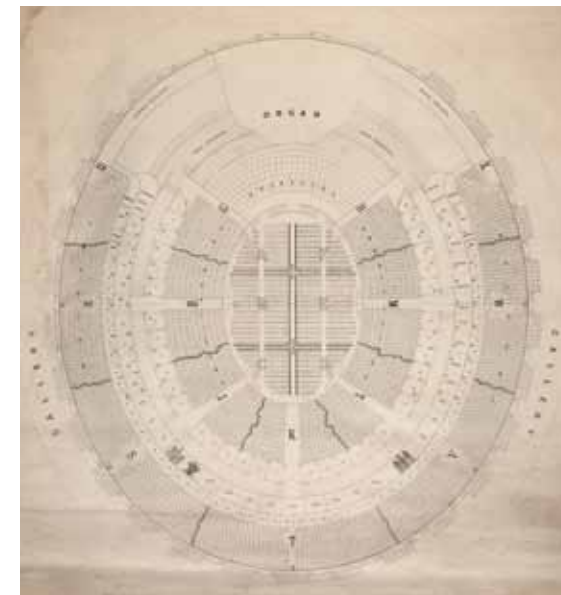


The Queen's Tower was preserved, however, so between 1966 and 1968 massive foundations were created to allow it to stand on its own. The structure includes a belfry, which contains the Alexandra Peal of bells, named after Alexandra, the Princess of Wales. The peal has 10 bells, they are named after Queen Victoria and members of her family, the bells are only rung on royal anniversaries

ROYAL ALBERT HALL (1871)

Prince Albert and Henry Cole always intended to build a large hall in South Kensington which could be used, not only for concerts but for exhibitions on art and science. Their designs were originally too large and expensive, but after Albert's death, Cole continued to work on it. He favoured the look of the Roman amphitheatre and put the project into the hands of Captain Fowke, and following Fowke's death, Colonel Henry Scott (1822–1883).

The vast building was intended to be built as a memorial to Prince Albert, but funds were diverted to the Albert Memorial, so Cole had to raise money by selling 'permanent' seats in the Hall for £100 each. Eventually, he managed to raise enough and the elliptical drum-shaped auditorium was finally constructed.



Seating Plan, Royal Albert Hall

Copyright: Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

At the time, it was considered to be the largest structure of its kind in the world. Its style is reminiscent of the Dresden Opera, which was built by Gottfried Semper (1803–1879), who lived as a political refuge in England at the time and was a friend of Prince Albert. The dome structure was considered a triumph, but the acoustics were renowned for being abominable, a problem that has subsequently been cured by acoustic 'mushrooms' being hung throughout the hall.

Queen Victoria opened the building in 1871, on one of her rare public appearances since her husband's death and it was said that she was so overwhelmed by it that she was unable to speak.

ALBERT MEMORIAL (1872 STRUCTURE, 1875 STATUE)

Commissioned by Queen Victoria in memory of her husband, the 175ft memorial was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott (1811–1878) and the 14ft gilt statue of Albert, who is wearing the robes of the Garter and is seated holding a catalogue of the Great Exhibition, was designed by Henry Foley (1818–1874). It was intended that Albert should be immortalised, surrounded by his great undertakings and passions: the Empire, the Arts, Sciences and Christian values.

The memorial is designed in the Gothic Revival style; it is an elaborate canopied monument, embellished in a mass of gilt, mosaic and coloured stone. The memorial is approached by flights of steps on four sides and at the corners, on pedestals, there are marble allegorical groups representing Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce and Engineering. Around the pedestal are reliefs of 169 poets, painters, sculptors, architects and musicians. The Continents: Europe, Asia, Africa and America are represented at the base of the steps with various groups.

The statue is 'seated' on a pedestal of pink granite and marble, and it faces south, towards the Royal Albert Hall.

The statue was not in situ until three years after the memorial opened. The Queen originally commissioned Baron Carlo Marochetti (1805–67), who lived in Onslow Square to design it; however, he died before Queen Victoria revealed his statue design was inadequate and handed over the commission to Foley. Foley died just before the statue was gilded, but Queen Victoria so admired what he had done that she decreed he should be buried in Westminster Abbey.

The memorial has a simple inscription on it, "Queen Victoria and Her People, to the memory of Albert Prince Consort, as a tribute of their gratitude, for a life devoted to the public good".

EMMA JUHASZ



Copyright: Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

There are numerous other buildings within the *Albertopolis* complex, which I have not been able to deal with in detail, here are short summaries of some of them:

Royal School of Mines (1913)

The classical revival building by Aston Webb, with its entrance dominated by huge monuments to Alfred Beit and Julius Wernher, mining and diamond magnates respectively, now comprises the departments of Earth Science and Materials at Imperial College.

Royal College of Music (1894)

Founded in 1882 by Royal Charter, it was initially situated opposite the west side of the Royal Albert Hall, but by 1887 it moved to its new building on Prince Consort Road. This was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield (1829–1899) and funded by Samson Fox — a Yorkshire industrialist, whose statue, along with that of the Prince of Wales, stands in the entrance hall.

Royal College of Organists (RCO) (1874/5)

Built by H.H. Cole (1843–1916), this extraordinary building on Kensington Gore is very different to other public buildings of the time, especially with its extensive external decoration of cream, pale blue and maroon incised plaster. It was erected in 1874/5 to accommodate the National Training School for Music, but later became devoted to organists. The RCO resided there from 1903–1991.

Albert Hall Mansions (1879)

Designed by Richard Norman Shaw (1831–1912) in 1879, these large buildings, which wrap around the Albert Hall, are one of London's earliest blocks of flats. They are designed in the Queen Anne style, which was based on English and Dutch architecture of the early 18th Century.

Royal Geographical Society (RGS) ,Lowther House (1873–75)

Designed by Richard Norman Shaw, the building was originally planned as a town house for William Lowther MP. It became the headquarters to the RGS from 1911.

Delve further into the world of Victorian England and the Great Exhibition with this selection of books.

- 1 Ashford, Daisy, *The Young Visitors*
- 2 Beaver, Patrick, *The Crystal Palace: A Portrait of Victorian Enterprise*
- 3 Brandon, David, *London and the Victorian Railway*
- 4 Briggs, Asa, *Victorian Cities*
- 5 Colquhoun, Kate, *A Thing in Disguise: The Visionary Life of Joseph Paxton*
- 6 Hayter, Aletha, *A Sultry Month*
- 7 Longford, Elizabeth, *Queen Victoria*
- 8 Picard, Liza, *Victorian London*
- 9 Plaidy, Jean, *The Captive of Kensington Palace*
- 10 Quinn, K. A. S., *The Queen Must Die*
- 11 Wilson, A. N., *The Victorians*
- 12 Woodham-Smith, Cecil, *Queen Victoria*

List compiled by the team at Slightly Foxed bookshop, Gloucester Road

PLANNING IN 2010

We always knew that 2010 would be busy. Even though the number of planning applications seemed to be going down, they are now back to their previously high level. Few people, including the Council, appreciate the range of the Society's workload. Not only do we shadow the Planning Department — planning applications, new development plan, supplementary planning documents, etc — but also the streetscape and environment aspects of other departments.

Future Exhibition Road improvements



Shop Frontage Issues, Santander



Kensington High Street Post Office

THE CORE STRATEGY

The big item for 2010 was the new development plan, the Core Strategy, which replaces the 2002 Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The Society strongly supports the new plan, having played an active role in helping to shape the vision and strategy, as well as the coverage and content of the policies. We have a strong sense of ownership of this new plan. Nevertheless, when it came to the final stages we still had issues to raise with the Inspector, at the Examination in Public — a round table discussion of outstanding issues and objections — as well as to support/defend the Council against objectors who wanted to weaken the policies in the plan. Preparing for and appearing at the two-week long Examination was a major commitment for the Society.

The Inspector's Report was published at the end of October and the new plan was adopted by the full Council on 8 December. This marks the 'end' of a five-year process, in which the Society has been actively involved throughout.

But this is not the end. We may have managed to improve and even reverse some of the UDP policies — we now need to make sure that they are firmly applied. The Core Strategy identified a number of major initiatives — such as estate renewal projects (Wornington Green, Latimer, etc), a new school and sports centre, and the Earl's Court/West Kensington Opportunity Area — and a series of supplementary planning documents is now being prepared to elaborate the plan (eg shop fronts, Natural History Museum, Westway, Silchester Garages). There will also be new neighbourhood plans. We cannot breathe a sigh of relief, however, as there is a mountain of work ahead.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

Change can be a threat or an opportunity — or both. The Society would not normally comment on a change of Government, but the agenda of the new Coalition Government is potentially very unsettling — both an opportunity and a threat.

Two major themes are: Localism and the Big Society. We are already part of both — in particular we're battling for local residents to get more acceptable local developments. But what does it all mean?

The Government wants decisions pushed down to the lowest level appropriate — formerly known as subsidiarity — and that, if we are to have sustainable communities, residents should be able to have greater control over what happens at the local level. One of the key examples on the Coalition Government's hit list was that communities should be able to retain their post offices and pubs. These are two of the key ingredients of a local community — they need to be within easy walking distance of home.

We agree. Our challenge to the Government is: Give us the tools and we will make sure the job gets done. At present the Council says it is helpless with the current planning definitions, which give no protection against change of use. Our view is that those who don't ask, don't get!

The Society also wants other changes from the Government, including a review of how the recently extended definition of permitted development affects areas like Kensington, which is predominantly terraced housing in conservation areas and many of the buildings are listed. The 'relaxations' introduced by the last Government have been quite damaging.

The emphasis on localism — local people having more say over what happens in their community — and the need for neighbourhood plans — plans for local areas — will mean a change in style for the Council, not only in terms of how it engages with local residents, but also how local residents help themselves. At present the Council does not yet have any idea how it will devolve matters to local communities.

CHALLENGES:

Large-scale office development

The new plan started out with a sensible policy of locating large-scale office development in places well served by public transport and avoiding areas with low accessibility to public transport. In April, the Council turned down a large office scheme in Freston Road, an area with poor public transport, which went to appeal. However, at the Examination of the Core Strategy in July, the Council sought



Preparations for the ice rink at the Natural History Museum



to amend the plan policy and in September, before the result of the appeal was known, granted an almost identical scheme to the one refused in April, only to find later that their original refusal was supported by the Inspector. Meanwhile, the Plan Inspector amended the policy in the plan, which would now allow large-scale office developments in 'employment zones' — an own goal for the Council.

