

MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription is £10. Members will simplify the collection of their subscriptions if they will fill in the Banker's Order below.

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The Membership Secretary, The Kensington Society,
c/o 2 Campden Hill Court, Observatory Gardens, London W8 7HX

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.....Address of Bank

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Please immediately pay Barclays Bank PLC, Kensington (20-47-34) to the credit of The Kensington Society (70519138) my subscription of £..... and continue the same on 1st January annually until further notice.

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title).....

Address:.....

Signature:.....Date:.....

GIFT AID

☐ I am a UK tax payer, and I should like the Kensington Society to claim Gift Aid on this Gift and any others I may make in the future.

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title).....

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The Kensington Society - Registered Charity Number: 267778

SUMMER 2006 Newsletter



From the Kensington Society (Founded in 1953)

Patron: His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

President: Sir Ronald Arculus, KCMG, KCVO

Vice-President: The Rt Hon the Earl of Snowdon, GCVO

Vice-President: General Lord Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE

Secretary's Letter

This year our Annual General Meeting was held in the Small Hall of the Town Hall on March 27th, and was addressed by Malcolm Shirley, Secretary to the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851. He gave us the most interesting talk on the only Royal Commission to be given a permanent role administering the assets created for the original 1851 Exhibition. We are extremely grateful to him. The hall was packed with standing room only at the back, and everyone enjoyed the talk.

The most interesting development of the year was the refurbishment of Kensington High Street. Michael Bach, our Committee member for transport has written about this in this letter. This initiative taken by Councillor Moylan has received national coverage as an example of what can be done when a design is applied to a major thoroughfare. It is noteworthy when the Royal Borough takes a lead from which the whole country can benefit.



As all our members know we keep a watchful eye on Kensington Gardens and I went to a meeting at the Albert Hall where the new Chairman of the Parks Agency, Mark Camley, was asking what the local feeling was about how the parks are run. The major concern expressed was about the current use of the parks by cyclists. The senior police officer present obviously took due note as the following morning on my usual walk in Kensington Gardens with Kensity, the police were out in the park stopping cyclists and giving tickets to them if they were on the wrong paths.

Our continuing thanks go to David Campion who keeps our Website up to date www.kensingtonsociety.org. He has recently added a news blog section which is now available for all your comments so we hope to hear from you.

Committee Changes

Robert Meadows whose expertise in town planning has been so useful to the Executive Committee, has now retired and joined our Council where we can call upon him when necessary.

Carrie Starren, who edited such a successful Annual Report, has joined the Executive Committee.

Anthony Lee has taken over responsibility for the Liquor Licensing.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and we see some of you at the events we have organized.

Ethne Rudd, Hon. Secretary, 15 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH
020 7376 1111 e-mail: ethne.rudd@virgin.net

www.kensingtonsociety.org

Chairman's Updates

The Council has set up a Liaison Committee on Holland Park School, which will consider the design of the school and its associated residential units, whether to rebuild or refurbish, the financial options, and what decisions might be made. We understand that a rebuild is by no means a 'done deal'. Following consultations, a formal application may be made during the autumn.

Ideas for the redevelopment of the Odeon Cinema site in Kensington High Street, (recently bought by Minerva/Northacre) to include cinemas and residential units above, was discussed in the Town Hall by this Society and other Societies, Councillors and the developers, on 11 April. No defined plans then emerged, but residents and Councillors asked indicative questions of the developers. We await the consultation period, envisaged for July, and the formal planning application around September. It was agreed that those attending should be used as a future core reference group for the project.

The need to maintain and improve shopping character in the Royal Borough (which means, in part, the retention of small speciality and corner shops and the like) is emerging as a significant Council concern. This Society will be represented on a formal body to be set up by the Council to consider options and action.

The Kensal Green Gas Works Site (next to Sainsbury's), now decontaminated, is to be redeveloped by the Peabody Trust. The Society seeks a development of outstanding quality in terms of layout, building design and provision for community activities. We have asked to be consulted at salient stages of the planning process.

