

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: 7361 3838
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: 7373 6099
Noise and Nuisance Service
24 hours: 7361 3484

Parking

All enquiries: 7361 4380
Abandoned vehicles: 7341 5182
Removed vehicles and clamping:
Office hours: 7376 3674
Out of hours: 7376 8402

Pest Control Information

7341 5282

Refuse Collection
Commercial: 7341 2100
Domestic: 7341 5284
Removal of bulky household
items: 7341 5284
Recycling: 7341 5148
Garden waste sacks: 7341 5284

Roads and Pavements
Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Scaffolding
Permits: 7361 4380
Complaints: 7341 5284

Skips

To hire: 7341 2100
Permits: 7361 4380

Social Services

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

Street Cleaning

Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Street Lighting

Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Trees

7361 2763/2767

List revised 16/10/2001.

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).



Keeping an eye on Willoughby

On Christmas Eve at 6pm our CTRAA chairman Willoughby Wynne and his wife Carys spotted a young Tawny Owl in the cherry tree right outside their house in Brunswick Gardens.

Carys even managed to take a picture, before this very rare sighting decided to move on.

With owls and foxes roaming our streets, perhaps it isn't so strange that many residents feel the need to drive around in big off-road vehicles...

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

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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.

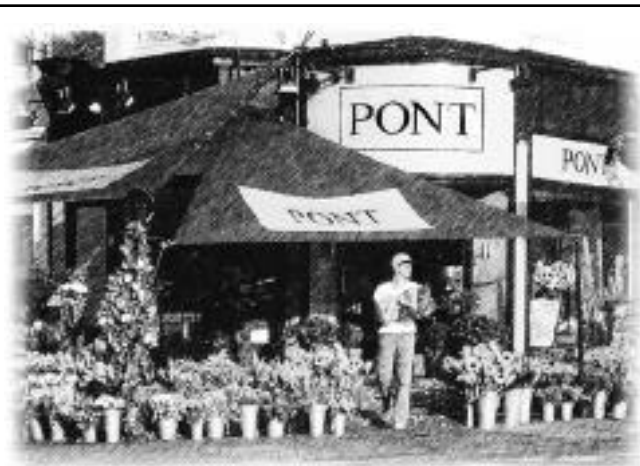
Aloe Vera showcase

All members of the CTRAA are invited to a showcase of Aloe Vera products for natural health and beauty on Tuesday 12 March, 12:00, at 16 Brunswick Gardens.

RSVP, Carmen

tel: 7229 1025 or e-mail:
milote40@hotmail.com

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

For Mother's Day, we will be delighted to offer you a £10 discount on your purchase. Please bring this advertisement

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

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association 1/2002

Neighbourhood Watch News

Crime warnings by e-mail

Some time ago, the Metropolitan Police and the Borough launched a computerised warning system through which Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators could receive warnings about crime trends in their area via recorded telephone messages or fax.

This service, called Voice Connect, has now been opened up for all residents in Kensington, and also expanded to include e-mail messages as well.

Voice Connect is free of charge. To apply, contact Lorna Clarke, Borough Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team, on 8246 0824 or e-mail lorna.clarke@rbkc.gov.uk.

Letterbox burglaries

We are still enduring burglaries where entry has been achieved through the front door letterbox. Despite our repeated warnings, a number of houses still have inappropriate letterboxes and are thus easy targets for thieves.

Please, before they strike again, take a few simple and inexpensive precautions, like fitting a letter cage on the inside. Also, never leave house or car keys on a hallway table that can be seen through the letterbox, even if far away from the door. These kinds of thieves are equipped with telescopic gripping tools that can reach several metres in. For advice, contact Alan Coles, Crime Prevention Officer, on 8246 0169.

Street robberies

Unfortunately, street robberies are continuing in our area. Be vigilant and aware of what's going on around you. Our local police have published a leaflet on how to avoid becoming a victim and what to do if targeted. You can get a copy from Alan Coles (see above).