At the same plan examination, the Council sought to avoid retaining a large-scale office use on a site that is right on the Holland Park Avenue roundabout, even though it had very high public transport accessibility. Fortunately, the Inspector spotted the inconsistency between seeking to get new large-scale offices to high public transport accessibility locations and trying to suggest that such a location was not suitable to be retained for offices.

Natural History Museum

The Society, with local associations, has been fighting to reduce the amount of time the East and West Lawns in front of the Natural History Museum are used for commercial events. We are concerned about the impact these events have on the Grade I listed Waterhouse Building and the damage these do to the lawns. Recently the East Lawn has been sterilised for more than 90% of the year. We managed to get a policy into the Core Strategy. The Council has prepared a supplementary planning document in consultation with the Natural History Museum (but not the Society and local associations). This fails to appreciate the national significance of the Museum, its setting and the role that the surrounding open space play. Watch these spaces!

Shop Fronts

The Society has been very concerned over the last five years that the Council's approach to new shop fronts and signage was that if a proposal was no worse than what was there already, then it was good enough. The various proposals by Tesco



Santander shop front signage,
3 Kensington High Street

for Holland Park Avenue, Gloucester Road and Kensington High Street (which the Council was prepared to grant consent) led the Society to go directly to Tesco to get major improvements to the design.

We thought we had convinced the Council that they should seek to drive up the quality of shop front design and signage. However, following several cases this year, the Council's unwillingness to incorporate a statement in the Core Strategy, and the lack of such a statement in the draft SPD on shop fronts, have given us cause for concern. Although we managed to get enforcement action to improve signage in Kensington High Street, including No.1 (a listed building), its neighbour (No.3) and PC World (No.47), we were very disappointed by shop fronts for Santander, where fascia and projecting signs were allowed on the stone fascia, which had been kept clear of signs on much of the north side of the High Street.

We believe that the Council agrees with us and we hope to see this reflected in the final version of the SPD, but more importantly, we hope that the individual planning officers understand and support this aspiration to drive up the quality of shop front design in our town centres.

Managing Major Construction Projects

The Society, our member societies and associations have been pressing the Council for the last three years to reduce the impact of major construction projects on local communities. The aim is to minimise the amount and duration of parking suspensions, by introducing a presumption that materials and equipment be stored off the street, wherever possible, and suspensions minimised.

Following a report by the Ladbroke Association, the Council began the process of reviewing its powers and what action it could take. After nearly a year we still have



Various signs on shopfront



Wooden slatted fence surround, St Alban's Grove

not seen a draft, nor are we sure that it will cover our basic requirements — a presumption against on-street storage and, if this cannot be achieved to minimise the impact. A key decision is expected in the New Year, but it is hoped that we will be consulted first.

The Council has agreed, however, to considerably increase the charges for suspensions and make them progressive — the daily rate rising with the duration of suspensions. The price signals are right but, given the value of many of the building contracts, only a limit on the duration and amount will bite.

Fences

A new phenomenon has been the proliferation of fences on top of walls facing the street, which creates a 'fortress' type impact. The Council has no clear policy on this, but it is clear that these do not preserve or enhance our residential areas.

Looking Ahead

The only thing that is certain about the future is that it will be challenging; there will be more for us to do. Moving towards localism, greater local involvement and neighbourhood planning will spread our resources even more thinly. However, it is an opportunity — participation is sharing the burden of choice so we will need to recruit more and more active members. We hope that the Council is ready to meet our challenges.

MICHAEL BACH

GROW YOUR OWN

*“Dig! Dig! Dig! And your muscles will grow big
Keep on pushing the spade
Don’t mind the worms
Just ignore their squirms
And when your back aches laugh with glee
And keep on diggin’
Till we give our foes a Wiggin’
Dig! Dig! Dig! to Victory.”*

Dig for Victory anthem, Ministry of Agriculture 1941

At the outbreak of WWII, the Ministry of Agriculture launched its Dig for Victory campaign, which encouraged the whole of Britain to transform their gardens into mini-allotments. By 1943, over a million tons of vegetables were being grown in gardens and allotments. After the war, there was a continued interest in allotments and growing your own food, however numbers did decline over the years, particularly in urban areas, as food became more readily available and land was designated for buildings. In recent years, however, there has been an increased awareness of the need for cities to counter issues of food security and become more self-sufficient — ‘grow your own’ has become a big issue once again.



Allotments, not just for vegetable growing!

From royalty to politicians, the call has gone out for people to ‘dig’ again and community food growing is suddenly a very hot topic. Prince Charles has been a long-term advocate of sustainable living and has recently set up the Start Initiative, as part of his Prince’s Charities Foundation, to promote this way of life. Meanwhile, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is positively encouraging the transformation of London into an urban food-growing centre; especially with his partnership with various ‘grow your own’ groups, such as Capital Growth and London Food Link. Residents do seem to be responding and urban farming is evolving rapidly in various guises, from city farms, community gardens, and allotments, to local growing schemes.

The initial pressure for these projects is space. Allotments have traditionally been based around the outskirts of built-up areas, but community gardens are built on almost any patch of derelict land that is not being used for any purpose. However, there is a growing trend among many people, who have often been frustrated by long waiting lists for allotments and lack of garden space, to find their own alternatives nearer home. Take a closer look at your neighbour’s window boxes next time you pass, as their floral arrangements may well have been replaced with herbs and tomatoes.

Kensington is definitely doing its bit; as the local residents of St Quintin’s Avenue community kitchen garden proved last September, when they were invited to show off their gardening talents at a unique event organised by Prince Charles. The 12 days eco festival, ‘A Garden Party to Make a Difference’ was held in the gardens of Clarence House, open to the public for the first time, and was in aid of promoting sustainable living. St Quintin’s Avenue residents were asked to the event to showcase their community kitchen garden, which had impressed the organisers. It is based



on a converted disused tennis court and over 100 residents own plots and help cultivate wide range of fruit, vegetables and flowers; they refer to it as their 'little Eden'.

St Quintin's is part of a growing number of projects in North Kensington — there are now 20 with over 200 plots that involve over 400 residents — which have

seen various patches of urban land being converted into plots for local communities to grow fresh fruit and vegetables on. From Portobello Court Estate, where six families maintain plots on an under-used open space on the estate, to Clydesdale House on Westbourne Park Road, where a communal garden has been built and is used by all residents to grow a wide variety of produce. There is no doubting the enthusiasm for feeding yourself.

So how and why should we all get involved?

Urban dwellers often don't think about ways to work with the natural environment, but simple measures, such as not concreting over our gardens, can help prevent climatic extremes — in this case, potential local flooding can occur as rainwater is not left any means of drainage. Converting your small space into vegetable patch could prevent this and also reconnect you with what you eat. There is a great interest now in organic food and healthy eating, and obviously the chance to reduce your food bill. You can grow vegetables anywhere, produce has been nurtured in window boxes to balconies and roundabouts, so there is no receptacle that can't be utilised.

Getting Started

Green fingers obviously have to be earned and learned, and to many they don't come naturally. So, start simple is the key. According to Sebastian Mayfield of Food Up Front (South London's local community food growing network) start with simple salads, such as rocket and spinach, and herbs. Then you can progress on to broccoli and runner beans, and before you know it you'll have bumper crops of tomatoes, carrots and potatoes.

If you need more detailed advice, consult the Soil Association — www.soilassociation.org — which offers month by month guide on what and when to grow, for various abilities.

The monthly magazine Kitchen Garden magazine — www.kitchengarden.co.uk — has a lot of advice for the green fingered.

While the BBC Gardening website — www.bbc.co.uk/gardening — offers advice on how to grow many different fruits and vegetables.

EMMA JUHASZ

NEWS FROM THE KENSINGTON & CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

With the new government, the cuts in public expenditure, and the move towards local decision-making, the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership (KCP) is now operating in a very different political climate. The Audit Commission is to be abolished, Local Area Agreements have been ended, and target setting and monitoring requirements are being relaxed. Other changes include the reorganisation of the administration of the NHS, the introduction of major new policies for social housing, and the decision by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea to work towards merging some services and departments with neighbouring boroughs. The Communities and Local Government Secretary has asked councils to question what they do and whether others, particularly in the voluntary sector, are better placed to provide what people actually want. The focus is now on the Big Society, but this raises issues about where responsibilities for taking decisions and controlling expenditure will lie, and where power should rest in a democracy. What money will be available should be known early in 2011, but in London there is the added complication for councils of establishing who does what with the Mayor.

Against this background of change and uncertainty, the KCP has been continuing to meet to discuss its future role, and in particular what part it could play in the Big Society and this should become clearer in 2011. Meanwhile, plans for rolling forward the Community Strategy have been put on hold and decisions are to be taken about monitoring the targets within it. Work continues, however, on setting up a Credit Union on the lines of the one already operating in Hammersmith and Fulham, and the KCP Apprenticeship Scheme in making good progress. Five apprentices aged between 16 and 19 joined to learn about business administration and facilities management during placements in the Council, NHS Kensington & Chelsea, the Kensington Housing Trust and the Kensington & Chelsea Social Council. The current pilot scheme runs to June 2011, to the advantage of those who successfully complete it.

CELIA REES-JENKINS

NORTH KENSINGTON ENVIRONMENT PROJECT



Shots from around St Quintin's Avenue's Community Kitchen

Signage at St Quintin Avenue Community Kitchen Garden



Local residents are also involved in planning what should be done to improve the open space beside All Saints Church in Clydesdale Road. The consultation has been completed and some funding already secured. The aim is to lay new surface matching the colour of the church, prune the trees, put in new seating and planters, and provide play areas for the existing nursery school.

Nearby in Colville Ward the North Kensington Environment Manager is working with residents on a scheme, supported by Colville Area Initiative funds, to improve the appearance of front gardens, basements and small open spaces. The community has also been invited to join in a bulb planting session. In Notting Barns, Ward Initiative funds have contributed to improvements, following consultation with residents, to St Mark's Road Bridge. The underside of Westway there, and over Bramley Road, has already been painted.

