

THE ST JOHN'S WOOD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 232270



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

Meetings of the St John's Wood Society

on

Tuesday 20 September 2011

in

St John's Wood Church Hall

St John's Wood Roundabout London NW8

Special General Meeting at 6.45 pm (see centre page i)

Annual General Meeting at 7.00 pm (see centre page ii)

canapés and wine

generously provided by Panzer's and Jeroboams

will be served **after** the meeting

Front cover:

This limited edition signed print of 150, was specially commissioned to mark the departure of The King's Troop from its St John's Wood Barracks, bringing to an end an association of over 200 years with the Royal Horse Artillery.

Each print comes with a certificate that has been signed by all the Troop Officers present at *The Last Hurrah* Dinner that took place in the Listed Riding School on 30 June 2011.

Entitled *Horses in the Wood* it depicts Captain Robert Skeggs on the charger, Lucy Glitters, as he leads the Troop down St John's Wood High Street, sadly a sight that will shortly come to an end.

The artist, Vanja Karamatic Crew, who has signed and numbered each print, is an award-winning equestrian artist, and also a Molecular Geneticist practising at Bristol Hospital.

The St John's Wood Society
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We welcome letters from members about local amenity matters they would like to see discussed in the Newsletter. Please write to the Editors, PO Box 20586, London NW8 0ZU or email editor@stjohnswoodsoc.org.uk

Chairman's Report

There has been much to occupy the Society over the few months since the last *Newsletter*, and the next few months also promise to be extremely busy. Of fundamental importance to the Society, and to every amenity society in the country, is the Localism Bill, which, if passed, will lead to a fundamental change in the way in which local authorities and amenity societies operate. The Bill itself has led to the Council issuing a large volume of consultative documents, all of which have required detailed consideration from members of the Executive Committee. Once again, I am happy to pay tribute to the enormous efforts made by the members of the Planning Committee and, to an only slightly lesser extent, the Traffic Committee.

The Planning Committee has considered a record number of applications, and enjoy a strong and constructive relationship with the Council Planning Department. That relationship has been at its very best in relation to the redevelopment of the Quintin Kynaston site.

The Traffic Committee has been attempting to ensure that the flow of traffic around Lord's on big match days is improved. The MCC has been, and remains, as committed to the scheme as is the Society. We thought that we had succeeded in obtaining an improved scheme this year, but unfortunately, at a critical moment, the relevant Council Department's attention was distracted. We, with the MCC, will make every effort to ensure that the scheme is in place well before next cricket season.

This year sees the departure of the King's Troop from the St John's Wood Barracks after over 200 years. The Troop will be sadly missed, and we wish them well at their new home.

Next year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as well as the Olympic year. The Jubilee really is a once in a lifetime event. It is the first Diamond Jubilee since Queen Victoria's in 1897, and we are unlikely to see such an event again. The Society would very much like to celebrate the Jubilee with a street party. Many local communities will be holding street parties, and the Society would like to hold such an event. We very much hope to see many of you at the Christmas Lights day on the 4 December. The Society is a co-sponsor of the event. Hopefully, it will not be as cold a day as it was last year.

The Events Committee has organised a number of well-attended and enjoyable events, and I thank them for their efforts.

With this *Newsletter* you will find Notice of a Special General Meeting, which has been called to adopt a new Constitution for the Society. The changes are mainly cosmetic, but we believe that they will make the Society more responsive to our local needs. I would like to thank Stephen Levinson for his efforts in drafting the new Constitution.

The Society needs more members and I would like to recruit more, and, dare I say it, get younger members involved with the Society and on the Executive Committee. Volunteers will be gratefully received!

There is much more that I could report, but space is tight. So I conclude by thanking you all for your interest in the Society, and I look forward to meeting many of you at the Annual General Meeting on 20 September 2011.

Peter Leaver QC

Chairman

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Treasurer's Report

After a modest loss in the previous financial year, I am pleased to report that the Society achieved a healthy profit of over £7,000 in the current year to March 2011. This was due in large part to the continued support and generosity of our members, particularly by accepting a necessary membership fee increase at the start of last year. Furthermore, the value of the Society's subscriptions was augmented by reclaiming two-year's worth of gift aid and I would encourage all members, who have not done so but are able, to complete a gift-aid declaration form.

