

# Annual Report

1986-87

Cromwell Monument (St. M. A.)  
Calcott/Wilkie  
Architectural Details



THE  
Kensington  
Society

THE  
Kensington  
Society

The objects of the Society shall be 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 Report  
1986-87

FRONT COVER

*Clock Tower, Kensington Palace, c. 1860*

*By kind permission of Kensington Public Library*





## Foreword

How significant is it that 1987 has been designated INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT? Most of us can only remember with difficulty which year was the Year of the Tree or the Year of the Child. Like town twinning, commemorative years seem one of those perfectly acceptable things that somehow don't touch us very closely unless we become directly involved. That was certainly the reason why I remember very well that 1975 was ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR. I was on the Grand Council and attended numerous meetings in very grand buildings, like St. James's Palace or the Mansion House, and watched heads of nationalised industries being politely, but firmly, leant on by the Duke of Edinburgh, or having their lives made charmingly miserable by the relentless energy of Lady Dartmouth, now Lady Spencer. Architectural Heritage Year was also what brought me together with Alec Clifton-Taylor to work on the first of his memorable television programmes for the BBC.

How much has happened in the 12 intervening years, how much of that energy and experience has been carried forward? In my view, a great deal. The widespread belief in conservation areas rather than the protection of single buildings stemmed I think from the work of that year. There has certainly been a more general acceptance that renewal of what we have can be as effective—and often more so—than destruction and rebuilding. These ideas through the '70s and '80s have bitten deep. In some cases almost too much so. As Sir Hugh Casson pointed out recently, many people would now prefer any existing building, however undistinguished, to even the best that could replace it. Yet despite occasional exaggerations, the gains have outweighed the losses. We have acquired a better collective sense of vigilance about the areas in which we live, something which, after all, is the main purpose of this Society. Let us make sure in 1987 that vigilance embraces not only buildings and conservation areas, but the whole context in which they exist. Let us make a special effort on behalf of gardens, squares, parks and open spaces of all kinds. Let us declare war on litter and pollution in defence of our streets and gardens. People come from all over the world to appreciate the borough in which we live. Let us make our whole environment worthy of their interest through our commitment to improving it and supporting the work of the Society.

JOHN DRUMMOND.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Assembly Hall, The Convent of the Assumption, Kensington Square, on May 14th.

Mr. Jabez-Smith, Chairman of the Executive Committee, introduced the new President of the Society, Mr. John Drummond, who then took the Chair. Mr. Drummond in a tribute to his predecessor as President recalled his friendship and association with Alec Clifton-Taylor which began in 1974 when he first persuaded him to present Television programmes.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, previously approved by the Committee, and circulated in the Annual Report, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman of the Committee, who was asked by the President to present the Report.

Mr. Jabez-Smith said that the success of the Cleaner Borough Group, under the Chairmanship of Mr. George Pole, formed at 18 Kensington Square by the Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kensington High Street Association, must be apparent to all. He asked for greater support for the Visits organised for members and their friends by Mrs. Christiansen. The Visits arranged for places outside London entailed a great deal of work and, as they were charged on a cost price basis, it was essential, to avoid loss, that application for tickets be made as early as possible so that the Society would not be saddled with the cost of coaches unnecessarily large for the numbers attending. Mr. Jabez-Smith, in presenting the Annual Report, said that, as usual, it had been compiled and edited by Mrs. Christiansen to whom the maintenance of the high standard of the Reports was entirely due. He proposed that her hard work for the Society in this as in many other matters be recognised by a round of applause, which was accorded by the Meeting with enthusiasm.

Mr. Keon Hughes, the Hon. Treasurer, then presented the Accounts from which it was apparent that subscriptions were insufficient to meet the cost of Printing, Typing, Stationery, Postage, Production of the Annual Report, etc., and that without the profit on last year's Sale, advertising and donations there would be a deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account. The Committee had therefore decided that the Subscriptions for 1987 and subsequent years should be £10 per annum for individuals and £25 for corporate bodies. Life Members might consider making voluntary payments in view of the inflation which was not in contemplation when Life Membership was offered. Mr. Keon Hughes then moved the adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1985. Lady Beresford-Clark seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

The following nominations were reported:

- (a) To serve on the Council. Mr. R. T. Wilmot, member of the



Executive Committee since 1953, and Mr. Ian Grant, F.R.I.B.A., member of the Executive Committee since 1973.

- (b) To serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Robert Meadows, A.R.I.B.A., Mr. Robert Martin, F.R.I.B.A., and Mrs. Barbara Denny.

Mrs. Dennis Marlow proposed the election of the above to the offices for which they had been nominated and the proposition being seconded by Mrs. Christie was carried unanimously.

The President then introduced Miss Hermione Hobhouse, General Editor of the *Survey of London*, who gave the Meeting a talk, illustrated by slides, about the work of the Survey with special reference to Kensington and the recently published Volume XLII *South Kensington: Kensington Square to Earl's Court*.

The Meeting concluded with the President's thanks on behalf of all those present to Miss Hobhouse for her most interesting talk and with the Hon. Secretary's expression of thanks to the Convent for their generosity in making their Assembly Hall available on specially reduced terms.

**His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester** has graciously consented to be present at the Society's Annual General Meeting on May 14th. The meeting will be followed by a lecture entitled **English Heritage** which will be given by His Royal Highness.

## Alec Clifton-Taylor

Our late President, Alec Clifton-Taylor, remembered the Society in his Will, leaving a legacy of £500.

Members who attended the lecture in October were, I'm sure, charmed with the beautifully illustrated lecture by Denis Moriarty, entitled *Buildings of Delight*. A synopsis of the lecture appears on page 22.

## Obituaries

### Sir Geoffrey Agnew

We regret to report the death of Sir Geoffrey Agnew. He attended the first meeting at 18 Kensington Square in 1953 to discuss the formation of the Society. He served on the Executive Committee from 1953 to 1971, and since 1971 he has served on the Council of the Society.

### Mr. R. W. K. Edgley

Sadly we report the death of Mr. Edgley, who died last February. He had been a member of the Kensington Society for 20 years. We are delighted that Mrs. Edgley is continuing the membership.

### Mrs. Stedham

We have just heard that Mrs. Stedham died in May. We remember her with great affection, for all her support with Mrs. Milborne, over many years. Helping at Sales, attending all Kensington Society functions, and her great interest in the amenities of Kensington.

### Cicely Howland, C.B.E.

A member of the Society since its foundation in 1953, died on December 30th. An appreciation appears on page 16 by her niece, Mrs. Sandercock.

### Miss Barbara Brian

An American, she died in October. Since joining the Society in 1972, she has made generous donations to the Society on her almost yearly visits to England, expressing her love and interest in this country, particularly Kensington. We shall miss her visits.

### Mr. Stanley Warren

A member of the Society since 1954, died in May. Mr. Warren was a very generous member, for many years he paid for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council advertisement in the Report. Last year, to mark 50 years' happy marriage, he gave a donation to the Society. We shall miss him.

### Mr. Alan Morkill, O.B.E.

Died in January. He joined the Society in 1954. He was very helpful at a time when the Society was resented by the Borough Council. Mr. Morkill was first elected to the Council of the former Royal Borough of Kensington in 1954. He represented the Redcliffe Ward until 1968.

During his membership of the Council he served on the Civil Defence, Finance, General Purposes and Libraries Committees. He represented the Council on a number of outside bodies including Kensington Parochial Charities, the Youth Committee, Brook Green and District Disablement Advisory Committee, etc. Mr. Morkill was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his devoted work in connection with the Victoria League.

After a fall two years ago, he left Kensington to live with his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Kenwick. He remained a member of the Kensington Society.



### Membership Subscriptions

The annual subscription was due on January 1st. Owing to an increase in administrative costs the annual subscription was increased to £10 at the 1986 Annual General Meeting. The work of the Society has greatly increased over the years, sending out repeated reminders not only increases our expenditure, but entails unnecessary work, so please will you help by being an up-to-date subscriber? Contributions by Deed of Covenant are the most cost-effective. A form will be found at the back of this Report.

### Donations and Advertising

Our thanks are particularly due to Mr. Barnabus Brunner for what appears to have become a yearly donation of £500 and to the Twenty-Seven Foundation for an annual donation of £50.

We are grateful for the support given by our advertisers, and our thanks are due to Mr. John de Vere Hunt who continues to pay for a charity advertisement.

We would like to record our appreciation of the friendly help we always receive from the young ladies in the Planning Information Room at the Town Hall. A telephone call is always greeted by 'Can I help you?'

## RECORDS OF KENSINGTON SQUARE

by  
**ARTHUR PONSONBY**  
(Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede)

PRICE £5  
Obtainable 18 Kensington Square W8

## A selection of cases dealt with

### 20 Kensington Palace Gardens

Proposal to demolish part of this house with change of use from offices to single family use. The Society approved the change of use, but strongly opposed demolition of the main façade of the Barry plan, c. 1845, and, its replacement with a luxury type of villa.

### Trees in Kensington Palace Gardens

Information was received from the Crown Estate Commission that 12 trees had died, four of the trees were to be replaced, but the other eight were not being replaced owing to the large mature trees in the Palace Grounds.

The Society approached the Forestry Commission Research Station and received the following information. 'During the post-war period, crown dieback has occurred periodically in the London plane. Most affected trees are very close to roadsides, but some damage has been recorded in parkland trees more than 45 metres from roads. Recent investigation strongly suggests that much of the damage can be attributed to the effect of the de-icing salt applied to roads during severe winters.'

The Forestry Commission suggested the use of urea compound to be used in place of de-icing salt. The Crown Commission admitted that the trees in Kensington Palace Gardens had probably been killed by de-icing salt. They have now agreed that a urea compound will be used, which they trust will minimise the damage to the trees in the future.

The Society is pleased with this result but feels very strongly that the eight trees which are part of the avenue of trees in Kensington Palace Gardens should be replaced, and are pressing this point with the Crown Estate Commission.

### 11-13 Ladbroke Terrace, 38-42 Ladbroke Road and 15-16 Wilby Mews (Bowley Clinic)

The application was for part demolition, rebuilding with extensions to the existing clinic, and the erection of five new houses. The plan was examined by the Secretary and by Mr. Meadows, A.R.I.B.A., Chairman of the Ladbroke Association and a member of the Society's Executive Committee.

Mr. Meadows said he and the Ladbroke Association had some reservations. These were passed to the Borough Planning Director, this resulted in a revised scheme, which was more acceptable. Planning permission has been given.



#### **Allen House, Allen Street**

The Society has opposed the sub-division of flats in this block of old-established residential flats, believing the applications to be for short-term flat-sharing purposes.

#### **114A Cromwell Road, 8-9 Grenville Place, 11-12 Emperors Gate, 1-6 and 10 McLeods Mews, S.W.7**

This is another site that has remained undeveloped for years. The present owners have a planning consent granted in 1984, which involves the building of two separate blocks—one commercial, the other residential, but both served by an underground car park. The developers applied successfully for the underground car park to be limited to the residential block only. The Society opposed this strongly as there is already an acute shortage of kerbside parking in the area, and holders of residents' parking permits frequently are unable to park. This decision of the Council, difficult to comprehend, will only make the position worse for them.

