

The Police

Notting Hill Police Station:
7221 1212
Crime Prevention: 8246 0169
Police Traffic Support Unit:
8246 0186
Drugs Advice and Information:
8960 5599

The Council

Dangerous Structures

Office hours: 7341 5765
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Dog Warden

Office hours: 7341 5761
Out of hours: 7361 6099
Dog fouling: 7341 5284

Environmental Health

Office hours: 7341 5282
Out of hours: 7361 3484
Noise and Nuisance Service
24 hours: 7361 3484

Parking

All enquiries: 7361 4380
Resident permits: 7937 7755
Abandoned vehicles: 7341 5284
Information about removed
vehicles: 7747 4747

Pest Control Information

7341 5282

Refuse Collection

Commercial: 7341 0300
Domestic: 7341 5284
Removal of bulky household
items: 7341 5284
Recycling: 7341 5148
Garden waste sacks: 7341 5284

Roads and Pavements

Office hours: 7341 5250
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Scaffolding

Permits: 7937 7755
Complaints: 7341 5284

Skips

To hire: 7341 0300
Permits: 7937 7755

Social Services

Information: 7361 2915/2563
Out of hours: 7373 2227

Street Cleaning

7341 5284

Street Lighting

7341 5258

Trees

7361 2763/2767

The above list of phone numbers
was last revised 12/11/2000.

Please note

If you have access to the
Internet, you can reach officials
and departments 24 hours a day
through the Council's own web
site (www.rbkc.gov.uk).

False estate agent boards:

Court of Appeal ruling calls for stiffer fines

Many of us do not realise that we live in the middle of a war zone. It's a war where the soldiers wear pinstriped uniforms, the weapons are made of cardboard and wood, and where we are the innocent victims.

The Estate Agency Board War has been going on for a number of years, but it has lately been getting out of hand. The atrocities are such that the country's most senior judge, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Woolf, in a recent ruling urged magistrates to impose bigger fines against estate agents who falsely erect "For Sale" and "To Let" boards.

While most agents try to conduct their business honestly, a few are wilfully erecting boards without permission or instruction from the owners. In most cases the properties aren't even on the market!

The strategies in this war are many and cunning: If you see a house being or just having been re-decorated, put up your "For Sale" board! If you see a house that is empty, put up your "Under Offer" board! If you see a house with five or more apartments, put up your "To Let" or "Let By" board! If you see a suitably vague position between two properties, put up your "Under

Instruction" board so it can be interpreted to point to either property! And if you still have some boards left, put them up anywhere!

The theory behind it is simply to plug your name as much as possible to convince people that you're big and successful, so they will come to you when they want to sell, buy or rent.

To falsely put up a board is, however, in breach of Section 13 of the Trade Descriptions Act. In his ruling, Lord Woolf concluded that this practice is an unsightly nuisance, giving the public a false impression about the company's activities, and puts companies who carry on business honestly at a disadvantage.

The CTAA is trying to persuade the Council to impose a board ban in our area, as we feel that they only serve as free advertising. Very few, if any, properties are sold or let via such boards. Most estate agents in Kensington would welcome such a ban as well.

In the meantime we urge all members to report any erection of false boards to the Council's Trading Officer, who can take the offenders to court and eventually have them banned by the Office of Fair Trading in accordance with the 1979 Estate Agency Act.



No to bicycling in Kensington Gardens

The CTAA has in a letter to Alan Howarth, the Minister of Culture, expressed our objection to a proposal to allow cyclists to ride across Kensington Gardens north-south down the wide parkway to the east of Kensington Palace, as well as east-west to the south of the palace.

The letter points out that these lanes are heavily used by walkers, joggers, mothers with children, dogs and their owners, etc., and that bicyclists would add to the dangerous nuisance already created by skaters and scooters.

Kensington Palace Gardens and dedicated bicycle lanes along Kensington Road and Bayswater Road would be better alternatives.

Yes to keeping the Saturday Market

In support of the Saturday morning market off Kensington Place, the CTAA has sent a letter to the Council's planning committee, stressing that the market has become a major amenity for residents in this area.

