

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY



Annual 2012

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA BOUNDARY MAP

The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea was created in 1965 with the merger of the two boroughs. Kensington – the area we watch over on your behalf – is the area north of Fulham Road and Walton Street, marked with a red line on the map.



THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

23 St James's Gardens, London W11 4RE

www.kensingtonsociety.org

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

Front Cover: *A Venitian Door*, by Sir Angus Stirling, copyright The Artist
Find out more about one of Kensington's most prestigious artists on p32

Editor: Michael Becket (becket@becketsbest.co.uk)

Designer: Nicko Dalton (nicko@nicko.me)

Registered Charity No. 267778

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

PATRON

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

PRESIDENT

Nick Ross

VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Snowdon, GCVO

General The Lord Ramsbotham of Kensington GCB, CBE

Sir Ronald Arculus KCMG, KCVO

COUNCIL

Barnabas Brunner

George Pole

Peter de Vere Hunt

The Hon. Laura Ponsonby

Susan Lockhart

Sir Angus Stirling

TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN: Amanda Frame

SECRETARY: Lady Brenda Maddox

TREASURER: Richard Chaplin

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Martin Frame

ANNUAL REPORT EDITOR: Michael Becket

Anthony Lee

Charles Lutyens

Holly Smith

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT: Michael Bach, chair

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Hilary Bell

Henry Peterson OBE

Anthony Walker

CONTENTS

President's note.....	Page 5
Chairman's report	Page 8
Annual general meeting 2012.....	Page 11
Simon Jenkins – <i>London needs vital markets</i>	Page 14
Town planning in 2012	Page 20
<i>Odeon</i>	
<i>Commonwealth Institute</i>	
<i>Looking westward</i>	
<i>Notting Hill Gate</i>	
Sir Angus Stirling and his art	Page 30
Terence Bendixson – <i>How war changed Kensington's population</i>	Page 34
Reports from societies in Kensington.....	Page 36
Christopher Fildes – <i>Sir Luke Fildes and his Edwardian splendour</i>	Page 52
Michael Becket – <i>Some notable Kensington statues</i>	Page 56
Richard Northedge – <i>John Barker, king of Kensington High Street</i>	Page 61
Michael Becket – <i>How some Kensington streets got their names</i>	Page 66
Statement of Financial Activities.....	Page 72
Membership form	Page 75

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The very least the president of the Kensington Society should do is live in Kensington, and this one is letting down the side. At least for a while I shall be just outside the borough. But distance really does make the heart grow fonder and you notice how good RBKC can be when you move somewhere else.

So I want to give credit. I also urge you to consider how we should respond to an important democratic challenge.

First the credit, which goes to Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown.

Ever since a near citizen-rebellion in our street – when neighbours poured out of their homes to try to stop a council tow-truck making off with the car of an elderly and disabled visitor – I have been aware of how punitive and disproportionate parking penalties could be. Wheel clamps and tow-trucks have been used arbitrarily; a form of imprisonment which, together with associated fines, could exceed some of the sentences exacted by magistrates for some crimes of theft or even violence. Nor is there the slightest evidence that clamping has reduced obstruction; on the contrary it meant illegally parked vehicles stayed put. Westminster had scrapped clamping so why couldn't we?



Nick Ross AGM 2012

Picture PhotoBCKET

I expected to get a courteous brush-off when I went to see Cllr Paget-Brown about this. Instead he listened thoughtfully, put some challenging questions and said he would make inquiries. Now it is official. Except for particularly aggravating circumstances clamping in Kensington is coming to an end.

So let's move on to another challenge that has been exercising me this year. As you may have seen the A&E units at both Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals are to be closed. Or that's what some angry voices have been telling us. Actually they are to be converted to Urgent Care Centres which can deal with most emergencies – though they will no longer be blue-light ambulance receiving centres.

The word "closed" is emotive in healthcare. But reflexes are not always wise and after a meeting with Mark Spencer, the medical director for North West Thames, I am persuaded these proposals make good sense. It is far more cost-effective to combine acute services into a few sites – and medical specialisation actually improves outcomes. In any case we have a stark choice. Our local NHS is facing a billion-pound overspend. What would we rather cut? Doctors, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists...?

Even so the devil is in the detail.

The critical issue in emergencies is how long it takes for paramedics to arrive and since ambulances are positioned strategically around the region there is no reason why waiting times should change. But the closure of an A&E unit would add on average 10 minutes in getting to the hospital, which means an extra 20 minutes before the ambulance is re-positioned. We need to know how many more ambulances and crews the NHS proposes to provide?

Next triage and treatment. It cannot be assumed that a much larger A&E unit will be more efficient unless specific processes have been put in place to ensure that it is. We should seek reassurance that on every measure the patient pathway will be improved, and that there will be clear metrics in place to monitor this along with processes to rectify problems as soon as they are identified.

Then there is the challenge of how big institutions respond to individual needs. The larger the unit the more impersonal it will be, the more likely a patient can be overlooked, the greater the danger that the staff see themselves as cogs in an industrial machine, the more probable that the system takes precedent over sensitivity. The amalgamation of A&E units would provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redesign the staffing system, triaging, diagnostic, treatment and discharge protocols. We need to know who will undertake this review, how much resource it will have, how radically it will think outside the box, and how reliably it can ensure that standards of care (of staff as well as patients and their carers) go up rather than down.

Since around 20% of A&E patients will be admitted we need to be reassured that there will be no loss of bed capacity serving A&E – or, if there is, on what evidence is such a capacity reduction acceptable.

Who will set the policies? Take one simple issue: pain relief, which some A&E units regard with urgency while others don't. The London Ambulance service specifically discounts pain altogether as a priority. These are not just a technical medical issues but ones that straddle medical ethics and social attitudes. As the citizens for whom this is all put in place we have a right to know, and a duty to ask, how this care for the patient (as opposed to care for the injury or disease) will be designed, monitored and governed.

It can be a worrying business to take a sick child to A&E. Will the new amalgamated unit have a way of separating drug abusers and drunks? Will there be beverages or a 24-hour café without losing one's place in the queue? How will services for attending carers be improved?

And will there be a presumption – common in the NHS – that many of the attendees should not be there in the first place. We are all consumers now and the NHS had better grasp the fact and try to get ahead of the game rather than seem disdainful. We should seek assurances that all patients who arrive will be regarded as being in the right place at the right time and that arrangements will be in place both to provide more accessible and appropriate facilities elsewhere and to cater for those who nonetheless do present at A&E.

Amenity groups like our so often have to say no. Here, against many people's instincts, I believe we should give a qualified yes. But I do fear an opportunity to make step-change improvements may not accompany the rationalisation; and that is where you, I, the press and local politicians should be applying pressure.

As the saying goes, never waste a good crisis.



NICK ROSS, President



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ISN'T LONDON GREAT?

When thinking back to 2012 our first thoughts must be how wonderful this last summer was and how fantastic London looked to the world from the Diamond Jubilee even in the pouring rain, to the Olympics through to the Paralympics. We had the most brilliant time. Since then I have been in Cuba and Florida and everywhere people have said what a great city we live in. I know we live in a great city. 2012 proved it to the world.

Lost opportunities

London has changed so much since I was lucky enough to move here in 1987. When I moved to Holland Park, there were six pubs within walking distance. Four are gone. Two were totally rebuilt as houses and though the pub character was lost, at least, they blend in well. One pub was on the corner and only two houses from me perhaps that was why we could afford the house. Having first been an extension of a West End restaurant, it is now an upmarket nail bar. The Prince of Wales fell victim to an aggressive developer, though part of the appearance of the pub will remain, another upmarket house including basement spa and pool will replace our very popular local pub. Luckily the loss of the Prince of Wales may be the last, as the council's planning department has at last responded to our fury and successfully fought off through appeals for the loss of any further pubs. Three of our restaurants are gone; one to an estate agent, one to housing, and one remains empty as the owner fights

for permission to make it into another estate agent. The vet who helped save our Labrador puppy, her surgery is now an estate agent. Though we do not miss the betting shop, it too is an estate agent. The Spanish tapas café frequented by builders and locals, as well, is an estate agent. The two Post Offices are gone. The MOT garage is now four townhouses. The Russian travel agent is gone, though possibly not missed, so have the dog-grooming parlour, the newsagent and several commercial offices, are changed to high-priced houses. The housing market is stripping out every last ounce of diversity – our community is disappearing. Without any reflection on the damage to our communities, now the government is trying to accelerate the process.

Who is the government listening to?

We have so far fought off the proposed relaxation of planning restrictions on listed buildings. Now we are faced with a government proposal to allow commercial offices to become residential. Done in the name of economic growth, it could achieve the opposite – it would drive out small businesses and undermine the local economy.

The government promised to make Thames Water and other water companies public consultees which would require local authorities to consult with them on issues involving water, sewers and flooding by September 2012. No one can say why but that promise seems to have been forgotten. We desperately need Thames Water to be allowed to apply sensible planning guidelines and policy participation over planning in areas such as ours which have increased flooding directly due to over-development. As for revising and responding to public demand for sustainability measures which require more than a bike shed and a clothes line, the government promised to tighten environmental policies but has failed to do so. Basement after basement is being built with thousands of tons of soil being removed, colossal amounts of concrete being poured and installation of massive increases in mechanical plant for cooling and heating requiring more and more energy. The government appears only to be responding to builders and developers' demands, all to the detriment of our community.

As the planning reports within this annual report will confirm, the Kensington Society has continued to comment on planning changes and consultations both from the government and from our own council. We are proud of the improvements we have made in relation to working with the council. But we still have a bit further to go with the council and specific persons who either feel there is no need to involve us or perhaps fear the loss of control. Others have come to understand that we can help each other. We have worked hard to extend our relationship with local societies and will continue to work together for a better understanding by the council of local needs.

Kensington Society, the future

Henry Peterson, Anthony Walker and Hilary Bell, led by Michael Bach, have worked tirelessly to keep up with the both the planning applications and the continual planning consultations. Martin Frame has the membership on an up-to-date data base and the Gift Aid back-log is recovered. We hope to be on Wikipedia soon and our website is set to be improved this year. The lecture series will become a reality. Both developers and the council have felt the impact of our email alerts. I thank all the trustees who have played their part to progress the aims of the Kensington Society.

The government has given us, perhaps not intentionally, the opportunity to strengthen some of the weaknesses of the existing planning policies by requiring the revision of our plan to recognise and coordinate with the new National Planning Policy Framework. We look forward to continuing our relationships with the council and working with the local societies and our members to ensure Kensington remains one of the most wonderful places in the world for all of to enjoy.

AMANDA FRAME, Chairman

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual General Meeting of The Kensington Society will be held on **Monday, 29th April 2013** in the Great Hall of the Kensington Town Hall at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

The speaker will be **Sir Simon Jenkins** (see p16), British newspaper columnist, editor, author and resident of Kensington and since November 2008, chairman of the National Trust. The Mayor, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster has invited the members to join him afterwards in the Mayor's Parlour for a glass of wine.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The 59th annual general meeting of The Kensington Society was held on 30 April 2012.

Nick Ross, president, welcomed the mayor, councillor Julie Mills, the leader, councillor Sir Merrick Cockell, honoured guests and around 200 members to the AGM. He noted apologies from Sir Ronald and Lady Arculus and expressed his appreciation for Sir Ronald's support as he took over as president of the society. Apologies were also received from Sir Angus Stirling, Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Charles Lutyens.

The General Lord Ramsbotham, vice-president, then welcomed Baroness Grey-Thompson to the AGM and paid tribute to her contribution in the House of Lords.

Baroness Grey-Thompson gave an inspiring talk about the importance of sport in her own life and the expected impact of the Olympic Games, including the benefits of sport for young people. She explained her own involvement in the London Olympic bid, her experience of the day the bid was won and explained how preparing for the Olympics has changed the way sport is now funded in this country. She spoke eloquently of the potential for sport to change lives, explained how both sport and integrated education shaped her own ethos and aspirations, and how she now seeks to express that ethos in her role in the House of Lords.



Picture PhotoBCKET

Baroness Grey-Thompson, guest speaker

Amanda Frame, chairman of the trustees, introduced Mayor Julie Mills, who welcomed members and thanked the society for its valuable work in Kensington.

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were confirmed, with Clive Wilson proposing the motion and Georgie Gibbs seconding.

The 2011 Annual Report and Accounts were adopted, proposed by David White and seconded by Robina Rose.

The eight members standing for re-election to the executive committee were proposed by Clive Wilson, seconded by Lucy Elliot and approved nem con. They are Michael Bach, Richard Chaplin, Amanda Frame, Martin Frame, Anthony Lee, Charles Lutyens, Holly Smith and Anthony Walker.

New members of the executive committee were approved nem con:

Michael Becket proposed by Holly Smith and seconded by Kay Broadbent.

Hilary Bell proposed by Dimity Spiller and seconded by Holly Smith.

Lady Brenda Maddox proposed by Cllr Freeman and seconded by Neil Osborn.

Henry Peterson proposed by Clare Singleton and seconded by Libby Kinmonth.

The trustees proposed the election of Richard Chaplin as treasurer and Lady Brenda Maddox as secretary. This was seconded from the floor and approved nem con.

In his president's report Nick Ross commented there are now more significant planning issues being addressed in the borough than at any time since the arrival of public transport. He commended councillor Ahern for helping to change the approach to public consultation on planning issues and encouraged the society to engage on the issue of clamping. Finally he paid tribute to the work undertaken by the committee on



Picture PhotoBCKET

speaker from the floor



The Mayor, Councillor Julie Mills

behalf of the society, with a particular tribute to the work of Amanda Frame as chairman.

In her chairman's report, Amanda commented on the initial optimism engendered by the government's approach to localism, while noting that RBKC appeared to be focusing more on developers than residents. However, the government now appears to be pushing through policies at the expense of localism, while the society is beginning to see great improvements in the approach of the RBKC planning department, with a real desire for public engagement in the planning process. In contrast, she expressed concern about the planning approach of the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and potential changes as a result of the tri-borough arrangements citing, as an example, the changes to the RBKC conference

arrangements. She thanked the mayor for her offer of the mayor's parlour to the society, and Holly Smith and Neil Osborn and the Garden Square News magazine for arranging and sponsoring the wine for the evening.