#### **Gloucester Road Station**

Members will only be too aware of the out-dated facilities at this station, particularly during the summer months when tourists add significantly to the numbers using the station. Also to the unkempt drab appearance of this station generally. It is with satisfaction that the Society is able to report that the London Regional Transport Executive is to put in hand, in 1987, a scheme of refurbishment and modernisation, which will greatly improve passenger handling facilities. The Society has been consulted and supported the planning application which, with its unified ticket hall, remodelled shops and brighter appearance, will be a great improvement.

The modernisation of the station was originally to be part of the comprehensive redevelopment of the much larger Gloucester Road/Cromwell Road site of which the station is a part. There has been a number of plans approved for this site, but not withstanding, developers have sold on and some 20 years later this important prime site remains undeveloped. Perhaps the solution is a Compulsory Purchase Order by the Council!

#### **The City of Westminster**

Invited a representative of the Society to attend their meetings in connection with a traffic study to identify problems in Bayswater, and the area bounded by Pembridge Road, Westbourne Grove, Gloucester Terrace and the Bayswater Road. Mr. Robert Meadows, a member of the Executive Committee, and a resident in the area, is representing the Society at the meetings.

#### **Bayswater Traffic Study—Mr. Meadows' Report**

The City of Westminster has appointed consultants to undertake a traffic study of the Bayswater area. The study area is bounded by Westbourne Grove on the north, Bayswater Road/ Notting Hill Gate on the south, Westbourne Terrace on the east and Pembridge Road/Villas on the west. This includes part of the Pembridge Conservation Area in Kensington, and the Borough Council has agreed to support the study and contribute towards the cost.

The study may recommend traffic management schemes within the area and other measures to improve the environment. Curtailment of traffic in the area might lead to an increase in traffic on the perimeter roads and in the adjacent areas. This is of particular concern to the Pembridge Conservation Area and the area to the west.

Consultation meetings with interested parties will take place at various stages of the study, and the Kensington Society will be represented at these meetings.

#### **Kensington Exhibition Centre**

An application has been made by the Exhibition Centre, Derry Street, for continued use as permitted by the 1976 planning permission, without complying with Condition No. 4 imposed on that permission which stated 'The loading and unloading of vehicles visiting the premises, including those delivering fuel, shall not be carried out otherwise than from within the curtilage of the building.' The Society has always been opposed to the planning permission given in 1976. In September, 1986, a meeting was held at 18 Kensington Square, attended by the Chief Superintendent of Police, the Officer in Charge of the Fire Brigade, the Manager of the Exhibition Centre, a Director of Ladbrokes and the Director of Town Planning and Transportation. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Hon. Secretary of the Society were also present.

The effect of through traffic and vehicles visiting the Exhibition Centre was discussed. The Manager and Director of the Exhibition Centre said they had done all in their power to ameliorate the effect on the Square.

The Society pressed the Director of Planning to give some thought to a new traffic management scheme, with the closing of Derry Street from Kensington Square. Ladbroke's Director said they would be very happy to pay for an arm across the entrance into the Square. The Society said this would require a new traffic management scheme.

#### **17/35 Gloucester Road, S.W.7**

Application before the Council for redevelopment behind the existing façade to provide shops with flats and offices above. Revised plans have been submitted by the developers and are an improvement on the original plans.



### **Councillor Orr-Ewing**

A meeting was held in September, at 18 Kensington Square, between the Chairman of the Town Planning Committee, Councillor Orr-Ewing, and members of the Executive Committee of the Society.

1. The Society asked for a strengthening of the Council's Enforcement Policy.
2. The Society said that the Development Plans Advisory Committee, which is attended by the Hon. Secretary or a representative of the Society, appears to have lost the vitality it formerly had, largely because very little of real interest and importance is put before it. Although the weekly planning lists contain many applications in conservation areas, meetings were frequently cancelled. The Society would like to see the purpose of the Development Plans Advisory Committee redefined.

Traffic was also discussed, in particular the traffic from Cromwell Road, cutting through Grenville Place, a residential area, for a right turn into Gloucester Road.

Through traffic from Kensington Road via Victoria Road through Kensington Square, a plea was made that Derry Street should be closed and a new traffic management scheme devised. Councillor Orr-Ewing said he would look into these matters, he also announced a new initiative by the Council, to look for low cost environmental improvements to enhance the residential character of the Borough.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society, Mr. Jabez-Smith, thanked Councillor Orr-Ewing for attending the meeting.

### **Coach Consultation Document**

The Society studied this document and found nothing to which we could object.

1. It is in favour of a large central Coach Terminus, as against a number of smaller ones.
2. The closure of the Gloucester Road coach park appeared to be accepted.
3. Neither of the proposed terminals is in Kensington, the choice is between Paddington and Vauxhall.
4. If Paddington becomes the terminus, traffic in Westway will increase, but it is designed for heavy traffic, and is elevated in its passage through North Kensington.

### **2, 3 and 4 Hyde Park Gate and 24 ½ Queens Gate Mews**

Application for change of use from hostel to 12 self-contained residential units, and the erection of a seven-storey rear extension. Opposed by the Society. Planning permission has been refused.

### **The Royal Geographical Society, Garden Development**

The Society was asked by the Westminster City Council to comment on an application for an 11-storey extension to Albert Mansions and

basement flats under the garden area. The scheme had been proposed by the Ergon Design Group. Members of the Executive Committee saw the model at the Geographical Society. It was considered to be a sensitive development, and the Society was glad to learn that the proposal included the replacement of the fencing along Exhibition Road with iron railings. The Society was told that the reason for the development was to raise a substantial capital sum to be used by the Royal Geographical Society to further their causes.

### **96 Kensington High Street—site at the back of Macmillan House**

Application for a four-storey house. This site, as a result of the conditions on the development of Macmillan House, was to have been landscaped and become open space. These conditions were an integral part of the permission. Apart from the principle that the site should not be developed, the site is unsuitable for development as there is no access directly from a public road and therefore no off-street parking. The Society strongly opposed this application. As we go to press we learn that planning permission has been refused and that the Developer has appealed.

### **West London Air Terminal, Cromwell Road**

Application for conversion to 423 flats, 20 shops with leisure and conference facilities. The plans were examined by members of the Executive Committee and were not opposed.

### **Satellite Aerials**

Some concern had been received from members about satellite aerials. A letter was sent to the Director of Planning and Transportation in September, 1986, asking for details about the Council's policy relating to satellite aerials. The Director's reply stated:

'The two Town and Country Planning General Development Orders of 1985, which allow certain aerials to be erected without planning permission as permitted development. These are:

- (i) Antenna on buildings more than 15 m high where (a) the antenna, being a microwave antenna, does not measure more than 1.3 m across and is not more than 2 m above the building; or (b) the antenna, being a satellite antenna, does not exceed 90 centimetres in size.

(These permitted classes do *not* apply to dwelling houses, nor do they apply in Conservation Areas designated before November, 1985.)

- (ii) Satellite antenna on a dwelling house not exceeding 90 centimetres in size and not rising above the highest part of the roof, nor, if in a conservation area, in front of the house.

The above is a simplification of somewhat complex Regulations.



'There are further permitted classes relating to apparatus and antenna erected by Telecommunications Code System Operators but so far as I am aware no such Operators are as yet licensed to operate in Kensington.

'In those cases where planning permission is required for these aerials each application would, of course, be considered by the Town Planning Committee in the normal way on its particular merits, and against policies in the District Plan. Since it is the Council's policy "to seek high environmental standards" and to "safeguard the appearance" of conservation areas and listed buildings, there is no doubt that any proposal for an aerial beyond that already allowed as "permitted development" would be looked at most critically and, in most cases, would be resisted.'

#### **Modernisation of Planning Controls Over Property—Revision of Class Uses Order**

On June 16th the Government issued a consultation paper entitled 'Proposals to modernise the Town and Country (Use Classes) Order, 1972'.

As stated in the 1985-86 Annual Report the Property Advisory Group produced an earlier Report on Use Classes, this was strongly opposed by the Borough Council and by the Society. The Society welcomed the Government consultation paper, but continued to have a number of reservations. A letter was sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, asking for further thought to be given to a number of proposals.

1. An expansion of the 'shops' class to include betting shops, banks, restaurants, estate agencies, hot take-away food, public houses—in particular hot take-away food shops which present environmental problems, this proposal could also mean the loss of local shops.
2. The merging of offices and light industry into a single use class, which would place undue pressure on industrial premises, and would lead to an unacceptable loss of workshop premises and semi-skilled employment, making it more difficult for workshop businesses to acquire premises at a price they can afford. The Society supports the Borough Council in asking for Class II office and Class III light industry to be retained.
3. A proposal to decontrol the sub-division of residential accommodation without the need for planning consent. The impact of these proposals would, the Society considers, have a detrimental effect over a still largely residential Borough.

#### **Other Cases**

34-35 Stanhope Gardens; 1-15 Templeton Place; Increase in the size of the Virgin Club Ltd. (Derry & Toms Roof Garden); Albert Lodge,

Victoria Road; 11-15 Old Court Place; 20 Essex Villas; 237 Earls Court Road; 26 The Boltons; 31 Gilston Road; Provision of Verger's flat within the Community Hall, St. Stephen's Church; Natural History Museum, alteration to provide admission charges facilities; 11 Launceston Place; Earls Court Exhibition Centre Extension; British Rail Olympia plans; Temporary use of Coach Station, Cromwell Road; Estate Agents' Boards; Richmond College Extension; 202 Earls Court Road, change of use Class 1 Retail Shop to Restaurant; 9-25 Yeoman Row; Barrack Site; Baileys Hotel, extension; 33, 35 and 37 Palace Gate, redevelopment; 9, 11 and 13 Melbury Road; 182 Kensington Church Street; and 1a Rabbit Row.

#### **Refuse Bin**

The Society has sponsored, at a cost of £150 a year, a refuse bin, which has been placed near Church Walk and Macmillan House.

#### **Records of Kensington Square**

These records were collected and written by Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede in 1936, his grandson, the present Lord Ponsonby, has added a Foreword.

The Manuscript was given to the Honorary Secretary by Dorothea, Lady Ponsonby, daughter of Sir Hubert Parry, in 1954. Considerable research went into these records and it was decided that they should be published by the Society.

A map and four photographs of the Square have been added to the booklet which is on sale, price £5.

#### **Memorial Garden**

The drainage and the irrigation of the Garden has given cause for concern during the past 12 months. It is a difficult site with only an 18 inch depth of soil, indeed the Garden could be likened to a large window box, and with so many large growing shrubs, azaleas and camellias, the moisture in the soil is soon taken up, and some camellias and azaleas have consequently died. These have been replaced this Autumn, and an improvement in the irrigation system has, hopefully, been made. Donations for the upkeep of the Garden are gratefully received.