Robin Price

Complimentary entry for Kensington Society members

20/21 BRITISH
ART FAIR

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email: info@britishartfair.co.uk | website: www.britishartfair.co.uk

Safer Neighbourhoods

On the 3rd April 2006 Queen's Gate ward became a Safer Neighbourhoods ward. The Commissioners pledged to introduce Visible, Familiar and Accessible policing to local communities, and as a result of this Queen's Gate now has a team of six officers comprising of one Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSO). As a team we will be working closely with the community to address the concerns of both residents and Business Owners of Queen's Gate. For many we will be the first line of contact with the police for non-emergencies. I must stress that if you require immediate police assistance you should continue to dial 999.

If you see us please come and say hello, the more people we speak too, the more we can get an understanding of your concerns. We can be contacted on the following number 020 8721 2659 / 07920 233804 or email address <<mailto:queensgate.snt@met.police.uk>> queensgate.snt@met.police.uk.

I look forward to meeting you all, and if you would like us to attend any residents meeting to explain Safer Neighbourhoods please get in contact.

**PS Paul Rougvie 37BS
Queens Gate Ward**

Monitoring the Community Strategy

'Improving our Community: Monitoring the Delivery of the Community Strategy' is due to be published in May 2006. This monitoring plan contains for each aim in the Strategy a series of performance measures, targets and milestones.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Partnership has endeavoured to tackle the problems confronting the Borough's most deprived communities and action to deliver the aims and objectives in the Strategy will often be focused on them. As specific government funding to support this work, e.g. through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, has ended, the Partnership will now look for opportunities to work together using mainstream budgets to improve the quality of life in deprived areas. Action will also be taken through the Local Area Agreement. Indeed, 38 of the 48 performance measures in the Agreement are included in the Strategy's monitoring plan.

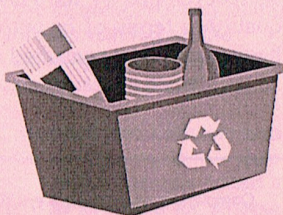
For Environment and Transport, the plan contains four main aims: to protect and improve the Borough's environment; to deliver services and work with local people day by day to make the Borough a pleasant place to be in; to improve local transport management, service and networks; and to promote energy efficiency, recycling and the reduction of pollution.

Targets cover such matters as improving neglected land; reducing litter and

waste dumping on the streets; increasing the amount of waste recycled or composted; increasing the number of trees pruned or replaced; improving street lighting; reducing the number of people killed or injured in road traffic accidents; increasing pedestrian crossing facilities for the disabled; increasing school travel plans to lessen car use; improving the efficiency of the Borough's housing stock; and producing a Green Development Guide to support the introduction of sustainable construction methods. Action is also to be taken to improve the quality and accessibility for all public open space and will include measures to set up groups of Friends for each park.

As targets may need to be adjusted to take account of revised baselines or new performance data, they will be subject to an annual review. The Partnership will report publicly each year on progress in implementing the plan and will update it regularly. After three years, there will be a full review together with the review of the Community Strategy itself.

Celia Rees-Jenkins



Kensington High Street : Update

Things are changing in the High Street it is not only more attractive but it is also safer. At the same time, however, it is now facing new challenges to its future.

Safer High Street

Some people were sceptical about the Council's scheme for Kensington High Street and thought the new arrangements could be 'dangerous' as a result of removing most of the guardrailings, changing the layout of the junctions at Kensington Church Street and Earl's Court Road, and allowing pedestrians to cross the road in one go rather than in two stages. The aim was to improve conditions for pedestrians, to link the north and south of the High Street and reduce the clutter.

The scheme has received national recognition for its improved design and appearance, but now, nearly 3 years since the project was completed, the evidence seems to show that it is safer too. The number of road casualties in the High Street over the first 2 years (2003-2005) fell by over 40%, with pedestrian casualties down by over 60% - faster than the improvement in the borough as a whole. So, the innovative design and layout, far from adversely effecting safety, seems to have contributed to a higher overall percentage reduction in casualties than that for the Borough as a whole.

Challenges to its future

The Council's overall objective for the High Street is to maintain and enhance its vitality, viability and attractiveness and re-establish it as one of the premier shopping destinations in London. Improving the quality of the pedestrian environment was absolutely necessary, but with the imminent threats of the extension of congestion charging and a new regional shopping centre at White City Kensington High Street is likely to lose a significant amount of its trade.

