

Fascinating Journals of a Young Victorian

In 1966, the fascinating journals of Laura Troubridge, written between 1873 and 1884, were compiled, edited and published by her daughter Jaqueline Hope-Nicholson under the title "Life Amongst the Troubridges".

Now, 33 years later, granddaughter Marie-Jacqueline Lancaster, of 42a Palace Gardens Terrace, has reprinted her grandmother's journals,

which Laura began writing when she was only 15 years old.

Laura Troubridge was raised by her conservative grandfather in Norfolk, together with three sisters and two brothers. Their parents had both died in 1867.

In her journals we have an inimitable account of family life in Victorian England with vivid portraits of all their relations, governesses and tutors. She describes picnics and excursions, staying in country houses, visits to London and finally her engagement.

Later, as Laura Hope, she became a well-known pastelist and painted Queen Victoria's grandchildren at Osborne.

The journals are illustrated by Laura's own drawings and by family photographs.

When the book was first published, The Times Literary Supplement wrote:

"The trivia of these cheerful lives is something of a gold mine for the historian of trivia, and so is Laura Troubridge's language, the easy slangy teenage talk of a period in which the natural speech of the upper classes is hard to come by."

Anyone interested in "Life Amongst the Troubridges" (£12.95) can contact Marie-Jacqueline on 0171-221 5933.

Free Leasehold Information

Booklets are available (without charge) to assist leaseholders who want to extend their lease or plan an outright purchase of the freehold (enfranchisement).

The introductory booklet, which sets out the rights of leaseholders of flats in precise terms and the implications of the Leasehold Reform (Housing and Urban Development Act 1993), is available from:

Department of the Environment
Blackhouse Road
London SE9 6TT
Telephone: 0181-691 9191

More detailed information, with examples of typical situations and the procedures for application, negotiation and valuation, is available in booklets supplied by:

The Leasehold Advisory Service
8 Maddox Street
London W1R 9PN
Telephone: 0171-493 3116

SOLD and LET BY signs are permitted for two weeks only and there may only be one agent's board per property.

After two weeks most agents are pretty willing to remove them. If not, please contact Tuggy Meyer on 0171-229 1602 after 6 p.m.

Estate Agent
Boards

Join Us!

The aim of CTRAA (The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association) is to preserve and enhance our local environment. We are open to all residents in the area and rely on having an enthusiastic membership.

Currently we have around 400 members and new members are always welcome. The annual subscription is only £2 per person (£5 for 3 years).

Summer Party

CTRAA's summer party will, as usual, take place in Inverness Gardens. This year, the date is 22 June (which is a Tuesday). Time: 6.30 p.m.

Everybody is very welcome, of course, especially anyone wishing to join the Association.



Conservation Grants

Do you know that you can actually get a grant from the Council towards restoration of ornamental features on your house? Features which may be subject to grant aid include front walls, railings, porches, balustrades and stucco cornices. The Council's view is that such work improves the character of the terrace or group of buildings of which the house is part.

Applications for such grants are to be sent to:

The Principal Planning Officer
(Mr. David McDonald)
Conservation and Design
The Town Hall
Horton Street
London W8 7NX

Direct phone: 0171-361 3352. Fax: 0171-361 3463



The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

1/1999

No Entry - for Good

You have probably already noticed that the no entry scheme at the top of Vicarage Gate is now being made permanent. This is the result of a decision taken by the Council in February, following the survey among residents in the area, which showed that an overwhelming majority were in favour of the scheme. The work should be finished by 25 May.