## Kensington High Street Forum

The Borough Council, during the year, established a forum to enable amenity groups and commercial interests in Kensington High Street area, to consider proposals for the enhancement of the High Street Shopping Centre. The forum has met on four occasions, and has considered matters relating to planning policy, traffic and the environment.

The Society produced a High Street Study Paper, the Chairman of the forum agreed to make it a basis for the discussion.

At the last meeting of the forum in October, 1986, a report entitled 'Kensington High Street—Draft Action Plan', containing 33 aims and 46 action points, was discussed by the forum. It was then suggested that a three-year target date should be set for the implementation of the action points.

The Council has agreed to establish a Members' Working Group, to examine and report on each of the action points. The draft action plan contains a wide range of proposals, but those most supported by the Society are:

- \* to stop further losses of shops serving local needs;
- \* to call a halt to large-scale office development;
- \* to have a complete overhaul of the image of the High Street;
- \* to provide direct pedestrian crossings, rather than two-stage;
- \* to widen the pavements, improve the paving and street furniture;
- \* to improve the crossings at the side-street junctions;
- \* to plant trees and landscape wherever possible; and
- \* to set up a new management body for the High Street, composed of the Council, traders and residents and amenity groups.

The Council has already earmarked funds to make a start later this year. The Society welcomes this major initiative, but will be pressing the Council to push ahead quickly and harness the enthusiasm of traders and residents alike to improve the environment for people shopping in the High Street.

The Members' Working Party will be chaired by Councillor Bryan Levitt. The Society will be represented on the Working Party.

## Other Activities and Future Arrangements

### Other Activities

Visits were made to the Ismaili Centre, English Heritage Stone Carvers' Studio, Royal Horticultural Gardens, Wisley, Clondon Park, Guildford, Stratfield Saye House, Claydon House, Buckinghamshire. Sale was held at 18 Kensington Square in October. A lecture was given by Denis Moriarty in October. Visits were made to Trinity House, the Mansion House and Lloyd's.

### Future Arrangements

April 9th, a visit to *Saville Garden, Windsor Great Park*. The construction of the Garden began in 1932, and today is considered one of the finest of its type. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1.30 p.m. Coach and entrance fee £8. Refreshments are available, there is also a garden shop.

April 14th, at 2 p.m. *The Mansion House*. The official home of the Lord Mayor of London since the 18th century. George Dance the elder produced the stately building between 1739 and 1752. The principal apartment is the dining room which can accommodate 400 guests. No. 9 bus from Kensington High Street. Tickets required. Numbers limited. Members with tickets for February 10th need not apply again.

April 29th, at 1.45 p.m. A visit has been arranged to *Hyde Park Nurseries*, by kind permission of Mr. Jack Brown, Manager of the nurseries. Plants are grown here for Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, Lancaster House, Ham House, Osterley Park, the Royal Parks, etc. Nurseries are to the left of Hyde Park Police Offices—car park available at the nurseries.

May 14th, at 6.30 p.m. *The Annual General Meeting* will be held in the Small Town Hall, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Society, has graciously agreed to follow the meeting with an illustrated lecture entitled English Heritage. The President, Mr. John Drummond, will be in the Chair. Tickets are *not* required, please bring your friends.

June 16th, *Godinton Park* with tea given by Mrs. Christiansen at *Swanton Mill* (four miles from Godinton Park). Godinton Park belongs mostly to Jacobean times, the interior contains a wealth of very fine panelling and carving, fine furniture and china. The garden was laid out in the 18th century. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 12.30 p.m. Coach and entrance fee to Godinton Park £10.

July 7th, *Chilworth Manor, Nr. Guildford*. Lady Heald has very kindly agreed to a visit to Chilworth Manor. Garden was laid out in 17th



century on site of 11th century monastery. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1.30 p.m. Coach and entrance fee £8.  
August 22nd, 10 a.m. *Whitechapel Bell Foundry*, 32-34 Whitechapel Road, London E.1. We are privileged to visit this ancient Foundation. Bells have been cast here since AD 1570. Big Ben was also cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Numbers are limited. Nearest underground Aldgate. Bus 25 from Green Park Underground Station.

September 22nd, *Anglesey Abbey, Nr. Cambridge*. National Trust. Founded in the reign of Henry I. Converted to an Elizabethan Manor. Contains the Fairhaven Collection of art treasures. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 12.30 p.m. Coach and entrance fee £12.

PLEASE NOTE a charge of £1 is made for non-coach visits to cover expenses incurred. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope when applying for tickets. Money cannot be refunded, tickets may be passed to non-members.

## Miss Cicely Howland, C.B.E., M.V.O.

Miss Howland was born in November, 1886, and for many years lived in Amersham. When the 1914-18 war came she worked with nursing organisations in London, after the war in about 1921 she joined the Buckingham Palace Private Secretaries' office. She worked for King George V from then until his death, travelling round to all the Royal Estates with the various Private Secretaries.

Miss Howland then worked briefly for Edward VIII and then for King George VI and the present Queen Mother until her retirement in 1947.

When the King went to South Africa with his family, Miss Howland was offered a passage in H.M.S. *Vanguard* so that she could stay with her relations there.

Just before her 100th birthday she was invited by the present Palace secretaries to a tea in their office. She met three people who remembered her, and there was much talk as to how things were then and now. Miss Howland was so delighted when the Queen wished to see her again. They talked together for a while and she was finally driven home again.

Miss Howland had a very quiet 100th birthday with some very beautiful flowers and cards including one from the Kensington Society. She was very surprised that she had so many friends and relations.

We feel that having achieved her 100th and seen the Queen again she was happy to go.

HELEN SANDERCOCK.

## Architectural Details

Ian Grant

One of the most disturbing aspects in the matter of the preservation of buildings is the average owner's lack of interest in the maintenance of external architectural features.

The main reason seems to be ignorance on the part of the general public, concerned only with the financial considerations of revenue, who see cornices, porches, balustrades, string bands or drip moulds merely as useless excrescences which cost a lot to repair and protect.

In a more educated society one might expect that the value of ornament and architectural features, designed as an integral part of the exterior appearance of a building, would be appreciated and their importance for giving quality and balance would be accepted. Such appreciation does not appear any longer to exist.

Builders also must bear a large share of the responsibility for emasculation. Their operatives are no longer trained to correctly restore lost profiles, and the current trend which reduces everything into money values places any art at a low priority.

It is doubly unfortunate that Kensington, which is well in the forefront in the designation of Conservation Areas, should possess so many buildings faced in stucco, a material which is particularly vulnerable to the weather and to economy.

The provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act make no allowance for official policy in this field, and in fact buildings which do not figure on the Ministry of Housing and Local Government lists of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest enjoy virtually no protection, even though they may stand in Conservation Areas.

The Kensington Society does not agree with the opinion apparently held at the Ministry that the buildings themselves in many of the Conservation Areas are of no value, and the effect of the gradual erosion of the edges of the North Kensington areas should easily show the falsity of this.

It is quite evident that the size of new buildings is likely to be larger than that of the old, whilst the scale, dictated by the financial desire of the most for the least, becomes smaller.

Even where there is little danger of demolition, however, and full occupation and use is being enjoyed, the observer's heart sinks at the sight of evidence of any external work, since this almost always entails chopping off some part of Kensington's essential stucco.

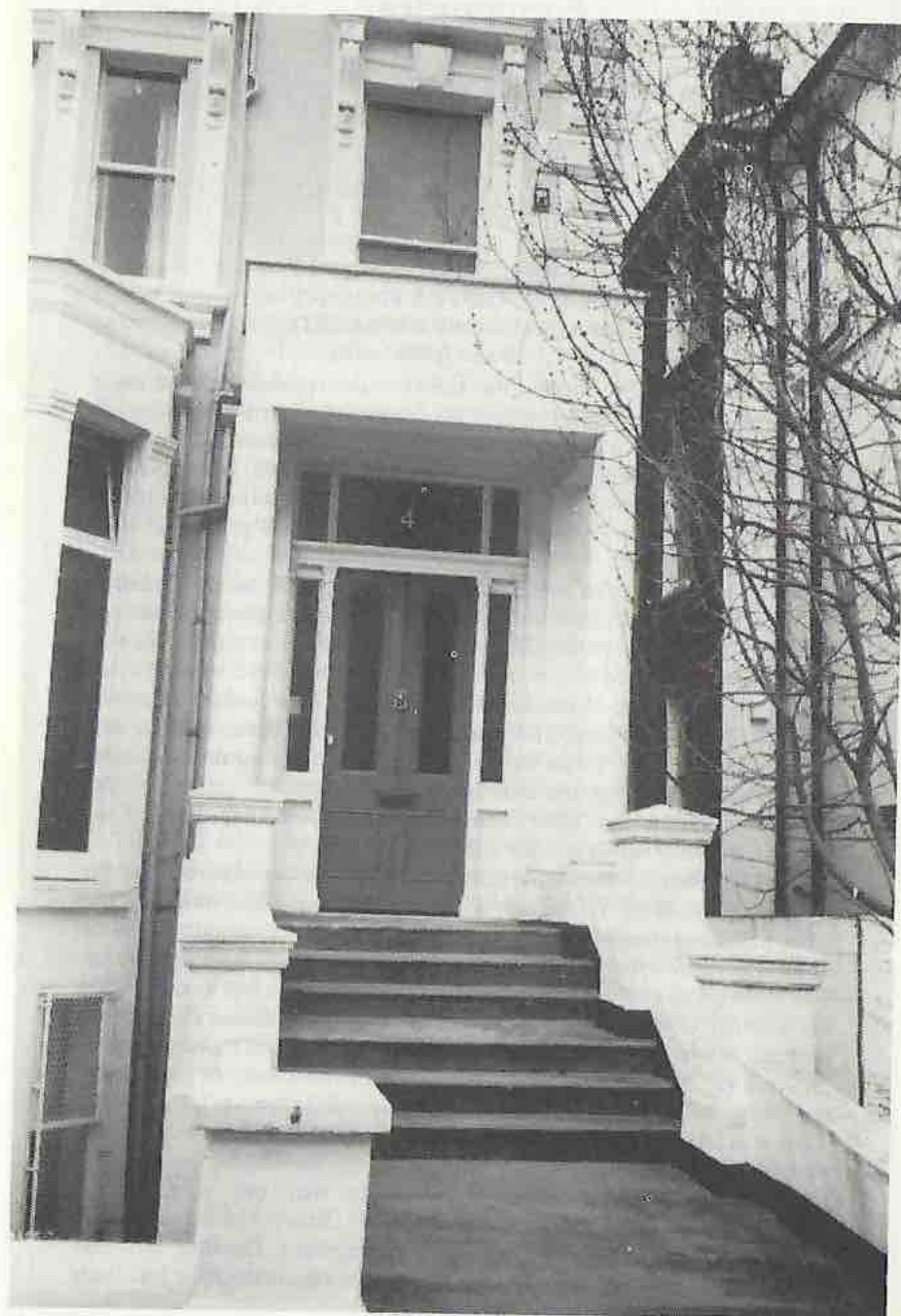
Modern techniques of fibreglass moulding would allow for the easy restoration of enrichments on a large scale, were the general public in the slightest degree interested in such a possibility, and one can only hope that the Borough Council might undertake a programme of education.