Other achievements include upgrading, with the help of Transport for London, the entrances to Malton Road and Thorpe Close near Ladbrooke Grove Station. But the much needed work to improve Golborne Bridge still awaits the decision, hopefully to be made soon, about the provision of a Cross Rail Station in North Kensington.

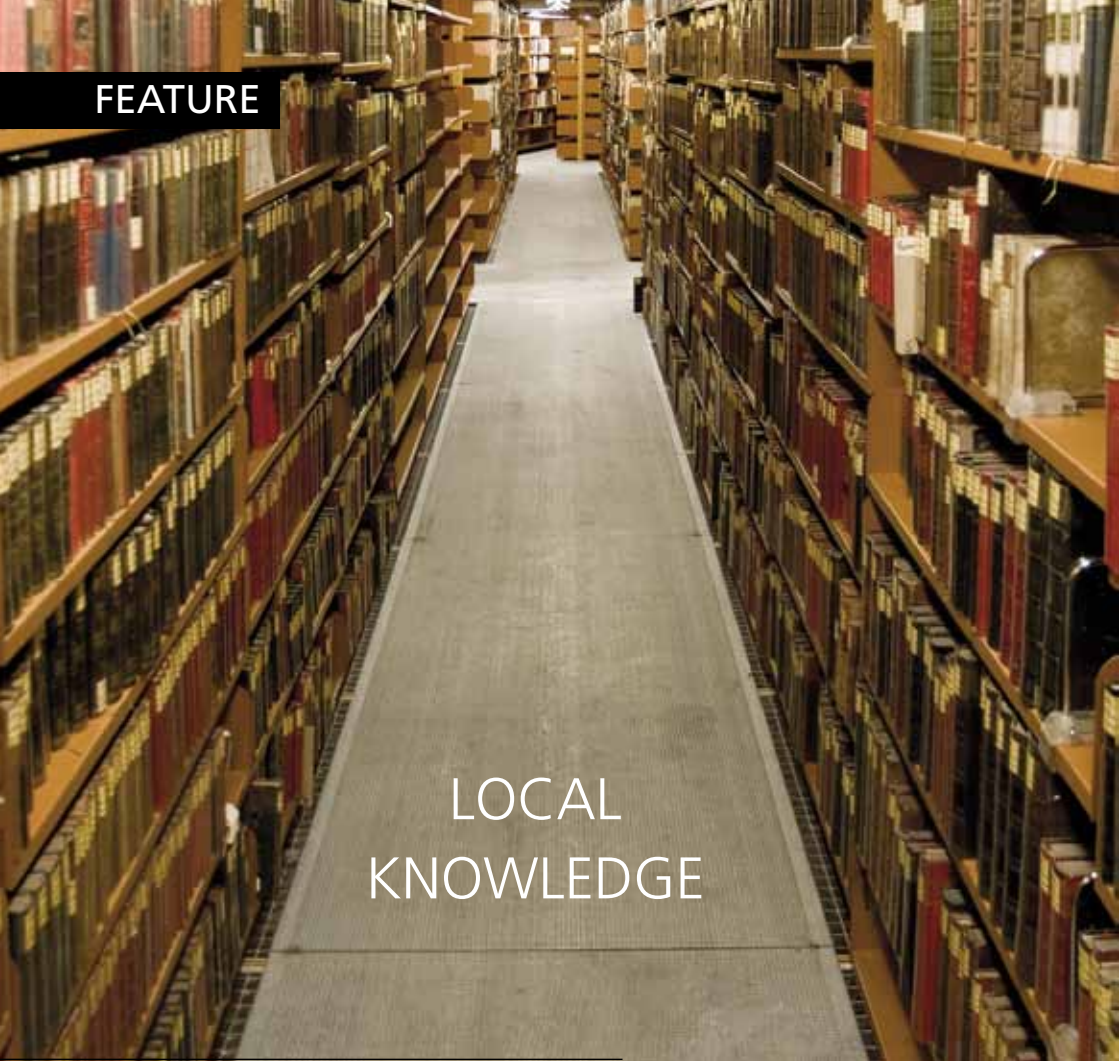
CELIA REES-JENKINS



All Saints Church, Clydesdale Road

All Pictures by T. Cartwright-Loebl

Picture by Peter Konecny



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

On the first floor of Kensington’s Central Library there is an area devoted to the history of our local area. This extraordinary archive resides in the Local Studies collection and it is a unique collection of material devoted entirely to Kensington and Chelsea’s past.

Right: Day’s Programme at Cremorne Gardens May 31st 1865.

The two Local Studies collections of Kensington and Chelsea were united at the Central Library in 2004. Both Library services have been amassing historical material since the 1890s, when the two Vestries started free public libraries. Today, the collection includes books, maps, paintings and prints, photographs, printed ephemera of all kinds, newspaper and magazine files, official records, manuscripts and even what librarians used to call “realia” (objects, artistic and mundane).

The collection has been gathered through various means; librarians have purchased stock, but also inherited artworks and furnishings, and received gifts and deposits from individuals and institutions. It is not unknown for librarians to rush to an artist’s studios, upon hearing of their death, with cash in hand to purchase sketches. While relatives of deceased residents are often amazed to have photo albums, scrapbooks and even diaries taken off their hands, when they were about to consign them to the rubbish bin. In the days when artworks were considerably less expensive than they are now, librarians would also bid at auctions and sale rooms for pictures and collections. The library even commissioned a photographic survey of the Borough, once a contemporary record, now a historical artefact in itself. Then there is the invaluable compilation of newspaper and magazine articles, prospectuses, pamphlets and other fugitive publications, which are all on hand to help customers in their searches for the secrets of the past.



All images courtesy RBKC Local Library

Some recent examples that just scratch the surface of what we have in our collection are:

— A photograph of a woman named Mrs C— who stood at a window in Dartrey Street weeks before its demolition — 30 years later her granddaughter would see that image in our collection.



— A match report in the West London Press telling how the team's striker scored five goals in the winter of 1963 — many years later that player could print out the report from our microfilm to show his family.



— A set of photographs taken in the early years of the century by railway companies, as a record of the state of buildings above proposed tube lines, purely for legal purposes; but now a detailed record of shop fronts and building facades.



People use the service for a myriad of reasons, but all demonstrate why local history is so important to all of us. Customers have turned up looking for the location of streets now renamed or demolished; for photographs of the places they or their relatives used to live; for information on who lived and died in their street, or what shops and businesses use to be there; for where their drains are and where they meet the main sewers, for information on boundary walls, the internal layout of houses; what damage was done in a wartime bomb incident, who died in a particular

air raid, and where they were buried. Much information about the past is lost and there are some questions that will never be answered, no matter how urgent, but it is always amazing to see what has survived.

From our Chelsea collection: scrapbooks of handbill, posters and contemporary magazine articles about the pleasure gardens at Cremorne, one of the great venues for mass entertainment in 19th century London: featuring music, dancing, variety acts and stunts such as balloon ascents and tightrope walking across the river.



'The Death of a Flying Man', Cremorne

My journey in the job of Local Studies and Archives Manager has taken me across the Borough into houses, schools and museums, from basements to roof gardens — even into the Avondale Park Bomb Shelter discovered last year. Most importantly, I have met an enormous variety of people united by their desire to find out about the past. I and my staff have given out information and received it from users who live just a few streets away, to those from the other side of the world. The Local Studies collection is always expanding and will carry on with its simple mission, to collect and disseminate information about the history and heritage of this unique Borough **KS**

DAVE WALKER
Local Studies and Archives Manager

GET IN TOUCH

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| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Monday | 1pm – 6.30pm |
| Tuesday | 1pm – 6.30pm |
| Wednesday | 1pm – 5.00pm |
| Thursday | 1pm – 6.30pm |
| Friday | 1pm – 5.00pm |
| Saturday | 1pm – 5.00pm |

IN THE BEGINNING

As we look back on the great achievements and hard work of The Kensington Society this year, it is hard to believe that the Society originally started out in 1865, as a discussion group for 11 women. This being Kensington, however, they were not just 'any' women. In fact nine out of the 11 were unmarried and were attempting careers in medicine or education. Amongst them were Elizabeth Garrett (who was one of the few married women and had three children), who was the first English woman to qualify as a doctor and Dorothea Beale, the founder of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

This Society's main goal, however, was to change attitudes towards women, which meant that they took up very different battles to the ones The Kensington Society undertakes today. They drafted a petition to Parliament, to grant women the right to vote and their petition ended up in the hands of John Stuart Mill — who lived in Kensington Square; in the house that Gay Christiansen subsequently lived in. He amended the Reform Act so that women would be allowed the right to vote, the Act, however, was defeated. The Kensington Society ladies were undeterred, however, and regrouped as the London Society for Women's Suffrage. Similar societies began to appear around the country and soon a national society had been formed, known most commonly as the Suffragettes.

That seemed to be the end of The Kensington Society until in 1953, when Gay Christiansen reformed it. She had an express purpose for the Society, though, which was to 'preserve and improve the amenities of Kensington for the public benefit'. One of her earliest major battles was to save Holland House. She was determined that the badly bomb-damaged house should not be knocked down and, at the very least, the East Wing, which had survived largely untouched, should be left standing. She galvanised a deputation, letters appeared in *The Times* and a public meeting was organised. As we all know, the East Wing was saved and presently functions as a Youth Hostel.

The Society gathered pace from 1953 and by March 1954 it had done enough, to warrant publishing its first report. The report, an eight page pamphlet, is one of the many documents that can be found in the Local Studies Library and is reproduced here. We can see how, even in the beginning, the Society battled hard to preserve the Kensington we know today **KS**

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

18, KENSINGTON SQUARE,

LONDON, W.8

.....



MARCH, 1954

REPORT No. 1

EARLS TERRACE

The Kensington Society has co-operated with the Edwardes Square Garden Committee in effecting alterations in the plans for the new flats being built to fill the gap in the Terrace caused by bomb damage. As a result the front and back elevations have been brought into harmony with the rest of the Terrace.

