

The Police

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

List 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).

The summer and autumn parties

CTRAA's annual summer party in Inverness Gardens will this year take place on Tuesday 26 June at 6.30 p.m. The autumn party in Inverness Gardens is scheduled for Sunday 16 September at 12 noon. New and old members are welcome.



Limited advertising

Following a majority resolution at the AGM in November 2000, the Cherry Tree is introducing limited advertising as a way to enable us to publish more issues per year. This year we aim to publish three issues, next year hopefully four.

The number of advertisements will be limited to a maximum of four in each issue, covering no more than half a page together. This half page contributes to the

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

Editor: Thomas Blomberg
Daytime: 8237 7907
Evenings: 7938 3775
thomas.blomberg@sdi-media.co.uk

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.

printing cost and will hopefully also allow us to distribute the newsletter not only to the CTRAA members, but to all households in the area.

Advertising will only open to companies directly servicing our area. Anyone interested in advertising may contact the editor or the CTRAA chairman.

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

1/2001

Vicarage Gate House, the nursing home in the corner of Palace Gardens Terrace and Vicarage Gate, has been empty since April. The 50 residents and 70 staff are temporarily accommodated by The Gainsborough Nursing Home in Lambeth, while the owner, the Elizabeth Finn Trust, is trying to find a buyer of the property and a site outside central London for a new nursing home to be built from the proceeds of the sale.

The reason behind all this is that the building, which was erected in the late 1950s in place of the bombed St. Paul's Church, needs major repairs as well as reconstruction of the rooms in order to meet the modern standards required of a nursing home.

Originally, the plan was to refurbish the building. For that purpose the Trust in October secured the temporary accommodation in Lambeth where the residents would stay while the home was being rebuilt. Work was scheduled to take two years. The result would be a modern nursing home with 47 beds for an estimated cost of £4.7 million.

However, a couple of months later the Trust decided to change all the plans, having been told that the value of the site is in the order of £5.5 million. So, in January they informed residents, relatives

What will become of Vicarage Gate House?



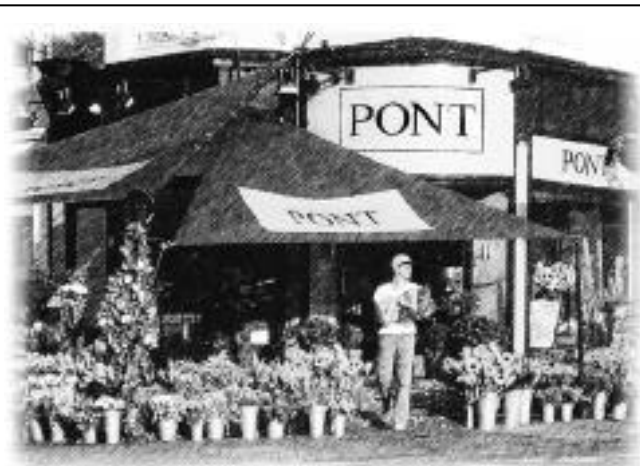
Vicarage Gate House stands empty and no one knows what will replace it yet.

and staff that the home instead would be sold and that a new and larger home would be built somewhere outside central London. This way, the Trust speculated,

they would be able to get a new London home "for free" and could spend the funds allocated for the refurbishment on building another home somewhere else in the UK

or Ireland. The Trust currently has 12 nursing homes in England, including six in the South East, but none in Wales, Scotland, *Continued on page 2*

We thank the advertisers below for their contribution to the printing cost of this issue.



"It has a better selection
than any other florist in London."

THE TIMES

If you show us this advertisement, we will be delighted
to offer you a £10 discount on your next purchase.

PONT

104 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BU
Tel: 020-7727 6060 • pont@pont.co.uk • www.pont.co.uk



"Modern Italian restaurant,
definitely upmarket,
and with ambitious cooking."

When booking, mention this advert
and receive a complimentary glass of champagne.



122 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT
Tel: 020-7229 4024



Ali do Lali made sure that all the children, like Olivia de Hennin, had a lot of fun.