Ionic style porch as it ought to be



... and as erosion by builder's or owner's 'rationalisation' often leaves it





## A Cromwellian Memorial in Kensington

Set into the north wall of the alley which leads from Church Street to the north door of St. Mary Abbots Church is a freestone memorial tablet of exceptional interest. It bears this inscription:

NEERE THIS PILLER LIETH  
THE BODYE OF HENRY DAWSON  
ALDERMAN OF NEWCASTLE  
UPON TINE WHO WAS TWICE  
MAIOR OF THE SAID TOWN  
& A MEMBER OF THE PRESENT  
PARLIAMENT WHO DEPARTED  
THIS LIFE AUG ye 2 1653

As this inscription implies the tablet was originally placed on a pillar in the ancient church which was demolished in the last decade of the 17th century; it was evidently replaced inside the rebuilt church because in 1866 it was stated to be 'in the church of St. Mary Abbot' by a correspondent to *Notes and Queries*; one concludes therefore that it was expelled to its present exposed position when the present church was built in the 1870s.

The monument is of particular interest not only because church memorials of the Cromwellian period are rare but also because the parliament of which Henry Dawson of Newcastle was a member was the legislative body of 133 men selected and summoned by Cromwell to replace the Rump of the Long Parliament which he had dissolved in April, 1653, ordering the Speaker to leave the Chair, bidding one of his musketeers to 'Remove that Bauble' and turning the Members out. The new hand-picked assembly soon earned the sobriquet 'the Barebones Parliament' after its most vociferous Member, Praise-God Barbon, an Anabaptist leather seller of Fleet Street.

The Barebones Parliament was summoned to appear at the Council Chamber, Whitehall on July 4th, 1653, and take up the government of the country. With the exception of London no city or town was represented in this assembly, so the question arises, 'What was Henry Dawson's "constituency"?' It so happens that until 1866 the identity of the first Member for the County Palatine of Durham was unknown. Local historians knew that a list existed naming him as Davison or Dawson but could find no record in Durham archives of anyone of either name who could have been their county's first M.P. That was not surprising because he had not been elected; he had been nominated by the Puritan congregation of Newcastle as member for County Durham because Newcastle was not permitted a representative. It was the reference to the St. Mary Abbots memorial tablet in *Notes and Queries* which solved the mystery. Dawson had little opportunity to leave any impact on Durham affairs because less than a month after taking his seat he was dead.

Another question arises: Who was responsible for burying Dawson in St. Mary Abbots and erecting the memorial tablet? Perhaps his Will provides a clue. In this document dated June 21st, 1653, he gives to 'Mr. Sidrah Simpson, Pastor of a Church of Christ in London whereof I am though unworthy a member', a twenty-two shilling piece as a token. This Simpson had been one of the 'Assembly of Divines' in 1643 and so had Thomas Hodges, vicar of St. Mary Abbots from 1641 to 1672, a man highly regarded by the Commonwealth parliaments before whom he was a frequent preacher. Although I have been unable to find any corroborative evidence I think it probable that 'the church of Christ in London' of which Dawson was a member was St. Mary Abbots and that Sidrah Simpson was allowed by the puritan inclined vicar to preach there and the Puritan Dawson to be buried, and a memorial to him to be erected, there.

I am indebted to Mrs. Enid Hart, President of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for information concerning Henry Dawson's municipal career and for referring me to *Men of Mark twixt Tyne and Tweed* by Richard Welford (1895) and *Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the Puritan Revolution* by Roger Howell Jnr. (1967) on both of which, together with Judith Scott's *The Story of St. Mary Abbots* (1942), I have drawn in compiling this note.

Dawson was born about 1600, became a general merchant in Newcastle, was one of the founders of the Puritan group there, was elected Alderman in 1644 and became Mayor in 1646 and again in 1652. As Mayor he did not earn the admiration of 24-year-old Ralph Gardner, an Exchequer Commissioner, whose opinion, recorded by Howell, of the Newcastle magistrates Dawson and one Bonner was that they understood their office 'no more than a company of geese, only they can carry a White staffe and sitt where other knowing mayors have done and can sett brancks upon womens heads and gags in their mouths which the law doth not provide'.

This wall tablet has suffered much from its exposure to the weather during the last hundred years; its rapid deterioration was pointed out in 1942 by Mrs. Arundell Esdaile, the authority on church monuments; as the result of its condition being again noted by this Society in its first annual report in 1954 a cowl was fixed over the tablet to protect it from rain and pigeons but the deterioration has continued. The Society has called the attention of English Heritage to the desirability of preserving this very rare example of a Cromwellian memorial to an extreme Puritan in an anglican church; English Heritage have inspected it and have promised to advise this Society if, and if so how, the memorial can be restored.

A.R.J-S.





## Synopsis of Mr. Denis Moriarty's Lecture in October

Alec Clifton-Taylor, our former president who died in 1985, would have been 80 this year. Last September, the book on which he was working at the time of his death, his *Buildings of Delight*, was published by Gollancz. It had been edited and completed by Denis Moriarty, his close friend and producer at BBC TV for two of the three series of English Towns that made Alec Clifton-Taylor's name a household word among all those who love architecture. When all 18 programmes were repeated, on BBC 2, some for the third time, shortly after his death, the audience soared on two occasions to over five million, the largest number of people surely who had ever watched programmes on architecture. It was the best possible tribute to a much-loved man whose infectious enthusiasm had made countless people look at buildings for the first time.

To coincide with the publication of *Buildings of Delight* Denis Moriarty was invited by the Kensington Society to address a meeting of members on October 6th. Alec's successor as our President, John Drummond, introduced the speaker. By happy chance it was he, when he worked as Assistant Head of Music and Arts at BBC TV, who first introduced Denis Moriarty to Alec. Indeed it had been John Drummond who first gave Alec his television chance, at what might for some have been the advanced age of 67, with his début in 'The Medieval World', the first highly-acclaimed episode of a very successful series 'Spirit of the Age', produced for European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975.

With the aid of slides, Denis Moriarty recalled the happiest of working relationships and collaboration over the last 10 highly productive years of Alec's life. Much of their work had been undertaken at Alec's house in Clareville Grove, S.W.7, where he lived for over 20 years. It was a terrace house, somewhat lacking in the modern comforts of central heating and up-to-date gadgetry, but

it was a home in which he took enormous pleasure. 'Can any form of urban housing,' he would ask, 'be more civilised than the terrace? With only two walls these houses are warmer than detached dwellings while unity, provided neighbourly decencies with regard to colour schemes and glazing bars prevail, make for dignity.' There is significance too for modern urban building, 'and how sad it is that so many architects and developers seem to have rejected terrace housing. Socially, aesthetically and economically, such houses, with their own gardens, are surely far superior to high-rise blocks which have destroyed the scale and skyline of so many pleasant and undeserving towns!'

Alec Clifton-Taylor loved gardens, and at Clareville Grove he made his own somewhat higgledy-piggledy but delightful creation, adding a piece from the house next door, which incidentally he also owned, and giving himself an L-shaped plot which he planted for perennial pleasure. He gardened a lot himself, especially after lunch, to recharge his batteries and ward off the temptations of a gentle nap. He built a goldfish pond, complete with a mobile and fountain, and an occasional visiting duck for company, whose visit prompted one of over 50 letters he had published in *The Times*. His target areas were top left for the leading letter, or bottom right for the best fun. In the north-west corner of the garden, he had made, by his faithful long-serving handyman Symes, who predeceased him by only a couple of months, a garden shed. It was a hexagon, made of wood, with ogee roof and finials, nicely hung with shingles, and in inspiration not unreminiscent of the garden pavilion at Montacute. He built too a garden room which was almost as good as being in the garden itself, and he kept in a tiny pocket diary a careful score of days spent there and in the garden to confound the more pessimistic critics of the English climate.

Despite the occasional cold and gloom, which he detested, Alec Clifton-Taylor would otherwise hear nothing against England, the loveliest country in the world, full of beautiful things, a long history of political stability and a most wonderful variety of building materials. London was by far his preferred place to live; he was a real metropolitan, a walk away from the museums and galleries, and close to plenty of public transport. He regarded taxis as an undesirable and only very occasional necessary extravagance. He revelled in bargain long-distance rail travel, always second-class, to which his senior-citizen rail card gave him access. At journey's end he was content with simple comforts; an extra blanket, perhaps, for warmth, but no hotel bedroom need ever have a bath *en suite*, and a good Spanish carafe was infinitely preferable to something pretentious, over-priced and over-ambitious in an over-length wine list. He was indeed totally unpretentious; true, he loved a lord, enjoyed good company and the good things of life, but his sense of humour never forsook him, and everyone and everything was subject to clearly expressed critical standards and assessed on merit.



Alec Clifton-Taylor was admittedly modest in his lifestyle and his tastes, but it was a modesty based on an intense self-discipline and routines that served him well in his work and in his life. His two luxuries were a 'gin and it', lavishly dispensed at the pre-prandial luncheon hour, a heady cocktail learned perhaps in languid Oxford days of two parts gin, one dry white, one sweet red martini; and five cigarettes at carefully spaced intervals throughout the day, and never before lunch. If at all possible they were of exquisite quality; Abdullah or Balkan Sobranie had been the favourites.

Despite his modest way of life he was a man of great generosity, both of his time and his money. He had come from a comfortable background, as he always said 'with enough money', but he acted with great responsibility in his good fortune and gave continual thanks for his excellent health, which only deserted him for the last six weeks of his life. Many private individuals acknowledged many kindnesses, often in substantial material terms; like many other worthy causes he provided a small bequest for the Kensington Society, and the residue of his not inconsiderable estate (it totalled over a million pounds) went to the National Trust. He proclaimed keen and sincere admiration for those fully committed to public and civic responsibilities, but he was no mean participant himself. Apart from his presidency with the Kensington Society, he supported many a worthy institution and served as vice-president and patron of various bodies, and was for a number of years a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Southwark. He took a keen but fiercely independent interest in the body politic, and voted for all and none of the major political parties. He was a man of strong opinions, carefully thought out, fearlessly expressed. From the Mayor's chair in two of his English towns, a temptation he could scarcely resist, he railed against the wretched and insulting legislation of the 1974 Local Government Act which distorted ancient boundaries, and created the monstrous Avon and Humberside, and played havoc with civic powers and pride. 'In my work, I ignore it altogether; Beverley will always be in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Bath in Somerset.'