Amanda commented on the society's work in planning, updating the website and licencing and thanked Martin Frame for his work on membership and the accounts. She reported that the society's annual report had once again been highly commended by the London Forum. She thanked the retiring trustees Gill Foley and Clare Singleton for their service. The society plans to introduce a lecture series in the coming year and will be relying more on email communications with members. She thanked everyone who has recently renewed their membership, particularly those who included an extra donation with their subscriptions, and extended a warm welcome to new members.

Michael Bach summarised the planning activity of the year, highlighting in particular the cumulative impact of the proposed developments on the western boundary of the borough. He also commented on the Natural History Museum's East Lawn, noting the society's disappointment that so many events are planned for one of the

area's few green spaces, and on the substantial increase in selling space at the 100 West Cromwell Road Tesco store which may, as a result, undermine retailers in Kensington High Street. He welcomed RBKC's plan to review its policy on the change of use of public houses and strongly supported the planned review of the policy on basements, noting that the society will work with RBKC to help to mitigate the environmental impact of these developments.

He welcomed the changes in the RBKC planning department's approach to consultations and planning applications and looked forward to sharing ideas with the department. Michael said the society will focus in the coming years on national planning policy, the South Kensington plan and Notting Hill.

Amanda and Michael responded to questions on planning from the floor and then Amanda closed the meeting and invited members to join the committee for a drink in the mayor's parlour.

CLARE SINGLETON, Secretary

NICK ROSS, President



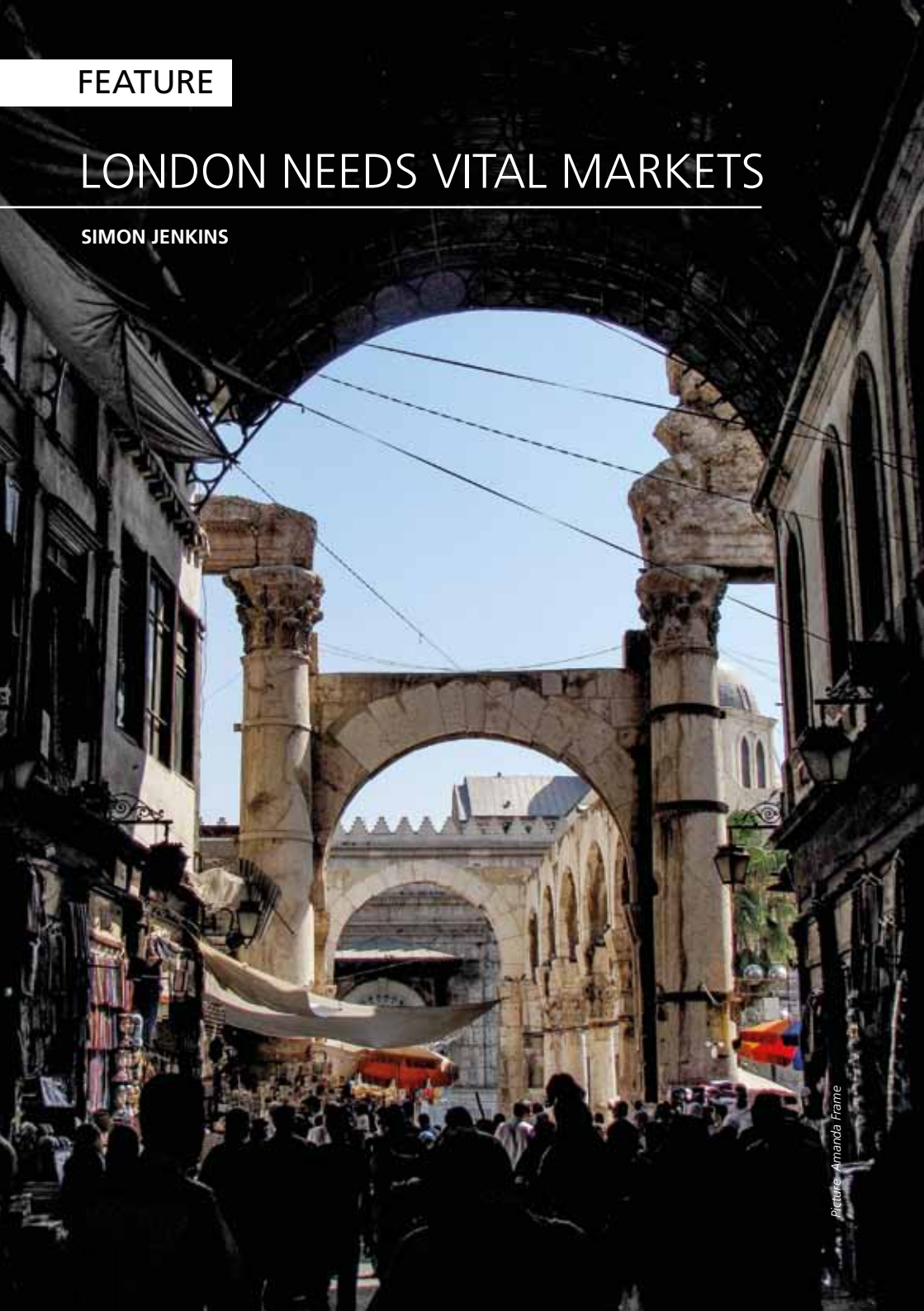
Michael Bach



General The Lord Ramsbotham addresses the members

LONDON NEEDS VITAL MARKETS

SIMON JENKINS



Picture: Amanda Frame

The following is most of the article which appeared in the Evening Standard on 2 October 2012. Simon's enthusiasm for vibrant areas of London and its markets certainly relates to Kensington and the struggles this society has faced this year.

The news has been dreaded by all Syria-lovers. Aleppo's souk is on fire, a casualty of the civil war. The burning of the largest destination on the old Silk Road has echoes beyond the bounds of conflict. A people is a people but a city is for ever. The fire tears at the fulcrum of 2,000 years of East-West culture.

Aleppo is, or was, a glorious warren of avenues, alleys and medieval courtyards, a mall before its time, a city within a city. Pleas of Aleppo citizens that the civil war fighters at least stay clear of their leading visitor attraction went unheeded. War is taking its toll on everything it touches. What fate now awaits Crac des Chevaliers or Palmyra or old Damascus?

Aleppo, Damascus, Istanbul and other cities of the Middle East increasingly resemble any other concrete and glass urban jungle. Their rulers destroy their ancient palaces and grand 19th-century suburbs with abandon. The only antique features in which they still take pride are historic mosques and covered souks. These are both pleasing to the eye and popular places of resort and relaxation. They are crucial to the ever more important generator of wealth, tourism. To destroy a souk is to destroy an economic resource.



Picture: Amanda Frame

Aleppo Souk

Aleppo is a World Heritage Site, though much good that does these days. Before we start deploring the destructive philistinism of other nations, we should reflect on our own, for there are many forms of urban desecration. London may not smash its historic quarters with shells and mortars but bulldozers and “section 106” planning waivers can do the job just as well. And they are.

Already Unesco is planning to “visit” London — as if it needed to — to witness the visual damage lately done to two sites, the Tower of London and Parliament Square, by the thoughtless over-development of the Shard and Southwark on the South Bank. In the latter case, an area predominantly of Victorian warehouses and tenements has become a bleak acreage of faceless glass, glowering across at the Tower.

Markets are no less vulnerable. To the coalition government, town-centre retailing is expected to give way to unregulated out-of-town shopping and supermarkets. The policy for existing high streets is to appoint Mary Portas to bemoan their fate. As for London’s traditional street markets, I know of no city-wide policy for their retention. All are in effect opportunities awaiting development.

Ask the public, domestic or visiting, on their view of London’s future and I would bet that among their chief concerns would be the preservation of such oases as Portobello, Camden Lock, Borough market and Covent Garden. They enjoy them

overwhelmed by choice, will the same be said for our markets?



Picture PhotoBCKET



Picture PhotoBCKET

London markets: upmarket to downmarket

not just as places to shop but as informal, intimate, visually attractive features of the London scene.

This was reflected in the explosion of rage that greeted Kensington and Chelsea’s permitted expulsion of 150 Portobello Road stallholders two years ago, to make way for plate-glass windows and an All Saints chain store. It is reflected in local reaction to this month’s decision by the Mayor, Boris Johnson, to overrule Tower Hamlets council and allow the destruction of the remains of Spitalfields market opposite Hawksmoor’s Christ Church. Johnson’s reason for overruling what should be a local decision is a mystery known only to him and his favoured developer, Exemplar. Bang goes the City of London’s last remaining souk.

I cannot be alone in regarding London’s street markets not as mere ghosts of Blitz kitchens and pearly kings and queens but as vibrant to a modern leisure economy. They have their tacky side: witness the exotic, murky depths of Camden Lock. But each to his own. There are smart markets, as at Borough, Duke of York’s, Covent Garden and Camden Passage. There are downmarket ones, as at Berwick Street, Roman Road, Church Street, Paddington and Queen’s Crescent, Gospel Oak. There are ethnic bazaars such as Ridley Road, Dalston, the fabric souk of Goldhawk Road and Brixton’s Electric Avenue, the first to be lit by electricity. There are specialist and one-day-a-week markets. Farmers’ markets are proliferating, wherever planners allow rusticity to intrude into urban interstices.



Picture Amanda Frame


Souk market variety

These are not hobbit habitats, to be swept aside by the bulldozers and steamrollers of Westfield and Bluewater. They preceded high streets, and they will be with us long after the shutters have gone up on Bluewater, and Westfield is given over to squatters. Markets are low-overhead and high-turnover. They can stuff a stall with mangos or mantelpieces, avocados or antiques, and we love them.

Above all they offer what today's architecture seems unable to create, casual informality in public places. To wander along the south bank from the buzz of Borough to the glass canyons of More London and the dead piazzas of the mayoral offices is to pass from civic dynamism to London's low-octane version of Paris's La Défense. It is a wilderness of glass office façades, of Identikit stores and cafés desperately propped up by "free events". It is ordered, official, health-and-safety London, courtesy of Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson.

Tourism, properly defined as what we all do in our spare time, is still the Cinderella of the London economy. It is second to financial services as an employment generator, yet no one in authority pays it a moment's notice. At present it remains buoyant, while financial services lost more than a quarter of its London jobs since 2007. London is far more likely to see growth from tourism than from banking.

Few domestic or foreign tourists cite the magnetic joys of London Wall or the caverns of Canary Wharf. They come to London for the intimacy, informality and vitality of Notting Hill, Borough, Covent Garden and Camden. They come for feisty, funky London. That is where they spend and they employ. Why do we accord so little worth to these areas, tearing them down to erect more banks?

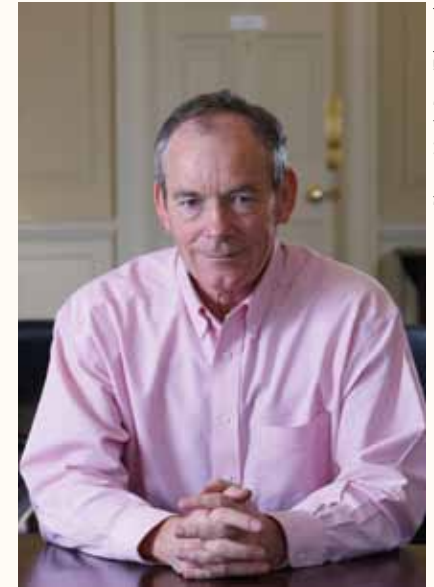
Aleppo's souk can and, I fervently hope, will be rebuilt. Destroy London's street markets and they are gone for ever 

■ Sir Simon Jenkins will be our speaker for the 2013 Annual General Meeting to be held in the Great Hall of the Kensington Town Hall on 29th April. Sir Simon, knighted in 2005 for services to journalism, is a journalist, author and administrator, especially of public heritage bodies, as well as broadcasting for the BBC. He has been a resident of the borough for many years so he knows first-hand the issues we face in Kensington.

Sir Simon started his journalistic career at 22 on Country Life, moving rapidly on to the Times Education Supplement. After two years he moved again to write a column in the London Evening Standard, joining the Sunday Times in 1974 to edit the Insight section. Just a year later he

was back at the Standard as deputy editor, moving up to the top job there after a year. He joined the Economist as political editor in 1979, and in 1986 moved back to the Sunday Times as a columnist, and shifted across to become editor of The Times in 1990, stepping back to be a columnist there after two years. From 2005 his column moved to the Sunday Times again, for three years, his columns for the Guardian, starting at the same time, continue. In addition, he contributes to the American Huffington Post website and continues to write for the Evening Standard. His most recent book, A Short History of England: the glorious story of a rowdy nation, praised the British empire as a remarkable institution which was dismantled in good order.

His public institutional appointment have included eleven years on the board of British Rail, two years at London Transport, and service on the Millennium Commission. He has also served on the board of trustees of the Architecture Foundation, was deputy chairman of English Heritage and since 2008 he has been chairman of the National Trust.



Sir Simon Jenkins

Picture Martin Pope/Telegraph



PLANNING IN 2012

This has been a particularly busy year. There have been several major policy developments – from the government and the council – to which we have responded, major developments throughout Kensington, but especially along our western border at White City and Earl's Court, and continuing development pressure – you would not know that there is a recession.

Government policy changes

The government's new National Planning Policy Framework – with a much-reduced set of policies – was issued in March. The main implications for us are two-fold – a much greater pro-development emphasis and the need for the council to review their plan for the borough to ensure that it is line with government policy.

The government has not stopped there. The next stage of the policy change has been consulted on recently. This involves a number of changes – increasing permitted development rights by reducing controls by allowing people to extend their properties to a greater extent without needing planning consent, allowing broadband operators to provide new, large cabinets on the street without having to seek the council's consent and to allow change of use of offices and hotels to housing without requiring planning consent.