Be a Neighbourhood Watcher for your street!

The Neighbourhood Watch group for the Cherry Trees area needs help from more residents to keep this scheme running. Please contact our new NHW Co-ordinator, Mariju Lee, on 7727 0205.

The carnival won't come any closer - at least not this year

The discussions about a changed route for the Notting Hill Carnival, which included sending out a questionnaire to the public with eight different route plans, seem to have ended with a very minor route change. The current circular route will become a "U", covering the same streets as before, except the top part that used to close the circle, and the direction will be reversed. However, this is only a temporary measure for this year's carnival: when the new route proposal was announced, on 14 February, it was revealed that "a major route change" is being planned for the 2003 carnival.

Thus the carnival - at least not this year - will not come any closer to our area, which was feared as two of the proposed routes included Bayswater Road.

While the proposed route change hasn't been formally decided yet, it is highly unlikely that the final decision will be much different from the proposal. The proposed route was the one called Option 2 in the public questionnaire. It will start at the top of Great Western Road and go south via Chepstow Road, then west along Westbourne Grove, and finally back north to Harrow Road along Ladbroke Grove.

The proposed change was agreed by the Royal Borough, Westminster City Council, the Metropolitan Police and the Notting Hill Carnival Review

Group - but without consulting the Notting Hill Carnival Trust, which co-ordinates the carnival. The official statement simply says, "The co-ordinators of the carnival will be consulted before a final decision is made."

This snubbing of the Trust clearly demonstrates the increasingly bad relations between the chief executive of the Trust, Claire Holder, and various authorities. Three weeks before the route change was published, the Trust's financial backers, which include the Royal Borough, The Greater London Authority and Mayors Office, London Arts, the Association of London Government and the Arts Council of England, decided to freeze the funding of the 2002 carnival. This came as a response to Ms Holder's com-

ments that funders were pursuing their own agenda to 'break up' the carnival.

It is very obvious that the authorities are pressurizing the Trust to persuade Ms Holder to step down. The funding bodies have denied her allegations and stated that they merely wish for the event to be professionally managed.

When the proposed route change was announced, Ms Holder, who has been heading the Carnival Trust since 1989, said to the Notting Hill website MyVillage: "The route needs to be changed and we made a submission to the GLA in January, but since then we have heard nothing. The Trust has been excluded from all discussions with regard to the carnival route. I was merely told that no

(continues on page 3)

Prepare for the Jubilee!

As everyone should know by now, the Queen's Golden Jubilee is celebrated this year, causing Britain to move the Spring Bank Holiday from the last Monday in May to the first Tuesday in June and insert an extra Golden Jubilee Bank Holiday on Monday 3 June.

The intention is to enable all of Britain to have the kind of street parties you saw at the Coronation and 25 years ago.

The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association has decided to change its usual summer party into a Golden Jubilee party, directly followed by a special childrens' party.

However, as many in the area intend to go away during that four-day weekend, the CTRAA has decided to celebrate the Queen one week earlier, on Sunday 26 May. The party will be in the garden of St Mary Abbots' Rectory and the childrens' party in St Mary Abbots' Hall in Vicarage Gate.



The Annual General Meeting was held at the Essex Church, as usual.

Nursing home main issue at AGM

Close to a hundred members of the Cherry Trees Residents Association gathered in the Essex Church on 26 November 2001 for the Annual General Meeting.

Beside the usual topics, like rubbish, security, parking and estate agent boards, the main focus of the meeting was of course on the now closed Vicarage Gate House, where the CTRAA is doing its outmost to ensure that it continues as a nursing home.

The AGM was attended by Councillor Buckmaster, as well as Sgt. Wingrove and P.C. Sewell of the Police, who answered ques-

tions regarding Town Hall views on different matters as well as crime and safety issues.