Much of his work, reading and writing, was done in his garden room. For the rest of the year he was off giving illustrated talks up and down the country, and twice his lecture tours took him round the world. All the time he was using his eyes, looking, and writing up his response. When he came to his public career on screen he said he wanted his programmes to be an 'exercise in looking'. This making of detailed notes, and recording his impressions of every place he visited, was a lifelong habit; abroad he wrote in extensive journals, at home on pieces of paper 6 inches by 9 inches (often the reverse of circulars, unwanted letters or discarded bills) carefully filed in brown envelopes, stored in a Sainsbury's grocery box and meticulously cross-indexed in reference books. It was utterly antiquated, and never subjected to the simplest of more sophisticated techniques, *but it worked*, and give or take the odd hiccup, information was capable of

almost instant retrieval. All the notes are in neat, miniscule manuscript which scarcely changed over the years. Moreover, Alec was truly ambidextrous; he could write legibly with the left as with his right hand, and his party trick was to write with a pen in each hand at the same time!

This collection of highly original material (for he looked as we now all know with a selective and perceptive eye), backed up by sound scholarship and meticulous research, was the basis for all his published work in books, on lecture platforms and television screen. This inventory is eventually and happily destined for safe keeping in the Courtauld Institute, with whom he had a long association as a lecturer, when it moves to Somerset House. The written masterpiece is, of course, the *Pattern of English Building*, first published in 1962, and about to appear in a new edition, revised by an old friend Jack Simmons, published by Faber. It is a unique work, and with its finely detailed appreciation of traditional materials, methods and crafts, it changed perceptions of the understanding of English architecture. *English Cathedrals*, published by Thames and Hudson, has sold over a million copies; *English Parish Churches*, a superb *tour de force* concerned with the stylistic evolution of perhaps England's most precious heritage, a revised edition of which he was working on up to the time of his death, has recently been republished by Batsford, with the expert assistance of another old friend, Mervyn Blatch. *Buildings of Delight*, is, *mirabile dictu*, already in a third impression.

This last book brings together 100 of Alec Clifton-Taylor's favourite buildings, reduced to a manageable number by Denis Moriarty and his publisher, Peter Crawley with Gollancz, from an original list of 166. It ranges from castles and abbeys to mills and dovecots by way of great houses, manor houses, farm houses, churches, bridges, market crosses, and even railway viaducts and stations. All are described in fascinating detail, and beautifully illustrated in black and white as well as colour, the first of Alec's books substantially to have this benefit, something he always longed for, and would have loved to see. There is scholarship as well as humour: needless to say, no punches are pulled, for even favourites have faults, and no-one was more judicious in handing out criticism as well as praise. 'Alec Clifton-Taylor,' wrote one critic, 'may provoke, but is never dull.' 'Salty and scholarly,' said another, '*andante con brio*'.

His main aim was to give pleasure. He had a spring in his step, and a twinkle in his eye. His life was his work, and he delighted in both. The closing words of his last television programme were both fortuitous and of the utmost felicity, a fitting summary of all he did. 'If you love architecture as I do,' he said as he boarded the train leaving Durham, 'you'll never come to the end of England.'

Alec Clifton-Taylor's *Buildings of Delight*, edited by Denis Moriarty, is published by Gollancz at £12.95.



## A generation of Kensington Artists: Callcott and Wilkie

When I was brought as a child to live in Kensington in 1945, fashion in art was different from what it is now when Victoriana are all the rage and the refurbished Leighton House is justly admired. We rather despised our late Victorian house at 1 Scarsdale Villas, which had been previously occupied by Lady Benson, who had built a studio in its back garden, then occupied by an artist by the name of A. D. Maclaren and later by Dennis Flanders and Donald Swann. Sir John Gielgud has recalled attending Lady Benson's drama school in a ramshackled studio (perhaps an earlier one) a few yards from his grandmother's house 'in the detested Cromwell Road'. A decade ago I founded the Turner Society in a house in that same detested road, now by virtue of that fact called Turner House, and I began to take an interest in Turner's contemporaries who had had their homes and studios in Kensington.

A charming illustration of such a studio is recorded in a water-colour dated 1793 in the British Museum by Paul Sandby showing the studio in his back garden at 23 Hyde Park Place, Bayswater. A house and studio to survive are those of Richard Redgrave at 27 Hyde Park Gate, later the last home of Sir Winston Churchill. Redgrave was one of the pillars of the South Kensington Museum, to which John Sheepshanks in 1857 gave his collection of British paintings, as he admired the semi-rural character of Kensington and had less admiration for the incompetence of the National Gallery in failing to build a proper extension for the similar collection of British pictures given to it in 1847 by Robert Vernon. Both collections covered the period dealt with by Redgrave and his brother in a book published in 1866, and still in print, *A Century of British Painters*. Two of the leading painters of the end of this period lived in Kensington. They were Sir David Wilkie and Sir Augustus Wall Callcott, the one knighted in 1836, the other in 1837. They lived in, respectively, the Kensington High Street area and Kensington Gravel Pits, now Notting Hill Gate. It was only later that South Kensington was developed. (Sheepshanks built his own house at 24 Rutland Gate, Kensington Road, in the 1840s.)

Callcott came of a family of builders who had lived for some generations in the Mall, Kensington Gravel Pits. He was the chief disciple of J. M. W. Turner who, according to two plaques which have each been stolen, used to come to paint the sunsets from Campden Hill Square, probably before Callcott married in 1827. Farington recorded in his diary for April 8th, 1813, that Turner had been to call on Callcott in Kensington. Lady Callcott had literary pretensions, and the Callcott family had many musical connections, commemorated indirectly by the plaque to Muzio Clementi at 128

Kensington Church Street. The musician and amateur artist Dr. William Crotch was attracted thither, as were various landscape and genre painters such as Mulready, Linnell and Creswick. (Kensington was still too remote to be convenient for fashionable portraitists and their sitters.)

Some of these artists lived in villas in Linden Gardens probably designed by Thomas Allason. One of these villas, number 42, is now occupied by the Mansell Collection of photographs and its director Louie Boutroy, whose grandfather Edouard Rischgitz was living there by 1884. Directors describe him as 'artist' and Augustin Rischgitz as 'grangerizer' or 'art editor and publisher', and the studios they built housed various artists and were used by Sir Henry Irving for his wedding reception.

Wilkie's last Kensington home, in Kensington Church Street, is recorded in photographs by Rischgitz in the local library. His first house, now the site of Safeways in Kensington High Street, he described in fascinating detail in a letter to his sister of March 24th, 1813, quoted in Cunningham's life of the artist. Until it was pulled down it had a plaque on it.

It seems sad that so little remains. It is true that Richard Ansdell's residence is commemorated by Ansdell Street, and Callcott's by Callcott Street, but of the other artists there is hardly any memorial, apart from those in Kensal Green Cemetery, beyond North Kensington, where so many were buried, and where still can be seen the recumbent effigy of Mulready and the tomb chest with coat of arms of Turner's friend James Holworthy, who quitted his career as a water-colourist for that of a country gentleman on marrying the niece of Wright of Derby.

Only a book could do justice to the period and consider the many strands in his era of supreme literary and artistic achievement. Was there a Kensington School of artists? How far did they participate in the literary and political concerns of Holland House and Lady Blessington's Gore House? It is perhaps ironic that the latter nearly became the site of the National Gallery, in which case the Vernon and Sheepshanks collections of these painters' works would have been housed together and in Kensington.

When Wilkie died in 1841 that was an event of great moment, and people competed on how best to commemorate him. Turner painted *Peace—Burial at Sea*, William Collins a picture of Wilkie's last Kensington home, and a committee of all the luminaries of the art world, led by Sir Robert Peel, appealed for subscribers to a statue of Wilkie to stand in the entrance to the National Gallery. That now is relegated to a remote store of the Tate Gallery. Might there not be an appeal today to have it re-erected in Kensington Gardens near his last home? Even if all the houses have gone, at least there would be one memorial to an artist whose popularity was enormous in his own day and is rapidly reviving in America, if not yet in this country.



### Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank the Kensington Reference Library for its help and also various individuals who have aided me at various times: Miss Louie Boutroy, Dr. Stephen Pasmore, Sir John Riddell and Dr. David Blayney Brown (a Kensington resident and author of important studies of Callcott and Wilkie and now on the staff of the Tate Gallery).

SELBY WHITTINGHAM.

### A. Kensington Gravel Pits (Notting Hill Gate)

#### The Mall

Sir A. W. Callcott (1779-1844) from his birth until his death, except 1801-02. The house was sold by William Hutchings Callcott in 1873, and is now replaced by the Essex Unitarian Church, Palace Gardens Terrace, erected 1886-87.

John Callcott Horsley, R.A. (great-nephew of the preceding). In 1839 his address was 1 High Row; 1847, The Mall; 1855-96, 2 Tor Gardens.

Thomas Webster, R.A. (1800-82), lived next to Sir A. W. Callcott 1833-79.

Dr. William Crotch (1775-1847) lived at Kensington Gravel Pits 1821-32; 10 Holland Street 1832-36; Bedford Place (now Gardens) 1836-45.

#### Linden Grove (now Linden Gardens)

No. 1 (now No. 42). William Mulready, R.A., lived here 1828-63. He and Linnell had earlier lived together at Kensington Gravel Pits 1809-11. Later occupied by the Rischgitz family.

No. 7. Thomas Creswick, R.A., lived here 1836-69.

The freehold of this estate was sold in 1849 to its architect Thomas Allason, who left it to three daughters, one, Louisa Creswick Allason (a god-daughter of Thomas Creswick?), married Captain Arthur Bull, living at 5 and 6 Linden Grove in 1877.

### B. Kensington High Street and neighbouring streets

Sir David Wilkie came to Kensington in November 1811, the year previously having been in Chelsea. Then 1813-24 24 Lower Phillimore Place (a new house); 1824-37 7 The Terrace (an older house opposite); 1837-41 Vicarage Place, Maitland House (next door to York House, where Princess Sophia lived 1839-48). The site of this was just North of Kensington Barracks and is now occupied by the offices of L'Oréal.

John Leech lived at 31 Notting Hill Terrace (1848) and at 6 The Terrace (1862-64).

Thomas Daniell, R.A. (1749-1840), was from 1820 at 14 Earl's Terrace.

Richard Ansdell (1816-85) was 1847-61 at 7 Victoria Road, and in 1860-61 built Lytham House, St. Alban's Grove.

A. E. and J. J. Chalon were brought by their father from Geneva to Kensington. After spending their working lives in central London they retired in 1854 to part of Little Campden House, which they called 'El Buen Retiro'. For some reason, however, they tried to leave their pictures to Hampstead.

Louis Francis (1772-1839) lived briefly at 5 Lower Phillimore Place, c. 1803-05.

### Further Reading

The Survey of London volumes on Kensington.

Numerous books on Holland House.

David Blayney Brown, *August Wall Callcott*, Tate Gallery 1981.

David Blayney Brown and C. Loyd, *Lady Callcott's journal of her honeymoon in Germany and Italy 1827-28*, Oxford Microform Publications Ltd., 1981.

David Blayney Brown and Hamish Miles, *Sir David Wilkie*, touring exhibition, U.S.A., 1987.

W. Gordon Corfield, *The Phillimore Estate, Campden Hill*, The Kensington Society, 1961.

Allen Cunningham, *The Life of Sir David Wilkie*, three volumes, 1843 (I, pp. 373-4, etc.).

Florence Gladstone and Ashley Barker, *Notting Hill in Bygone Days*, new edition, 1965.