In addition to our members, our advertising partners deserve a particular mention. Advertising in the bi-annual newsletter has now become an important source of income for the Society and in the current year generated over £3,000. Looking forward, we will seek to grow this source of funds further and, as costs rise elsewhere, this should ensure that membership fees need not increase again for the foreseeable future.

On the cost side, there was little change from the previous year. Both the publication costs for the *Newsletter* and the Planning Committee expenses saw little change and the only increase was the introduction of liability insurance for the Executive Committee. However, this cost was matched by a generous donation under 'Other Income'.

The UK stockmarket saw a small increase in value over the course of the year and the value of our investments increased to £41,385, providing resources to support future campaigns where significant capital is required at short notice. The funds continue to be invested with M&G, a well-regarded investment firm, and we have additional net cash resources of close to £20,000.

In conclusion, the Society ends the current fiscal year in a very healthy financial position with net assets of £62,289.

Simon Connell
Hon Treasurer

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Planning Report

Westminster City Council has consulted the Society on 188 applications in the past six months, 49 of which we have reviewed in July alone. Planning Committee members and long-term St John's Wood residents Diana Eyre, John Villiers (Chartered Surveyor), Virginia Newman (Architect) and Stephen Higgins continue to donate an enormous amount of their time and professional expertise to the Society. Despite being overloaded by current work commitments, architects Peter Ungar and Robin Snell also continue to be available to comment on complicated or contentious applications.

Basements

The Society's Planning Committee is fully committed to doing all we can to preserve the character, gardens and historic buildings of the St John's Wood Conservation Area. We are, however, constantly thwarted by the lack of adequate planning policies to support our objections to excessive basement applications which are submitted, more often than not, by developers who have little or no interest in the area. The Society and residents have consistently raised strong objections to excessive basement developments but Westminster Council has granted planning permission for over thirty such developments within our Conservation Area in the last year. Unfortunately current planning policy does not provide case officers with robust grounds for refusal which can be successfully upheld on appeal. Not only do these works take a very long time to carry out but, on Acacia Road and Hamilton Terrace in particular, several schemes are being developed either simultaneously or consecutively, and the situation has become intolerable for an ever-increasing number of St John's Wood residents.

We are not against anyone improving and extending their homes in the traditional manner, such as modest rear extensions which are not disproportionate to the existing building, but the new brand of home extension in the shape of vast excavation work needs addressing urgently. Extensive garden excavations mean that the opportunity for mature tree-planting is lost for ever. The installation of the major plant required to heat swimming pools, ventilate and air condition large underground rooms is unsustainable and fails to comply with current government policy on sustainability. The removal and dumping of tons of spoil is also unsustainable and it is impossible to assess the long term impact these excavations will have on the water table and drainage.

As mentioned in previous reports, the Society has taken every opportunity to try to effect change to existing basement policy and we are currently supporting the efforts of the 'Considerate Basement Development Group', a collective group of residents' associations, property owners and Councillors in the City of Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. In June 2011, the Chairman of the Considerate Basement Development Group, Dr James Thompson (Kensington and Chelsea Residents' Association), submitted a letter to Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The key points of this letter were as follows.

1. Permitted Development Rights for Basement

Excavations should be removed from the General Permitted Development Order to allow safeguards to be put in place via the planning process to protect neighbours. One of the safeguards would be to allow local authorities to impose a code of conduct jointly agreed amongst the owners, residents and councillors. It would also give local authorities the opportunity to limit basement extensions in size and depth or even ban them if this reflected the views of the neighbourhood under the Localism Bill.