In response to the complaints about noise, raised by some residents living near the playground, the CTAA suggests that the market could start selling a couple of hours later in the morning, and that the farmers would not be allowed to set up their stalls before 8.30 a.m.

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

Editor: Thomas Blomberg

Daytime: 8237 7907

Evenings: 7938 3775

Material for future issues can be sent to:
Flat 7, 18 Vicarage Gate, London W8 4AA

The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

Chairman: Willoughby Wynne

39 Brunswick Gardens

London W8 4AW

Tel: 7727 9786

The aim of The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association is to improve our neighbourhood and to function as our representative towards the Council and other authorities in matters concerning the area.

Membership is open to all residents living in Palace Gardens Terrace, Strathmore Gardens, Berkeley Gardens, Brunswick Gardens, Inverness Gardens, Vicarage Gardens, Vicarage Gate, on the southern side of Kensington Mall, and on the eastern side of Kensington Church Street between Vicarage Gate and Kensington Mall.

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

2/2000

Please show your neighbours where the dustbin is:

Rubbish on the pavement is illegal

All over the Cherry Trees area more and more refuse sacks and shopping bags, containing household and garden waste, are being dumped on our pavements instead of in dustbins for Council collection. Not only is it unsightly and unhygienic (attracting animals and flies), but it is also illegal!

Refuse left on the pavement seems to become an increasingly common sight in our area. In some cases it is obviously the leftovers from less conscientious builders, but most often the bags and sacks are filled with household rubbish.

As there is no monetary gain from not putting the rubbish in dustbins (contrary to their counterparts in some other countries, UK councils don't charge you separately for rubbish collection), the only logical conclusion must be that it is the result of ignorance and misunderstanding.

Many foreigners coming to London are quite surprised to see piles of rubbish on the pavement all over the city every day. They may not realise that this is a practice limited to shops, as in their own countries all shops have a back door into an alley where the refuse is collected.

So, if you've just moved to London and are renting a flat and haven't been informed by the letting agent where the dustbins are, and you've noticed all the refuse sacks on the pavement outside shops, you may very well think "well, if that's how the Brits do it,



There is more and more rubbish littering our pavements.

then I have no option but to do the same."

So, let's be neighbourly and show the newcomers where their dustbins are!

Sloppy builders are something different. They know the rules very well and are basically in breach of contract if they leave rubbish behind.

Unfortunately, it's the person who has hired them, i.e. you, who is legally responsible for their rubbish disposal.

Leaving rubbish on the pavement is an offence, and the Council may actually check the content of such sacks, bags and boxes in order to track down the offenders.

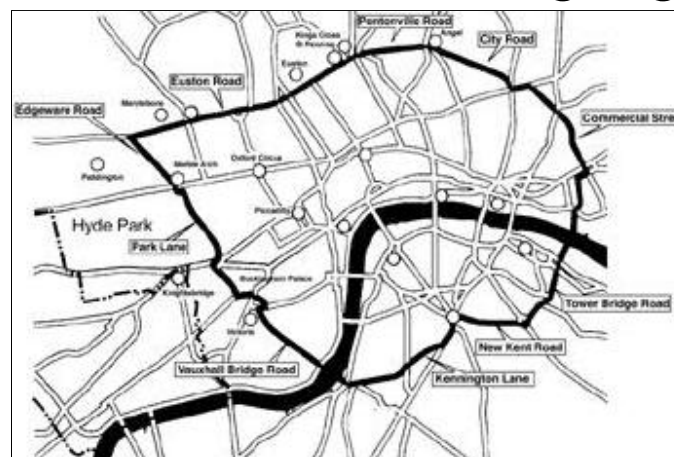
How would road user charging affect us?

A few weeks ago, the Council sent out a questionnaire to all households in Kensington and Chelsea, regarding the Mayor of London's proposals for a new 'road user charge'.

The purpose of the charge is to persuade car and lorry owners to avoid driving in or through central London. Car and lorry owners who plan to drive in central London would have to buy a permit for the day in question to display on the windscreen, costing £5 for a car and £15 for a lorry. Black cabs would be exempt.

North of the Thames, the western boundary of the chargeable area would be Edgware Road, Park Lane and Vauxhall Bridge Road.