Wilmot Harrison, *Memorable London Houses*, 1889.

Rosamund Brunel Gotch, *Mendelssohn and his Friends in Kensington, Letters from Fanny and Sophy Horsley 1833-36*, 1934, *Letters from Fanny and Maria, Lady Callcott*, 1937.

Kathryn Moore Heleniak, *William Mulready*, 1980.

J. C. Horsley, *Recollections of a Royal Academician*, 1903.

Leigh Hunt, *The Old Court Suburb*, 1855.

Peter Jackson, 'The Square that Turner Loved . . .', *Evening News*, June 23rd 1959; March 15th, 1975.

Dr. Stephen Pasmore, 'When Gravel was dug in Kensington', *Country Life*, November 13th, 1975.

Dr. Stephen Pasmore, 'The Rural Kensington of Dr. William Crotch', *The Antique Dealer and Collectors Guide*, April, 1984.

F. M. Redgrave, *Richard Redgrave, C.B., R.A., A Memoir, compiled from his diary*, 1891.

Richard Redgrave, *On the Gift of the Sheepshanks Collection with a View to the Formation of a National Gallery of British Art*, 1857.

Richard and Samuel Redgrave, *A Century of Painters of the English School*, two volumes, 1866.

M. S. Watts, *George Frederic Watts: the annals of an artist's life*, two volumes, 1912.

Selby Whittingham, 'Turner Anecdotes', *Turner Society News*, 37, September, 1985, p. 6.



## Princess Alice's Memorial Garden

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Borough held on July 16th, 1986, the Mayor, Councillor John Cox, announced 'that he was sure that Members of the Council had watched with enormous pleasure the splendid garden beneath the Council Chamber mature since it was formed in 1983. This was a gift from the Kensington Society in memory of their Patron of many years Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The Society's Honorary Secretary, Mrs. G. Christiansen, was the prime mover behind the formation of the garden and she has worked tirelessly to make the garden as beautiful as it is today. He had written on behalf of the Council to Mrs. Christiansen expressing warm appreciation for her inspiration and hard work and saying how much the garden is enjoyed not only by all who use the Town Hall, but by the many people who pass up and down Horton Street.'

This statement is greatly appreciated by those of us who know the extent of the time and energy spent by Mrs. Christiansen, both in physically maintaining the garden and in raising funds for the purchase of shrubs and other plants to replace those which, in the process of time, have succumbed from one cause or another. This is an opportunity for me to thank those of our members who have made gifts during the past year specifically for the maintenance of Princess Alice's garden and to emphasise that its maintenance is a continuing commitment. There is no better way to express our appreciation of our Honorary Secretary's gift of her time and energy to the objects of our Society than by contributing to the expense of keeping beautiful the garden which was inspired by her.

A.R.J.-S., *Chairman of Executive Committee.*

## Mr. Michael Winner's Christmas Card 1985

*Mr. Winner has generously agreed to help with the extra cost (see next page).*

*Painting by Thomas Christopher Hoiland (1777-1843) shows Nightingale Lane, Kensington, circa 1836. This is now called Ilchester Place and the wall in the picture is the east wall of the grounds of 31 Melbury Road.*

Thirty-nine years after this picture was painted, in 1875, the renowned Victorian artist, Sir Luke Fildes, decided to put all of a recent inheritance into the building of a mansion for himself on the corner of Nightingale Lane and Melbury Road.

Referring to Nightingale Lane, Sir Luke Fildes' son wrote in a biography of his father:

'There was a country lane which led up from Kensington High Road to the stables at Holland House—a most remarkable place, a formal example of Jacobean architecture with its surrounding parklands and formal gardens. The country lane also gave access to Little Holland House—the Dower House (e.g. Guest House) of Lord Holland—and also a farm. The Dower House and the farm buildings were to be pulled down and a new road to be called Melbury Road was to be made taking in part of the country lane.

'The garden of the house Sir Luke Fildes was to build on this site, now 31 Melbury Road, "... was as much a part of the background as the house itself". **A many-buttressed wall of great age was the Eastern boundary.** On the other side of it was the country lane, leading up to the stables of Holland House. On the far side of the lane there were towering elms and a bank which was a mass of wild flowers in Spring and Summer.

'Every day at milking time, with mooings and tinklings of bells, cows came along the lane, into Melbury Road, and then down to Tunk and Tisdall's Dairy in the High Road, Kensington. Squirrels, owls and peacocks from Holland House used to visit the garden—and such as I have been describing them, the rural surroundings of the house would long remain.'

Today the 'many-buttressed wall' still stands. So does the house built by the famous Victorian architect Norman Shaw for Sir Luke Fildes (see next page).

The 'lane' still leads up to the grounds of Holland House, now a public park, the great house largely destroyed by World War II bombs. Peacocks and squirrels still visit the garden of 31 Melbury Road from Holland Park and on rare and spasmodic moments the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea clean the litter from the street which otherwise looks like East Beirut on a bad day. Local residents fight on valiantly to preserve such of the grand Victorian artists' houses as remain, from the encroachment of property developers.

MICHAEL WINNER.



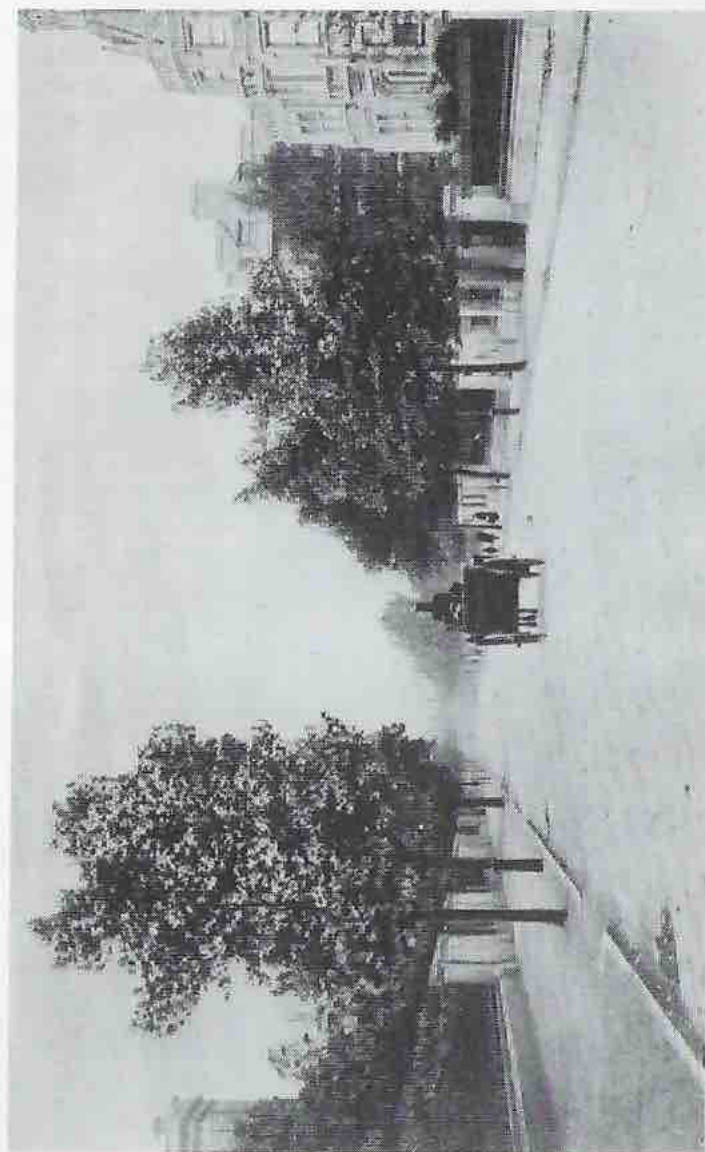
Nightingale Lane, circa 1836, by Thomas C. Hofland, 1777-1843



The 'many-buttressed' wall in Christopher Hofland's oil painting as it looks today, leading up to the entrance to Holland Park. And below, the house at 31 Melbury Road showing the wall and roadway on the right of the photograph.







KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS  
*Avenue of trees, c. 1905*



KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS  
*Avenue of trees, c. 1887*

### Trees in Kensington Palace Gardens

Information was received from the Crown Estate Commission that 12 trees had died, four of the trees were to be replaced, but the other eight were not being replaced owing to the large mature trees in the Palace Grounds.

The Society approached the Forestry Commission Research Station and received the following information. 'During the post-war period, crown dieback has occurred periodically in the London plane. Most affected trees are very close to roadsides, but some damage has been recorded in parkland trees more than 45 metres from roads. Recent investigation strongly suggests that much of the damage can be attributed to the effect of the de-icing salt applied to roads during severe winters.'

The Forestry Commission suggested the use of urea compound to be used in place of de-icing salt. The Crown Commission admitted that the trees in Kensington Palace Gardens had probably been killed by de-icing salt. They have now agreed that a urea compound will be used, which they trust will minimise the damage to the trees in the future.

The Society is pleased with this result but feels very strongly that the eight trees which are part of the avenue of trees in Kensington Palace Gardens should be replaced, and are pressing this point with the Crown Estate Commission.



# Reports from Local Societies

## ABBOTSBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

On appeal, the refusal by the Borough Council of planning consents for the erection of a three-storey extension in the garden of 8 Addison Road, a Grade 1 Listed Building, was upheld by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The cost of resisting this monstrous proposal by way of legal fees and retainers for expert witnesses was £23,894, which was met entirely by voluntary contributions by residents of Abbotsbury Close, Abbotsbury Road and Woodford Square.

The Association is strongly supporting a proposal by the Borough Council under the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1986 to install humps in Abbotsbury Road in order to moderate the speed of through traffic.

An application for a licence for week-day music and dancing up to 2 a.m. at the Halcyon Hotel, Holland Park, was opposed by this and six other residents' associations and groups, the three Holland Ward Borough Councillors and more than 230 individuals. The Association is very concerned that despite such overwhelming local opposition this application was granted by the Council.

*Chairman:* Professor R. J. L. Allen, O.B.E., 63 Abbotsbury Close, W14.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss N. Muller, 5 Abbotsbury Close, W14.

## THE BOLTONS ASSOCIATION

The most significant planning application in 1986 was for the reconversion of 29 The Boltons (formerly the French Centre) to a private house, replacing the modern extension in Gilston Road with a traditional style building and also adding a storey to the Tregunter Road elevation. The Association objected strongly to the increase in height unless it was coupled with a reduction in the side extension and these representations resulted in some—though in the Association's view not enough—modification to the plan, which has now received the Council's approval. Nevertheless, the final result is a great improvement on what exists at present.

The new development at 30 The Boltons is now almost complete and the Association has been strenuously resisting applications for the erection of a swimming pool with conservatory enclosure in the garden because of its damaging effect on the outlook and amenities of residents in Priory Walk. The long drawn out saga of the Bolton Studios has ended—a revised plan was accepted by the Council

because the compensation factor outweighed their wish to refuse permission.