MONUMENT BY SIR JOHN SOANE

This unique monument, designed by Sir John Soane, was erected to the memory of Miss Elizabeth Johnstone, "the amiable and beloved eldest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Johnstone of Brompton, Gentleman," in the churchyard of Mary Abbots in 1784. There are only one or two of Sir John Soane's monuments still in existence, and this particular work of the sarcophagus type is of especial artistic value.

Mr. H. Clifford Smith reported the condition of this monument to the Society in September. Time and exposure had worn away the base, the sides had fallen apart, and the monument was in such a bad state of repair that it was liable to collapse at any time. The matter was discussed by the Committee and it was decided that the Society should be responsible for first-aid repair work. This was completed on 8th October, 1953.

BROAD WALK ELM TREES

The felling of the great elm trees in the Broad Walk and the bareness of this once gracious avenue caused many a pang for lovers of London's beauty. The Society was very concerned about the felling of these trees and immediately approached the Chief Officer of Parks, Ministry of Works, and Mr. Lane of the Tree Preservation Order. In each case the Society was told that the trees were coming down after much thought and advice by tree experts, that most of the trees were diseased and liable to fall without warning.

The Society felt that it was unable to contest this statement.

A letter has recently been sent to the Ministry of Works asking for a reprieve for the remaining HEALTHY elm trees, and at the same time suggesting that the Broad Walk should be replanted with partially grown trees. The Society understands that trees up to 30 ft. in height were planted with success on the South Bank site for the Festival of Britain.

The trees to replace the elms were stated by Sir David Eccles, Minister of Works, in a written reply to a Parliamentary Question, to be "an inner line of scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), and an outer line of common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), with the light shaded

variety of copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica cuprea*) at the ends of the rows and wherever there are breaks in the lines."

The Society would like to take this opportunity of making known its interest in the preservation of trees in Kensington.

No. 1, PALACE GREEN

This house was designed by Phillip Webb and built for the Earl of Carlisle in 1863. The interior contains a certain amount of William Morris and Burne-Jones decoration. A member of the Society feared the removal and possible destruction of some of the panelling and tiles.

Representatives of the Society were shown over the house, and they were able to ascertain from Mr. Baker of Messrs. Clutton (agent for the Commissioners of Crown Lands) that nothing would be removed without a previous consultation with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Kensington Society.

HOLLAND HOUSE

Holland House was built in 1607 by Sir Walter Cope and then called Cope Castle. The property later came into the possession of Sir Henry Rich (Lord Kensington, in 1624 created Earl of Holland). The house was then called Holland House. In Cromwell's time the Commonwealth Generals Fairfax and Lambert lived here. At the Restoration it reverted to the rightful owners. Joseph Addison, who in 1716 married the widow of the 6th Earl of Holland and Warwick, lived for a brief time at the house. Later the estate came into the possession of the Edwardes family, who, after a brief period, sold it to Henry Fox, created Baron Holland in 1763. Henry Fox's elder brother was created Earl of Ilchester.

The house was designed by John Thorpe, and later additions made by Inigo Jones. In the early mid-nineteenth century Holland House and its circle loom largely in English social life. Frequent visitors were Prince Metternich, Talleyrand, Humboldt, Ugo, Foscolo, Canova, Gladstone, Brougham, Henry Greville, Byron, Samuel Rogers, Sidney Smith, Macaulay, Panizzi, Watts, and others too numerous to mention.

In October, 1940, the house was bombed severely and the central block was virtually gutted, the west wing being badly burnt, while the east wing was largely untouched.

In the hope of saving the east wing of this famous and remarkable mansion with so brilliant a history, the Kensington Society sent a deputation to the London County Council. It was urged that demolition should be delayed in the hope that a

use might be found for the east wing. After hearing the views of the Society on architectural, historical and financial aspects, Mr. Fisk and Mr. Hayward said the Council had already considered the possibilities.

Following the letter in the *Times* denoting the concern of the Society for the future of Holland House, Messrs. John Edgington & Co., Ltd., Manufacturers and Contractors, approached the Society with a suggestion for the use of the east wing. This firm, established in 1604, at their own expense, are prepared to take over the east wing from the L.C.C. for use as a Reception Centre, and in the words of Mr. Flin, a Director of the Company, "recapture some of the glory of the 19th century, redecorating and furnishing it in that style."

Mr. Flin visited the Holland House Exhibition arranged at Leighton House by the Public Library. He then inspected Holland House with two members of the Society. He was impressed by the possibilities Holland House presented. Mr. Flin informed the Society that he would get in touch with the L.C.C. and discuss his proposals with them. The Society understands that he is now negotiating with the L.C.C., and we wish him every success.

We are happy to record, on the winding up of the Campden Hill Preservation Society, that we have not only gained the support of Mr. W. G. Corfield on the Executive Committee, but the remaining funds have been transferred to the funds of the Kensington Society.

Just as we are going to print we have received a communication from Major O'Donovan, Treasurer of the Campden Hill Residents Fund. Major O'Donovan says in the winding up of the Society it was agreed that the remaining funds should be transferred to the Kensington Society with good wishes.

We are very grateful for the support from these two Societies and we hope the Kensington Society will follow their good examples and serve a real purpose in the Royal Borough.

SUMMARY OF LECTURES given during the autumn, 1953

1. DR. STEPHEN PASMORE: *The History of Kensington.*

Dr. Pasmore surveyed the history of Kensington from the days of the Celts to the present day. He mentioned the Saxon origin of the word "Kensington" from the "tun" or hamlet of the family of Kensing, and the association of St. Mary Abbots Church with the Abbot or Abingdon. He referred to the expansion of Kensington from 1600 onwards when Sir Walter Cope built Holland House, Sir Baptist Hicks Campden House, and Sir George Coppin the house that was later purchased by William III and made into Kensington Palace in 1689.

Many incidents of this period were mentioned, including Samuel Pepys' wonderful day in 1659. Then followed the history of Kensington Palace and Kensington Square, with emphasis on the fact that they were the two most important historic sites left apart from Holland House and Aubrey House. After more stories of Dean Swift, Sir Isaac Newton, Lady Mary Coke, and other Kensington residents, there followed the history of Edwardes Square and a description of the famous salon of Lord and Lady Holland at Holland House in the 19th century.

Finally, after describing further incidents from Talleyrand's exclamations at Faraday's experiment in electro-magnetism at a soiree at Kensington Palace to Mrs. Patrick Campbell's reaction on hearing Bernard Shaw read one of his plays to her in Kensington Square, Dr. Pasmore gave a vivid eye-witness account of the air-raid in 1944 when St. Mary Abbots Church caught fire.

Dr. Pasmore ended by saying that Kensington had a past, and that one could not feel an affection for the Borough or help to plan its future with wisdom, unless one had a sense of its history, a knowledge of its beautiful gardens and buildings, and an awareness of the debt one owed to those who had gone before.

2. RECITAL BY MISS IRENE SCHARRER.

Miss Irene Scharrer delighted her audience with her piano recital on 22nd October at Leighton House, where the intimate atmosphere and perfect acoustics added to the pleasure of the evening.

Miss Scharrer's recital included two of Bach's Choral Preludes, Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," the Chopin Ballade in F. Minor, and a Schubert Impromptu. The programme ended with some charming pieces by Scarlatti, which proved a pleasant contrast to the other works. In spite of her long programme, Miss Scharrer generously gave several encores which were much appreciated.

3. C. H. GIBBS-SMITH: *The Great Exhibition of 1851.*

In his lecture, Mr. Gibbs-Smith dealt with the Great Exhibition of 1851 as if the audience were actually paying it a visit. An imaginary journey was taken to Hyde Park, the Crystal Palace was seen for the first time in the distance, and then the visitor was taken inside and given a tour through the building. As an interlude the lecturer showed some of the memorable scenes connected with the opening, and briefly outlined the beginning of the great undertaking, and the parts played by such men as the Prince Consort, Paxton and Henry Cole.

The whole history of the Great Exhibition was a brilliant success story. The vast building was completed in record time (between August, 1850, and January, 1851) and was 1,848 ft. long. It lay in the open space between the present bowling green and the barracks—not on the north side of the Serpentine. Over 13,900 exhibitors showed their products and a total of 6,039,195 visitors saw the exhibition in 141 days.

When all was over, the Commission—which still exists to administer a large income for educational purposes—could boast of a clear profit of £186,437, an achievement never exceeded or even equalled by any exhibition before or since.

4. SIR HUGH CASSON: *New Buildings in Old Places.*

Sir Hugh Casson, in considering the problems of new building in old towns, stressed that a new building is not always something to be dreaded, nor is an old town always the worse for receiving it. There are of course special difficulties in building in towns of historical or architectural interest, but new building anywhere demands the highest degree of imagination and skill on the part of those concerned.

The lecturer pointed out that the first essential in building in an old town is to study carefully the architecture of the street in which it is to go and to make quite sure that a new building at all is really needed. Many buildings which look rickety or dilapidated, through lack of maintenance and repair, can be reconditioned and often provide more ample space, a better standard of construction and sounder materials than equivalent money will buy in present conditions.

An alternative to preserving complete buildings—which is sometimes uneconomic—is to preserve the facades, which can often be kept with only minor inconvenience to planning new accommodation behind them. But whether in a new or a converted building, standardisation of the facade above fascia level should at all costs be avoided.

Sir Hugh said the important thing is to respect the scale, texture and rhythm of the street, to watch cornice lines and roof silhouettes. Preserve what is healthy, but don't try to prop up a building that has passed its proper life, unless there is some very special reason for doing so. Don't try to cling to some elderly fragment merely because of its age, if it is the last survivor in a street that has changed.

Old buildings are not always, merely because of their age, deserving of protection, nor does change inevitably mean progress. On the other hand, old and otherwise habitable buildings are sometimes condemned merely because their ceilings are a few inches below the statutory height, or new building designs rejected because the pitch of the roof is thought to be unorthodox.

To judge each case on its merits is obviously difficult, slow, unfair and demands a great faith in the visual judgment of the authority concerned. The policy of "picturesque planning" is seldom practicable, but its two principles—first to observe with the painter's eye, and second to "improve" the scene (in the best meaning of the word) remain the soundest advice for all of us.