Most of the proposals for allowing extensions without consent would not apply in conservation areas or for blocks of flats, so are unlikely to have much effect in Kensington. The greater freedom for broadband operators may prove academic, as most of these will have been permitted under the current controls before the proposed new rules come into force.

The really worrying issue is the government's decision to allow all offices to change to housing in the name of "economic growth" without the need for consent for a change of use. In Kensington, because of high house prices, this would mean that all our offices, from the small back-street offices to large office blocks, could become housing. Although this is being proposed to assist "economic growth", if implemented it could over the next few years eliminate many of the offices which provide employment in Kensington. We made this point strongly to the government,



'Temporary' Theatre in Kensington Gardens

but on 24 January it announced this will be implemented. It will be reviewed within three years, but by then the damage will have been done.

The council's current policy is to protect small offices – Kensington is primarily a small firms economy – and to retain offices in town centres or near tube stations. It is a very real challenge for Kensington – how do we retain office employment in the borough when all our small business move or are forced out. The council, with our support, is trying to justify being exempted from this disastrous change.

Changes to the council's plan

The council's Core Strategy – henceforth to be called the Local Plan – is required to be changed to reflect the NPPF and growing development pressures, especially for basement developments and the loss of pubs.

The council has, therefore, produced a succession of consultation documents to which we have responded:

Pubs

In December 2011, following the public groundswell due to loss of the appeal against the Prince of Wales turning to flats, the council decided to review its policy. The society strongly supported the council with its survey and the development of their new policy, which, if successful, will reduce the pressure from proposals to convert pubs, restaurants and other local amenities to housing. Following success in Chelsea in defending appeals, we hope to have the same result in Kensington.

Basements

This is another issue where grassroots opinion and growing opposition to the impact of large-scale construction projects has persuaded the council to look again at its

policy to see whether it should limit the extent that these developments fill back gardens and how deep they should go. The council will consult on a revised policy and guidance document later in 2013.

Involving People in Planning

This has proved to be a very controversial subject because the first draft seemed to be less about consulting people and more about reducing the cost of consultation – particularly cutting down on notifying neighbours.

Following pressure from the society and others, a new version has recently been produced for consultation. This is a great improvement as it has taken the principle that the council should involve people as early as possible when developing policy and applied it to this consultation and proposes to do that with all policy consultations in future. We strongly welcome this.

Housing

The society has always maintained that the council's current planning policy for housing is flawed because it specifically sets out to use our limited number of large housing sites for large market housing units. The result is that these flats are being designed for an overseas market and will not be used as primary residences, so will not be adding to our stock of housing to meet the needs of people who live in London as their primary residence. This is not and should not be what the council is planning for – the policy needs a complete rethink. The government stresses that the council should plan for objectively-defined needs and for mixed and balanced communities. The way the current policy is working does neither.

Conservation and Design

As part of “tidying” up the Local Plan, the council is making sure that policies carried over from the old plan (UDP) and from the Conservation Areas Proposals Statements are integrated into the updated Local Plan. This is a good opportunity to bring the policies together in one place. It is a welcome opportunity to amend the plan.

MAJOR ISSUES

Earl's Court

During the year major planning applications were received for the Earl's Court/West Kensington Opportunity Area, which includes proposals for demolishing the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. These were received before the Supplementary Planning Document produced jointly by the GLA, Hammersmith and Fulham and RBKC was agreed.



Our loss? Earl's Court Exhibition Centre

The proposals were strongly opposed by local residents, especially those on the Hammersmith side due to both the displacement of existing social housing tenants and the sheer scale of development proposed, but also on the Kensington side because of the demolition and scale. The society objected to the density of the proposals, which seem to be more related to Ken Livingstone's London Plan than those of Boris Johnson's current London Plan.

There was a huge turnout for the Major Planning Development Committee on 20 November, which was addressed by a large number of objectors. Nevertheless it was approved. The consents are being challenged by local residents.

Kensington Gardens

The society is alarmed by the increasing use of our open spaces for “temporary” commercial uses, which make these spaces unusable by residents for much of the year, especially the summer months. Last year the council gave consent for a 1,400-seater “temporary” theatre that occupied the area immediately to the south of Kensington Palace for six months from April to September. It also occupied the neighbouring area for customers' picnics, which privatised the most intensively used part of Kensington Gardens where people picnic, sunbathe and play games during the summer. The area remains unfit for use and has been sterilised for nine months – and counting.

In 2013 there is a proposal for a major equestrian event on the same area. It will not be as long as the theatre – but it seems to be the start of an unacceptable pattern.



JC Decaux Advertisements – with a phone on the back: just what we don't want

Advertisements

A major success in 2012 was to get the council to refuse consent for 41 large advertisement columns with a telephone on the back to be erected on our main shopping streets, including Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate. With the help of the Chelsea Society, local councillors and residents, we persuaded the Planning Applications Committee to refuse all 41 applications, rather than to allow 25 of them, as suggested by the planning officer. However, 25 appeals against the refusals have been lodged. We, along with many of our members, have written to the Planning Inspector supporting the refusal.

Broadband cabinets

After the council, with our support, turned down a proposal for a large number of new, larger broadband cabinets on the

streets of the borough in 2011, BT launched a campaign in May 2012 to embarrass the council, accusing it of preventing the roll-out of high-speed broadband. This may have been the catalyst for the government's proposal to make it possible for BT to proceed without needing consent, even in conservation areas. In the meantime, BT took a more conciliatory approach and negotiated with the borough to smooth the roll-out by negotiating the sites. This was done without any involvement of residents and caused some concern, as people were not always happy with the proposed sites. Most of these cabinets were pushed through by the executive director under delegated powers and even those that went to the committee were all agreed. I am happy to report that for the next group of cabinets residents have been able to join the search for suitable sites. That is what involving people in planning is about.

Looking Ahead

2013 will be another busy year – success involves hard work and vigilance. That is what we are here for.

MICHAEL BACH



Broadband Cabinets – residents are now involved

ODEON

Planning consent was granted in 2008 for the demolition of the bulk of the cinema building, retaining just the front façade and the redevelopment including a new cinema in the basement, car parking and a multi-storey residential development. Work was required to start within three years and as that had not happened the owners applied for a renewal of the consent. Part of the original consent granted permission for the removal of the plane trees along the High Street, despite these being described by the arboriculturalist as some of the finest specimens in the borough. Since then the permission for the Commonwealth Institute had also been approved removing yet further trees on the other side of the High Street. The Kensington Society therefore objected to the renewal on that basis but notwithstanding this significant change to the amenity of the area, consent to renew the application has been granted. We believe that the certificate of immunity from listing will run out during the life of this consent so we wait to see whether building work will commence before it expires.

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

Work has started on the Commonwealth Institute site. The mature trees across the front of the site have disappeared and been replaced by three storeys of site cabins. The ancillary accommodation has been demolished and the cladding to the exhibition area has been removed. Foundations for the new tower blocks are under way, followed by excavation to form the new basements. The tent structure will be gutted and little will be left apart from the roof structure and supporting columns. Nearly fifty conditions have to be discharged and the developers and the Design

Museum are steadily working through them. The traffic management plans and the event management plans have yet to be produced and will appear nearer the time of completion. These now represent the biggest issues to be resolved. Completion has slipped a bit and is now late 2014/early 2015. The detail design of the Design Museum looks very exciting and apart from the exhibition space there are plans for extensive interactive education facilities.

ANTHONY WALKER

LOOKING WESTWARDS

Over the next decade, residents of North Kensington will be living alongside one of largest areas of major urban development in Europe. The White City Opportunity Area runs from the Holland Park roundabout at the southern end, to beyond Westway to the north. A series of massive projects will completely change the look and feel of this part of London.

The planning authority is the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham which has been working with the Greater London Authority and successive mayors of London for over a decade, on a masterplan for the area.

A shopping centre on 45 acres on the southern part opened in October 2008. A consortium of landowners of the remaining parts prepared plans for a further 43 acres. They provoked concerns over the scale, height, and density, as well as transport infrastructure, water supply, sewerage and drainage. No additional significant transport access is proposed for the remaining stages of the development although traffic congestion in the area is already bad.

A second version of the White City Opportunity Planning Framework was originally due in autumn 2011, with the latest promise being for Spring 2013.

Hammersmith & Fulham, promoting the prospects of a 'Borough of Opportunity', unleashed a series of new development proposals. The building programme will run for 8-10 years. Planning approvals are now largely decided:

- Westfield has outline planning consent to build a further 50,000 square metres of retail floorspace, and up to 1,522 housing units – immediately to the north of the present shopping centre. Building heights will range from 8-20 storeys.
- Marks and Spencer is selling its section, designated in the masterplan as a 'linear park' though there is scepticism about its retaining that use. Imperial College has expressed some interest.

- Helical Bar and Aviva have formed a partnership to submit a planning application for a development with up to 1,350 housing units. Most of the blocks will be 7-12 storeys, with a 32 storey residential tower adjoining Westway. The planning application is due to be decided shortly.
- Imperial College and its private finance partner Voreda Capital received planning approval from Hammersmith & Fulham in July 2012 for research and academic buildings (up to 12 storeys), and a hotel of 13 storeys. There will also be a residential tower with two-thirds private residential with one third 'key worker' flats. That will be 35 storeys, which will make it taller than the Trellick Tower.

Many local groups and amenity bodies believe that a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to rethink and rebuild the Opportunity Area as a place where people want to live and work, is being sacrificed to commerce and political ambitions. A judicial review application initiated by the shop-keepers of Goldhawk Road will shortly be back in the High Court for a further hearing. This follows a successful legal challenge last year. The council's LBHF adoption of a Supplementary Development Plan for the Shepherd's Bush Market was struck down as unlawful. An area action plan, with more a rigorous consultation and adoption procedure, was deemed to be the required planning process in an 'area of significant change'.



Imperial College West development to be set amongst Edwardian terraces (more on p43)

In October 2012, the High Court decided West Kensington and Gibbs Green tenants demand for a judicial review, based on a similar challenge to the lawfulness of the masterplan for the area, is 'clearly arguable' and requires a substantive hearing. The Royal Borough and the mayor of London are co-defendants in this case, as the Supplementary Development Plan in question was a joint exercise.

Most recently, the St Helens Residents Association has sent a 'letter before action' to Hammersmith & Fulham council, based on advice from a leading QC on potential grounds for challenge to the planning approval to the Imperial West scheme.

HENRY PETERSON

NOTTING HILL GATE

A meeting on 6 December 2012 about the planning for Notting Hill Gate's future was amicable, helpful and courteous but produced few reassuring results.

Residents emphasised the imbalance of retail outlets. There is an abundance of fast-food outlets of bureaux de change and of estate agents, but a drastic shortage of shops selling anything useful and very few independent shops, which are what locals want. Two shops stand out as exceptions – the chemist Calders, and Tylers which has made up for the loss of other useful shops in the area by supplying everything from cookware and tools, through electrical goods and paint, to hardware and stationery. The Book Warehouse is a pleasant counterweight to the airport bookshop style of Waterstones. All three are doomed by development and rising rents. The redevelopment would also remove the car park behind Waterstones where the popular farmers' market is on Saturday mornings.

Loss of shops

The property men were reasonable and pleasant, regretting the loss of popular shops, but income mattered more. They said Tylers was already paying well below market rate and Calders was still under consideration. The problem with Tylers, as lucidly explained by a council representative, is that the range of goods demands expensive inventory, and most are low-margin goods. Yet those are the very goods people in the area need and can get nowhere else, residents pointed out.

Displacing the farmers' market did not concern developers who said it is pretty mobile and will find some alternative sites. Possibly, but not one that is convenient for residents.

The rather seedy set of second-hand shops, all in one ownership were thought to provide a traditional atmosphere but lowered the tone. Some also condemned the 'trashy' shops along Pembridge Road.

Nobody had a good word for Newcombe House or Campden Hill Towers but apparently the leases involved make replacement of the buildings impossible.

The property men and the council are concerned about the isolation of the two sides of the road and are talking of more crossings. Another problem is tourists causing a congestion round the tube entrance on the north side and blocking the pavements along Pembridge Road. The council suggested some change for the tube entrance.

The council and some residents emphasised the importance of retaining at least part of the buildings as office space, rather than conversion to residential – but that seems doomed by government policy.

MICHAEL BECKET

Earl's Court, Exhibition Centre to go, Empress State Building to stay



PORTRAIT OF A LOCAL ARTIST

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Kensington's rich artistic talent is emphasised this year with an interview and biography of Sir Angus Stirling, and examples of his work



For a man who did not get around to indulging a life-long love of painting until he was 62 and retired, Sir Angus Stirling is doing startlingly well.

Arts had always been an interest and became his work. His first job was as a trainee in the Christie auction house in the days when, as he says, you just walked into the managing director's office and if he liked you the job was yours. On the other hand pay was "practically nothing". Another problem was that in the 1950s "the gents were expected to get the business, while the professionals did the cataloguing and were the experts". The young Angus Stirling was keen to learn the realities of the business but as an old Etonian he was told not to bother – "just go to Ascot and get the business".

He was happy to have met his future wife at Christies, but unhappy at being blocked so he decided to get a proper job and joined the merchant bank Lazards. There he rapidly rose to joint-director working in the advisory section which looked after new issues. The business experience continued to invaluable in all his later jobs. "I learnt a great deal without which I couldn't have carried out the work during the rest of my career".

But merchant banking is always advising and doing something for other people, so after nine years he decided to stop making money for his employer and so some work for himself. Besides, not moving then would almost certainly mean he would remain a banker for the rest of his life, and he "wanted to revert to the arts".

Picture PhotoBCKET



Sir Angus at his Kensington home with the only one of his pictures hung there

Very luckily in 1966 he was taken on by the Paul Mellon Foundation for British Art as administrative director. That meant being the manager for the enormously wide activities of the foundation, ranging from publishing authoritative studies as books, scholarships and sponsoring lecturers. It was great fun but unhappily four years later the US authorities raised questions about the charitable activities and tax status of the foundation's British arm.