Fun film and magic party for cherry pits

Thanks to 102 spotty dogs, the children in the Cherry Trees area could be treated to a fantastic party in St. Mary Abbots Hall on Sunday 13 May - and two months earlier, Saturday 24 March, they had a chance to see their benefactors performing on the silver screen.

Both events were paid for by the money the CTRAA received from Disney as a thank you to us all for moving our cars when a scene for "102 Dalmatians" was shot in our area in February 2000.

Some 65 people attended the film screening and close to 100 came to the party, where the children's entertainer Ali do Lali made sure that everyone had a really good time.

See page 2

New rules make PGT double-parking very risky

The Royal Borough will shortly impose two new important changes to their parking rules. On 16 July our area will get changed parking control hours, and on 1 October the resident parking scheme will change, making it much harder for foreign registered cars to be entitled to a parking permit.

The change in the parking control hours means that the residents' parking bays are reserved for permit holders until 10pm Monday to Friday, instead of 6.30pm. Everything else officially remains the same; i.e. you can still park on a single yellow line 6.30pm - 8.30am, and with a resident permit you can still park in a meter bay 5.30pm - 9.30am.

However, when the control hours change, so do also the hours of

patrolling wardens. The practice of double-parking, which is especially common in Palace Gardens Terrace, has always been illegal, as is parking on corners. Until now the risk of being fined for this has been very little in our area, simply because no wardens have been patrolling it after 6.30pm. But now they will, so be aware!

The new rules regarding residents' permits are intended to clamp down on fraudulent applications. From 1 October, you must produce a valid UK driving licence with your current address, a UK vehicle registration with the same address (unless it's a company car) and at least one more proof of residency. Original documentation must be provided, also for renewals, so all applications must now be done in person.



Local group for toddlers

Local mothers Lara Turner-Tompkins of Brunswick Gardens and Alice Bishop of Vicarage Gate have got together to form a new Cherry Trees Under 5s Group.

As parents of lively two year olds, Alice and Lara would like to create new social and play opportunities for all local pre-school children and their carers. The idea is to create a network of mums, nannies and other carers in the Cherry Trees area. Each week, or at times to suit those attending, the members of the group would take turn in hosting a play session/coffee afternoon at their home. In this way, people will have a chance to get to know each other informally and children will hopefully make new friends on their doorstep.

Laura says, "I hope the idea will appeal to people with young children locally. I see it as being particularly beneficial to people new to the area and also those new to the country. I would like to stress that all are welcome. We would like to get this started as soon as possible, so please let Alice and me know if you would like to come along. The first play session is at my home as soon as I know who is coming!"

Please contact Lara Turner-Tompkins on 7229 4533 or Alice Bishop on 7937 2364.

Vicarage Gate House:

CTRAA fights to have a new nursing home replace it

Continued from page 1

Northern Ireland or Eire, which are all areas that the Trust, according to its charter, is obliged to serve.

The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association has been very actively engaged in this affair since the Trust's change of heart became known in January. Several of the patients are old Cherry Tree area residents and have lived here most of their lives. Many of them, their relatives and staff were very distressed by the Trust's decision to leave our area. The Trust's decision has also engaged several of the RBK&C councillors, like Christopher Buckmaster.

The Trust couldn't legally be prevented from going ahead with its plans, so initially the CTRAA, as well as Councillor Buckmaster,



Ali do Lali entertained the cherry pits in the church hall.

Puppy money very well used

Something fun for the children, that was the unanimous choice when the CTRAA started to think about what to do with the £2,000 that the Association received from Disney for its assistance during the filming of "102 Dalmatians" in Brunswick Gardens in February last year.

The obvious first choice was to take the children to the cinema to see the film in question. This happened on Saturday 24 March, at Screen West in Notting Hill. Some

65 children and parents attended the private screening. Disney generously let us borrow the film for free, while "Dalmatian money" was used for the hiring of the cinema.

The second event, the children's party, happened on Sunday 13 May, one of the first sunny and warm days this year. About 100 children and parents met up at the church hall and were entertained by the magnificent Ali do Lali, who made sure that no one had a dull moment.