5. ASHLEY DUKES: *Theatres of Old Kensington.*

In his lecture to the Society in November, 1953, Mr. Ashley Dukes described the beginnings of professional theatre in Kensington, at Holland House under the Commonwealth; the successive ventures of the Royal Kensington and Royal Kent theatres in what is now Old Court Place, between 1831 and 1846; the balloon ascents and occasional disturbances that marked the performances; the entertainments at the Assembly Rooms later in the nineteenth century, where the Food Office has taken the place of the Royal Palace Hotel; the brief history of the Hippodrome in North Kensington between the early 1830's and 1841 when it was closed; Batty's Hippodrome, south of the Park, which was established as a side-show to the Great Exhibition of 1851; the successive building of the Century Theatre in Westbourne Grove and the Coronet at Notting Hill Gate; the uses of the Mercury Theatre for Ballet and plays by poets in the 1930's and onwards; and the return of independent theatrical production to Kensington through the very numerous theatre clubs that have flourished in Western London in recent years.

FUTURE EVENTS

APSLEY HOUSE, HYDE PARK CORNER.

Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, Keeper in Charge of the Wellington Museum, has kindly consented to conduct members round the house on Friday, May 21st, at 2.30 p.m. Admission 1/-.

HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTS.

Arrangements are being made for a small party to visit Hatfield House on June 15th. The coach will leave Kensington Square at 11.30 a.m. The cost (with lunch, gratuities, etc.) will be 16/-.

AUBREY HOUSE, AUBREY WALK, W. 8.

The House and garden will be open on July 3rd from 3.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m., by kind permission of the Misses Alexander.

On this occasion the Society will make an entrance charge of 2/6 per head for members and their friends, the proceeds of which will be paid into the Society's funds. Tea available.

ABINGDON ABBEY, OXON.

To visit what remains of the former "mother church" of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington. Abingdon has many other treasures, architectural and otherwise, of great interest to visitors.

The visit is being arranged to take place on August 24th. The coach will leave Kensington Square at 11.0 a.m. The cost (including lunch, gratuities, etc.) will be £1 : 1 : 0.

GARDEN PARTY, LEIGHTON HOUSE, 12, HOLLAND PARK ROAD, W. 14.

A Garden Party will be given at Leighton House on September 4th, from 3.30 to 6.0 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on October 5th, at the Town Hall, Kensington High Street, W. 8, at 6.30 p.m.

Would members wishing to take advantage of the visits to Hatfield House and Abingdon Abbey, please notify the Hon. Secretary with remittance by June 1st for Hatfield House and August 1st for Abingdon Abbey.

W.B. / 878 / 1000 / 254

The 2011 Census is coming to a letterbox near you...



PLEASE TAKE PART

A complete and accurate count in Census 2011 is important to you, your family and your community. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war).

Many people feel that the census is just record keeping and a bothersome chore; however, it is not just the government head-counting. It is important to all of us in RBKC, as the census statistics help set the allocation of funding for all local authorities and plays a major part in identifying the need for local services. It provides the statistics which enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. However, it is not just funding for schools, housing and hospitals. It is the basis for most funding from central government — street cleaning and repair, parks, refuse collection and many other services; in fact all things that go towards making the borough a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

In addition to government funding, Thames Water use the census data to plan for pipe maintenance, cleaning and waste water. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting in fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. Many use the census to trace their ancestors or even discover the history of their homes. The benefits are far reaching.

When the last census took place in 2001, there was a 94% response rate across the country but, in Kensington & Chelsea, the return was a mere 64% — the lowest of any borough in the country.

By completing the census form and encouraging other to do so, ensures that RBKC will be properly funded.

The census applies to all residents of the country, not just to UK citizens.

When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you will easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it. If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire.

More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk

COLIN TETHER, Census Area Manager, RBKC

THE BROMPTON ORATORY'S TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL NEWMAN

On 19 September 2010 Pope Benedict XVI, following the proclamation of Venerable in 1991 and the confirmation of one miracle, beatified Cardinal John Henry Newman. With the confirmation of beatification, the final stage was set for Cardinal Newman to become the first British saint for 40 years.



All Pictures courtesy Russell Taylor Architects

The Brompton Oratory, looking towards the new chapel

To celebrate the beatification and to coincide with the visit by Pope Benedict, a new chapel was commissioned for the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known locally as The Brompton Oratory.

The new chapel is dedicated to Cardinal Newman and is designed by Russell Taylor Architects. It is beneath the organ loft, in the south aisle and replaces the Calvary Chapel.



The new chapel designed by Russell Taylor

John Henry Newman was born in 1801 in London and was the eldest of six children. He attended Oxford, at a time when Catholics could not attend either Oxford or Cambridge, enter Parliament or become doctors or lawyers. He was ordained as an Anglican Priest in 1825. After years of intense agonizing, however, he joined the Catholic Church and was ordained in Rome as a priest in 1847. He founded the first English Oratory in 1849 in Birmingham, which was dedicated to Saint Philip Neri.

In 1879, Pope Leo XIII made Newman a Cardinal. Newman, famed for his prolific literary output, remained in Birmingham until his death in 1890. His path towards canonisation began in 1958, and he was proclaimed Venerable in 1991.

Father Wilfred Faber, another convert from Anglicanism, who had joined the new Birmingham Oratory, was sent to establish a London Oratory. Father Faber, with an influential committee of Catholic laymen, searched for a London site. The Brompton site was bought in November 1852.

Oratory House, with its own chapel and library, was built first, c. 1853, by J.J. Scoles and the Oratory Church followed in 1880. A competition was held, in which it was stated that the building needed to be Italian neo-Baroque in design, and the 30 competitors

were assessed by Alfred Waterhouse (architect of the Natural History Museum), with the final choice made by the Orator Fathers. Herbert Gribble won the competition. His design was based on his knowledge and appreciation of the Italian church, and his intention was to give those who had not visited Italy a comparative model.

What we see today is very different to the building of 1884, which is when the church was consecrated. Then it was without the outer dome and much of the internal decoration. The outer dome was added, c.1895–6. The intended appearance of the church, which was in brick, had been changed to large square-cut Portland Stone. Devon marble was used in the major order of pilasters and the minor order of columns, with more richly coloured marbles in the apse and the alters. The Lady Chapel and St Wilfred's Chapel were fitted with altars originating from churches in Italy and Belgium. In 1895, 12 marble apostles carved by the sculptor Guiseppe Mazzuoli for Siena Cathedral, c.1679–95, were acquired for the nave.

Further decorative works were carried out, 1927–32, by Formilli, an Italian architect living in Kensington. His scheme included the Venetian manufactured mosaics beneath the dome, flanking the windows, and in the ceiling; much of the gilding, the ceiling painting, and the mahogany pulpit.

The principles of Baroque architecture and art have been consistently adhered to, as the church interior has developed over time. The result is a visually beautiful and coherent expression of Classical and Baroque design.

The Cardinal Newman Chapel replaces the Calvary Chapel. The undecorated appearance of the Calvary Chapel was as a result of a fire, which had destroyed the organ in 1950. Although the architectural form had survived, the stark décor was due to minimal post-fire restoration. The commissioned works, therefore, enabled a neglected area of the church to be brought back into full use.

Russell Taylor's design approach has added new fixtures and fittings to the existing internal space. He has introduced three key elements; the altar, the altar rail and redecorations. The design is inspired by the Chiesa di San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane in Rome by Francesco Borromini (1599–1667). All the materials and finishes that have been chosen, contribute to the Classical and Baroque style of the church interior.

A new marble reredos screen features a copy of Sir John Everett Millais's portrait of Newman, the original currently hangs in Arundel Castle, and it is centrally placed with small Corinthian pilasters framing the painting. The ceiling of the chapel is low, because of the organ loft directly above, and further emphasis on verticality is given by the paired volute consoles (spiral brackets) supporting the altar.



Altar detail in the new chapel

Between the altar shelf and the reredos is the inscription on Newman's grave "Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatum" which translates as "out of shadows and images and into the truth". Newman's cardinalatial motto, "Cor ad cor loquitur", (heart speaks to heart), from his Coat of Arms, is inscribed below the altar and between the paired consoles.

The overall appearance suggests marbles in rich hues. The redecorations of the walls and chapel's ceiling are monochromatic, using a restrained, light stone paint colour to emphasise the richness of the altar. Two side windows have been covered with trellis screens to diffuse natural light and enable the chapel, which has been sensitively re-lit, to be visually balanced.

The classical design of the new chapel is consistent with the architectural and liturgical canon of the church, and the continuing development of the church interior. This return to the Classical style is not a retrograde step, but a dynamic approach to embrace traditional architecture **KS**

HILARY BELL RIBA, FRSA

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REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES 2010

From the Chairman

Many thanks to all of you have contributed this year. The Society has worked with many of the local societies on specific issues in their areas and we hope that they continue in these efforts. These reports are an invaluable insight into the hard work that is undertaken to help maintain Kensington's unique character.

BOLTONS ASSOCIATION

There are several large applications that have remained 'live' in our area over several years.

One of these is 18 Tregunter Road — a large detached house that became derelict and was then demolished. The Council recently granted planning permission for a replacement property, but this may not be the end of the 10 years saga, as we wait to see what they plan to build there.

Other applications are 1 Cathcart Road, where the applicant has submitted successive applications to demolish the property and replace it with a far larger one, and 30 The Boltons (and 28 Gilston Road) where the applicant plans to demolish two properties and replace these with a single, much larger, one. There is a similar situation at 6–8 Seymour Walk.

We are concerned about properties in the conservation area being demolished, particularly as replacement properties tend to be 'maxed out' with subterranean development etc.

Clive Jackson

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ECSRA)

Membership of ECSRA has remained strong, but unfortunately there are a diminishing number of Executive Committee members, which has resulted in work being carried out by fewer people. We are also sad to report the passing away of four stalwart members of the Committee, including the founder Chairman.

We continue to suffer from two night clubs in the area, resulting in antisocial behaviour in the early hours of the morning. Continuing 'red tape' has prevented swift action in resolving this matter.

We were actively involved in the consultation process regarding the proposed 'Forest of Stehles', to be placed in the middle of Warwick Road, and are pleased to report that the decision was overruled.

After action by many individual residents, ECSRA was able to gain the assistance of the higher echelons of Thames Water to get the water pressure in properties restored to an acceptable level.