If the scheme becomes a reality, it will of course mean



The proposed road user charging area.

that anyone in our area who wants to drive into central London would need to buy a valid permit for the specific day before the trip. Permits would be sold by convenience stores and other outlets all over London. Beside the addi-

tional cost, the actual inconvenience would very much depend on how practical the final design of the scheme would be.

The RBKC Council's main concern is, however, what side effects such a scheme

would have on Kensington. It could result in increased strain on our parking facilities by people who park their car here before continuing into central London by public transport. It could also mean an increase of shopping in Kensington High Street, by people who don't want to pay extra for shopping in central London. While this would be good for business, it would mean more crowded streets and less available parking space for the locals.

If you haven't replied to the questionnaire yet, please do so. Each answer helps the Council form a more accurate view of what people and businesses in Kensington and Chelsea think about the proposal. Additional forms can be picked up at the Town Hall.



The summer and autumn parties in Inverness Gardens were golden opportunities for people in the Cherry Trees area to make new acquaintances and catch up with old friends.

Successful parties

The annual summer and autumn parties in Inverness Gardens were great successes. Both were attended by well over 100 members and friends, who for several hours drank, ate and mingled.

The wine was kindly sub-

sidised by Tuggy Meyer, and the fine catering was courtesy of Simon Agace and his charming staff at Winkworths. Sue Patterson and Gill Harries were "stars" at the gate, collecting outstanding fees and ensuring that all of us put on name badges.



Sue Patterson and Gill Harries manned the gate.

Crime watch

Tuggy Meyer, the CTRA's one man constabulary, will shortly produce another issue of our crime newsletter, which will be distributed separately and reach more households in the Cherry Tree area than this periodical for members. So, for the latest on crime in our area, we refer to that specialist publication.

Free cinema for the children

"102 Dalmatians", partly shot in Brunswick Gardens, will have its UK premiere on 8 December. For some of the money the CTRA received, as a goodwill gesture from Disney for any inconvenience the filming caused, we intend to take all the children in the area to see the film, probably after Christmas. Contact Tuggy Meyer for more details.

Help us make an even better newsletter!

We would like to increase the number of issues of the Cherry Tree from two to four next year. However, to be able to achieve this, we need an active editorial committee. If you enjoy writing, have an

interest in our area, and would like to take part in the creation of this newsletter, please contact the editor, Thomas Blomberg, or the CTRA chairman, Willoughby Wynne. Contact details can be found on the last page.

Millionaires' Row: Leeks, carrots, apples and pears were replaced by millionaires, artists, diplomats and spies

Even if the proper name for the private road between Kensington Palace and the Cherry Trees area is 'Kensington Palace Gardens' between Bayswater Road and the palace, and 'Palace Green' between the palace and Kensington Road, its popular name has been "Millionaires' Row" since the mid 1800's.

Today, however, when there are more millionaires than ever in Britain (a million pounds sterling isn't what it used to be 150 years ago), very few super rich individuals reside in the famous road. Most of the houses are now embassies or ambassador residences, whose leases are paid for by their own countries' taxpayers.

Money for Windsor

It all started in 1838, when Queen Victoria decided to extend the kitchen gardens at Frogmore to supply the needs of Windsor Castle. To finance this it was decided to let the area on the palace's western boundary for building. At the time, that area consisted of Kensington Palace's kitchen gardens and orchards, the barracks that housed the palace guards, and two water towers.

In 1841, 28 acres were transferred to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, the predecessors of the Crown Estate Commissioners, who are the ground landlords today. The Commissioners' architects prepared a plan for a 70 feet wide avenue lined with large, detached houses which should be set back a further 60 feet from the avenue and have ornamental gardens. The houses had to be of a standard that would not price them below £3,000, and in 'Italian' style. The plan also included a mews at the northern end of the road, of which few today are aware. The whole scheme was designed to attract suitable neighbours for the palace.



An artist's view of the Notting Hill entrance to Millionaires' Row during the late 19th century.

The plots were advertised the next year, but the response was very poor. The terms were simply too high. The only acceptable offers were for minor plots along Bayswater Road, where five houses were eventually built. Two of those still survive: 4 and 5 Kensington Palace Gardens.