2. Better Guidance for Inspectors at Appeal. Government needs to issue guidance to inspectors on what constitutes reasonable development under buildings and back gardens so that concerns about their impact on conservation areas, biodiversity, drainage and future tree planting are not ignored.
3. The Party Wall Act 1996 predates this type of development and needs to be updated to protect neighbours better. It was never envisaged that double or triple basements would be proposed in the middle of Victorian terraces. The Party Wall Act should be updated to give more protection to residents to include construction methodologies, and independent inspections of the development on behalf of affected neighbours, at the expense of the applicant, during construction.
4. Building Regulations fail to protect the interests of neighbours because building control officers cannot insist on the construction methodology being submitted and agreed in advance of excavation work taking place. In addition the deregulation of building control has resulted in developers using approved inspectors who do not have the local knowledge needed to oversee such work in historic areas.
5. The Localism Bill includes a provision that developers consult on major developments before making a planning application and show that they have taken comments into consideration before submitting the application. This clause is welcomed but it should be expanded to include all basement developments in urban settings. It has become clear that early dialogue with neighbours ensures that there is considerably less chance of excavation works causing problems, and the Localism Bill could help if this small change were made.

Enforcement

The Planning Committee has also endeavoured to take a more pro-active role in enforcement and to this end we would be grateful if members would contact us at StJohnsWoodSoc@aol.com to report any breaches to planning control of which you may be aware. We are only as good as the eyes of our members.

I have included below an informative article on

planning enforcement that has been very kindly written for this Newsletter by Roald Piper, Team Leader of the extremely hard-working Planning Enforcement Team at Westminster City Council.

Planning enforcement in Westminster including the St John's Wood Society area remains extremely busy and expectations of the service remain high. The Planning Enforcement Team received 2295 reports of unauthorised development in 2010/11 (i.e. from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011) and the number already received this year indicates that a similar number will again be received. This is an exceptional number of complaints to receive in a single year and is markedly higher than the number of complaints received in the previous three years. As a comparison:

- In 2007/08 – 2107 complaints were received.
- In 2008/09 – 2108 complaints were received.
- In 2009/10 – 2157 complaints were received.

The Planning Enforcement Team is currently actively investigating almost 3300 breaches of planning control. Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 the Team resolved 2377 breaches of planning control of which 939 were resolved via direct action. During this same period authority was obtained to issue 156 enforcement notices and 154 planning contravention notices.

In addition, the Planning Enforcement Team received 37 appeals against enforcement notices served. The Planning Inspectors appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State have elected to dismiss 71 per cent of the appeals determined within this period, and have upheld the requirements of these enforcement notices.

Within the last year the Short-term Let Team, comprising four planning officers when fully staffed, has been disbanded due to the need to make savings. This specialist Team had been operating in excess of twelve years and was specifically formed to alleviate short-term letting in Westminster. The letting of properties on a short-term basis has social and economic ramifications for the Council and its residents.

Two Senior Planning Enforcement Officers have also left the Team and it is understood that these positions are not being filled at the current time despite the increase in the number of complaints being received by the Team. Clearly the current position is not sustainable long term and consideration may have to be given, in the not too distant future, to the prioritisation in resolving certain breaches of planning control at the expense of others.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended) define what constitutes a breach of planning control and this can essentially be broken down into 5 elements:

- 'Operational Development' – the carrying out of building works without planning permission.
- Carrying out a material change of use of land

without planning permission.

- Non-compliance with a condition subject to which planning permission has been granted.
- Display of an advertisement without express advertisement consent.
- Carrying out works of alteration or demolition to a listed building without consent or contrary to a condition.

Having regard to the foregoing, popular areas of complaint from a staggering range include:

- Air conditioning units and associated noise.
- Ductwork and other plant associated with restaurants, takeaways, bars etc and the associated noise and smells.
- Satellite dishes located in conservation areas and on listed buildings.
- Unauthorised advertisements of every size and type, ranging from garish neon signs to flags and banners, poster billboards, boardings, shrouds (large scaffold banners) etc.
- Works to listed buildings ranging from demolition to insertion of modern glazed windows to fine grained details including loss of historic fireplaces, repainting of facades in the 'wrong colour', alarm boxes, CCTV cameras etc.
- Roof terraces with associated trellises and fencing, loss of privacy, overlooking issues etc.
- Changes of use – shops to offices/restaurants/takeaways, also bars changing to nightclubs.
- Basement, roof and rear extensions which do not benefit from 'permitted development' rights.
- Short-term letting.

