



Party dates for 2007

At the CTRAA Annual General Meeting on 20 November, the dates for the 2007 garden parties were announced:

The Spring Party will be held in Inverness Gardens on Wednesday 16 May, starting at 6.30pm.

The Midsummer Party will be held in the garden of St. Mary Abbots' Vicarage on Tuesday 26 June, starting at 6.30pm.

The Autumn Party will be held in Inverness Gardens on Sunday 16 September, starting at noon. See you there!

Get ready for the congestion charge:

From 19 February parking will cost us £322.60/year

Although the public consultation showed that 80% of businesses and 70% of the general public were against the western extension of the congestion charging zone, it will be introduced on 19 February 2007.

The practical consequence for car-owners in our area is that you'll now have to make two annual applications: the regular one for resident parking to the Council, and a separate residents' discount application to Transport for London - both proving residency and car ownership.

If you do, your annual parking cost will "only" treble, from £111 to £322.60, but if you don't, it will cost you over £1,300 per year to have the car parked in our streets, because even if you're not using the car you must pay the congestion charge, unless you're lucky enough to have off-street parking.

Both the Council and Transport for London have sent out the TfL residents' discount forms recently - and TfL is actively trying to get car-owners to sign up before



February, by offering the discounted price immediately, although our area isn't part of the zone until 19 February. Considering the claim that the purpose of the congestion charge is to cut down traffic and emissions in central London, it seems somewhat strange that Transport for London this way encourages car-owners in our area to start driving into the existing zone ahead of time.

So, what will the advantages be? The obvious one is that we will be able to drive into and through the current zone without having to worry about paying the charge; and the one we can hope for is that there will be less traffic on Kensington Church Street between 7:00am and 6:30pm on weekdays - but if that will be the case, only time will tell...

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

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Previous issues of the Cherry Tree can be found on the CTRAA website: <http://www.ctraa.co.uk/>

The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

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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, Kensington Mall, and on the eastern side of Kensington Church Street between Kensington Mall and Vicarage Gate.

New web address

The CTRAA now has its own, much easier to use web address, where you find the latest CTRAA news as well as back issues of the Cherry Tree:

<http://www.ctraa.co.uk/>

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association 2/2006



The nursing home:

The High Court hearing has been set to March

On 12 December, it was announced that the High Court hearing regarding Vicarage Gate House nursing home is scheduled for 14 March. After developer Northacre's appeal in February against the Planning Inspector's rejection of their plans to replace the nursing home with luxury flats, it was expected that the High Court would hear the case before the end of the year. The date set means that no decision is to be expected until later in the spring.

The nursing home was closed in April 2001, almost six years ago, and since then both the Council and a majority of the residents in central Kensington, through the Action Group and all residential associations, have been fighting the plans to replace the nursing home with 12 enormous luxury flats.

Expert studies commissioned by both the Council and the Vicarage Gate House Action Group have shown that a new nursing or care home would be a financially viable option, and several companies have expressed an interest in building a new nursing home on the site - if only it was made available on the market.

After a two-week-long hearing in 2005, the Planning Inspector rejected the development plans for two separate reasons: 1) that there was a well-documented need for more nursing homes in Central London and the developers had not proved that a nursing or care home wasn't financially viable, and 2) that the proposed building doesn't contain any affordable housing and doesn't utilise the space sufficiently in accordance with existing regulations.

Summer memories...

With bare trees, rain and Christmas decorations in abundance, it's easy to forget the glorious summer days we've had - and the three CTRAA garden parties in the tree-filled Inverness Gardens and the vicar's vast green lush of a garden. So, here are a few pictures from Carrys Wynne and the editor to remind us.



ffiona's
020 7937 4152

51 • RESTAURANT • 51

Thank you!

I've now run my little restaurant in Kensington Church Street for 13 years, but it couldn't have been done without the loyal support from all the residents in the area.

So, as a thank you, I will give you a 10% discount on your bills for the next year. Just say that you're a Cherry Trees' resident.

See you soon!
Ffiona Reid-Owen

ffiona's
restaurant

Tuesdays - Saturdays 6.30 - 11.00pm.
Sundays 7.00 - 10.00pm. Mondays closed.
Booking strongly advised.