Ahead of this, Barkers closed in January, Somerfields closed on 29 April, and there are now more vacant shops than any time in the last 30 years over which time we have seen the demise of three department stores and Kensington Market. The good news is that the High Street is still a place for retail innovation - much of Barkers will become an organic supermarket run by Wholefood Markets. However, if the High Street is going to maintain and enhance its role, it is going to require a concerted effort by the Council, business and the community to improve its attractiveness both as a destination and as centre for local shopping. We have less than two years to prepare for the challenge. Do we have the vision and the will to respond?

Michael Bach

Annual Report

Many thanks for all the kind words on the new look Kensington Annual Report. I am delighted that it has been so warmly received. The Executive are always interested in feedback - good or bad - so please let us know how we can continue to improve the Report.

In the 2006 issue I would like to include short features, of no more than 300 words, on either your local pub or your local area. For example, was anyone present at the Elephant and Castle when the Morris dancers performed outside (see the picture on page 47 of this year's report)? It would be nice to have a record of the famous Kensington pubs before they are all converted into gastro-pubs and wine bars. Sir Ronald Arculus wrote a piece on his local area (see page 38 of the Report) and articles in a similar vein would be most welcome.

On a personal note I am trying to collect information on private plaques that have been put up on local buildings. Good records on blue plaques are easy to find but not the private ones. Examples include the George Orwell plaque in Portobello Road, the Dead Comic Society plaque in Edwardes Square and the Beatrix Potter plaque outside Bousefield School. If you know of any such plaques please can you let me know, if possible with the wording and the exact address.

You can contact me either by letter via the Society's address 15 Kensington Square, W8 5HH or via e-mail to c.starren@ukonline.co.uk. Many thanks for all your support and assistance.

Carrie Starren, Editor

KENSINGTON SOCIETY BOOKING FORM

Date	No.	Name of Event	Fee payable

Total £

1. Please enter your bookings in date order.
2. When you have completed the booking form make out a cheque payable to "The Kensington Society" (crossed "Account Payee only" if not already printed on cheque), and sign it - but do not fill in an amount. However, to protect yourself, write at the bottom of the cheque "Amount not to exceed £ " (amount shown in total).
3. Forward booking form, cheque and a stamped addressed envelope to **Mrs Dianne Gabitass, 37 Kensington Place, W8 7PR**. The booking form will be processed and any events not available marked on it. Your cheque will then be completed and banked, and your booking form returned to you in your S.A.E.

YOUR NAME

(block letters please)

ADDRESS

Telephone number

PLEASE ADD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE VISITS:

EVENTS 2006

Thursday, 28 September 2006

**Joint meeting with the
Hammersmith and Fulham
Historic Buildings Group**

Angela Dixon, Chairman of the HFHBG, will talk on the past, present and future of the Group, and will be followed by Robin Price on the Kensington Society. Both talks will be illustrated. The purpose of the occasion is to meet and share ideas with an adjacent Society, so we hope for a high attendance. A glass of wine precedes the talks. Guests are welcome.

**Meet at 6:30 for 6:45pm in the
1st floor Studio, Leighton House, W14
There is no lift.**

£15.00 per person

Thursday, 12 October 2006

The Rothschild Archive

This is a wonderful chance to visit an important historical archive to hear about its work and the purpose of its existence and to see the Archive store itself. Numbers are strictly limited, so an early application is advised.

**Meet at 2:00pm Main Entrance
to New Court, St Swithin's Lane, EC4**

£7.50 per person

Monday, 13 November 2006

**Lecture by Dr Gail-Nina Anderson
on E.F. Benson**

We are fortunate indeed to have enlisted the knowledge and enthusiasm of Dr Anderson, an experienced lecturer and long-term member of the Tilling Society – a society devoted to E.F. Benson (a Kensingtonian, naturally) and the celebrated Lucia novels. Though this illustrated lecture cannot feature a 1920s Box Brownie snap of Lucia and Georgie vigorously duetting on the piano, we trust that the subject, and the glass of wine which precedes the lecture, will attract a high turn-out. Guests are welcome.

**Meet at 6:30 for 6:45pm in the
1st floor Studio, Leighton House, W14
There is no lift.**

£15.00 per person