The future of the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre is being closely followed; the Olympic volleyball event will take place there in 2012 and then there will be the subsequent redevelopment of the 70 acres site.

Christine Powell

EDWARDES SQUARE SCARSDALE AND ABINGDON ASSOCIATION

The Mansion Block Group, which we started a year ago, has proved very popular, especially for those living at a level above most other buildings. A recent decision taken on a planning appeal, took into account the importance of these high level views and we are also encouraged by the English Heritage consultation paper, on the setting of buildings, in which high level views are specifically mentioned.

The plans for the Commonwealth Institute site are now being developed and some of the practical issues mentioned in our objection are at last being addressed. It is clear, however, that there are some serious conflicts ahead, not least those concerning traffic management.

We continue to request that the planning department insists on both Ecohomes Assessments and Construction Method Statements, both of which are required by the SPD before any subterranean development application is registered, but they

still procrastinate! What is the point of each of our societies commenting on these documents, if in the end the officers do not follow adopted policy?

There are many major applications which affect our area, but equally we monitor the small incremental changes, which can so easily destroy the character and interest of our area.

Anthony Walker

KENSINGTON COURT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

In January 2010 we launched our website www.kensingtoncourtresidents.org However, for residents who prefer the more traditional approach, we persuaded a local estate agent to sponsor a notice board. It's now installed in the heart of our neighbourhood, providing community news and useful information. We have also worked hard at involving the local businesses, 12 have become patrons, along with five restaurants and a pub, some of whom give discounts to members. They generously backed our first street party in September, we closed off part of Thackeray Street, and it was such a success, we are turning it into an annual event.

We now have 175 paid-up members, which is nearly half of those living in our area and to crown our efforts, we received a Gold Standard Award from the Deputy Mayor in December, so we think we must be doing something right.

John Gau CBE, KCRA

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

Some 200 copies of our report on the Impact of Subterranean Developments were distributed in December 2009. In the following months we received considerable support and advice from Sir Malcom Rifkind and many others, including a number of RBKC councillors. Conservation and residents associations in RBKC and Westminster and various other organizations, such as Grosvenor Estates, expressed their support for the recommendations included in the report.

RBKC are taking the report seriously and Councillor Julie Mills was given cabinet responsibility for producing the Council's response. The Council intends to produce a first draft of a Good Development Guide, which we hope to see in January 2011 — more than a year after our report was published. We still have no idea what it actually contains or how far it goes to meeting our recommendations. In the meantime, Sir

Malcolm Rifkind has proposed to Ministers that greater powers might be given to local councils, to control subterranean developments, in the Localism Bill — in particular to allow planning decisions to take into account noise and disruption.

The Association is working on another guide to help people living next to buildings subject to major development; to protect their position as far as is possible through the Party Wall Agreement and by other means. The Association believes that the Party Wall legislation needs strengthening and will be lobbying for this.

The Association is delighted that after a long saga, the ban on estate agents boards has been renewed in the Ladbroke Conservation Area and indeed most of the rest of the Borough.

David Corsellis

LEXHAM GARDENS

We won first prize in the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea Garden Square Competition and in the All London Garden Square Competition we were given a high commendation and placed in the Top 10. Our Garden continues to be a wonderful amenity for residents, including many children.

We continue to work with the Council through our supportive local Councillors to maintain good services. Our Residents Association flourishes with 236 member households and we have become a close knit supportive community since our garden was refurbished in 1990.

Sir Cyril Taylor

NEVERN SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Association extends from Earl's Court Road to Warwick Road, Earl's Court Station on the south, to Cromwell Road in the north. The Association made an application for Conservation status in 1985, and it was finally approved in 1998. We are an active committee and seek to reflect the variety of issues that arise from our diverse community. Contrary to public belief, we have a long-term population and one that feels that they are very much a part of the 'village' of Earl's Court.

Nevern Square gardens, which is in the centre of the conservation area, has hosted a series of events over the years, ranging from a production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, Commedia'Arte, to children's Fun Days, and now is the location for the Earl's Court Festival's Film Night, which is always such a success.

The residents are concerned about the outcome of the present consultation over the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, and a development that could take up to 10 years. There are the perennial problems of the Earl's Court One-Way System, the volume of traffic, the heavy vehicles and the subsequent pollution.

Linda Wade

THE FRIENDS OF HOLLAND PARK

We have been in communication with the developers of the Holland Park School southern site and are now optimistic that the re-designed, luxury apartment block will be less intrusive upon the park than originally feared, and hidden from the North Lawn during the summer months.

Planning permission was granted to the developers of the Commonwealth Institute site by the slenderest of margins. The Friends are in discussion with them and hope thereby to minimise the development's adverse effects on the park — with sensitive landscaping around the site and its boundary with the park, and the retention of the northern boundary wall.

Holland House terrace is now being cleared and temporarily landscaped after each opera season. A permanent scheme, which should also allow pedestrian access, requires substantial investment, which is unavailable at present. Meanwhile, a beautiful pair of 'wavy' oak benches has been designed, crafted and donated by The Friends to stand each side of the steps up to Holland House.

Two new booklets are being written on the social history of Holland House, and the development of the gardens over the years. Publication is intended for next year.

Friends' events are now open to non-members, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

Nicholas Hopkins

THE NORLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

We have completed the draft update of our Conservation Area Policy Statement, with David McDonald's guidance. A key part of this is Article 4 directions, to protect non-listed buildings in the conservation area. We did a detailed survey of all the streets in our area, house by house, and prepared a photographic record of every building as the basis for recommending Article 4 directions. This is already proving extremely useful — as an easy reference in commenting on Planning Applications, and to

the Conservation Officers. The problem now is to get the Article 4's implemented through the Borough's Solicitors, and to get the draft CAPS put into 'Council-speak' for acceptance by the Council. In addition, we have done a detailed survey of all street tree planting opportunities and agreed with the Arboricultural Officers those that are feasible for planting in the near future.

We remain extremely frustrated by Officers' and Planning Committee Members' reluctance in considering Planning Applications, to give adequate weight to the aim, stated in the LDF, of 'preserving the legacy'. A recent example was the application at 9 Royal Crescent, (listed Grade II*) to excavate beneath more (we maintained) than 85% of the garden and install an underground swimming pool. Despite two Councillors fighting hard against it, structural and potential flooding risks and the precedent this is likely to set, it was approved with the Chairman's casting vote — on the basis that there were no grounds in planning policy to refuse. So what does 'preserving the legacy' mean? The SPD on Subterranean Development seems to afford no protection either, and apart from conservation considerations, this threatens to cause neighbours endless noisy disruption, as one property after another decides to dig down for more space. If this continues, and planning policy affords so little protection, we will see the conservation work of over 40 years rapidly eroded.

The LDF Core Strategy hearings also achieved nothing for Royal Crescent and St Ann's Villas in terms of 'preserving the legacy'. The Officers simply brushed aside our contention that the planned extensive redevelopment of North Kensington, with the stated intention of improving north-south transport, would increase traffic volumes, and further endanger these two streets of Grade II and II* buildings.

Clive Wilson

ONSLOW NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Association is continuing to make representations to the Borough Council that vital adjustments be made to the new traffic plan at South Kensington — especially at the entry to Pelham Street where crossing the road is highly dangerous.

Another concern is the plan for the projected development of a new Iranian embassy and culture centre on Queen's Gate, where the proposed modernist building is not to residents' tastes.

Our garden party continues to create a useful focal point for residents concerned about planning and related matters.

Roger Barese, ONA

PEMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The closure of Notting Hill Post Office and Sorting Office was widely resented, but apparently unpreventable. Proposals for building of six residential units and a shop were approved by the Council. We objected to the scale of the new development, but thought the proposals for retaining the Westbourne Grove elevation would successfully preserve its character.

We supported the Council in its refusal of an application to convert a custom built office in Rosehart Mews to residential use. On appeal, the refusal was upheld on grounds of incongruity of proposed front elevation with neighbouring building and the potential of noise levels from a roof terrace. The loss of office space was considered acceptable to the Inspector, though not to the Council.

The Imperial College Endowment Fund proposal for building eco-friendly housing on a prominent site in Pembridge Road has been resubmitted. Significant changes have been made to the type of housing, but the designs for street elevation are virtually unchanged, despite our strong criticism on conservation grounds.

The unfortunate closing down of one of the few working motor repair garages in conservation area, has cleared the way for the modernisation of Westbourne Grove Mews — scheme includes rebuilding numbers 1 and 2 for residential and office use.

Roy Griffiths

ST HELEN'S RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The St Helen's Residents' Association, which represents households in the St Quintin's Conservation area, is in its third year. In May, Amanda Frame came to give us the benefit of The Kensington Society's experience of campaigning and in November, Cllr Judith Blackman updated us on local developments, including actions to maintain our local parade of shops and the plans for the Kensington Academy School.

In the past year, we have continued to review and object to inappropriate planning applications in our area. We have attempted to mitigate the impact of the Westway advertising towers and our Treasurer has been elected as a trustee of the Westway Development Trust. We recently organised a campaign to get local residents to object to the inappropriate scale of the development planned for the Woodlands site on our boundary in Hammersmith & Fulham.

We are delighted that the Notting Barnes Ward Initiative has funded a notice board for us, which will be fixed to the wall of our local bakery. We will use this to stay in contact with households without internet access, advertise meetings and highlight events and items of interest in the neighbourhood.

Clare Singleton

VICTORIA ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

In 2007, planning permission was extended and work started on demolition in De Vere Gardens. We are working closely with the demolition/building contractor (Sir Richard McAlpine) to ensure that the impact on residents is minimised. The partnership is working well to date.

Working with other associations, we are pressing the Council to minimise the impact of construction work — by minimising the scale and duration of parking suspensions, and the use of the road for skips and storage, in some cases pressing for the area to be a 'skip-free zone'.

We continue to work closely with the Thomas' School to secure high performance on their School Travel Plan. We are seeking enforcement action on the proliferation of unauthorised fences used to create 'fortresses'.

The Association has been awarded the Council's Gold Standard.