Rather than fight the government – usually unwise in the USA – Mellon decided to close the UK operation, sack all the staff (just before Christmas) and hand was left to Yale University. Angus Stirling had been supervising the definitive multi-volume illustrated dictionary of British art, with its wide range of distinguished contributors, and desperately tried to save that from the wreckage.

As part of that process he went to see Lord Goodman, then chairman of the Arts Council, to seek backing. Another problem however was that he was out of work for nine months though he by that time had a wife and three small children to support. Lazards had rather generously offered to take him back but he was determined to stay in the arts.

Then, out of the blue, in 1971 arrived a well-nigh indecipherable note from Lord Goodman which looked as if it said "there is a job at the Arts Council which might interest you". A bit of investigation discovered that to be the deputy secretary general – in practice, manager.



Fontana di Trevi, Rome

"It was a very lucky break. I have never been as happy" as doing that job. He stayed for nine years – again – and "got to know the arts of this country" – in all the organisations which the council was supporting, such as theatres, opera houses, publishers and so on.

Then there was a tempting offer: a headhunter approached offering the job of director general of the National Trust. A tricky decision. The Arts Council was enormous fun and he was after all in the running to be secretary general, an important, useful and fascinating job. But he had done his stint there and it was probably time to move on.

During his seventeen years stay at the National Trust a wealth of new properties came under its sway and membership rose from 600,000 to 2½ million.

Coming up to retirement, Sir Angus finally decided to pursue his love of painting. His mother, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been good painters, "so it was in the blood". From an early age he was educated in art and taken to galleries by his mother, which made a lifelong fascination. A colleague at the National Trust told him of courses run by Robin Child and weekend trial 'taster' course was enough to realise "I was absolutely hooked". He attended the five-day courses based at various B&Bs about three times a year for twelve years, and still goes occasionally "for the intellectual stimulation".

A show near his country home in Somerset was followed in 2010 by a joint show organised with his daughter Kitty – a professional painter – in a Cork Street gallery – at the heart of the London art market world. Such shows are not cheap to organise, what with the hire of the space, organising food, publicity and staff, but they sold 57 pictures that week and "we made a huge profit", despite his prices being remarkably moderate by market standards. "It was a big boost to confidence and I have been very glad it's taken off". It made him realise this was not a hobby but "I think of it as a new career".

In addition, the Royal Academy, as well as other experts came to the exhibition and showed interest. As a result he now has shows or is being marketed by Hollywood Road Gallery, Gray Contemporary and Modern Art, Linda Cotton in Watchet, and the Cricket Gallery.

"I have no interest in reproducing what I can see" but is trying to convey the impression on him of what he sees rather than a straight depiction. Though from time to time he drifts into figurative painting when it seems suitable. He is a great admirer of Cezanne, as is Robin Child.

His studio is at the Somerset house at the foot of the Quantocks and not having a studio in London as well is a handicap because a few days away from a brush creates twitchy finger to get back to it. He is now looking for a space. That is despite still being a trustee of the Courtauld Institute, still involved with the livery company where he is a member the Fishmongers Company, which still takes seriously its titular obligations, and being on the advisory committee of the fabric of Wells Cathedral. He has also been on the Kensington Society's council since 1985. Not bad for a man of almost 80 **KS**



A Venetian door (cover image)

KENSINGTON IN THE WAR

TERENCE BENDIXSON

World War 2 created enormous social and physical mobility that transformed central London and to a disproportionate extent Kensington. The Blitz provoked two very different but complementary kinds of London migration. First, a movement by the well-to-do out of the capital to the country or into the armed forces, and second a smaller movement of the poor from East to West.

The bombing in the autumn of 1940 nearly brought the city to its knees. The scale of the damage was so extensive the government was seriously worried morale would crack so badly the people could not be relied on. Wealth made a big difference to how different parts of London were affected by the blitz. East London was, of course, the worst hit. Not only did it contain the docks, one of the Luftwaffe's prime targets, but it was the first target spotted by German pilots and their bomb-aimers as they flew in from the Continent.

After 'Black Saturday', 7 September 1940, when half a mile of the Surrey shore of the lower Thames and much of the surrounding area was burnt, the Ministry of Health sent a message to a number of boroughs that included Kensington and Chelsea. They were asked to requisition as many houses as they could and make them available to the now homeless East Enders.

Re-housing was essential and by late October almost 25,000 dwellings had been requisitioned and another 12,000 billets found outside the capital. Yet only 7,000 people had been re-housed. East Enders were, it transpired, reluctant to move. Not only did they cleave to their belongings, however battered, but they knew that food would be more expensive in places like Kensington. Fifty Jews were, nevertheless, accommodated by Lord Redesdale in his large house in Rutland Gate. The peer was, of course, the father of the pro-fascist Unity Mitford and Diana, the interned wife of Oswald Mosley. War always has its paradoxes and contradictions.

It was probably about this time that Elm Park Gardens, where I now live, was requisitioned – and after the war handed on to the old London Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea. The houses were huge, which gives an indication of the wealth and

standing of their owners, and it seems that many of the families who owned them were able to leave London. Either they had country houses, or they had relatives on whom they could descend. The pattern was repeated over the more prosperous parts of Kensington.


Census figures tell the overall story. In 1939 the population of Inner London was about 4 million. By 1951 it was down to about 3.25 million. That was the toll of the war in houses destroyed and evacuation.

The consequences were inevitable. The Kensington I came back to in 1945, following five years in Montreal, was a place of emergency water supply basins for the fire brigade, shabbiness and food rationing. The once prosperous houses of Kensington had fallen into sad decay.

The social disruption of the Blitz was just as great. By the mid-1960s – twenty years after the war in Europe had ended – the houses of the gentry, who had once occupied great swathes of west London, were in many cases common lodging houses with a cooker on the landing and a household on every floor or even in every room. Repairs and decoration had long been discontinued.

Good fundamental housing stock in a relatively central area gradually brought in the canny opportunists, especially ones not deterred by the additional hazard of race problems, drugs and high crime rate reputation of north Kensington, or the fractured bed-sits that occupied so much of the rest of the borough.

A new demographic tide began flow as young, and relatively poor, professional households bought houses in once respectable streets that had moved down market. Our predecessors in Ifield Road were a mix of Polish and Irish weekly tenants. Gradually a new kind of gentrification took place as London's new service industries such as TV, the arts, retailing, design, tourism and, above, the City grew and grew.

By about 1980 the whole of Chelsea and South Kensington had been gentrified and from Notting Hill Gate the process of gentrification spread steadily northwards, as pioneer middle class households were settling in Golborne Ward. Kensington, always fashionable but transformed by the war, was becoming what it is today, a global address .

More information is available in Juliet Gardiner's book *The Blitz: The British Under Attack*, 2010, Harper Press. It draws heavily on official records and the letters, diaries and other accounts of Londoners themselves. She tells, for instance, about the use and misuse of Notting Hill and South Kensington Underground Stations as air-raid shelters and lets others describe the destruction of Chelsea Old Church and the horrific bombing of an underground train as it left Sloane Square Station.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES 2012

From the Chairman

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

KENSINGTON COURT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The main challenge for our Association, this year as in recent years, is to prevent developers and landlords from converting shops or businesses into luxury residences. Given the soaring price of residential property in the Royal Borough the rewards are mouth-watering. But the threat to the character of our neighbourhood is clear enough. Unless such conversions are slowed, much of this part of Kensington will inexorably turn into a luxury residential ghetto, with many of the properties lying empty for most of the year, to be visited occasionally by their foreign owners. We object whenever we can of course.

Our success has been patchy. The Wodka Restaurant, a distinctive landmark in the community for over 20 years is to become an enormous house. But we prevented the conversion of a small office block in Ansdell Street being demolished and replaced by yet another lavish dwelling, with its inevitable extra basements. We are currently trying to prevent the loss of a business in Thackeray Street, whose landlord wants to turn it into an apartment. The planning changes enacted by the Coalition are extremely unhelpful in this regard. So I am afraid we can look ahead to this area of Kensington becoming a vast gated community, sans shops, sans pubs, sans services, sans everything. It is a depressing but all too realistic a prospect.

John Gau CBE, chair

THE BOLTONS ASSOCIATION

We now have multiple subterranean developments being constructed simultaneously in the 'grid' of streets comprising the Boltons Conservation area. This is causing major traffic problems as builders' lorries load or unload, with key access streets and alternative 'cut rounds' being blocked at the same time.

The Boltons Association organised a 'walkabout' in early summer, with council officers from planning, traffic,

construction and environment kindly attending - with members of the association voicing their concerns that the council needs to take an holistic view of the disturbance caused by major developments. It is the totality of construction work that needs to be addressed, rather than treating each project in isolation. We intend to organise a 'contractors' meeting' in 2013 attended also by council officers, residents and members of the association - hopefully, to agree some coordinated action moving forward.

Good news is that building works are well advanced at 18 Tregunter Road - scene of the demolition some years ago of a Victorian italianate detached villa. At the time of writing though work has stopped whilst the owners apply for a change in the existing planning approval, now to locate an underground swimming pool at the lowest basement level instead of a higher one.

The long-running saga of 30 The Boltons continues. Last year the Planning Inspectorate supported the council's refusal to grant planning permission to demolish the current house and cottage and replace these with a single large detached villa (with extensive subterranean development). The applicants then submitted plans to demolish both the current properties, but to rebuild the cottage and build a detached villa that was less massive than the previous plans. However, the new application was refused planning permission by the council in October of this year. It remains to be seen what action the applicants will now take, but it is highly likely that they will continue their quest.

Calvin Jackson

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

2012 saw two buildings within Earl's Court Square being returned to their former glory: number 52, one of the 'Dutch' houses and Grade II listed, was renovated with the terracotta coloured paint finally being removed from the front brick work and the rear



52 Earl's Court Square

Christine Powell, Chair

PEMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION REPORT

In October, the Imperial College Endowment Fund made a third application to build a terrace style block of 13 apartments on Pembridge Road. After discussions with planning officers and the Pembridge Association committee, radical changes had been made to the designs of a previous application refused planning permission in March 2011. The association believed the changes would provide a much more acceptable building than was previously proposed but suggested further changes to increase its compatibility with surrounding buildings.



Langham Mansions, rear elevation

elevation of Langham Mansions, a grand mansion block built in 1895, was enhanced by having the stone globes returned to the gables.

In the late 1880s, John Douglas, in breaking away from the Italianate design of the majority of the houses in the Square, built a series of red brick houses in the Flemish style and known as the 'Dutch' houses. He then went on to build the seven storey Langham Mansions, adjacent to these houses also in red brick and thus completed the southern terrace.

The permitted conversion of 25 and 26 Pembridge Square in 2008 from a hotel to a private residence has still not begun. The exterior remains dilapidated and unsightly, a prominent eyesore in a fine square.

The association opposed an application to convert three office units to live/work units in Pembridge Studios, an enclave of offices for small businesses in Pembridge Road, because it could lead in the long term to an increase in residential, at the expense of office space. The council refused the application, which went to appeal and then withdrawn.

A revised application made in December for the conversion of the former Post Office 220a-224 Westbourne Grove to a shop and residential accommodation, shows a more sympathetic treatment of the street façade following an objection made by the association to a previous application made in June.

The association strongly opposed the proposals to site BT pay phone and advertising kiosks in Notting Hill Gate. It considered the large, illuminated advertisements would increase what the Council describes in its Core Strategy as the "threat from uncoordinated development and advertising", so evident in The Gate.

The 40th anniversary of the association was marked by an article in the June edition of The Hill magazine based on an interview with Jacqueline Pruskin, our membership secretary.

Roy Griffiths, planning secretary

VICTORIA ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We are now over two years into the De Vere Gardens development. The gantry over Kensington Road is now an established local landmark – people keep asking "how did they ever get permission?", but it was the only feasible option. The walls will soon be completed and in 18 months time we will have the new building that nobody really wanted. A monument that will seldom be occupied. What a waste of such a big site when we badly need more housing for people to live in!

Our major landmark was our Jubilee Party on 1 June which attracted over 500 local residents including a lot of children, with guests including the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and the mayor and deputy mayor of Kensington and Chelsea.

The council's initiative - City Living Local Life – is designed to get local residents involved in establishing priorities for their area. We want to revitalise Gloucester Road North, get much tougher on parking suspensions for construction projects with a

presumption that nothing will be stored on the street or pavement, and reduce traffic speed within our area to 20mph. We now want action.

Basements are now becoming a significant planning issue.

Finally, we seem to be at loggerheads with the Royal Parks. This year they installed a “temporary” theatre in Kensington Gardens from 1 April to the end of September located on the most popular part of the park where everybody picnics, sunbathes and plays games. The area was “privatised” for the six most popular months of the year. This area has been out of bounds for over nine months. Now a major equestrian event is proposed for next June which means that we could again lose the use of this area for much of the summer. We will not take this lying down.

Michael Bach

LEXHAM GARDENS

We came second in the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea Garden Square competition and received a Highly Commended Certificate from the London Garden Society. We would like to thank Oliver Dickinson, our gardener, for all his hard work.

We continue to work with the council through our supportive local councillors to maintain good services.

Our garden continues to be a wonderful amenity for residents including many children.

Our Residents Association flourishes with 236 member households. We have become a close knit supportive community since our garden was refurbished in 1990.

Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Subterranean development continues to cause problems to our members, particularly when several are happening at the same time in the same street. Both councils are looking at ways of tightening up the regulations to mitigate some of the worst problems. The rear closet wing of one house in Trevor Place collapsed when a rogue developer excavating under two adjacent houses and gardens failed to comply with planning permissions and health and safety regulations.

The substantial garden at 31 Brompton Square, excavated over two years ago to a depth of some 30 ft or more, remains an open hole. However, following the bankruptcy of the then owner (who is now in court on multiple charges of fraud), repossession by the bank and sale to a new owner, things should start to progress in the new year.

Of major concern is the number of houses and flats being bought for vast sums by overseas companies and foreign investors, which then remain empty – not very conducive to the community spirit.