John Marriott Blashfield, a manufacturer of ornamental paving, rescued the Commissioners. He leased twenty plots in 1843, and before the year was out he began building his first house, no. 8. The house was so large that its first occupier divided it in half.

Interrogation centre

During the Second World War no. 8 was used for the interrogation of spies, after which it was

so run down that, despite plans to convert it into flats, it was demolished in 1961 and an ugly building with luxury flats was built on its site.

Blashfield went on to build three more houses, of which only no. 24 has survived. He handed the rest of his plots over to other builders. By 1856 all the houses along the Queens Road (as Kensington Palace Gardens was originally called) were built.

Most exclusive street

Around 1870, plane trees were planted in the avenue, and it was re-named Kensington Palace Gardens. It was by now recognised as the most exclusive street in London.

In no. 13 lived the widow of the Earl Harrington, owner of the South Kensington estate. It is



No. 8, which was used for the interrogation of spies during the Second World War, was in 1961 replaced by an apartment block.

one of the largest houses in the road, and in the 1871 census the widow had twenty servants. In 1930 the Soviet Government acquired the lease from Lady Richardson. It was the first diplomatic arrival.

No. 12 was built for Sir Samuel Morton Peto MP. Although large enough to accommodate 28 people, including 16 servants, it still wasn't large enough for the railway tycoon, so he built an even grander house next door (no. 12a) and sold the previous to the Manchester cotton merchant Alexander Collie. Today, one of these is the Royal Nepalese Embassy.

In contrast, the original occupant of no. 15, George Moore, a wealthy lace manufacturer and philanthropist who had begun as a draper's assistant in Soho, was mortified by the extravagance and described his own house as 'both wicked and aggrandising, mere ostentation and vain show'. He had only bought it to please his wife. In the 1970's the house became the Iraqi Embassy.

Reuter and the KGB

No. 18 was occupied by Julius de Reuter, the founder of the news agency, from 1868 until his death in 1899. It is said to have had the first private telephone in London. Reuter was followed by Baron von Rothschild. After the Second World War it was leased by the Soviet Government, who used it as the UK headquarters of the KGB. When the Russians moved out, around 1995, the house was in a very poor state.



No. 18, built for Julius de Reuter, has just been refurbished for many millions of pounds by Dr. Khalili, after having been the UK head-quarters for the KGB for many years.

A few years ago it was leased by the Iranian art collector and multi-millionaire Dr. Nasser D. Khalili, who has recently refurbished the house totally.

At the southern end of Palace Green stood three old houses, which dated back to the late 17th and 18th centuries. No. 1 was bought in 1867 by the young George Howard, later 9th Earl of Carlisle, with the idea of rebuilding, but instead a new house was built for him in 1869, with the interior decorated by artists in the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, including William Morris, Walter Crane and Edward Burne-Jones. After the First World War Barkers used it as a furniture store, and when plans to demolish it were defeated, it was converted into flats in 1957 and the entire interior was removed.

'The reddest house in town'

No. 2 Palace Green (which is now the Israeli Embassy) was leased to William Thackeray in 1860. It was in a very poor condition, so Thackeray tore it down and built a completely new house, which became known as 'the reddest house in town'. According to some, it set the fashion for red brick.

No. 3, which had been occupied

by the Clerk of Works at the palace, was in 1885 leased by Francesco Canziani and his young wife Louisa Starr, who was a portrait painter. Their daughter Estella, who also was an artist, lived there the rest of her life. When she died in 1967, the house was put up for sale and later demolished to build flats.

Last development 1912

The northern part of Palace Green was left undeveloped to comply with Queen Victoria's wish that building should not continue opposite the palace. Shortly after his accession, Edward VII agreed to further building leases, so seven large detached houses were built between 1903 and 1912: 4-10 Palace Green. These are all built in red brick with Portland stone dressing, which makes them harmonise more with the palace than the "Italian" houses from the Victorian era. One of these is the Romanian Embassy and another is the Norwegian Embassy.

Sources: Kensington Past (Barbara Denny & Carolyn Starren 1998); Kensington Palace Conservation Area Proposals Statement (RBKC 1997); Old London: Belgravia, Chelsea & Kensington (Edward Walford 1823-1897)