Michael Bach

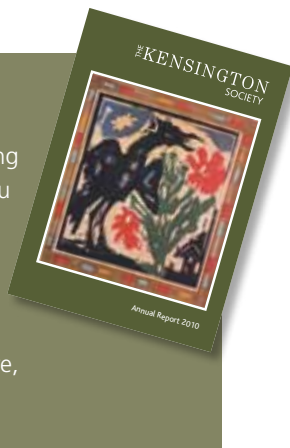
Other Affiliated Local Societies:

Campden Hill Residents' Association
Cornwall Gardens Residents' Association
Eardley Crescent Residents' Association
Earls Court Gardens & Morton Mews Residents' Association
Earls Court Society
Earls Court Village Residents' Association
Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
Kensington Mansions Residents' Association
Kensington Square Garden Committee
Knightsbridge Association
Royal Crescent Residents' Association
The Brompton Association

PORTRAIT OF A LOCAL ARTIST

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

We have strayed into a new arena this year, concentrating not only on art work but artistic publishing, to bring you a feature that recognises the wide variety of talent that resides in Kensington. Our local artist this year is the publisher, Julian Rothenstein, who we have focused on alongside his extraordinary artistic family. His father, Michael Rothenstein, is the artist of this year's cover picture, *Red Flowers*, (1987).



Kensington and art have intertwined for centuries and the area is full of famous artists and designers. Entrenched in our artistic heritage is Julian Rothenstein, founder of the Redstone Press, who is a publisher of extraordinary works and part of a prestigious artistic family that span three generations.

The family's artistic tradition began with William Rothenstein (1872–1945) who moved to London in 1888, aged 16, and enrolled in the Slade School of Art. He continued his studies in Paris and became a friend to many of the great figures of the day, including Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Camille Pissarro. He continued to forge friendships with many celebrated figures and was known for his portrait drawings of celebrated men of the early 20th century, such as Gustav Holst, Auguste Rodin and W.B. Yeats. He became the Principal of the Royal College of Art in 1920 (until 1935), where he encouraged many young artists including Henry Moore and Paul Nash; he was knighted in 1931. He was an official war artist in both World Wars.



Talbot House, Ypres (1918) screenprint, William Rothenstein

William had four children. His eldest son Sir John Rothenstein (1901–1992), an art historian, was the director of the Tate Gallery from 1938 to 1964, while his youngest son was the painter and pioneering printmaker, Michael Rothenstein (1908–1993).

Michael was a child prodigy and later studied at Chelsea Polytechnic and Central School of Arts and Crafts, 1924–7. During World War II, the Pilgrim Trust commissioned artists to record the buildings and places that were liable to be destroyed by enemy action. Michael participated in the project, Recording Britain, whose original works are now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Following the war, he moved to Essex where his subject matter turned to landscapes and farm life. He produced his first print, a lithograph, in 1946, for the first series of School Prints. The School Prints was a scheme where respected artists were commissioned to produce lithographs that were editioned in large numbers and sold cheaply to schools. The aim was to encourage children to have direct contact with real works of art. The project was recognised as “a high water mark of the post-war artistic exuberance and optimism”. Rothenstein continued to focus on printmaking for the next four decades and his work is included in the collections of the Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, British Museum, Imperial War Museum, and Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Courtesy of Redstone Press

Anna Succione I (1975) screenprint, Michael Rothenstein


Now we turn to our local artist, Julian. He is Michael's eldest son and he did not follow the path of his father or grandfather. He worked as a designer for book publishers for a number of years before meeting the writer Emma Tennant, with whom he started the literary magazine *Bananas* in the late 1970s. His first publication, in 1986, was of his father's childhood drawings. He candidly says that he made all his mistakes with that publication and followed it up with the wonderful series of novels-told-in-woodcuts by the Flemish artist Frans Masereel. These beautifully produced small books, packaged in boxes, were an instant success and remained in print for many years.

Julian has continued with this unique box format and has published some extraordinary works, including paintings by Mexico's Frida Kahlo, poems by Russia's Vladimir Mayakovsky and *Surrealist Games*. Cynthia Rose said in her article in *International Herald Tribune* about Julian and Redstone Press that "every Redstone box hides piquant, off-beat artefacts. Mexico's Day of the Dead includes a tin skeleton brandishing a scythe. *Surrealist Games* contains a twisted version of the children's classic *Jeu de l'oie* (snakes and ladders) — plus a set of removable tattoos. The *Paradox Box* comes crammed with optical illusions and 'puzzling pictures'".



While the book trade is in the doldrums, Redstone is thriving. Just published is *The Redstone Inkblot Test*, based on the famous Rorschach test; these are beautiful inkblots (made by Julian's daughter Ella) with their interpretations and has sold over 10,000 copies in three months. Julian also created the annual *Redstone Diary*, which has a different theme each year and the latest one, the *Artist's World*, edited with his long-time collaborator Mel Gooding, sold out weeks before Christmas.

For generations the Rothenstein's have enriched our artistic environment and in Kensington, today, Julian Rothenstein and his works from Redstone Press carry on that tradition.

Julian's publications can be found in all good bookshops, or through the Redstone Press website: www.theredstoneshop.com 

AMANDA FRAME

above & below — A selection of box covers from Redstone Press (Julian Rothenstein)



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

London Wetland Centre SW13 9WT

Tuesday, 3rd May 2011 at 10.45am

Leave London behind and enjoy a guided walking tour, which includes rare and beautiful wildlife and spring displays of flowering wild plants. After, you will be at leisure to explore the 42 hectare site and the indoor discovery centre. Refreshments available.

*Meet at the above address Tickets: £15
take the Duck bus from Hammersmith tube station or by car*



Mansion House London EC4

Monday, 6th June 2011 at 10.50am

A private tour of the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London. The Palladian building dates from the early 18th century and has magnificent interiors with fine plasterwork, carvings and furnishings. There is a fine collection of Dutch masterpieces and a good display of silver.

Meet at the above address

Tickets £12



St. George's Chapel, Windsor and Frogmore House

Thursday, 22nd September 2011

St. George's was built between 1474 and 1528. We shall be accompanied by a Chapel Steward who will show us round this historic building. We shall then visit the Windsor Home Farm shop for lunch (at own expense) before spending the afternoon at Frogmore House.

The house has traditionally been a royal retreat and is used today by the Royal Family for private entertaining. We shall be given a guided tour.

Depart by coach from Kensington Square at 9am

tickets £38 (a few places available)

RESERVATIONS

To reserve a place, please send cheques for each event to:

The Kensington Society, c/o Mrs G Foley, 34 Kelso Place, LONDON W8 5QP

Cheques are to be payable to The Kensington Society. Please enclose a self addressed envelope and give your contact telephone number.

Tickets will be sent giving full instructions.

Guests are always welcome at any of these events.

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2010

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Incoming resources | | |
| Voluntary income | | |
| Subscriptions | 8,642.00 | 8,870.00 |
| Donations | 825.00 | 575.00 |
| RBKC Gold Standard Award | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Gift Aid 2004 to 2008 | 3,167.44 | 588.46 |
| Total voluntary income | <u>13,134.44</u> | <u>10,033.46</u> |
| Activities for generating funds | | |
| Events | 1,495.00 | 1,710.00 |
| Annual report advertising | 2,250.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Total activities for generating funds | <u>3,745.00</u> | <u>3,110.00</u> |
| Investment income | | |
| Gift Aid interest | 200.59 | 0.00 |
| Bank interest | 86.20 | 267.33 |
| Total incoming resources | <u>17,166.23</u> | <u>13,410.79</u> |
| Resources expended | | |
| Charitable activities | | |
| Newsletter | 1,202.55 | 761.00 |
| Events | 1,078.75 | 1,183.25 |
| Annual report | 6,962.20 | 6,253.50 |
| Lecture and AGM | 644.64 | 695.13 |
| Total charitable activities costs | <u>9,888.14</u> | <u>8,892.88</u> |
| Governance costs | | |
| Insurance | 706.69 | 573.77 |
| Consultancy fees | 1,146.00 | 475.00 |
| Office expenses | 241.88 | 154.19 |
| Constitution | 2,380.20 | 0.00 |
| Total governance costs | <u>4,474.77</u> | <u>1,202.96</u> |
| Total resources expended | <u>14,362.91</u> | <u>10,095.84</u> |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources | 2,803.32 | 3,314.95 |
| Total unrestricted funds brought forward | 50,419.34 | 47,104.39 |
| Total unrestricted funds carried forward | <u>53,222.66</u> | <u>50,419.34</u> |

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2010

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Current assets | | |
| Debtors | | |
| Prepayments and accrued income | | |
| Subscriptions | 195.00 | 0.00 |
| Donations | 65.00 | 0.00 |
| Gift Aid 2006 to 2008 | 2,149.23 | 588.46 |
| Insurance | 282.00 | 429.69 |
| Total prepayments and accrued income | <u>2,691.23</u> | <u>1,018.15</u> |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | |
| Barclays Bank plc high interest | 2.33 | 2.33 |
| Barclays Bank plc current account | 9,226.21 | 9,476.84 |
| Charities Aid Foundation Bank | 43,149.93 | 43,063.73 |
| Total cash at bank and in hand | <u>52,378.47</u> | <u>52,542.90</u> |
| Total current assets | <u>55,069.70</u> | <u>53,561.05</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Accruals and deferred income | | |
| Subscriptions | 0.00 | 60.00 |
| Events | 241.50 | 669.00 |
| Annual report advertising for 2011 | 725.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Office expenses | 130.54 | 62.71 |
| Consultant's fees | 750.00 | 950.00 |
| Total accruals and deferred income | <u>1,847.04</u> | <u>3,141.71</u> |
| Net assets | <u>53,222.66</u> | <u>50,419.34</u> |
| Funds of the Charity | | |
| Unrestricted funds | <u>53,222.66</u> | <u>50,419.34</u> |

Financial Review

The net incoming resources for the year were £2,800 a reduction of £500 from last year.

The incoming resources increased mainly from making Gift Aid claims for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The additional Gift Aid was £2,600 compared to the previous year of £600.

The Kensington Society was awarded £500 for 2010 for achieving the Gold Standard from RBKC.

The cost of the Annual Report net of advertising income was £4,700 compared to £4,850 last year.

The major changes in outgoing resources were the increase in consultancy fees of £700 to prepare the Gift Aid claims.

The one-off cost to finalise the updated Constitution was £2,380 consisting of legal fees, printing and the hire of the hall for the General Meeting.