On the horizon, is the barracks and the possibility that it could be sold and redeveloped. There has been a barracks on the site since 1795 it is at the very heart of Knightsbridge and its loss would be devastating to the neighbourhood.

In May the Ministry of Defence confirmed rumours that they had commissioned a ‘market testing exercise to find’ ‘expressions of interest’ from potential developers. However, there are a lot onerous conditions they would have to fulfil. If it happens, what we certainly do not want are any more multi-million pound flats in oversized glass and steel buildings which nobody lives in.

Carol Seymour-Newton, vice chairman

THE CHERRY TREES RESIDENTS’ AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

The association, which covers the area between Kensington Church Street and Palace Gardens Mews/Kensington Palace Gardens in Kensington Gardens, had a year dominated by the loss of Kensington Place Surgery, several large basement developments, and a huge Diamond Jubilee party for all residents.

On 31 May, Kensington Place Surgery closed, forcing more than 5,000 patients to find other surgeries. This affected the CTAA area especially, as most of the patients came from that part of the Campden Ward, having moved with the surgery when it relocated from Vicarage Gardens to 5 Kensington Place in the early 1990s. The CTAA, together with the Campden Hill Residents Association, is trying to encourage the establishment of a replacement surgery within the Campden Ward, which 30 years ago had three GP surgeries, but now has none.

The same day, 31 May, the CTAA arranged a Diamond Jubilee party in the courtyard of St Mary Abbot’s vicarage to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s 60-year reign. The party was open to all residents in the area, members as well as non-members, and

more than 200 came, in spite of threatening clouds, and enjoyed a big hog roast, strawberries, drinks and music from a jazz band.

The area also saw the approval of five new basement developments and refusal of one, as well as the demolition of the old nursing home. The excavation for a huge luxury development on that site has started, although the totally revised building plans submitted in July 2012 still have not been approved by the council. In July, one ongoing basement development in Palace Gardens Terrace collapsed, causing severe cracking in the surrounding properties.

NORLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

During 2012, our main preoccupation has been to complete the update of Norland's CAPS as a Neighbourhood Plan. Why have we bothered?

Back in 2010, we completed the draft update of our Conservation Area Policy Statement, together with a list of Article 4 directions to protect non-listed buildings in the CA, agreed with David MacDonald, RBKC's Head of Conservation.

We were then advised by Penelope Tollitt, head of Policy & Strategy, that, under new legislation, the best way to ensure implementation of our policies and guidelines as part of council policy, would be to turn our draft CAPS into a Neighbourhood Plan.

Accordingly, we applied for Norland CA to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, with NCS as the Neighbourhood Forum. We were the first to be so designated in the whole country. We then worked closely with RBKC's Neighbourhood Planning team, Conservation Officers, and Development Control, to turn our draft CAPS into a Neighbourhood Plan. This went out to consultation to all residents of the CA, together with proposals for Art 4 directions covering painting, extensions, outbuildings, and front garden enclosures.

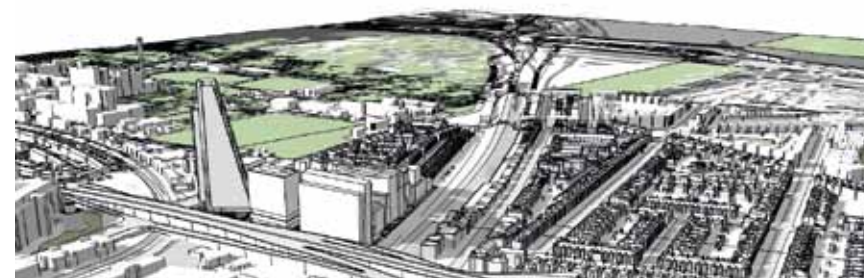
We publicised the Plan on our beautiful new website (please take a look, it is packed full of interesting stuff about Norland!). A questionnaire was included on the website.

As a result of this consultation, we needed to make some modifications. These are now made, and the plan will again be available for comment for 6 weeks, before the council submits it to an Independent Examiner for approval. Our Neighbourhood Plan then has to go to a referendum; providing 50% of those voting are in favour, it will be accepted as Council policy.

At the end of the day, the council will have adopted policies and guidelines specific to Norland, which will be much better defined and therefore provide much improved control.

Libby Kinmonth, chair

ST HELENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



The Imperial West development, the biggest battle

Our association was set up in 2008, and covers the St Quintin Estate in north Kensington, built in the early 20thC. As an area of unusually homogenous Edwardian smaller family houses (two storey, red brick terraces, with wide streets) the area has the feel of a distinct neighbourhood. It is popular amongst younger families.

When the association was first set up, we thought we would be dealing with a wide range of issues including future local health services and community policing. But planning issues swiftly came to dominate our activities. As with other parts of the Royal Borough, development pressures are huge.

Even though we are part of the Oxford Gardens/St Quintin Conservation area, development proposals on our borders have been our main pre-occupation. We do not oppose every development proposal or planning application. But we have concerns that the enormously high land values in the borough mean developers push every application to the limit, and often beyond, in terms of density, floorspace and height.

Our longest planning battle has been over the Imperial West proposals, for a site just across the borough boundary in Shepherd's Bush. This scheme, put together by Imperial College and a private development partner, will accommodate college activities in health and biomedical research. But it also includes a 13-storey hotel,

commercial offices, and a 35-storey residential tower. The latter will introduce a wholly new element to the western skyline on this part of the Royal Borough, and destroy views forever. Now that the precedent has been set, property developers Helical Bar are seeking planning approval for a 32-storey tower on an adjacent site, just to the south of Westway.

The Kensington and Chelsea architectural appraisal panel has commented that buildings of this scale are inappropriate to this part of London. But the development juggernaut is proving unstoppable, here and elsewhere in the White City Opportunity Area and at Earls Court, further to the south.

We attend the council's many planning consultation sessions, and dialogue feels genuine on most occasions. We have also welcomed the opportunity to speak at the council's Planning Applications Committee (something that Hammersmith & Fulham Council does not offer) and have found councillors willing to listen to the views of a neighbourhood association such as ours.

In April 2012, we applied to both Kensington & Chelsea and to Hammersmith & Fulham councils to 'designate' our area, to establish a neighbourhood forum and to develop a neighbourhood plan, under the 2011 Localism Act. The process of designation has still to be completed, and is taking much longer than we had expected. We hope for a helpful decision by both councils early in 2013. As in the Norland area, we will also be updating local conservation policies and Article 4 directions as part of this process.

2013 looks like being another busy year.

Henry Peterson, chair

EDWARDES SQUARE, SCARSDALE & ABINGDON ASSOCIATION

We are currently undertaking a review of our conservation area and, following a survey of our members, are investigating the benefits of Local Listing to reinforce the significance of our local environment. We shall be working with the help of the planning department and our members and with guidance from a conservation consultant.

Our Mansion Block Group is now well established and makes a significant contribution to our environment through regular meetings to exchange ideas and information. The group is also open to members outside the immediate ESSA area.

In view of the importance of our local businesses we have recently started a Local Business Group and are recruiting our first members.

We continue to offer support to members who are concerned about the impact of planning applications ranging from subterranean disturbance to being overlooked and the noise and disturbance caused to neighbours by some permitted development. We offer support and advice where we can.

We keep an eye on long term policy changes both local and national and consider their implications and we take part where possible in RBKC consultations such as subterranean development, the protection of public houses and other related uses, changes in the conservation policies, involving people in planning.

We continue to work closely with the Kensington Society and other local organisations and value the exchange of ideas and information that this involves.

Anthony Walker, chair

ONSLOW NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

During the last year it became increasingly clear that many of the issues concerning our members, and the conservation area we live in, are shared with other associations. ONA continues to work closely with other neighbouring associations in any matters that will or might in the future affect us. Further, this close cooperation often persuades the RBKC to take more notice of residents, their concerns and their experience.

The association has, with others, successfully opposed the replacement of JCDecaux/ BT telephone booths with internally illuminated advertising panels. We have also opposed extended maintenance hours for Boris Bicycle Stand in Sumner Place, and are opposing major underground development/redevelopment proposed at Park House. We are in favour of the council's review of the current planning approach to basement development as set in Core Strategy (2010), and strongly encourage the removal of Permitted Development.

68% of responses of the survey of Brompton Ward, initiated by our helpful councillors in September, confirmed that residents are against a big development of the South Ken Station. This message we are taking to the bosses of Transport for London at our meetings. ONA continues to press for a better solution to the continuous traffic problems at the mouth of Pelham Street. We continue to object to proliferation of alfresco eating around the station, monitor and report to the Council abuses of planning and licensing permissions.

Eva Skinner, hon secretary

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

In December 2009 the Ladbroke Association published a report on subterranean development based on a survey which it had carried out. The report was the basis for a great deal of lobbying both of government and of RBKC, both by the and other bodies. Although government has been unwilling to do much to deal with the problems caused to neighbours and neighbourhoods by basement works, Ladbroke Association is very pleased that RBKC has taken the important step of going out to consultation on proposals for significant changes to its policies. The powers of local authorities are restricted but RBKC is taking up the challenge. We with others will be commenting on the proposals.



BT cabinets on Kensington pavements, an eyesore

Also in connection with basement developments, the association is hosting on its website, information about party wall matters which are an essential part of each development.

In the autumn the association hosted a lecture in honour of Robert Meadows, one of the founders of the association and a long time committee member. The lecture was given by the association's president, the well known writer Thomas Pakenham, on the trees of Ladbroke, and the occasion was very well attended and much appreciated and enjoyed.

The association collected information and illustrations of the intrusive BT cabinets along Kensington pavements as part of its objections, but to no avail. All were automatically approved.

The association continues its regular review of planning applications affecting the Ladbroke estate, commenting where appropriate to the planning department. It objects where plans do not preserve or enhance the conservation area. Recent cases have been mentioned in News from Ladbroke, the associations bi-annual newsletter which is available on the association's website.

Graham Child, chair, and Kay Broadbent

THURLOE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The association was established this year as RBKC's first web-based residents' association, to give a voice to residents in the area who had not been democratically represented. We make representations only on behalf of residents when supported by popular opinion via an online survey.

The highlight of the year was the Jubilee Street Party, which attracted well over 300 people. It was great fun and engendered much needed community in this corner of London.

The most pressing issue in this area, as evidenced by surveys of our residents, is the imbalance between commercial and residential interests. Whilst the "new" Exhibition Road has provided a suitably grand backdrop for the many cultural institutions and a notable improvement in the look of the area, residential amenity has suffered. Many local shops have closed and have been replaced with food establishments masquerading as small businesses. In reality, however, they are nothing but small or moderately-sized chains a step away from McDonalds. With them have come rubbish, seagulls, noise, nuisance, street performers, wandering crowds and the dreaded street drinkers. Our lovely neighbourhood is in danger of being replaced by a cross between Leicester Square and an American style food court.

Whilst the policy makers at RBKC make all the right noises about listening, the decision-makers ignore residents' concerns. Local landlords have been lobbying the council for years, and all their hard work is paying off as the area becomes dominated by their plans.

Jan Langmuir, Traci Weaver

EARL'S COURT SOCIETY

The Executive Council and Planning Group held a series of planning seminars with CapCo, Farrells and their various architects and contractors virtually every month covering the redevelopment of the exhibition centre site: plot-based design, demolition, preferred local polite-vernacular architecture, construction, cultural infrastructure, community infrastructure and uses, retail and business impact.

The Planning Group consulted with the council on planning policy on topics such as public houses, basement developments, flooding, public consultation, NPPF, local planning forums.

At the MPDC hearing for the CapCo application 1 in RBKC on 20 November, the chairman exceptionally granted us speaking rights before the committee. We organised a group of eight objectors on behalf of the society, headed by Cllr Buxton (ward councillor), followed by Malcolm Spalding (ECS), Neil Simpson (PRA & ECS), Mark Balaam (ECRA & ECS), Hilary Temple (ECS and Kensington Society), Ken Courtenay (ECS), David Driver (ECS) and Cllr Linda Wade (ward councillor).

I was also elected chairman of the K&C Partnership steering group (local Strategic Partnership) in succession to Sir Merrick Cockell, and continue as vice –president of the K&C Chamber of Commerce.

We now have eleven residents' associations in membership and their chairmen make extremely valuable contributions to our programme. Congratulations to ESSA who achieved Gold Standard recognition and a 200th birthday celebration. Several other nascent residents' associations are in the pipeline for development and membership. We are in conversation with the ECCT, the Earls Court Chapter, the Ward panel (Safer Neighbourhoods) and the ECAAG.

Malcom Spalding, chairman

FRIENDS OF HOLLAND PARK

The Friends have always considered that one of their chief functions was to protect the park from schemes which spoil it for local residents or physically diminish its size. Mostly this is about small intrusions which are best dealt with by quiet negotiation but every few years there is a larger matter which requires public involvement. We are delighted to have won the latest of these by causing the borough to drop its planning application to leave the opera canopy up all year. We led this campaign and many of our members wrote to object. We also had great support from the Kensington Society and several other local bodies, our MP and two ward councillors. The latter also expressed their wish to see the time when the site is being occupied by the opera works reduced; seven months for a ten week season seems absurd. The Friends have been pushing this point for some time and will pursue it further though at the time of writing we cannot tell how successful we will be. Meanwhile our sincere thanks to all those who helped us win this campaign; we could not have done this without you.

One of the other of the Friends' objectives is to educate the public in matters concerning the park. We are pleased that 2012 saw the publication of two small historical books, *The Families of Holland House* by Carrie Starren and *The Pleasure Grounds of Holland House* by Sally Miller. They are obtainable for £5.95 and £10.99 respectively from the Park Office or from Rhoddy Wood 020 7602 0304 or rhoddy.wood@virgin.net.