51 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BA
Tel: 020-7937 4152 • www.ffionas.com

After 18 months, Emily Shackleton received a welcome phone call:

“Your husband is safe”

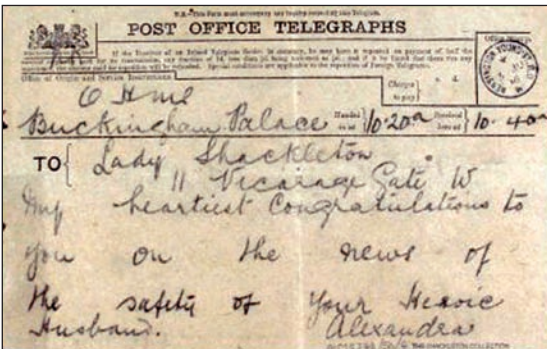
On Wednesday 31 May 1916, a lady at 11 Vicarage Gate had two of her husband's close friends for dinner. The main topic of the evening was the possibility of organising a rescue mission to try to find her husband, who had been missing for a year and a half. At midnight, when the two gentlemen were saying goodbye, the telephone rang. The gentlemen hurried out to their cab and the lady went to the phone. The caller was Ernest Perris of the Daily Chronicle, and his message was, “Your husband is safe. I've just received a telegram from him, from the Falklands Islands.”

The lady was Emily Shackleton, the two gentlemen were the Scottish author and traveller Campbell Mackellar and the Norwegian flying pioneer and former Antarctica explorer Tryggve Gran - and the missing husband was, of course, the explorer Ernest Shackleton, who hadn't been heard of since his ship, the “Endurance”, left the Norwegian whaling station Grytviken in South Georgia on 5 December 1914, heading for Weddell Sea in Antarctica.

The next morning the Daily Chronicle topped the first page with the marvellous news, and was followed by all the other newspapers one day later. The re-appearance of Shackleton was such big news that it pushed the Navy's disastrous battle of Jutland on 31 May aside for a few days. It was world news, even reported in the German press.

Everybody was congratulating Emily. Shortly before 11 on Saturday 3 June, she received a telegram from Buckingham Palace, saying, “My heartiest congratulations to you on the news of the safety of your heroic husband”, signed by Queen Mother Alexandra.

However, it would take another year before Ernest was back in London. After he and five of his men had sailed in a small boat 900 miles (1,500 km) from Elephant Island to South Georgia (like sailing from northern Scotland to the east coast of Greenland), and then crossed its steep and high mountains by foot to reach the whaling station at Stromsness Bay, he was now in the Falklands Islands, trying to reach Elephant Island to rescue the remaining 22 men. It took three attempts, involving four different



The telegram to 11 Vicarage Gate from Queen Mother Alexandra.

ships, before Shackleton finally reached them – almost 130 days after he left them to get help.

After having taken them to Chile, he went to New Zealand to help with the rescue of ten men who were missing on the other side of Antarctica. They were also part of Shackleton's expedition, and had been placed on the Ross Ice Shelf to set up base stations for Shackleton's team after it had crossed Antarctica. However, they had been left behind when their ship was ripped from its moorings in May 1915. Badly battered, the ship had eventually been forced to go to New Zealand for repairs.

With Shackleton aboard, the repaired ship reached seven scruffy survivors (three had died) on 10 January 1917. It was their first contact with the outside world since December 1914. After their return to New Zealand, Ernest Shackleton finally started his trip home via Australia and the USA. He reached London on 29 August 1917, almost a year after Emily had been told that he was alive. However, by then she and the children had moved from Vicarage Gate to Eastbourne.



With the headline “Lady Shackleton learns with joy that her husband is safe” The Daily Mirror took this picture of Emily and the children Cecily and Edward in Kensington Gardens on 2 June 1916. Note Cecily's kick bike – very similar to those popular some 90 years later, but now they are called scooters.