On a positive note, the City Council has secured funding to deal with the additional pressures it will face in the build-up to, during and after the Olympics and Paralympics. It is hoped that as part of the additional funding secured, the Planning Enforcement Team will employ additional planning officers on a twelve-month contract with the sole purpose of alleviating short-term letting across the borough. It is also proposed to employ two senior planning officers on a twelve-month contract to assist with other general Olympic and Paralympic planning enforcement investigations and to assist in determining applications associated with these events.

The Planning Enforcement Team will continue to strive to provide an excellent service for businesses, residents and visitors in Westminster. I would also like to remind members of the St John's Wood Society that potential breaches of planning control can be reported electronically via the City Council's website at www.westminster.gov.uk under 'Planning Enforcement'. Alternatively complaints can be made via telephone on 020 7641 2513.

Christine Cowdray
Planning Officer
stjohnswoodsoc@aol.com

Traffic Report

During the Spring there were two main issues of concern to the Society.

Lord's Match Day Optimum Traffic Scheme

Although the Society was told by the Council as recently as May that the Council was 'fine tuning' a traffic management order, we have now been informed by Cllr Robert Rigby (the Chairman of the Lord's Community Group and Regents Park Ward Councillor) that because of the manpower required to conduct the Westminster Parking Policy Review (2010-2011), there were insufficient resources at the Council to re-instate any of the Traffic Management Orders that used to be in place to ease traffic flow on major match days at Lord's, let alone to produce an optimum parking scheme. At present both the MCC and the Society are awaiting confirmation from Councillor Rigby as to whether the Council believes it will be able to produce a scheme in time for the 2012 season.

Westminster Parking Policy Review (2010-11)

At the St John's Wood Area Forum meeting on 23 June there was a session on the review where the three short-term policies (updating the webpage for loading and waiting information, updating the ParkRight booklet, promoting the underused spare parking capacity in off-street car parks) and the eight medium to long-term draft policies were presented (introducing night time controls in Zones E and G, introducing weekend controls for Zones E, G and F3, working with taxi and private hire industry to improve provisions for Zones E and G, increasing charges for second, third or more residents parking permits per household, providing a mechanism to permit the review of controlled hours in other zones, introducing a Visitor Parking Scheme for bona fide visitors, improving loading and waiting in Zones F and G, reviewing Green Transport schemes).

No details of the policies at the time of writing have been published but a Cabinet paper, due at the end of July, will publicise the details in advance of a meeting on 1 August where a Cabinet meeting, inter alia, will approve an experimental parking scheme. This scheme, we have been informed, will be implemented at the beginning of November and notices will inform the public how comments can be sent to the Council regarding the experiment.

The Society is concerned that introducing West End parking controls for weekends and weekday

nights will increase parking occupancy in St John's Wood, as people might drive into the area and park before walking or taking other transport to the West End. An occupancy survey has been published and is available at www.westminster.gov.uk by selecting 'Council Meeting Information' then 'Meeting Agenda and Reports' then 'Cabinet' then '2011' then '9 May 2011' then 'Item 6 Background Papers' then 'Background Paper 5'. This makes very interesting reading regarding parking availability in our area and we are quite concerned that inadequate data will be available to assess the impact of this experimental scheme once introduced.

We also believe that insufficient time was provided for consultation of residents with details of the proposed policies and were surprised that the Council's legal team failed to answer our question as to why publicising the consultation to parking permit holders would contravene data protection legislation.

Joe Sucharewicz and Claire Rayden
traffic@stjohnswoodsoc.org.uk

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Police Public Meeting Tuesday 6 September 6pm to 8pm
The Warner Room, Lord's Cricket Ground, NW8

Quintin Kynaston Re-development: Landscape Plan

Members will have been following with interest the planning process for the re-development of Quintin Kynaston and George Eliot schools, which is mentioned elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

You will have noticed that work on the new primary school on the southern area of the site has begun and that some mature trees have been felled to accommodate the new buildings. The eventual loss of some 45 trees is much regretted by the Society and will inevitably change the character of the park-like landscape which surrounds the present buildings. We are optimistic, however, that the plans, which integrate new planting with the retained trees and shrubs, will create a landscape which will complement a much needed modern educational complex and enhance this large site on the northern borders of St John's Wood.