Rhoddy Wood, secretary

Need for more people to take part

Amenity groups need more - preferably younger - people to get actively involved with running the societies. They need help in reviewing and commenting on planning applications – a constant and important, activity. Anyone interested, or anyone who can suggest anyone who might be interested, get in touch with their local society or the Kensington Society.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:



The Abingdon Diamond Jubilee Street Party, organised by ESSA members Jenny Botsford and Christina Munday, raised almost £10,000 for The Diamond Jubilee Trust



Thurloe street party



ECRA, Fireman and captivated kids



Thurloe street party



KCRA street party



Thurloe street party



KCRA, firefighter gets his colours

SIR LUKE FILDES AND HIS EDWARDIAN SPLENDOUR



Edward VII, Luke Fildes

Picture by courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery

Luke Fildes, the painter, was lucky in his grandmother. She survived being charged by the yeomanry at Peterloo and kept a pub in Chester, she scooped him up, she sent him to art school, and when he bought a plot of land in Melbury Road and invited Norman Shaw to design his house, she left him the money to pay for it.

On that corner of the Holland Park estate, a farm and a dower house were making way for an artists' colony. Frederick Leighton had set the example with his Moorish palace, Val Prinsep and G F Watts were moving in, and Luke, still in his early thirties, was determined to keep pace with them. His new house had to have a grand staircase, so that visitors could troop up to the studio and see his latest picture before it went on show at the Royal Academy.

His break came when one of his drawings caught the eye of Millais, who told Dickens that this was just the man to illustrate his next novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He set to work, instalment by instalment, until Dickens died with the mystery unsolved. Luke's response was to draw the great man's library, with his desk and chair just as he had left them. Reproductions of *The Empty Chair* sold in thousands.



Picture photoBCKET

Melbury Road, the location for the portrait

Soon he had a painting on the Academy's walls, and soon enough a blockbuster. For The Casual Ward, a barrier had to be put up to hold the crowds back and the police were called in to keep order. When Sir Henry Tate, the sugar baron, offered to found and fund a National Gallery of British Art, he endowed it with 57 pictures from his own collection, and commissioned two more: one by Leighton, who was by then the Academy's president, and one by Luke. This was The Doctor.

The project, as such projects do, took time and drew grumbles. "Tate has arranged to take a part of the site of Millbank Prison for his gallery", so Luke complained. "A woefully out of the way place. Nobody will go." In the end, they did. The Doctor - tending anxiously to a sick child - at once became his best known and best loved picture. Cab-drivers, when they knew that he had painted it, refused to charge him. It was also the last of its kind. From then on, he painted portraits.

Grandest of all Was his state portrait of King Edward VII: "I had an audience with him this morning and it is all settled. It is to be the swagger portrait in crimson velvet and ermine mantle that all Monarchs have " - and, for this one, a crown at his side and a field-marshal's baton. Indeed, it speaks for its time, for nothing could be more splendidly Edwardian: pomp and circumstance, Elgar in paint.

Court painters before Luke had to wait upon their sovereign, but King Edward was content to come to Melbury Road and pose on Luke's grand staircase. For this purpose, though, it was not grand enough: the picture required a staircase made of marble. Luke's wife/rose to the occasion. She went out to Kensington High Street, bought a roll of linoleum - presumably from Barker's - took it home and spread it out. The King is shown standing on it. Nothing could look more marmoreal.

He was in some ways a difficult subject. The Queen insisted that his eyelids were too droopy. That could be amended, and was, but at dinner with friends he had been heard to talk about the strange obsessions from which people suffered: "Take Mr Fildes, for instance, to whom I am sitting for my portrait. He is under the impression that I am a short, stout man." This got back to Luke and upset him, for he had gone to some trouble to take two inches off the King's waist and put them on his height.

When all was done, Luke had to supervise a production line, making copies to be sent to fellow monarchs and to embassies around the world, where they can still be seen. The copy for Tehran was sent back for repairs, having fallen off a camel, and suffered again more recently at the hands of rioters. For Luke, more royal commissions followed, and he and Sargent were ranked as the two leading portrait painters of the day.

Perhaps he outlasted it. He was known to say when he had been painting for more than half a century that if he had another half-century he might do something worth

Picture photoBECKET



The blue plaque on the former house of Fildes and more recently Michael Winner

looking at, but he carried on until the end a few years later. By then he was uncomfortably aware that he and his contemporaries - the whole Academic establishment, in fact - were out of fashion. In another half-century, he thought, taste might swing back.

That was asking too much of a later establishment, where official taste has remained stuck. The Doctor is still on display, but scarcely represents the type of British art that interests Sir Nicholas Serota, the Tate's limpet-like director. To see more of Luke's work, you may need to go to Egham or Port Sunlight or Sydney. His portraits must now be scattered around boardrooms and ballrooms, far from the public view. Even the National Portrait Gallery has put its version of King Edward's state portrait into store.

Luke's son Val, who called his lively biography *A Victorian Painter*, had

taken all this on board: "The Victorians", he concluded, "were a highly civilised people, who were endowed with much sense and sensibility, and thought that they were living in one of the great periods of British painting. The notion may then occur to the seeker after truth that the opinions of Victorians on matters of art are just as likely to be right as anybody's since." Quite so.

The house that Luke built with his grandmother's legacy has been renumbered as 31 Melbury Road and bears a blue plaque in his honour. After his death it was turned into flats but became a house again, and was home to film director Michael Winner. At one point he was reported as saying that he would leave it to the nation as a museum. What this would contain or commemorate was never clear, but it would make a good home for Luke's pictures. Michael Winner sold the house shortly before he died on 21 January 2013.

CHRISTOPHER FILDES

STATUES IN KENSINGTON

Only the left half of the statue of Robert Cornelis Napier, first Baron Napier of Magdala, 1810-1890, by Sir Joseph Boehm, is in Kensington as the border between the borough and Westminster runs down the centre of the road and hence bisects the statue. The statue is a copy of the one in Calcutta and was originally installed in 1891 at Waterloo Place from where it was moved to Queens Gate in 1921.

The man himself was carefully prepared for his career as a servant of empire, being educated at the East India Company's college and then commissioned into the Bengal Sappers and Miners. He built the Jumna Navigation Canal, created roads, laid out the new hill station of Darjeeling and built the barracks there. He distinguished himself and was wounded in the first and second Sikh wars, then built the road from Lahore to Peshawar and the Doab canal. He was in the relief of Lucknow – wounded for the third time – and was largely responsible for the victories over Tantia Topsee, rising to be chief of staff to Sir James Outram. As part of that role hunted down and killed the last surviving rebels.

Napier then commanded a division in the war against China and his success earned him promotion to major general. He was later appointed commander of Abyssinian



Robert Napier

expedition which marched for ten weeks 420 miles from the coast to destroy the Abyssinian army at Magdala commanded by the mad emperor, and so released the British hostages held there. That made him a national hero and led to the barony and promotion to commander in chief in India, becoming field marshal and subsequently governor of Gibraltar.

Sir Charles Napier, whose statue is in Trafalgar Square was a different chap entirely who conquered Sind and is thus the object of the apocryphal laconic message to headquarters "Peccavi" (Latin for I have sinned).

The statue to Volodymyr, saint and prince, was erected in 1988 at the corner of Holland Park Avenue and the street called Holland Park, to commemorate a thousand years of Christianity in Russia, which he was said to have initiated. There are however two rather different versions of that and also of just what sort of a man he was.

One tradition derives from the chronicles of the monk Nestor, written about a hundred years after the death of Volodymyr – more usually called Vladimir, at least in western Europe. That potted history describes him as a lustful soldier who kept eight hundred concubines and made human sacrifices to pagan deities. But, seized with the need to find a better, more spiritual life as a way of unifying his empire, he sent out scholars to investigate the



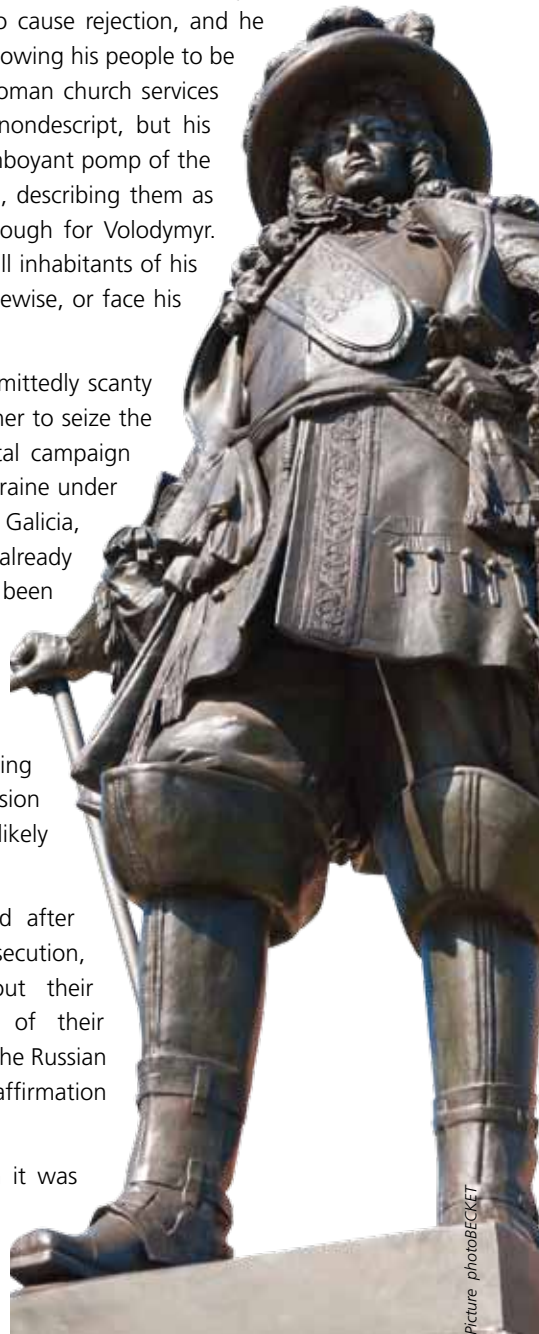
Volodymyr, saint and prince

market. Islamic prohibition of pork and wine conflicted sufficiently with the remnants of his previous appetites to cause rejection, and he was unimpressed by the Jewish god for allowing his people to be scattered into exile. The reports of the Roman church services in Latin described them as boring and nondescript, but his envoys were deeply impressed by the flamboyant pomp of the Byzantine vestments, incense and singing, describing them as a preview of heaven. That was good enough for Volodymyr. He had himself baptised and demanded all inhabitants of his capital, Kiev, to go to the river and do likewise, or face his extreme displeasure.

An alternative view emerges from the admittedly scanty historical evidence. He murdered his brother to seize the throne and went on a wideranging brutal campaign of conquest, bringing the Baltic to the Ukraine under his control and extending over Lithuania, Galicia, and Livonia. Much of the country was already Christian, with his grandmother having been baptised and his murdered brother Yaropolk brought up a Christian. His own conversion was more likely to have been part of a pact with the Byzantine emperor Basil II which also entailed marrying Basil's sister. On the other hand, the conversion of the despotic warrior king was certainly likely to have been influential on his subjects.

Kiev is now the capital of Ukraine and after long Russian domination and Soviet persecution, Ukrainians made a telling point about their independence and the differentiation of their church, which does not share the rites of the Russian Orthodox church, and part of that affirmation resulted in this statue.

If ever a man earned a statue in Britain it was William III, and in fact he has three in London: one in St James's Square and one at the Bank of England with the one in Kensington being by H Baucke beside



Picture photoBECKET

William III by H Baucke

Kensington Palace. That last is an appropriate place since he preferred to live in this palace because its country air was so much cleaner than at Whitehall and so better for his asthma. This statue was presented in 1907 to Edward VII by his nephew Wilhelm II of Germany as a copy of one he was erecting in Berlin, and rather cheekily the government sent the Kaiser a bill for £153.16s.9d for the costs of erecting the statue.

William III truly earned his commemoration for he more than any other man can be said to have helped create the modern Britain and laid the foundations of a state that made empire and industrial revolution possible. That all started with James II starting to demonstrate the mulish obstinacy and inclination to autocracy of his father Charles I, plus an intention of reintroducing Roman Catholicism as the state religion. So the country took against him and decided a replacement was urgently necessary. The merchants of London led the disaffection and opened negotiations with William of Orange since his wife being a respectably Protestant daughter of James made her a legitimate heir.

William accepted both the offer and the employment contract, which for the first time spelled out democratic requirements and the limitations on royal power. The process is still called the Glorious Revolution, only partly because it was bloodless. Not only did William endorse a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament having true power, but he brought with him a host of clever Dutchmen – the ingenious financiers who had made tiny Holland an economic and military power way beyond its size and population.

They not only replicated the pioneering Amsterdam stock market, which was a boost to business and entrepreneurial activity, but they contributed to the debate that created the Bank of England and a fiscally responsible government. That in turn enabled the state to borrow, and at a lower rate than less reliable and less politically stable countries. The finance enabled Britain to have forces to win wars and hence acquire territory and trade. And that combination made the country rich enough to fund not only any other wars but also industry and the facilities for creating an empire as the basis of yet more trade.

The Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, 1881-1945, came to London many times to perform both his own music and as piano accompanist for fellow Hungarians, especially eminent violinists. In addition, as a fervent opponent to fascism, he banned broadcasts of his works in Germany and Italy after 1933, cut off contacts with Nazi-linked organisations, transferred to British music publisher Boosey and Hawkes and had his manuscripts sent to London.

Those factors have proved excuse enough to put up a slightly unflattering statue to him (by Hungarian sculptor Imre Varga) just across the road from South Kensington



Bela Bartok by Imre Varga

station, about 350 yards from the house in Sydney Place where he stayed while visiting – it has a blue plaque. The statue was removed in 2009 to allow the roads round the station to be reorganised, and replaced September 2011 with a ceremony, bands and attended by pianist Tamas Vasary and minor celebrities such the former MP and now Classic fm disc jockey David Mellor, as well as, for some obscure reason, a pair of Chelsea Pensioners with a Hungarian flag.

Although often portrayed as a nationalist, his childhood early homes, then Hungary, are now in Romania, Ukraine and Slovakia. Which is not inappropriate since his passionate collection of folk music, in collaboration with Zoltan Kodaly, readily explored not just Hungarian but also Romanian and Slovak songs, and extended to Bulgaria. It had to be a passion for it was not exactly a popular field – his printed collection took 32 years to sell out the 1,500 printing.