The external adventurer

The “Endurance Expedition” had been Shackleton's third encounter with the Antarctic Continent. Born into an Anglo-Irish middle class family (his father was a doctor) in 1874,



From 1913 to 1917, Ernest Shackleton's family lived in 11 Vicarage Gate, which today is the Abbey House Hotel.

he went to sea at the age of 16, and in 1901 he joined Scott's Discovery Expedition to Antarctica. Although Shackleton became seriously ill and had to be sent home, he had been seriously bitten by the Antarctic bug.

Once back in Britain he had married Emily Dorman, whom he had been courting since 1897, and they settled down in Edinburgh. Emily's father had died in 1901, and had left her money in a trust, which gave her £700 per year, which was enough to keep a couple in reasonable middle-class comfort with two servants and a cook. Although Shackleton wasn't the kind of man who wanted to live off his wife, Emily didn't mind at all. “One must not,” she later remarked, “chain down an eagle in a barnyard.”

The Nimrod Expedition

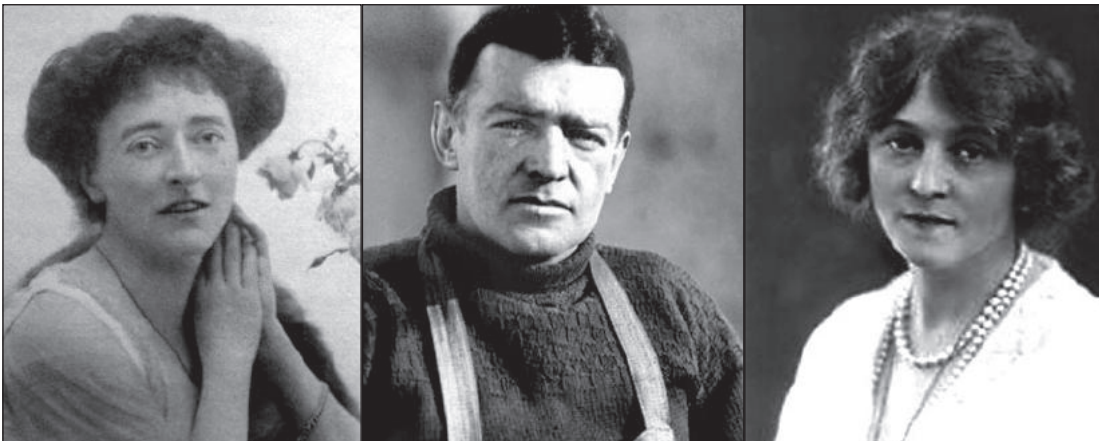
In the beginning of 1907 Ernest announced that he planned a new British expedition to the South Pole. He managed to get the necessary funding, mainly through loans from rich individuals, and in January 1908 the “Nimrod” reached Antarctica. One team in the 21 man expedition reached the South Magnetic Pole on 15 January 1909, while another, led by Shackleton, came closer to the geographic South Pole than any

previous expedition. They were only 97 miles away when Shackleton decided to turn back for safety reasons, as they were already starving and had 730 miles to go before reaching their home base.

He arrived back in Britain hailed a hero, but was heavily in debt. Feeling the public pressure when his financial dilemma became known, the government decided to contribute £20,000 (almost half of the £45,000 needed). As a further gesture of appreciation, Ernest was knighted in December 1909.

Rosalind Chetwynd

Shortly afterwards, the family left Edinburgh for London. After staying with Ernest's rogue brother Frank in Bayswater, and then in a house in Norfolk for a few months, they took a house on Putney Heath in 1911. However, Ernest very seldom stayed with his family. Most of the time he lived in the Marlborough Club in Pall Mall. This was partly due to his unrest, but the main reason was Rosalind Chetwynd, an American lady who in 1900 had left New York for London and married Guy Chetwynd, heir to a baronetcy. By 1909 she was divorced and was the mistress of a British-South African mining mogul and horse-breeder,



Ernest Shackleton and his two women: his wife Emily (left) and Rosalind Chetwynd, who died ten months after him.

Jack Barnato Joel, who supported her and her son financially. She was devoted to him, but couldn't resist Ernest Shackleton's charm, so she and Ernest started an affair that lasted to his death in 1922. The affair was, however reluctantly, accepted by both Emily and Jack B. Joel.