Some of the children who saw the screening of "102 Dalmatians".

tried to persuade it not to go ahead with this plan and instead revert to the original plan of refurbishment. However, the Trust wouldn't budge and in April the building was vacated.

So, now we must ensure that whatever replaces Vicarage Gate House isn't detrimental to our area and that any building work will cause minimum disturbance to all those living nearby.

Naturally, there has been a lot of speculation as to what might replace the nursing home: an apartment block, private houses, a luxury hotel... The CTRAA feels that the only acceptable replacement is another nursing home, as this would cause the least change to our area as well as ensure the continued availability of a nursing home nearby for the area's elderly. The best way to secure this is

to ensure that the council doesn't allow a change of use of the site. It has currently a C2 classification, covering residential institutions such as a nursing home.

However, nursing homes aren't commercially as viable as for instance a luxury hotel or a block of luxury flats, so it's very doubtful that any nursing home organisation would be willing to pay the £5 million that the Trust hopes to get for the site and then spend a further £5 million or more to turn it into a modern nursing home. Indeed, it's questionable if even a builder of luxury flats or an hotel would find it economically feasible, given that the area's status as conservation area puts definite limits on what can be built on the site (we shouldn't have to worry that the nursing home might be replaced by a skyscraper).

Neighbourhood Watch News

The local police advise us that burglaries and attempted burglaries are still happening through letterboxes. Do not leave keys in view in a hallway, even if it's several metres away from the door, as they can be hooked back through the letterbox. A letterbox cage on the back of the door is seriously advised.

A special Neighbourhood Watch circular will be printed in the mid summer to highlight current and potential crimes, but also to begin a discussion about additional security, be it through additional council wardens or privately funded security men. A council feasibility study starts shortly and a trial period is planned for April 2002.

In memoriam

Three long-standing CTRAA members have recently died.

Lord Denis Greenhill of Harrow GCMG OBE, of Hamilton House, died last October aged 87, husband of Angela, our Cherry Trees poet, who has written a beautiful sonnet, "A Durable Love", in Denis' memory.

Gerald Griffiths, of Strathmore Gardens, died on 13 April aged 84, husband of Bettie.

Major Louis Feeny, of Inverness Gardens, died on 22 April aged 93, companion of Diana Hope.

So, provided that the council sticks to the C2 classification and provided that the Trust accepts much less than £5 million for the site, we may see another nursing home replacing the current one.

The Cherry Tree will of course keep you updated about the further development.

The Elizabeth Finn Trust was founded by Elizabeth Finn in 1897 as the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association (DGAA). Its aims are to "relieve the need and distress among people from a professional, similar or closely associated background, of British or Irish nationality and their immediate families regardless of religious denomination, political opinion, age or place of residence". It has over 2,000 beneficiaries and was renamed The Elizabeth Finn Trust recently as it was felt that the term "gentlefolk" was no longer clearly understood.

Kensington Church Street, part 1 - the first thousand years:

From Saxon footpath to church lane

How old Kensington Church Street is nobody really knows, but it is very likely that the footpath that became a lane that became a road that became a street was created more than 1,300 years ago, when the Saxon family Cynesige arrived around AD 700 and built their homestead Chenistun (Kensington) close to where the church is today.

The Saxons would have needed a footpath to get up to the Great West Road (Bayswater Road), which had been left behind by the Romans when they departed 200 years earlier.

The Cynesiges probably also used the path to reach the homesteads of their northern neighbours and fellow Saxon immigrant families, the Cnottingas (who gave Notting Hill its name) and Poedings (Paddington).

When the Normans came in 1066 they tried to impose Continental feudalism on a people used to Viking law, where everyone had been equal except slaves. They did it by taking all larger manors and giving them to the Norman nobles that had come with William the Conqueror. They also allocated most of the land and inhabitants between the manors to either of them.

In the family for 500 years

Thus Chenistun was given to Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, together with a surrounding area of 3.5 square miles that included 18 farmers and seven slaves with families, some 200 people in all. On today's map this enormous estate stretched to Kensington Gardens in the east, to Shepherd's Bush/Olympia in the west, up to Westway in the north, and down to Old Brompton Road in the south.