Dish Aerials, which are beginning to appear in the Conservation Area and are likely to proliferate, have been causing the Association some concern. Under some circumstances, a satellite antenna can fall within permitted development, but the Association has sought to clarify just what the criteria for permitted development are and, when planning permission is required, is urging the Council to withhold permission.

The Proposal Statement for the Courtfield Conservation Area has now been completed and in its light applications concerning areas that were formerly under the wing of the Boltons Association will continue to be monitored until a Courtfield Association is formed.

*Chairman:* Mr. Philip English, 14 Milborne Grove, London SW10.

*Secretary:* Miss Elizabeth Lowry-Corry, Flat 3, 60 Redcliffe Gardens, London SW10.

## THE CAMPDEN STREET PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Society exists to preserve the character and amenities of the Street. It is flanked mostly by little three-storey terraced houses. These houses, built 150 years ago for artisans, are found as convenient nowadays by professional people, artists, writers, antiquarians and the like.

In exceptional cases, business use can generate noise and activity which makes the area a less pleasant place in which to live. This is recognised by the Department of the Environment which has recently dismissed an Appeal to continue such use.

Insensitive house development is a matter which continually occupies our attention, and we are glad that some propositions have either been withdrawn or modified before they have gone too far.

A present interest is in the future of the building which accommodates the Byam Shaw School of Art. It was purpose-built for the opening of this independent school here in 1910, but now more space is needed and a move is being considered. The building is not Listed, but it has a striking appearance and is a feature of the Street together with the art students who frequent it. It fits in with the character of Campden Hill which has long been a centre of artistic culture and excellence. We hope that another art school may take over the building, but Developers' money may defeat that.

*Chairman:* Patrick Ronaldson.

*Secretary:* Clarice Gurney.

## EDWARDES SQUARE, SCARSDALE AND ABINGDON ASSOCIATION

The Association has been active particularly in looking at a large



number of planning applications for small extensions to houses in the area during the year. Some of the more contentious have been:

*Rear of 53 Abingdon Road*—ESSA objected to the erection of six small offices in a three-storey office block in the middle of a highly residential area which it was felt was a further encroachment of offices. Refused by the Council. Overdevelopment of site.

*Pembroke Square—roof extension*—Concern was felt for the number of extensions and it was felt that the Council's policy with regard to the square was being disregarded. It was agreed that the line should be held on the west of the square.

*St. Philip's Church, Earls Court Road*—The erection of St Philip's Mews to the east of the site and a new St. Philip's House to the south together with part demolition of the church at the east end is being considered at the moment together with concern for the design of a new *College House, Wrights Lane*, for which a planning application has been made. It was noted that increasingly the Council are granting office consents to one particular applicant only during their occupation in residential areas and it was felt that this should be of benefit to the community and some control would be exercised over office uses.

Residents of *Abingdon Villas* and ESSA successfully objected to the new mini-bus service—C1—from operating along the road, which was totally unsuitable, and has now been redirected to Phillimore Walk.

Finally, a new Chairman and Secretary have been appointed.

*Chairman:* Mr. A. M. Carr-Gomm, 70 Warwick Gardens, W14.

*Secretary:* Mrs. S. Anderson, 8 Phillimore Terrace, W8.

## THE EARLS COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The individual Members of the Committee have continued to look after their allotted spheres of responsibility and to report progress at the regular monthly meetings.

This year we are pleased to say that there is less graffiti, residents are more conscious of their role in correctly setting out their rubbish, the Council has helped by providing more cleaners and more street bins. Despite this, the numerous building works for maintenance, repair or conversion, with their attendant skips, have presented further problems.

Parking and through traffic remain a source of trouble. Major shows at Earls Court have been quite well controlled but some smaller ones have caused severe inconvenience; we have suggested revised local routing directions. More happily, our requested 'sleeping policemen' humps are due to be introduced soon in each arm of the Square.

On the bright side, a well-attended and enjoyable barbeque was

held in July on the Royal Wedding Day. In November a 'Wine Party and Fun Auction' took place at the Poetry Society. Our thanks are due to our guest Auctioneers, Singers and Accompanist. A delightful evening which also realised £350 profit.

During the Summer the Garden Committee completed the installation of an automatic irrigation and flood lighting system which was 'switched on' by the Mayor, Councillor John Cox. A major event!

The Annual General Meetings of the Garden Committee and the Residents' Association were held on January 7th and 19th respectively.

We are sad to record the death at the age of 90 of Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Lang, our oldest resident. She came in 1908 and with her family ran the old White House Hotel at Nos. 15-19 from 1912 until 1977.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Marianne Dawoodbhai, 67 Earls Court Square, SW5.

*Secretary:* Mrs. May Holt, 35 Earls Court Square, SW5.

## EARLS COURT GARDENS AND MORTON MEWS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Continues to keep busy monitoring planning applications and developments in our immediate area. In view of our proximity to the Earls Court Road we feel the need to try to protect our residential amenities in the face of the strong commercial interests of the Earls Court Road. Following our suggestion, the Council has planted three new trees at one end of Earls Court Gardens and seven more in Knaresborough Place, just round the corner from Earls Court Gardens, with which the residents are delighted. Our neighbourhood watch continues and we have a representative on the Kensington and Chelsea Police Consultative Committee.

*Chairman:* Lady Farnham, 11 Earls Court Gardens, SW5.

## KENSINGTON COURT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The dramatic fire at the Milestone Hotel during the night of August 4th/5th last highlighted two underlying and consistent problems in our Association area. The lesser, but most constantly irritating, is traffic congestion for both pedestrians and motorists, accentuated at that time by the closure of the Northern access/exit to Kensington Court while scaffolding was put around the dark pink structure of No. 2 to 'save' the fabric of this listed building. The second is the sad state of this and many adjacent old houses bought up by property companies which deteriorate as they await 'redevelopment' and pass from one owner to another. Sprouting agents' sale boards also



advertise the vulnerable nature of a residential area so close to a commercial centre. Persistent traffic chaos was accentuated a few days after the fire by the fatal explosion in an Iranian shop in the High Street which resulted in the closing of the still uncompleted restoration of the footpath into the Court.

These incidents demonstrate the limited ingress and egress which beset a densely populated community. The Association opposed the further traffic restrictions to be introduced this year by closing the Victoria Grove link to Gloucester Road to the south-east and the proposal of the High Street Forum to block our exit in the north-west from Derry Street. Both that and Young Street have been 'occupied' for the last year by the gutting of Barkers. We consistently opposed the ever-increasing car parking to be opened shortly in its basement with access in Young Street almost opposite the National Car Park. While we successfully supported Kensington Square residents in their opposition to the extension of the capacity of The Gardens Night Club from 250 to 420 persons the application is coming up again. The threat of more cars at 3 a.m. from there and the newspaper office going into Barkers is already causing sleepless nights.

In the Southern part of our Association area house dwellers in K.C. Place have suffered for over a year from the illegal installation of a noisy, ugly air conditioning plant on the roof of Richmond College's annex in Ansdell Street. The Council rightly refused retrospective planning permission and we now await the installation at Easter of an approved, hopefully much quieter system.

One bright addition to K.C. Place was the installation of a blue plaque to commemorate T. S. Eliot on the beautifully refurbished exterior of his flat in Kensington Court Gardens. This is already covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which we are glad to hear is being extended to Kensington Court itself. How nice if some benefactor were to provide the £3,500 to replace the four ugly high pressure sodium lights in K.C. Place to reproduction Victorian street lanterns.

Last but not least apologies to those readers who wrote to the wrong address inexplicably published in last year's report which never reached the Chairman, Anne Sieve, 7 Hamston House, Kensington Court Place, W8 5BL.

## THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The Ladbroke Conservation Area is increasingly popular as a residential area. Property values have risen dramatically and have presented a great attraction to developers, and there is much building activity. The results are not always desirable, and lie more in the substantial profits for the speculators than in benefits to the local community and environment. In consequence the task of the

Association in monitoring Planning Applications has become greater and more important.

The pressure continues to build extra storeys so as to maximise development potential. The two blocks of flats known as Lansdowne Court are a case in point. The Association resisted this proposal and it was turned down by the Council. The case has now gone to Appeal and the result is still awaited.

The largest recent proposal is the scheme to redevelop the Bowley Nursing Home on its large site bounded by Ladbroke Terrace and Ladbroke Road. Long discussions have taken place with the Planners and the Architects and it is hoped that the Approved scheme will help to improve the local environment.

The Council made an Environmental Grant to a scheme promoted by the Association. This was for the rebuilding of the wall to the service road to Nos. 65-77 Ladbroke Grove. This has now been done and is a considerable improvement. On the recommendation of the Association the Council made an Environmental Award for the conversion and restoration of Nos. 13-14 Stanley Crescent.

Our autumn members' meeting took the form of a walk through some of the communal gardens in the area, when we were accompanied by the distinguished landscape architect Dame Sylvia Crowe. At our spring members' meeting we had a speaker from the Notting Dale Urban Studies Centre, on the history of Notting Dale.

A recruitment drive led to a substantial increase in our membership, which now represents over 350 households in the area. At our annual general meeting Richard Bird was elected as chairman for the next three years.

*Chairman:* Robert Meadows, A.R.I.B.A., 19 Stanley Crescent, W11.

## NORLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Pressures on the area continue unabated from within and without. Within, the Society can record its successful opposition to a late-night licence application by Kentucky Fried Chicken in Holland Park Avenue, a success which led rapidly to its more acceptable replacement by a take-home pizzeria. Other applications for extensions of licence are being similarly opposed. St. Ann's Villas has been narrowed in an attempt to reduce traffic flow; whether the experiment is a success it is yet too early to say.

The Society is increasingly concerned about the speed of traffic through St. James's Gardens; too often, as at Clarendon Cross in the past, restrictive measures are taken only after fatalities. The cycle track is at last completed (and may it be of use); however, the proliferation of unorganised signs dotted about on lamp-posts is less happy and perhaps not always necessary. Traffic (officially estimated



at some 3,500 visiting vehicles a day) presents a major problem for this and other Conservation Areas as a result of the recent approval of plans for the mega-Sainsbury's at the north end of Ladbroke Grove. Further space on the site is yet to be allotted for industrial use. Other Societies, beware!

The Society's comments were invited on the designs for the St. Clements and St. James School in Penzance Place. The result, unaltered by the Society, is a pleasure to the eye and evidence of the new spirit abroad is tactful and harmonious for entirely modern architecture. The Council has removed one tree and is planting three more to front the site, and a lamp-post has been removed to a more suitable position. Trees throughout the area continue to be monitored; replacements, however, can only be made during the winter season and after the Council contracts have been drawn up.

Objections to overdevelopment of private property and to proposals for unsuitable use continue. The major problems are still encroachment on garden areas and inappropriate raising of roof levels. The Society is active; its committee meets monthly; and membership steadily increases.

*Chairman:* Julian Miller, 45 Queensdale Road, W11.

#### ONSLow NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Looking back to our Report for 1985, we noted lack of progress on our two problem sites, St. Pauls Onslow Square and the garages between Neville Street and Neville Terrace. A year has passed and no apparent progress has been made.