The plan proposes that 'retaining the existing green buffer to the site's perimeter, including enhancements with new tree planting, underplanting and native shrub planting to increase site-wide biodiversity' will provide 'an attractive and pleasant outlook from the street into the school whilst maintaining privacy between the schools and the surrounding residential buildings'.

A total of 99 new trees are to be planted in locations intended to reinforce the main pedestrian routes and assist in the visual mitigation of the development from residents to the east and west of the site. The intended species are *Tilia Cordata* (small-leaved lime), *Prunus Avium* (wild cherry), *Liquidambar* (sweetgum), *Carpinus Betulus* (hornbeam), *Betula Pubescens* (white birch), *Acer Rubrum* (red maple) and *Catalpa* (indian bean). New structural hedge planting will be of hornbeam, beech, privet and yew. Boundary hedge planting will be of native species: hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, wild pear, field maple, holly, guelder rose and dog rose. A wide range of native woodland species will be used to underplant trees and shrubs.

An interesting new area, entitled 'Ornamental and Curriculum planting' will consist of a mix of ornamental herbaceous sensory planting around external teaching spaces to encourage contact with nature and support curriculum activity. Groups of plants will relate to the five senses – scent, touch, sound, taste and sight. Also included in the plan is a dedicated horticultural area which includes a growing garden, orchard (apple and pear varieties) and a relocated goat enclosure.

Diana Eyre

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St. John's Wood

Surgery session: raise your issues with senior council staff

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- Speak to councillors and council officers face-to-face
- Fast-track your issues directly with council departments
- Suggest projects that could benefit from funding from the local Neighbourhood Funds

The next St. John's Wood Area Forum is on:
Date: Monday 21st November 2011
Surgery session: 6.00-7pm
Main meeting: 7.00pm
Venue: Canals Hotel, 48 Langford Road, London W9 7.1

For further information, or to register to receive a copy of the agenda, please contact:
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Events Report

It has been an interesting few months since the last Newsletter. On 18 May a large party of our members enjoyed an excellent visit to Lord's, and our last outing, by popular demand, was to the Barracks on 20 July. Sad to say, it was the last ever: as everyone knows, the Troop leaves us finally in October. Despite their extremely busy schedule between now and then, we were allowed one final visit to the Barracks. I want to thank Major Neil Cross for making the time available to us.

Many of you will have been to the wonderful dinner at the Barracks at the end of June – *The Last Hurrah*, organised by, amongst others, Clive Beecham. Although not a Society event, it certainly felt as though it was. Dr Stuart Sanders has kindly written it up for those who were not there, but he omitted to say that there was hardly a dry eye in the Riding School that night.

As a suitable finale for the last year of the Barracks, we are delighted that Major Bill Clarke has agreed to give our 6th illustrated Annual Autumn Talk, on 11 October. He has just written a book on the history of

the Troop so this should be a fascinating evening. A booking form is enclosed.

We have great plans for a Jubilee party in June 2012. Please do get in touch if you would be interesting in helping. We would also be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help on our stall at the St John's Hospice Fair on 4 December in the High Street.

The final event this year will be the Annual Tree Walk, which takes place on Saturday 22 October. A booking form is enclosed.

My co-editor, Elizabeth, and I would like to assure all our members that despite trying to bring you the most up to date news and goings-on in St John's Wood, there is no truth in the rumour that we have bugged anyone's phones, mobiles or looked through their rubbish! We have many new contributors to the Newsletter, and I want to thank them all very much. It is, I know, quite a lot of extra work to produce an article, and we are grateful to them all.

Jane Leaver

janeleaver@cgardens.co.uk

Visit to King's Troop Barracks 20 July 2011

I was very fortunate to get a place on the last Society tour of the King's Troop Barracks. I had previously seen the interior of the Riding School when bad weather had driven the Christmas Eve 'Port and Mince Pies' event indoors but I had not seen the rest of the Barracks before.