His opposition to Nazism finally prompted him to emigrate to New York in 1940. After two fallow years there he finally started composing again but illness then increasingly incapacitated him though he continued working almost to his dying day. He never felt at home in the United States so at the end of the war he was desperate to return to Hungary but transport and red tape kept frustrating his wishes – “I would like to return home for ever”. In September 1945 he died, still in New York

MICHAEL BECKET

FEATURE

JOHN BARKER – KING OF KENSINGTON HIGH STREET



John Barker

Image courtesy of RBKC Local Studies Library

If Sir John Barker had walked down Kensington Church Street to the junction of Kensington High Street just before he died almost 100 years ago, he could have surveyed an estate to rival many of the landed gentry's. But Barker was a tradesman. Yet gazing left towards Westminster – where he had been an MP – he would see a store on the High Street's southern side bearing his name. Looking right he would see the Pontings department store that he owned. Between those emporia was Derry & Toms's ornate Victorian store – also soon to join Barker's empire. And behind him, on the north of Kensington High Street, were yet more of his shops, reachable by the subway he had constructed.

The stocky businessman with a waxed moustache twisted to points owned more than 50 properties in this corner of Kensington but, like the hero of H G Wells's novel Kipps – published nine years before Barker died – Barker had started as a Kent draper's apprentice. He was born in 1840 near Maidstone, son of a carpenter and brewer, and after the three-year training worked in a Folkestone draper's shop – just like Arthur Kipps.

But while Wells's hero inherited a fortune and lost it, Barker built his own and kept it. He arrived in London aged 18 and joined a Marylebone retail draper, Spencer, Turner & Boldero. Then when William Whiteley opened his Bayswater store in 1863, Barker joined as a salesman, quickly becoming a £300-a-year manager. He excelled

but Whiteley refused to make him a partner, offering him £1,000 a year instead – equivalent to £90,000 today.

It was Barker's decision to set up on his own that brought him to Kensington in 1870. The Metropolitan Railway station had opened two years earlier and the area was transforming rapidly from village to suburb and becoming a retail hot spot. Barker chose two properties on the south of the High Street close to Ball Street, which then effectively formed a crossroads with what was still called Church Lane. Nearby Kensington Square and Kensington Palace provided affluent clientele.

For finance he turned to James Whitehead - like Whiteley, a Yorkshire-born drapers' apprentice attracted by London's riches - who had a shop in the City. Barker had learnt much about modern retailing from Whiteley but much about expansion too. Whiteley bought up shops in Westbourne Grove until he had 17 different departments; in his first year, Barker used his new partner's capital to add buildings in Ball Street.

That allowed Barker to offer millinery and dressmaking. More properties and more departments quickly followed: men's and children's clothing plus books, stationery and fancy goods, then ironmongery, furniture, china and glass plus carpets. He expanded along the High Street and down Ball Street. By 1880 he had 15 premises and introduced groceries, wine, spirits and cigars. More purchases pushed him west to King Street (now Derry Street), east towards Young Street and further south. The London & County Bank building joined his expanding empire and silk, cabinet and chemists departments opened.

In 1889 part of the site was demolished and a six-storey store developed. Long before Glasgow-based House of Fraser bought Barkers, the 1,200 guests at the opening were entertained by Highland pipers and the Scots Guards' band. The new building boasted electricity and a customer lift. Much stock came from that year's Paris Exhibition – where Whitehead was an official UK representative.

Whitehead, six years Barker's elder, had always remained distant from the Kensington store and had already swapped commerce for civic service. He stood as a Liberal in the 1885 and 1886 general elections, representing Appleby in Westmoreland for two years. He was Lord Mayor of London in 1888 and made a baronet the next year. In 1893, Barker bought out his stake in the business after a disagreement.

In the early days Barker and his family, like other staff, slept over the High Street shop. But as the profits rolled in he moved to Bishop's Stortford, buying a house – where he hosted the annual horticultural show - plus two farms and supported the Essex Foxhounds. A neighbour was Sir Walter Gilbey, whose wine and spirits business had a shop on Oxford Street. Barker's son Tresham married Gilbey's daughter Annie and Sir Walter lent the funds to buy out Whitehead. The new backer insisted the retailer

was floated on the stockmarket and the share offer gave Barker £282,000 cash while retaining the controlling shares.

The board argued continually – but the expansion continued. By 1894 Barker had 64 departments in 33 shops, 16 of them on the High Street but the frontage was not continuous until that year he bought out the shop that split his estate. In 1898 he started buying up the north side of the High Street.

Buying in the last outstanding properties permitted Barker to obtain a new lease from the London County Council and build a grand new store. He had become an LCC alderman but had grander political ambitions. He won Maidstone as a Liberal in the 1900 general election but the result was voided four months later after objections. At the 1906 election he successfully displaced Sir John Horniman, the tea



Picture photoBCKET

Barkers today – still bearing his name



Barkers early years

mogul, as MP for Penrhyn & Falmouth and joined a House where Whitehead's son was a fellow Liberal MP and Horniman's son represented Chelsea on the Opposition benches.

Barker's political interventions during four years as an MP were few however. His Kent connections caused him to ask questions about ill-treatment of prisoners at Maidstone and corruption in Greenwich and he supported fellow department store owner Frederick Gorringe in a dispute with his landlord, the Duke of Westminster.

The Ponting brothers had opened a store on Westbourne Grove shortly after Barker left Whiteleys but they too moved to Kensington High Street, two blocks west of Barkers' site. When Pontings went bust in 1906, Barker bought the business, running it as a downmarket complement to his original store.

His properties on the opposite side of the High Street provided temporary space when fire destroyed part of Bakers in 1912 and the subway was built to connect the two sites. The Great War was coming, however, and while the War Office became a customer - and bought 100 of Barker's delivery horses - civilian trade was hit.

In December 1914 Barker died aged 74 but his ethos of expansion continued. Pontings and Bakers were separated by Derry & Toms, a store already open when Barker came to Kensington and which had competed to buy available sites. The Bakers company bought this rival in 1920 and developed Pontings down Wright's Lane, uniting three adjacent department stores. An excursion into Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool in 1924 was short-lived but there were more acquisitions on both sides of the High Street with an eight-storey block facing the original store.



Barkers in the 1800s

Then in 1927 plans were revealed to develop both Bakers and Derry & Toms. The magnificent D&T building was completed in 1933 with the roof garden opening five years later. The Bakers redevelopment meant closing Ball Street and moving the building line back 10 yards to widen the High Street but work was halted by the war and did not restart until 1955.

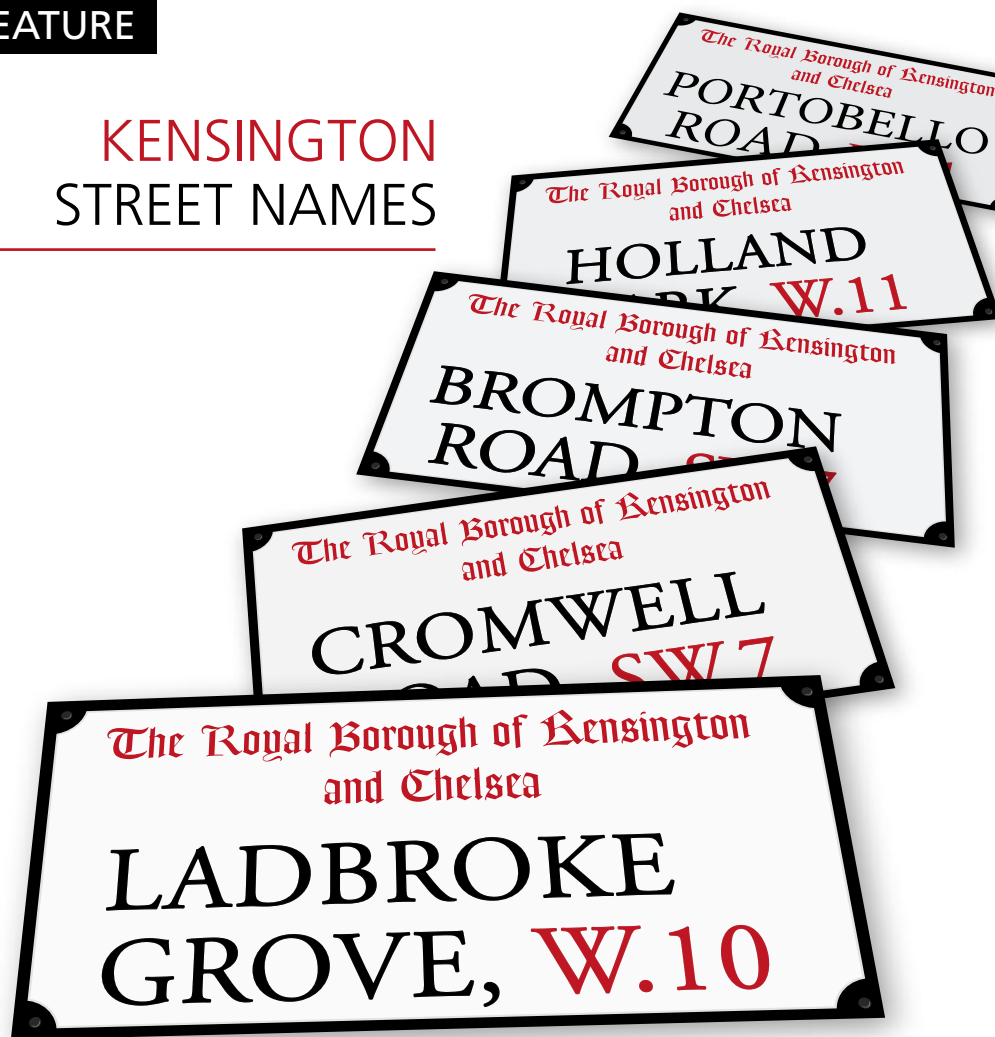
By the time it opened in 1958 – surely London's last art-deco building - Barker's was owned by House of Fraser. In 1971 Pontings closed with a Pontings Bargain Basement created inside Bakers, and Derry & Toms was sold to become Biba briefly and is now Marks & Spencer and Gap.

Sir John Barker's empire was being dismantled. Fraser itself changed ownership several times. Three of the redeveloped store's seven floors were closed in 1982 and turned into offices now occupied by the Daily Mail and Independent. Bakers finally closed in 2006, replaced by the Whole Foods Market.

If Sir John returned to that road junction for the centenary of his death he might see his name on Barker's Arcade, the shops within the building. But if he raised his eyes he would see the word 'Barkers' in giant stone letters standing proud atop the rounded art-deco stair towers. That is the memorial to the man who was king of Kensington High Street.

RICHARD NORTHEGE

KENSINGTON STREET NAMES



A journey into the origins of some of the most famous streets in Kensington:

BROMPTON ROAD

A medieval heathland village grew around Broom Farm, named for the flourishing broom in the area, as recorded in 1294. By the 14thC the name had been corrupted to Bromton. In the 16thC the low marshy ground was drained to allow the planting of orchards, with the Brompton Park nursery being established on the site now occupied by the Victoria & Albert museum. The reputation for healthy air – presumably being upwind of the smoke generated by the cities of Westminster and London – during the 19thC attracted some expensive housing and Brompton Hospital, its site chosen in a “village in Kensington remarkable for the salubrity of its air”.

CAMPDEN HILL

The prosperous merchant Baptist Hill grew so important he received a knighthood and built a house on the hill in 1612. When he was created Lord Campden of Chipping Campden in 1628 his home came to be called Campden House. The site is now occupied by a block of flats, Campden House Court in Gloucester Walk.



Campden Hill Road

CROMWELL ROAD

Predictably the road is named after Oliver Cromwell but got its name only in the 1850s at the suggestion of Prince Albert. It was to commemorate the site of Hale House or Cromwell House (which was either at Queen's Gate or Queensberry Place corner – the authorities disagree), where the Lord Protector is thought to have lived for a time. The road was



Cromwell Road

driven through a series of market gardens thanks in part to a speculative developer and the Royal Commissioners for the Great Exhibition. In its early days several of its houses were occupied of peers including the Duke of Rutland, Earl of Durham, Lord Cairn and Lord Blantyre.

DUCHESS OF BEDFORD'S WALK

The duke and duchess of Bedford used to have a house at the top of Campden Hill in the early years of the 19thC, round about where the Holland Park School now is.

EARL'S COURT

The manorial court of the de Vere family, earls of Oxford, was roughly where the current Underground station is. They were lords of the manor until 1526 and were succeeded by the earls of Warwick and Holland. The manor house itself lay slightly to the east of what is now Earls Court Road and a hamlet developed around it. The 190 acre farm to the west of Earl's Court Road began to give way to housing from 1811 as the then owners of the land, Baron Kensington, tried to raise money but in 1830 William Cobbett is his Rural Rides still reported he found market gardens and a field of wheat there. The arrival of the railway in 1871 and the siting of the station gave a fillip to the development and from 1887 the open ground to the west was used for fairs and exhibitions. The hall was designed in the 1890s by the Hungarian Imre Kiralyfi who later designed White City.

EDWARDES SQUARE

The second Lord Kensington leased part of the land south of the area sold to Lord Holland to a spec builder in 1811 and the square was called after his family name. There has long been a rumour the homes had been prepared to house Napoleonic army officers after they had occupied Britain, but that arose from a series of misconstructions: Lord Holland, who lived across the road, had



Picture photoBECKET

Edwardes Square

strong sympathies with the French revolution, the developer was called Louis Leon Changeur and the Kensington Turnpike Trust mistook that for Colonel Charmilly who had been denounced by Earl Grey as a Napoleonic agent. Parliament passed an Act in 1819 to regulate lighting, watching and cleansing of the square under which a householder could be fined 5 shillings for failing to keep the pavement in front of his house clean every morning, and fined £5 for "suffering swine to wander upon the said footways and carriageways". Among its inhabitants have been George du Maurier, G K Chesterton and Leigh Hunt. In deference to the origins of the Edwardes family many of the streets developed on their estates have Pembrokeshire or Cardiganshire origins: Nevern, Marloes, Longridge, Penywern, Pembroke.