The meeting chose the following Committee for 2002: Willoughby Wynne (Chairman), John Baskett (Secretary), Edward Buxton (Treasurer), Simon Agace, Thomas Blomberg, Carl Bolinder, Claire Bruce, Brett Burkhart, Mariju Lee, Tuggy Meyer, Chooi Pearson, Charles Shaw, Fiona Simmons and Huw Thomas.

The meeting also decided to raise the annual membership fee to £4, or £10 for three years from November 2002.

Text messaging in the 19th century

Dear 21st century teenager,

You may not believe it, but there was actually a time when lovers couldn't send text messages to each other on their mobiles or even use them to talk to each other. They couldn't even send each other e-mail! In fact, they couldn't even talk with each other over 'cord phones' - because even those hardly existed yet.

So what did they do? Well, they used a pen and wrote each other very long text messages on blank pieces of paper. These they put into pieces of folder paper, called "envelopes", wrote the recipient's name and physical address on the outside and attached a credit issued by the Post Office, called "a stamp". The result, known as a "letter", was put in it in those red round pillar boxes that still exist on many street corners (so now you know what those were for - and there are rumours that some people still use them!) and it could sometimes take several days until it reached your loved one.

Two of these lovers were Laura Troubridge in Norfolk and her fiancé Adrian Hope. They were engaged in 1884, but Laura's guardians thought that Adrian should have both a job and an income before they married, so they couldn't get married until 1888. So almost every day for four years they wrote each other letters, while Adrian was job hunting in London.

Laura was a Conservative and Adrian a passionate Radical, with friends like Oscar and Constance Wilde, so their letters contained a great deal more than declarations of love, and when they discussed current topics in their letters the debate could get quite heated.

This fascinating correspondence has now been made into a 560 pages illustrated book, "Letters of Engagement 1884-1888", by the Cherry Trees resident Marie-Jacqueline Lancaster, who is Laura's and Adrian's granddaughter.

In 1999 she published a revised version of "Life Amongst the Troubridges", which was a collection of the journals the young Laura wrote 1873-1884 that had been originally published in 1966 by Jacqueline Hope-Nicholson, Marie-Jacqueline's mother.

Both books can be ordered from Gazelle Book Services (tel 01524 63232 or gazelle4go@aol.com) if you can't find them in a bookstore, because, dear teenager, you can't read them on the web.

Best regards,
The Cherry Tree Editor

The principal residence of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs had been Whitehall Palace. However, when James II was deposed in early 1689, and the throne was given jointly to his daughter Mary II and her Dutch husband William III of the House of Orange (who was also James II's nephew and Mary's cousin), Whitehall's role as residence was to be replaced by Kensington Palace for the next 72 years.

William suffered from chronic asthma and the "smoak of London much incommodated him", and Mary, for her part, felt shut in at Whitehall. So the couple moved out to Hampton Court at the end of February 1689. Although this was a nice summer retreat, they needed a winter house closer to Westminster during the sitting of Parliament. Nottingham House in Kensington, a Jacobean mansion built in 1605 for Sir George Coppin and at the time owned by William's trusted Secretary of State, the 2nd Earl of Nottingham, was ideally located and had the added advantage of being situated in a village that "esteem'd a very good Air".

In June 1689 the Crown bought it for £14,000 and instructed Sir Christopher Wren to improve the house forthwith. It was, after all, almost 85 years old. Wren, who was still working on St Paul's and in addition had been called in to do extensive alterations at Hampton Court a few months earlier, put his assistant, Nicholas Hawksmoor, in charge.

Moved in before it was ready

Mary was impatient to move in and stayed temporarily in nearby Holland House, but felt unsettled there: "I could not do as I would. This made me go often to Kensington to hasten the workmen, as I was too impatient to be at that place, imagining to find more ease there." Shortly before Christmas 1689 she and William could move in to their new home, which then was renamed Kensington House. It was, however, far from ready and it would take another eight months until all the building works were completed and all the scaffolding was down.