Geoffrey in turn passed it on to Aubrey de Vere in 1093. The de Veres held on to most of the area for 500 years, but eventually different parts of it was either sold to other nobility or confiscated by various kings (the de Veres often backed the wrong party).

During all this time, this rural countryside didn't change much, but in the early 1600's the building of three major mansions started the change from farmland to fashionable suburb: Holland House (in the middle of today's Holland Park), Nottingham House (the forerunner to Kensington Palace) and Campden House (covering the area between Sheffield Terrace and Campden Grove on the western side of Church Street).

Holland House

Holland House was built by Sir Walter Cope, a very rich "gentleman of rare and excellent parts", who in 1599 bought all the freeholds of the original de Vere estate and thus became owner of most of today's Kensington. His grand mansion was originally called Kensington House, but was popularly known as "Cope's Castle". It became Holland House after his death, when his daughter Isabel and her husband, Sir Henry Rich, had taken it over and Sir Henry was made Baron Kensington and Earl of Holland.

The house stayed in the family until 1726, when it was leased and later sold to Henry Fox, the notorious Whig Paymaster General. In 1873 the ownership moved over to the 5th Earl of Ilchester, a descendant of Henry Fox's brother, and it remained the home of the Ilchesters until 27 September 1940, when it was fire bombed and disastrously damaged. After the war the grounds became Holland Park.



Campden House was built in 1612 and burned down in 1862.



In 1791 Notting Hill Gate was still a rural village.

When Henry Cope in 1599 bought all the land up to today's Kensington Palace that wasn't church property, he agreed to give some 200 acres to a stubborn sitting tenant who lived in a smaller mansion near the church. The tenant died the year after, and a few years later his son sold 70 acres to Sir Baptist Hicks.

Campden House

In 1612 Hicks started to build a residence on this land. When he became a Viscount, taking his title from his seat at Campden in Gloucestershire, the house became known as Campden House and in turn gave its name to Campden Hill.

Hicks died in 1629, and in 1691 his descendants let it for five years to Princess Anne and Prince George of Denmark and their delicate son, Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, who died in early boyhood.

In 1708 Campden House was sold and used as a boarding school for girls until 1847, when it became the home of a Mr William Frederick Wolley, who turned one of the 30 rooms into a theatre. This became a popular place for theatre amateurs in the area, and in 1854 Charles Dickens himself acted there in *The Lighthouse*.

In 1862 the 250 year old house was burnt down, but a replica of the Jacobean house soon replaced it and stood there until 1900, when the site was used to build Campden House Court flats.

Nottingham House

The eastern half of the 70 acres Hicks bought from the stubborn tenant's son, he in turn immediately sold to Sir George Coppin, who there built a large house which later became the home of the first Earl of Nottingham. This building formed the nucleus for Kensington Palace when William III and Queen Mary chose it as their home in 1689.

These large houses, with their enormous retinues of servants, provided protection for humbler



Maitland House, which was the home of John Stuart Mill, was built in 1670.

folk, so small dwellings began to make their appearance along the High Street (Notting Hill Gate) and among the gravel pits along the lane leading to Kensington. Soon the few houses in what today is Notting Hill Gate had become a sizeable village, and the top part of the lane to Kensington became known as Silver Street.

Maitland House

At the Kensington end of Church Lane, the development started in the mid 1600's with two mansions on the eastern side, just south of the vicarage. It was Maitland House and York House, with extensive gardens stretching to what was to become Kensington Palace Gardens. Maitland House was the home of philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill and later the artist David Wilke. In 1904 both houses were torn down and replaced by York House flats and the office building that until recently housed l'Oreal.

In between these areas not much happened for another hundred years. The Cherry Trees area was just a brick kiln and north of that were the famous Kensington gravel pits.

The real building boom started when William and Mary moved into the area. Suddenly, Kensington was the rage among British nobility and everyone else who wanted to stay close to the royal household.

The story about Church Street continues in the next issue.