HOLLAND PARK ETC

Holland House had originally been built for Sir Walter Cope around 1605 who had amassed nearly five hundred acres of property around it, stretching south almost to the Fulham Road. It passed by marriage to Henry Rich who was created Earl of Holland in 1624 and took its name then from him. The title died out and in 1721 the house passed to Lady Elizabeth Edwardes, née Rich, sister of the sixth earl. Henry Fox, the politician who had been created Baron Holland, bought the house and the land to the north of the Hammersmith Road (now Kensington High St) from William Edwardes who had become Baron Kensington. The house was all but eliminated by a WW2 German bomb.

Often there is confusion over the name Holland Park as there is a street called Holland Park, plus Holland Park Avenue, Holland Park Road and Holland Park Mews, all within a small area.

KENSINGTON HIGH STREET

Kensington appears in the Domesday Book and has been supposed to be derived from a Saxon farmer called Cynesige. Country residences from early days have disappeared, the only remnants are the shell of Holland House, and Sir George Coppin's house has been transformed over the centuries to become Kensington Palace.



Picture photoBECKET

Duchess of Bedford's Walk



Picture photoBECKET

Pembridge Square

The developer Thomas Young pioneered the urban development in 1685 by laying out Kensington Square but that long remained a lonely outpost of urban living in the midst of fields and gravel pits.

LADBROKE GROVE

In the mid-18thC the wealthy Richard Ladbroke, brother of a distinguished banker, bought three farms north of the Uxbridge Road passing through the Notting Hill tollgate, now called Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park Avenue. The properties passed down through cousins and nephews and in 1819 to Richard Weller who was required by the will to assume the name of Ladbroke. Carried away by the building boom he managed to break the terms of the will limiting leases to twenty-one years and leased out the land to a wide set of speculative developers. When the area proved a little too far from London and the building boom receded, development was replaced by a short-lived racecourse centred on the site now occupied by St Johns church on Ladbroke Grove. After 1841 development resumed in fits and starts but most of the undertakers of the building projects went bust. All the same the name of the owners remain.

PEMBRIDGE VILLAS

A pair of mid-19thC property developers of Welsh backgrounds but originating in Herefordshire, W H and W K Jenkins, liked to give their streets names from the Welsh border areas. So when they laid out Pembridge Crescent they gave it a name from a Herefordshire village. Their other developments also show this preference: Chepstow, Denbigh and Ledbury.

PONT STREET

It was originally a short street dating from the early part of the 19thC leading across a bridge over the Westbourne stream to the Belgravia developments. It was being used and developed at a time when the area had a distinctly French flavour which may have produced the name. To the west of Sloane Street the houses with large red-brick gables were built in 1878 and prompted the designer/cartoonist Osbert Lancaster (who grew up in Elgin Crescent) to christen their style as Pont Street Dutch. The Westbourne stream itself which rises in Hampstead, is joined in Bayswater by the Tyburn brook, flowed under the Knights bridge and is now visible only as a giant tube crossing above the platforms at Sloane Square tube station. In 1730, at the suggestion of George II's wife Caroline, it was dammed on its way through Hyde Park to create the Serpentine. It also lent its name to Westbourne Grove, Park, Park Road, Terrace.



Picture photoBECKET

Pont Street

UPPER PHILLIMORE GARDENS/PHILLIMORE WALK/OBSERVATORY GARDENS

Joseph Phillimore came to London from Gloucestershire early in the 18thC and married Anne D'Oyley the illegitimate daughter of Laud D'Oyley who owned the 89 acre estate which had been part of Campden House. It ran from High Street Kensington to beyond the present Airlie Gardens and from Holland Park to just beyond Hornton Street and remained largely agricultural until about 1788. Then William Phillimore started the development along the High Street. The little street Sheldrake Place just north of the Duchess of Bedford Walk takes its name from Elizabeth Jane Sheldrake who married William Brough Phillimore. On a site now partly occupied by Observatory Gardens on Campden Hill was the home of the Phillimore family. It was later acquired by the astronomer Sir James South who constructed an observatory in the grounds which for a time possessed the largest telescope in the world, and renamed his home Observatory House.

MICHAEL BECKET

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	7,830.00	8,015.00
Donations	2,615.90	2,395.00
Gift Aid	6,697.76	0.00
Total voluntary income	<u>17,143.66</u>	<u>10,410.00</u>
Activities for generating funds		
Events	0.00	982.00
Annual report advertising	3,450.00	3,700.00
Total activities for generating funds	<u>3,450.00</u>	<u>4,682.00</u>
Investment income		
Gift Aid interest	28.29	33.91
Bank interest	1,089.21	224.66
Total incoming resources	<u>21,711.16</u>	<u>15,350.57</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities		
Newsletter	1,310.19	881.25
Events	0.00	799.28
Annual report	7,375.91	6,489.15
Lecture and AGM	542.26	720.83
Subscriptions to related charities	2,600.00	412.00
Total charitable activities costs	<u>11,828.36</u>	<u>9,302.51</u>
Governance costs		
Insurance	320.28	410.56
Legal and accounting fees	689.50	(582.00)
Office expenses	180.00	305.90
Total governance costs	<u>1,189.78</u>	<u>134.46</u>
Total resources expended	<u>13,018.14</u>	<u>9,436.97</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	<u>8,693.02</u>	<u>5,913.60</u>
Total unrestricted funds brought forward	<u>59,136.26</u>	<u>53,222.66</u>
Total unrestricted funds carried forward	<u>67,829.28</u>	<u>59,136.26</u>

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors		
Prepayments and accrued income		
Subscriptions and Donations	30.00	0.00
Interest	287.13	159.11
Gift Aid	0.00	606.41
Insurance	58.00	204.28
Total prepayments and accrued income	<u>375.13</u>	<u>969.80</u>
Cash at bank and in hand		
Barclays Bank	5,454.15	6,166.46
Scottish Widows Bank	62,000.00	52,000.00
Total cash at bank and in hand	<u>67,454.15</u>	<u>58,166.46</u>
Total current assets	<u>67,829.28</u>	<u>59,136.26</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income		
Events	0.00	0.00
Annual report advertising	0.00	0.00
Office expenses	0.00	0.00
Legal and accounting fees	0.00	0.00
Total accruals and deferred income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net assets	<u>67,829.28</u>	<u>59,136.26</u>
Funds of The Kensington Society		
Unrestricted funds	<u>67,829.28</u>	<u>59,136.26</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 17 January 2013.

Financial Review

The net incoming resources for the year were £8,693.02 which is an increase of £2,779.42 from last year. This was mainly due to Gift Aid received for the four years to 31/12/2012 of £6,697.76 and bank interest of £1,089.21 at the rate of 1.85%.

The balance sheet remains strong with funds of the society improving to £67,829.28. £62,000.00 is on deposit with the Scottish Widows Bank.

The society wishes to thank all the members who have generously subscribed £7,830.00 and donated £2,615.90 to the society during the year.

Accounting policies

– Accruals basis

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

Incoming resources

– Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:
the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

– Donations

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

– Tax reclaims on gifts and donations

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

– Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the financial activities.

– Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and liabilities

– Liability recognition

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

– Governance costs

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



CHARITY NO. 267778

THE KENSINGTON
SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Annual individual subscription due 1 January £ 15

Donation £ _____

Total £ _____

Your title, full name, address and postcode

Title _____ Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Your email address please for alerts and communications

Email _____ Telephone _____ Mobile _____

How did you hear of us? Renewal ☐ Friend ☐ Planning issue ☐ Other _____

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money to

The Kensington Society made today or in the past four years or in the future ☐

giftaid it

I confirm that I have paid or shall pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008. You can cancel your Gift Aid declaration at any time. Please let us know if you change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

X Signature _____ Date _____

Bank Standing Order to the Bank Manager, bank name, holding branch, address and post code:

Bank name _____ Bank branch _____

Bank address _____ Postcode _____

Bank sort code ____ - ____ - ____

Account number _____

Account name(s) _____

Please pay Barclays Bank Notting Hill Gate sort code **20-47-34** for the credit of **The Kensington Society** Account **70519138**:

Reference (Bank use) _____

the amount of **first payment** £ _____

commencing date of first payment _____

and **annual payment** of £ _____ on **1 January annually** until further notice. This cancels any other previous standing order to the Kensington Society.

X Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this membership form with your standing order instruction above or your cheque to:

The Kensington Society, 23 St James's Gardens, LONDON W11 4RE

If you have any concerns, please email: martinf@bauencorp.com or call: 020 7193 5243. Thank you.

Victoria Revealed

Meet the woman,
wife and mother
behind the crown

www.hrp.org.uk

Images: The Royal Collection.
© 2011 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Garden Square News

Scoundrel developers, brilliant playgrounds, tree threats...

For the inside story on what goes on in K&C's communal gardens,
subscribe to this twice-yearly, avidly-read publication.

Garden Committee subscription: £40

Individual subscription: £20

Send your cheque, made out to *Garden Square News*, to:
Garden Square News, c/o Dhawan News, 155 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0LJ

www.gardensquarenews.com



GALLERY 19 IS...

- Bespoke picture framing
- Architectural views of Kensington, London and Italy
- Original paintings, Limited Edition prints and photographs
- Reproduction Maps
- Architectural models and bookends
- Hand-crafted Italian objects including calf-leather journals, ceramics and wrought-iron work
- House portraits by private commission

GALLERY 19

19 KENSINGTON COURT PLACE
LONDON W8 5BJ
TELEPHONE: 020 7937 7222
EMAIL: info@gallery19.com
WEB: gallery19.com

THE BRITISH-ITALIAN SOCIETY

A forum for lovers of Italy and Italian Culture

Lectures, exhibitions, readings, concerts, social activities and lots more ...

Join now!

Email: jj@british-italian.org (Membership)
elisabetta@british-italian.org (Events)

www.british-italian.org

CREAMER KENSINGTON



**The only official Jaguar dealer
in Kensington & Chelsea**

Drayson Mews, Holland Street
Kensington, London W8 4LY
Tel: 020 7937 1275 Fax: 020 7937 9863

www.racreamer.co.uk



“An absolutely fabulous holiday... our whole experience exceeded our expectations beyond all hope! The only downfall is, how on earth are we going to go anywhere on a normal holiday ever again?”



Discover a holiday with a difference in Thailand, Sri Lanka or Brazil with Kensington-based specialist tour operator, Tell Tale Travel.

Nature and Wildlife, Gardens and Horticulture, Markets and Cooking, Culture, History and much more. Gain insider experiences and tales to tell for years to come.

Find out more at www.telltaletravel.co.uk



Lucy Elliott
photography

FAMILY
PORTRAITS
SMALL PARTIES
ARCHITECTURAL
FLORAL

07921 558520
www.lucyelliottphotography.com

Make your leap with confidence



Moving house is always a leap into the unknown – new home, new surroundings, new life...

Amid all this uncertainty, it pays to be sure that the people moving you are the best in the business.

Which may explain why over 90% of Cadogan Tate customers turn to us again when planning their latest big leap.

Call us direct on 0208 963 4000
or go to www.cadogantate.com

Cadogan Tate®
Everything, handled with care®
Moving Storage Shipping



We are proud to celebrate our 25th anniversary this year, since opening our first shop in Kensington



Wine and Cheese shop in
Holland Park Avenue

Today we have shops across Kensington supplying local customers with the finest selection of wine from around the world

96 Holland Park Avenue
13 Elgin Crescent

56 Walton Street
6 Pont Street

www.jeroboams.co.uk

GEORG BASELITZ, GILLIAN CARNEGIE, JAKE & DINOS CHAPMAN, ALAN DAVIE, RICHARD DEACON, TERRY FROST, DAMIEN HIRST, GARY HUME, ANISH KAPOOR, MICHAEL LANDY, CHRIS OFILI, CHRISTOPHER LEBRUN, ELIZABETH MAGILL, SARAH MORRIS, PAUL MORRISON, GRAYSON PERRY, GED QUINN, MARC QUINN, GEORGE SHAW, CORINNE WASMUHT, RACHEL WHITEREAD, BILL WOODROW, JONATHAN YEO, THOMAS ZIPP ET AL

CONTEMPORARY ART IN PRINT

PARAGON | CONTEMPORARY EDITIONS LTD
WISHES THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY EVERY
SUCCESS FOR 2013

CHARLES BOOTH-CLIBBORN | PARAGON
WWW.PARAGONPRESS.CO.UK
INFO@PARAGONPRESS.CO.UK
T 020 7370 1200

BROMPTON *Quarterly* –

SIGN UP FOR NEWS & EVENTS
BROMPTONQUARTER.COM
[@BROMPTONDESIGN](https://www.instagram.com/BROMPTONDESIGN)



PHOTOGRAPH OF TOMBO DELI AND CAFE BY KENSINGTON LEVERNE. KENSINGTONLEVERNE.COM

INDEPENDENT SHOPS, CAFÉS & RESTAURANTS

ROSAMOND ROSE PROPERTIES

Established 1985

Specialist in short term Holiday
and Business Lets in Central London

22A Upper Addison Gardens, Holland Park, London W14 8AP, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7603 2704 | Mobile: 07885 440316

Email: info@rosamondroseproperties.com www.rosamondroseproperties.com

**MAIL BOXES ETC.®**





A REAL STREET ADDRESS, NOT A P O BOX

PACKAGE ACCEPTANCE

MAIL HOLDING AND FORWARDING

WORLDWIDE PARCEL DELIVERY

COPY, PRINT, FINISHING, INTERNET

MON-FRI: 8.30-19.00
SAT: 10.00-17.00

**CENTRES ALSO IN MARYLEBONE,
NOTTING HILL GATE AND
PADDINGTON**

272 Kensington High Street London W8 6ND 020 7603 9999
mbe0128@gmail.com www.mbe.co.uk