The rehabilitation of the Cranley, Onslow and Evelyn Gardens terraces has proceeded apace, the most noticeable feature being the complete new landscaping to the latter's Fulham Road frontage. While on the subject of landscaping, at the time of writing the Henry Smith Charity Estate has submitted applications for listed tree alterations in their garden squares, these relating to major landscaping throughout. From the information available these proposals would completely change the character of these squares to an extent equivalent to the alteration of major architectural features of the terraces themselves. The Association has asked the Planning Officer to persuade the Charity to delay commencement until there has been further consultation. At present the planning authority has no power to control landscape work other than where it affects the retention of listed trees.

Again we are pleased to report a successful and well supported A.G.M. This year our guest speaker was Councillor Mrs. Weatherhead, Chairman of the Works Committee, who we thanked for her support. For a second successive year our garden party was blessed with rare summer weather and again attracted a large turnout of members and guests including new residents who we hope will

continue the pride and interest in the area which the Association tries to foster.

We are sad to report that our President, Sir Denys Buckley, who has held office since the formation of the Association nearly 15 years ago, does not wish to continue for another year. We have been extremely fortunate to have had the benefit of his advice and encouragement over this period. However, we are happy to report that we have been able to persuade Lord Moran, another distinguished resident, to stand as Sir Denys's successor.

*Chairman:* Hugh Brady, 16 Selwood Terrace, London SW7 3QG.

#### PEMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

In January, 1986, the then chairman, Councillor Mrs. Iain Hanham, of the Town Planning Committee of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea addressed the Annual General Meeting. In July the Mayor and Mayoress attended the Association's garden party held in Pembridge Gardens. And at the Annual General Meeting of January, 1987, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kensington Society, Mr. A. R. Jabez-Smith, was the guest of honour.

Between these enjoyable events, the routine work of the Association has proceeded. During 1986 almost 50 written representations were made to the local authority about various developments, and in August the Chairman and Hon. Secretary (Planning) took the new Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor the Hon. Simon Orr-Ewing, on a conducted tour of the area by car. One of the main problems, upon which constant vigilance is required, is the destruction of the lovely baluster walls and stucco and other architectural details which are a feature of the area. There is, however, a host of other matters—both of a general environmental nature and also of particular architectural relevance—upon which action has been called for: these range from increases in residential or commercial densities, through plastic signs on hotels and shops, roof extensions and the like, to graffiti and vandalism, all of which detract from the character of the neighbourhood. The Association has strongly advocated an improvement in enforcement policy.

The Association has been invited to take part in the study, initiated by the Westminster City Director of Planning and Transportation, to identify problems connected with the Westbourne Grove traffic scheme.

Mr. David Hales (3a Dawson Place, W2) has been elected Chairman in place of Mr. John Croft, C.B.E. The Joint Secretaries are: Mr. Stephen Davis, 223 Westbourne Grove, W11, and Mr. Dori Schmetterling, 11a Dawson Place, W2.



## VICTORIA ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The year started well with the publication of both the De Vere Conservation Area Proposals Statement and the G.L.C.'s Survey of London Volume covering our area. With both these documents and the Department of the Environment's list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we are now very well equipped to play an active role in conserving and enhancing our area.

Progress on achieving improvements has been slow. A further scheme for restoring Victorian street lighting in Kelso Place has been approved in principle but we are at an impasse on funding. The Council is looking to residents to meet the great majority of the cost whereas a contribution from the Parking Places Reserve Account would enable us to have an achievable, albeit tough, fund raising target.

Sign posts have been an issue this year. A hard earned success, getting all but one of the residents' parking sign posts in Launceston Place moved to railings or lamp-posts; however, no sooner had this been achieved than the Works Department replaced all the other posts in the area by posts at least two to three feet taller and placed the signs one to two feet higher. Although done in the interest of 'uniformity', it was contrary to the Council's own objectives for conservation areas. Closer co-operation between departments seems necessary.

The traffic management scheme for Victoria Grove has at last been agreed after much disagreement. The Association has worked hard to arbitrate between those most affected and with the Council to help design a scheme that will succeed in reducing the speed and amount of rat-running traffic. After years of negotiation 1987 should see a solution.

Despite having a Conservation Area Proposals Statement, several major applications were permitted contrary to the Council's policies. Most notable was the Prince of Wales Hotel, which was the original catalyst for the formation of the Association. We always had a fundamental objection to an additional storey being put on the hotel and had, we thought, the Council's agreement on this point. However, in the final analysis permission was granted, not because of threats of compensation being payable, but because the officers do not appear to subscribe to the agreed Conservation Area Proposals Statement.

We do hope, however, that 1987 will be a good year. We now have regular meetings with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and look forward to seeing some of our improvement schemes implemented.

*Chairman:* Oliver Lebus, 25 Victoria Road, W8.

*Secretary:* Anne Woodward-Fisher, 14 Albert Place, W8.

## THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

# Statement of Accounts for the year 1986

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
as at December 31st, 1986



THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
as at December 31st, 1986

1985	£	£	£	£
	<b>Assets</b>			
	Office Equipment at cost,			
25	less depreciation			21
	Bank Balances:			
	Deposit Accounts:			
2,678	General Fund	3,390		
1,535	Princess Alice Memorial Fund	1,647	5,037	
	Current Accounts:			
1,129	General Fund	2,013		
275	Princess Alice Memorial Fund	313	2,326	
5,642				7,363
	<b>Liabilities</b>			
				7,384
201	Creditors for Expenses			373
£5,441	<b>Net Assets</b>		£7,011	
	<b>Accumulated Fund</b>			
2,829	Balance at January 1st, 1986	3,625		
	Add: Surplus from Income and Expenditure Account	1,419		
796				5,044
3,625				
	<b>Princess Alice Memorial Fund</b>			
2,199	Balance at January 1st, 1986	1,816		
	Add: Surplus from Income and Expenditure Account	151		
383				
1,816				1,967
	KEON HUGHES, <i>Hon. Treasurer</i>			
	G. CHRISTIANSEN, <i>Hon. Secretary</i>			
£5,441			£7,011	

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared the foregoing accounts from the accounting records of the Kensington Society and from information and explanations supplied to us.

33 Marloes Road  
Kensington  
London W8 6LG  
January 30th, 1987

CROFT, MAY & CO.  
*Chartered Accountants.*

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
for the year ended December 31st 1986

1985	£	£	£
2,185	<b>Subscriptions</b>		1,826
	<b>Other Receipts</b>		
580	Profit on Sales		871
252	Bank Deposit Interest		211
560	Receipts for Visits		904
670	Advertising in Annual Report		975
540	Donations		1,100
4,787			5,887
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
1,002	Printing, Typing and Stationery	891	
971	Postage and Telephone	955	
1,332	Producing Annual Report	1,518	
201	Professional Charges	230	
—	Litter Bin Sponsorship Fee	150	
43	Sundry Expenses	33	
—	Receipt and Meeting Expenses	68	
380	Coach Visits, etc.	594	
58	Subscriptions and Donations	25	
4	Depreciation of Office Equipment	4	
3,991			4,468
	<b>Surplus</b>		
£796	Transferred to Accumulated Fund		£1,419



THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY  
PRINCESS ALICE MEMORIAL FUND  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
For the year ended December 31st, 1986

1985			
£		£	£
	<b>Income</b>		
532	Donations Received . . . . .		495
—	Profit on Sale . . . . .		—
141	Bank Deposit Interest . . . . .		112
<u>673</u>			<u>607</u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
1,009	Cost of Memorial Garden . . . . .	420	
47	Sundry Expenses . . . . .	<u>36</u>	
1,056			456
	<b>Balance</b>		
<u>(£383)</u>	Transferred to Balance Sheet . . . . .		<u>£151</u>



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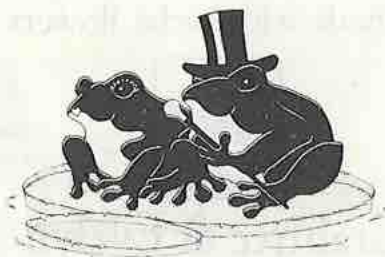
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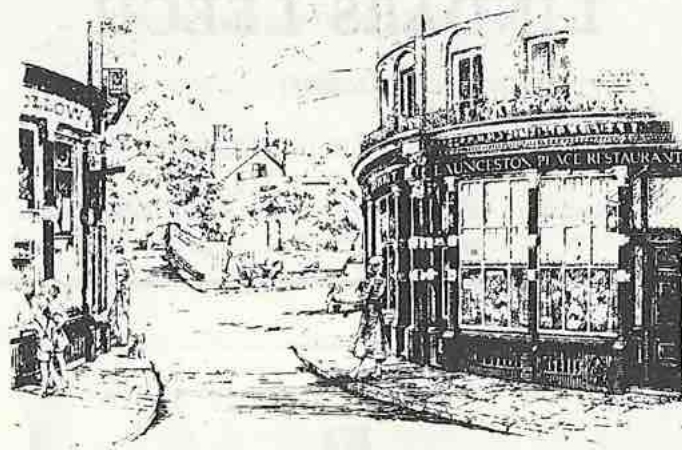
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In 1975 the Home was completely rebuilt and modernised and we continue to receive world-wide acclaim for leading the way in caring for stray dogs and cats. At the end of 1979 the Home acquired country kennels at Old Windsor for the sole purpose of giving long-term care to bitches in whelp and dogs needing a period of convalescence. The cost of building kennels to Battersea standard is considerable and the Committee earnestly appeal for Legacy Funds to enable additional projects to be carried out.

A Deed of covenant for £5 or more for four to seven years, or a donation of £25 or more qualifies the donor for Life Membership. Further details and approved Bequest Forms can be obtained from the Secretary.

## THE DOGS HOME BATTERSEA

4 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4AA

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY FOR STRAYS WHO ARE NEVER REFUSED ADMISSION

Well, it was a 'terribly good buy', that is if you're partial to waking at the crack of dawn to the strains of 50 cement trucks thundering out of the half-built depot, jackhammers pounding incessantly and the neighbours' crazed alsatian, the local school is an hour's forced march with buses as frequent as unicorn sightings, the handy local corner shop is only handy if you've broken the four minute mile of late, the nearest bottle of mouton cadet is a mere 20 minute jog down muggers' alley and the library's still operating the 4 day week; it's a cultural wasteland unless you count the local graffiti efforts on our road sign, the last rubbish collection must have been in jubilee year, how they found the place at all is a mystery given the feeble street lighting, granted the neon burger bar next door is a brand new landmark; it took a week to excavate the hatchback from what we laughingly alluded to as our parking space, sandwiched between a brace of skips under an avalanche of builders' rubble. Well... frankly, we're putting our 'terribly good buy' on the market. When we buy next time, we're going to talk to some people with more than a modicum of local knowledge... Farrar, Stead & Glyn.

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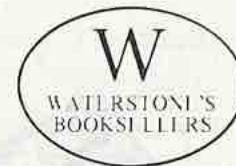
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