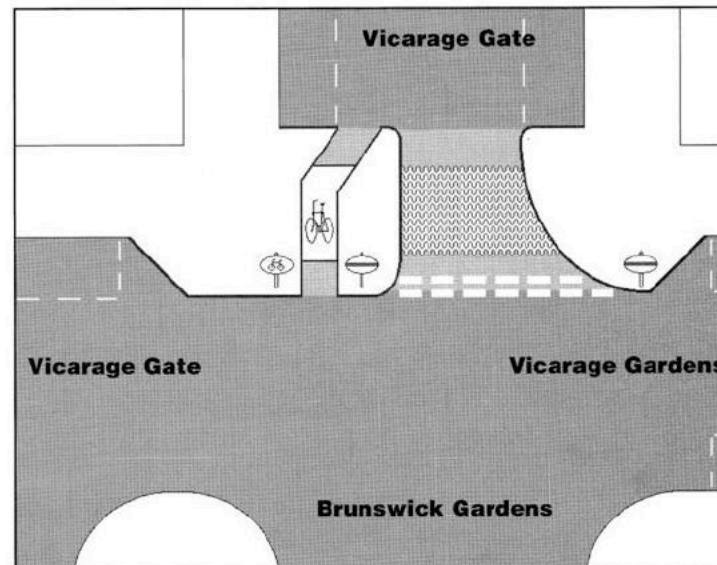
In November the Council sent out a questionnaire to 1,400 households in the area, regarding the no entry trial at the top of Vicarage Gate. They received 700 responses, and more than 80% were positive to the scheme.

As a result of that, the Council in February decided to make the scheme permanent. The work started in the beginning of May and should be finished shortly.

The no entry scheme at Vicarage Gate is one of the larger projects initiated by The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association in the last couple of years, and reminds of the project which started the Association some 30 years ago: the campaign to make the top end of Palace Garden Terrace one way.

That was, and still is, the most significant factor in restoring the character and tranquillity of this neighbourhood. Over night, Palace Gardens Terrace and Vicarage Gate became quiet residential streets again, after having been a busy through route for many years for buses and cars going down from Notting Hill Gate to Kensington High Street.

Due to increasing traffic conges-



The pavement for the traffic going up Vicarage Gate will be raised. Bicycles will be the only vehicles allowed going down Vicarage Gate, through a special bicycle lane.



If you've already forgotten what morning traffic down Brunswick Gardens and Vicarage Gate used to look like, here's a reminder.

tion at the bottom of Kensington Church Street during the last 4-5 years. Berkeley Gardens, Brunswick Gardens and Vicarage Gate started to become an increasingly popular "rat run" for drivers trying to jump the morning queue down Kensington Church Street.

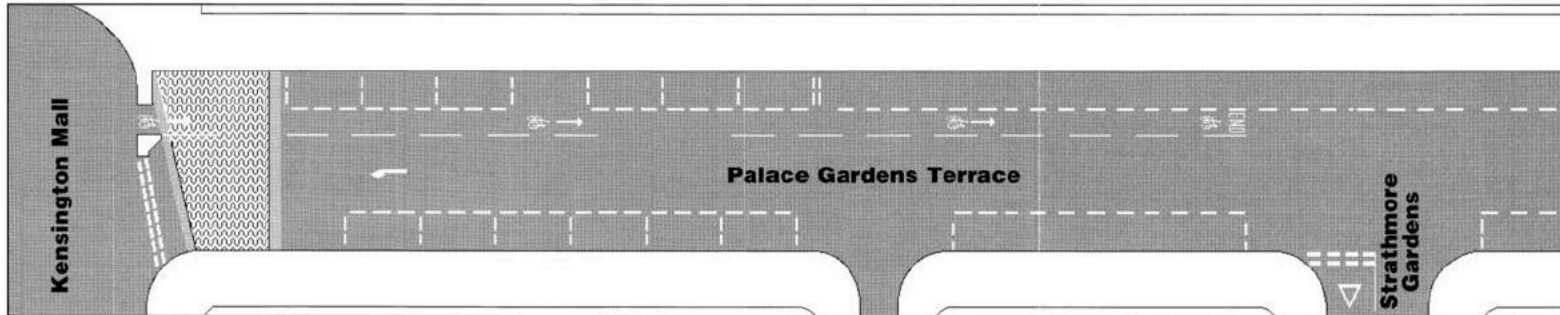
This is now history, to the benefit of the whole area.