The balance sheet remains strong with the funds of the Society improving to £53,200.

Accounting policies

Accruals basis

The 2010 financial statements are prepared on accruals basis to match incoming resources and expended resources within the same activity within the same year.

Incoming resources

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations

Donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax reclaims on gifts and donations

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA to the extent that claims have been made.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

OBITUARIES

Robert Milne-Tyte (1924-2010)

Robert Milne-Tyte died on 25 April 2010 after a long illness. Milne-Tyte was a central figure in the World Service (formerly the External Services) for over 20 years. Joining Bush House in 1960 as a producer in Overseas Talks and Features, he became head of the department in 1969 and remained in post until he retired early in 1982. As well as being on the Executive Committee of The Kensington Society from 1995, he edited the Annual Report from 2000, after the Founder retired, until he retired in 2004. He was Minutes Secretary who produced beautifully written, careful literary works.

Arthur Radley, MBE (1916-2010)

Arthur Farrand Radley, MBE died peacefully after a short illness on 16 October 2010 at the age of 94. He joined The Kensington Society in 1987 and was elected on to the Committee in 1992. During the following six years he served for a brief time as Hon Treasurer and then as Joint Visit Secretary. He was appointed a Member of the Council in 1998. As an accomplished photographer and competent conservationist, he was among those who made strenuous efforts to preserve the Kensington Lock Keeper's Cottage which, sadly remained unlisted, and was demolished in 1997.

The Kensington Society regrets to announce the deaths of the following members during the last year:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Joan Pitt | Member since 1998 |
| Denis Lanigan | Member since 1968 |
| A M Carr-Gomm | Member since 1978 |
| Lord Ashtown | Member since 1996 |
| R Cook | Member since 2001 |
| Rosemary Musker | Member since 1998 |
| Miss MC Woodburne | Member since 1977 |
| John Empson | Member since 1991 |
| Joan Warwick | Member since 1978 |
| Willoughby Wynne | Member since 2000 |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor would like to thank the following people for all their help with producing this year's Annual Report:

Mrs Angela Kenny – Archivist, Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
Colin Tether – Census Area Manager, Kensington & Chelsea
Dave Walker – Local Studies and Archives Manager, RBKC
Terry Oliver – North Kensington Environment Manager, RBKC
Steph Allen and Rich Conyngham – Slightly Foxed
Hilary Bell
Malcolm Shirley
Mel Gooding
Julian Rothenstein
Carlotta Maitland Smith – photographer

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual General Meeting of The Kensington Society will be held on **Monday 11 April 2011** in Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8 5RQ — entrance off Eldon Road — 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

The speaker will be **Dr Paul Thompson**, Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art.

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1830

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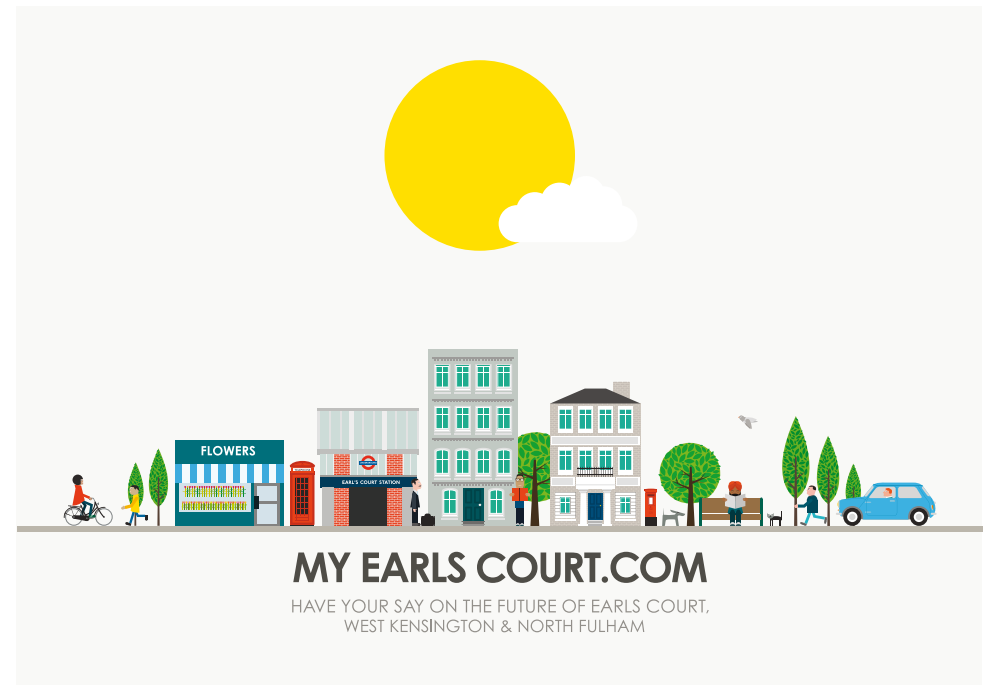
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LIDGATE'S

of HOLLAND PARK



David Lidgate's sons Danny and Ben are the 5th generation of his family to run this shop in Holland Park, W11 selling Organic and Free Range Meat, Poultry and Game, Handmade Sausages and Pies.

Recent awards include Smithfield 2010 Gold Medals, Great Taste Award 2010 Gold Medals, Highly Commended Soil Association 2010, Concours Nationaleux Professionels Best in UK and Supreme Product Champions 2010.

All our free range and organic meat, poultry and game is selected by hand. Organic suppliers include Highgrove, the Home Farm of HRH The Prince of Wales. Our products, pies and sausages are made by hand in small batches on the premises daily.

Our organic chickens and turkeys are reared on small farms and roam in open fields and woodlands. Their flavour would be familiar to Danny and Ben's Great Great grandfather Alexander the founder of the company.

Our beef benefits from our generations of experience and is selected by hand by our family from the Scottish Highlands, Highgrove and the Soil Association Organic Beef Champion. Our lamb comes from Highgrove, the West Country and Berkshire Downs. Our organic Autumn Lamb comes from the Shetland Islands.

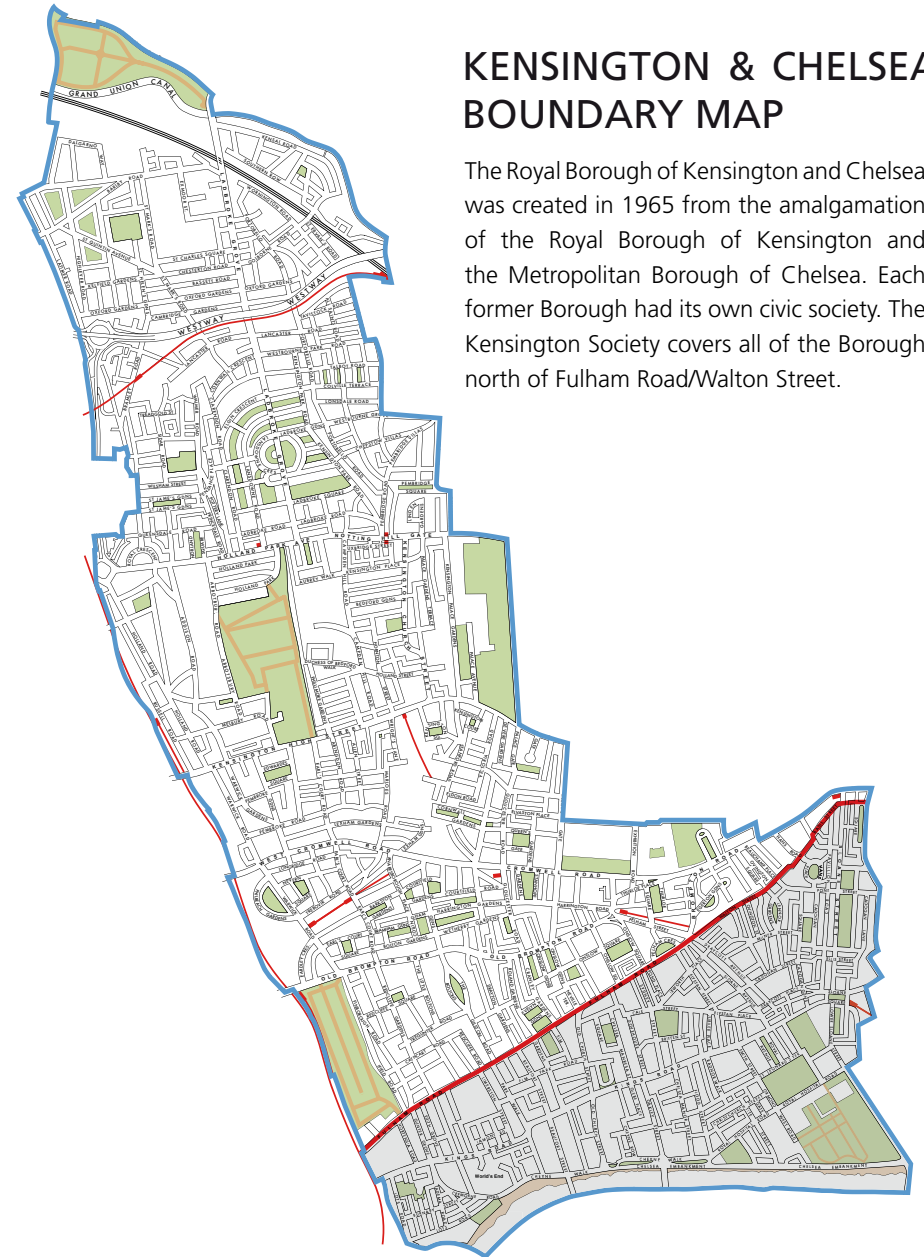
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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA BOUNDARY MAP

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was created in 1965 from the amalgamation of the Royal Borough of Kensington and the Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea. Each former Borough had its own civic society. The Kensington Society covers all of the Borough north of Fulham Road/Walton Street.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

Charity No. 267778



The objectives of The Kensington Society are to preserve and improve the amenities of Kensington for the public benefit by stimulating interest in its history and records, promoting good architecture and planning in its future development and by protecting, preserving and improving its buildings, open spaces and other features of beauty or historic or public interest.

Annual individual subscription £15 £ _____

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