What Hawksmoor and his people accomplished during that one year was quite astonishing, though. Beside adding four big pavilions to the corners of the original building, a new courtyard, a long gallery, a clock tower and the barracks for the soldiers and various other buildings, they had also started the construction of the formal gardens on the south side, facing today's Kensington High Street.

Private road with lights

They also built a private road inside Hyde Park all the way down to Hyde Park Corner.

The road, which partly exists still today in the form of South Carriage



William III and Mary II were the couple that made Kensington royal.



Queen Anne was a keen gardener and built the Orangery.



George I turned the great house into the palace we still see today.



George II and his Caroline created Kensington Gardens.

When Kensington was the regent's residence

Drive (the cabbies' favourite run to Park Lane), was "perfectly straight and so wide that three or four coaches can drive abreast ... and has posts put up at even distances, on the tops of which lanterns are hung and lamps placed in them, which are lighted every evening when the Court is at Kensington."

Mary's sister, Anne, and her husband, Prince George of Denmark, took up residence in Church Street's Campden House in 1690 with their newborn son, William. Thus the two sisters were only a few minutes walk from each other.

In December 1694, aged 32, Queen Mary died of smallpox. As she and William had no children, Anne's son, William, was now in direct line to the throne. He, however, had been poorly since birth and died in 1700, a few days after his eleventh birthday.

Within two years William II died as well, so in 1702 plain, fat Anne suddenly found herself Queen of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. She and her Danish husband left Campden House and moved into Kensington Palace,

where he died six years later.

Anne's main contribution to Kensington Palace was more gardens. She "modernised" the formal gardens on the south side, created gardens on the north side all the way up to today's Bayswater Road, built the Orangery, and enclosed a hundred acres of Hyde Park east of the palace as a deer paddock - the beginning of Kensington Gardens.

Anne died in 1714. As she had no heir and was the last of the Protestant Stuarts, and as the Act of Settlement decreed Protestant succession, the person next in line was a distant relative in Hanover, the Electress Sophie (niece of Anne's great grandfather, James I). However, Sophie died two months before Anne, so the British throne went instead to her son, the 54-year-old Georg Ludwig, who had been Elector of Braunschweig-Lüneburg (with Hanover being its capital) since his father's death in 1698.

He was a man already marked by

scandal. In 1682 he had married his cousin Sophie Dorothea, in order to eventually merge the family's fiefdom with that of his uncle. She gave him two children, but there was no love between them. He had his mistress, and she had an affair with a count. However, when the court in Hanover learned about her affair, the count was killed (probably on Georg Ludwig's father's order) and Georg Ludwig divorced her. She was put in house arrest for life and the children were taken away from her.

Didn't speak any English

As British monarch "German George" took the name George I. He didn't speak any English, and had to conduct affairs of state in bad Latin. As he still also reigned over Hanover, this German principality (which became a kingdom in 1814) was thus joined to the British Crown until Victoria's succession in 1837, more than 120 years later.

George I brought an enormous retinue of retainers with him to England. These included his mistress, Countess Melusine von der Schulenburg, whom he made Duchess of Kendal. She lived in the palace, but in her own apartments. His most strange retainers were Jory the Dwarf, who behaved so badly he had to be shut up in the East wing, and a Wild Boy, who had



The mount in Kensington Gardens.

been found in the woods near Hamelin and who roamed the gardens and Hyde Park like an 18th Century Tarzan, swinging from the trees.

He also brought his son, Georg August, who was later to become George II. Georg August hated his father, who had separated him from his mother when he was 11. The bad feelings between the two were so strong that the King in 1722 banished the Prince of Wales and his wife, Princess Caroline, from the palace and took their children into his own custody.

Made the house a palace

History has very little good to say about George I. He was regarded as dull, unpleasant, greedy, immoral and a heavy drinker. He liked his Kensington, however, and was the man who turned it from a big house into a palace. Much of the buildings were in need of repair, so the core of the old Jacobean house was replaced by some of the most magnificent rooms in the palace, like the Cupola Room, and several wings of



The open lawns of today were a formal garden during Anne's reign.

the palace were rebuilt or refurbished. He had also started work on the magnificent Kensington Gardens when he died in 1727.