Better late than never...

This issue of the newsletter should have reached you months ago, but for various reasons it didn't. However, here it finally is, looking somewhat different from what it used to.

We aim to improve both the content and the number of issues per year, but it does require your help. Without any material there won't be any newsletter. All ideas are welcome.

Addresses of the editor and CTRAA's chairman can be found on the back page.



The proposed cycle lane would be outside the metered and resident parking bays and run against the traffic flow on the one-way part of Palace Gardens Terrace, between Kensington Mall and Strathmore gardens.

Parking

There is probably nothing causing as much friction in our area as the yellow parking restriction notices. As there are many more cars with resident permits than there are parking spaces, it's hard enough finding somewhere to park even when there are no restrictions.

Any abuses of the parking facilities in our area, particularly by commercial and maintenance operations, are quickly brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities by the Cherry Trees committee.

Recently the committee was instrumental in persuading the Council to tighten the rules concerning the parking restriction notices. Such notices may no longer carry the text "Until further notice". They must clearly state the period of the restriction and the notices should be removed quickly afterwards.

Space availability is, however, not just the Council's responsibility. We can all help, by utilising the limited numbers of parking spaces as best as possible. If you park wisely, perhaps someone coming after you can also find room for his or her car.

A few hints

If you park at the end of a resident parking bay, make sure that you park as close to the end as possible.

If you park in a fairly wide gap, don't centre your car between the two other cars, but park as close as possible to the one in front or the one behind. That way the unused space might become available when the one you haven't parked close to leaves.

Wrong

Right

The black car could have been parked stupidly, as seen on the left side, but the its driver instead chooses to park close to the car in front, as seen on the right, thus leaving ample room to the car behind. When that car's owner drives away, there will be space for two new cars...

Cycle Lane Against the Flow in Palace Gardens Terrace?

As a follow-up to the no entry scheme at the top of Vicarage Gate, the Council's Highways and Traffic Committee proposes a similar entry treatment where the one-way section of Palace Gardens Terrace meets Kensington Mall. This will make it harder for car drivers to illegally enter Palace Gardens Terrace from Kensington Mall, which happens daily even though the no entry signs have been there for 30 years.

Just like at Vicarage Gate, there will be a cycle path through the kerb build-out, which will be followed by a marked cycle lane, thus allowing cyclists to legally go against the traffic down the one-way part. Cyclists are frequently using this shortcut already, albeit illegally.

The idea is to offer cyclists a chance to escape the busy Kensington Church Street on their way down to Kensington High Street.

The suggested cycle lane has caused much concern among some of the residents, as it runs outside the parking bays.

In a letter to CTRAA's Chairman, Willoughby Wynne, the Council's Chief Traffic Engineer, Mark Raisbeck, explains that the only legal way for cyclists to travel south-bound on the one way section, is by use of a cycle lane.

He explains that the cycle lane would be indicated by a white line, so there will be no

physical construction, as vehicles will still be able to cross the lane to park along the east side of Palace Gardens Terrace. A similar measure has recently been introduced in the one-way section of Ladbroke Road.

In his letter, Mr. Raisbeck also assures that there are no plans to extend the cycle lane along the two-way section of Palace Gardens Terrace.

A report about the plan, including comments from the residents and CTRAA, will be presented to the Highways and Traffic Committee on 8 June.

Willoughby Wynne has, on behalf of CTRAA, expressed concern that the introduction of the cycle lane will narrow the street, which may cause the police and fire services to demand the removal of the parking bays on one side. If that happens, it will mean a major loss of amenity for the residents.

Christian Science Church

Expanded office will be allowed to work until 11 p.m.

The Planning Inspector has recently overruled two of the conditions given by the Council when they allowed the Christian Science Church to turn its church hall into an office. The decision means that office can operate until 11 p.m. during the week.

Despite opposition from the CTRAA and local residents, the Council granted permission in November 1998 to the trustees of Second Church of Christ Scientist, at the top end of Palace Gardens Terrace, to turn its church hall into offices.