The years after the Nimrod Expedition were filled with lecture tours across Europe and the USA. Although a brilliant and very popular speaker, Ernest soon found it very tedious and started to plan a new expedition. As Roald Amundsen had reached the South Pole in December 1911, the Pole could no longer be the goal, so he decided to cross Antarctica on foot, from the Weddell Sea to McMurdo Sound in Ross Sea, a distance of some 1,800 miles (3,000 km). A support team would land in McMurdo Sound to build a base camp and put up supply stations for Shackleton's last leg.

To Vicarage Gate

Preparations started in London in the middle of 1913 and, because of this, the family moved to 11 Vicarage Gate. This house was much over Emily's budget, but Ernest felt that he had to live in some style, and he was, as always, optimistic that money soon would be rolling in.

On 8 August 1914, just a few days after World War I broke out, the “Endurance” sailed from Plymouth with the trans-continental party, and the “Aurora” left Tasmania with the McMurdo Sound team on Christmas Eve. The expedition was to become legendary. In January 1915, a month after having left Grytviken on South Georgia, the “Endurance” was beset by pack ice and drifted slowly northwards in the ice until she was crushed by it at the end of October. The 28 team members then set off on foot towards Elephant Island, dragging three lifeboats on the ice. They reached the island in April 1916, and from there Shackleton and five of the men sailed the lifeboat “James Caird” back to South Georgia to get help for the remaining 22.

When the members of the expedition returned to civilisation they were shocked find that the war was still

going on and had become a devastating world war. Very soon, most of the members were enrolled into the Army or the Navy, and Shackleton was also eager to do something.

Whilst pleading with various government departments for a useful job, Ernest spent most of his time in London with Rosalind, who now had become an actress, using Rosa Lynd as her stage name. When Shackleton returned to England, she was finishing a run at Wyndham's Theatre.

South America and Russia

Ernest was sent to South America at the end of 1917, to try to convince Argentina and Chile to join the Allies. But already in January 1918 he was called back. Shackleton then became expedition leader in a secret enterprise to establish a British base on Spitsbergen, but fell ill just before the expedition set sail. He finally become involved in the Allied attempt to fight the Bolsheviks in Russia, and was sent to Murmansk as “Staff officer in charge of Arctic equipment”.

In March 1919 he was back in London. Reluctantly, he started working on his book about the Endurance Expedition, which was published at the end of 1919 as “South”. It sold well, but he was still heavily in debt and therefore appeared twice a day at the Philharmonic Hall in Great Portland Street for five months, giving live commentary on a silent film of the expedition, done by the expedition's photographer, Frank Hurley.

In the spring of 1920 he started planning a new expedition, encouraged by Emily. He wanted to have a go at the North Pole (Parry's claim from 1909 was heavily disputed at the time), but by the time the expedition's finances had been sorted, it was too late in the year to reach the Arctic, so he decided to go south again. He wanted to circumnavigate Antarctica, looking for “lost” sub-Antarctic islands and Captain Kidd's treasure on South Trinidad.

On 17 September 1921, the expedition, aboard the “Quest”, sailed from St. Katharine's Dock. One of the last visitors was Rosalind, accompanied by her devoted Jack Barnato Joel.

Heart attack

During the stop in Rio de Janeiro, Shackleton had a massive heart attack but refused to be examined. On 4 January 1922, they reached South Georgia and anchored outside Grytviken. In the early hours on 5 January Ernest had another heart attack and died, a few days before his 49th birthday.

Shackleton's body was to be sent back to England, but when Emily heard what had happened, she decided that he should be buried on South Georgia. If he had a home on earth, it must be the island in the Southern Ocean which had meant so much to him. So, from Montevideo the body was returned to South Georgia. There he was laid to rest in the Norwegian cemetery, next to the whalers he always had felt so much at home with.



Before the “Quest” departed, Rosalind and her “other man”, Jack Barnato Joel (far right), paid a visit. Shackleton is third from the left.



On 24 April 1916, Shackleton and six of his men took off from Elephant Island for their 1 500 kilometre trip to South Georgia. It would take almost 130 days before he was back for the ten who had remained on the island.