Now it was time for his son, George II, then 44 years old, to move back into the palace, with his beloved Caroline (Princess Wilhelmine Caroline of Brandenburg - Ansbach), whom he had married in 1708. She gave him seven children, two boys and five girls.

These two dearly loved Kensington Palace. While they perhaps didn't spend much time on alterations of the buildings, they put enormous energy into the gardens.

It was the new fashion to admire the beauty of grass, so first they agreed with their new Royal Gardener, Charles Bridgman, to replace the outmoded formal gardens to the south with the big lawns that are still there.

Created Kensington Gardens

A grand walk (the Broad Walk) was constructed from north to south, and a large part of Hyde Park was turned into an extensive "landscaped" garden, one of the first in England. In 1728 the Round Pond was constructed, from which three great avenues radiated eastward into the distance, and the areas between them were liberally planted with trees.

A series of ponds to the east was converted into the Serpentine and beyond this a fosse was constructed to mark the new boundary with Hyde Park. Most of the work was finished by 1731, when two yachts were placed on the Serpentine "for the diversion of the Royal Family".

Revolving summerhouse

During the next few years the gardens were further improved by William Kent, who was responsible for most of the decorative paintings in the palace during George I's time. Among other things, he designed a revolving summerhouse that stood on a man-made mount at the south-eastern corner of the gardens; a vantage point from which the layout as a whole could be appreciated.

In 1737 Caroline died, and with her a lot of George's interest for the palace and its gardens. He closed up half of the palace, but did however open up the gardens to the public - but only on Saturdays, when the court moved out to Richmond.

When George II died in 1760, at the ripe age of 77, so did Kensington Palace's role as the regent's residence. He had outlived his son Fredrick by nine years and was succeeded by his grandson, George III (later known as "Mad George"), who didn't like Kensington Palace. He bought Buckingham House in 1761, and since then Buckingham Palace has been the official residence of British monarchs.

Notting Hill Carnival

(continued from page 1)

one could speak to me. But at the end of the day the Trust is expected to take responsibility - how can we do this if we are excluded from the decision making process?"

The Charity Commission are currently investigating allegations against the Notting Hill Carnival Trust, which includes the suggestion that Holder employed her brother Danny and sister Pat without consulting the board - allegations that Holder denies.

Backers demand reform

The backers are seeking advice and guidance from the Charity Commission before committing to this year's event. They demand reform and re-management within the Trust, and as a result the Trust has undertaken to hold elections for new trustees and draw up new staff contracts in return for increased funding.

When the proposed new route was announced, Lee Jasper, Chair of the Notting Hill Carnival Review Group, said: "All of the organisations involved in the carnival agree that the current well-publicised difficulties at the Notting Hill Carnival Trust make the need for an evolutionary approach to the achievement of a safer carnival more compelling. The improvements that will be made this year reflect that gradual approach. Based on the findings of an independent safety study, the Carnival Review Group will advocate a major route change that will have a marked improvement in public safety for Carnival 2003."

Probably not closer

So, we're not quite "out of the woods" yet. However, the five golden rules set up for any route change and presented in the public questionnaire, make it obvious that future carnivals won't be allowed to encompass a much larger area than currently. That would be contrary to the most important of the rules, which says that the carnival can't be allowed to stretch the resources of the various authorities even further.

If a future carnival can't be allowed to cover a larger area, it's highly unlikely that its route would come any closer to the Cherry Trees area.

St Mary Abbots 130 years

On 14 May 1872 the current St Mary Abbots church, designed by the Albert Memorial architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott, was consecrated.

This will be celebrated with a big concert on 19 May, a special service on 6 July, followed by a garden party, and various other events throughout the summer.