However, the permission was granted subject to a number of conditions, which should limit the possible ill effects the change would have on the surrounding area.

The church appealed against three of these conditions, and recently the Planning Inspector in Bristol decided to lift two of those conditions.

The Christian Science Church in Palace Gardens Terrace consists of three elements: the church building, the former church hall and a building which has been an office for many years. The office is let to Competitive Intelligence and Consulting Ltd. The original planning application was for changing the use of the church hall to office, thus enabling the company to expand by creating a total office space of 526 m².

The Council approved this, provided that the permit was made personal to

the MD of the company (thus diminishing the risk that the offices in the future could be let to a less suitable company) and provided that the office hours were limited to 08.30 - 18.30 Monday - Friday and 08.30 - 13.00 on Saturdays. No work would be allowed on Sundays or public holidays.

The church has now successfully convinced the Government's Planning Inspector to remove the personal permit condition and to extend the permitted working hours to 07.00 - 23.00 Monday - Friday and 08.00 - 18.00 on Saturdays.

This means that the church may in the future let this office space to any company they like, which could be detrimental to the area. It also means that the office workers can occupy resident parking spaces when they are working after normal office hours.

The Planning Inspector did however refuse the third appeal, which dealt with limitations regarding the planned interior works which were imposed because it is a Grade II listed building.

No Graffiti, Please!

In what we generally regard as a very special and privileged area to live, it has not gone unnoticed in the last few months that graffiti has become rife throughout the Royal Borough, and has even begun to proliferate in Brunswick Gardens, Palace Gardens Terrace, and other neighbouring streets.

On the face of it, graffiti daubings appear to be an innocuous enough crime. Do not underestimate its effects. In a graffiti-affected environment, petty criminals feel that they can get away with whatever they wish, with almost total impunity. Graeme Sharp, our local police beat officer, reaffirms the well-proven first-step links to other crimes, as demonstrated in zero-tolerance cities like New York.

Graffiti quite simply does create an atmosphere that is more conducive to serious crimes being committed at almost all levels.

Graffiti breeds more graffiti. We recently painted over three affected areas in Brunswick Gardens on a

Saturday, only to find half-a-dozen fresh graffiti daubings on Kensington Church Street by the following morning.

Petty criminals wander through our neighbourhood every single day. Since Easter alone, I have personally witnessed attempted moped and motorbike thefts, car break-in, shoplifting and attempted burglary. A graffiti strewn area makes them feel that they can act as they please and without being challenged. Don't let them. Keeping graffiti in check in our area will, in the long run, almost certainly pre-empt some crimes from being committed.

We urge any residents, whose property has been daubed with graffiti, to remove or paint over this as quickly as possible, ideally within 24 hours. If you are unable to this yourself, please contact me or anyone on the CTRAA committee, and we would be very happy to undertake this for you.

Tuggy Meyer

(0171-229 1602 after 6 p.m.)

Instant Dog Fouling Ticket Instead of a Court Fine

Dog owners who allow their pets to foul pavements and then fail to clean up the mess, face a £25 fixed penalty since 4 May. If they don't pay, they may be taken to court and could be fined up to £1,000.

This is part of the Royal Borough's new scoop by-law, which covers all pavements in the borough, together with parks and public open spaces. The by-law however does not cover private garden squares, Kensington Gardens and Brompton Cemetery. Neither does it cover roads and gutters.

Most Council estates are also included, following a consultation exercise run by the Tenant

Management Organisation.

Environmental Health and Leisure Committee Chairman, Councillor Daniel Moylan, said: "The Royal Borough welcomes responsible dog ownership. Responsible dog owners already clean up after their pets, so we hope that we shall not have to use these powers very much."

Royal Borough enforcement officers and Animal Wardens will be issuing the fixed penalty notices to offenders. The new arrangements replace the previous fines for fouling the pavement, which could only be imposed by a court, while fixed penalty notices can be issued on the spot.

Cutting from "Royal Borough"