After a welcome in the creeper-clad Officers' Mess, an intimate building decorated with beautiful equestrian paintings and other mementoes of the King's Troop, we were taken outside by the Adjutant to watch the inspection parade of mounted guards in full-dress uniform who were about to set off for Horseguard's Parade, where they were taking part in the Changing-of-the-Guard in place of the Household Cavalry.

From there we were taken on a visit to the stables, where some 112 horses are looked after. They are constantly groomed, closely clipped and their mane cropped to keep them comfortable whilst working hard pulling gun carriages. All 150 or so soldiers are involved in the care of the horses, each one undertaking all the jobs from mucking-out and grooming to riding and training the horses. Every member of the troop has to be able to ride any of the horses, although the officers have their own personal mounts, which are taller than the rest of the horses.

We then moved on to see the beautifully-maintained gun carriages. These were basically ones used during the First World War but modified for ceremonial use. Since only blanks are now fired, and not live shells, massive recoil and over-heating of the barrel are no longer a problem. One of the carriages has been modified, with rubber tyres on the wheels, to carry a coffin for state funerals.

The next place we visited was the massive Grade II listed Riding School, with its impressive roof beams.

Because of its listed status, this will be the only part of the site to be retained when the site is redeveloped after the Troop leaves the Barracks at the end of this year. There are large rectangular mirrors on the walls so that the riders, like ballerinas, can check their posture whilst mounted. This is not just for vanity but so that they can check, amongst other things, the way they are sitting and whether they are holding their raised sword at the correct angle. The Riding School is big enough for dressage displays and for taking the horses over jumps.

Finally we were taken to see the forge where the horses' hooves are inspected and shod by the farriers. Their shoes wear down twice as fast as horses ridden on roads because of the heavy work they do pulling 1-ton gun carriages. Many of the horse-shoes have to be modified to suit individual horses. The job of farrier is very desirable because they obtain valuable experience and qualifications which can be put to good use in civilian life after the Army. After being trained in every other aspect of work with the horses, the ambition of most soldiers in the Barracks is to become farriers.

We were very fortunate in being taken round the Barracks for two hours by the Adjutant, Robert Skeggs. It was his last day at the Barracks and he generously gave up his valuable time to take us on a fascinating tour. It will be very sad for local residents when the Troop finally leaves at the end of the year and we no longer hear the distant Reveille, or the distinctive sound of hooves, and the rumbling of the wheels of gun carriages on the streets of St John's Wood, to say nothing of the sight of the beautiful horses and their uniformed riders.

Michael Brent

A Visit to Lord's Cricket Ground 18 May 2011

The morning of 18 May 2011 23 prompt members of the Society, met at the Grace Gate, eager to gain a glimpse of the hallowed turf of English cricket. As near neighbours of this famous site, many of us had circumnavigated it for years, but had never been inside, let alone attended a cricket match.

Guide Bernard Goodwin led us first to the 'away team' changing room. Here we had a panoramic view of the pitch and grandstands, instantly recognisable from television coverage - including the landmark 1999 ovoid media stand. Focussing on the surprisingly spartan room itself, Bernard explained the many wooden display boards recording, for instance, those players who have achieved 100 overs (series of 6 balls) and 5 wickets (batsmen).

The Club began life at a site in Dorset Square, Marylebone, then Regent's Park in 1811, before reaching its present location in 1813. We heard much about the complexities of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) membership (and later, about the much simpler and less exclusive scheme belonging to the Middlesex County Cricket Club, 'MCCC', also based at Lord's). Permission was voted for women to become members in 1999, and some have already attained this status, even though the current waiting list is 21 years' long. For those patient enough to wait, membership is an excellent deal, offering access to matches and the very fine Club building itself. The Club's livery is red and yellow strips, as we spotted on flags above the ground, and members' ties. Amazingly, these colours were the result of a stipulation in the 19th century by William Nicholson that he would provide a gift of money to the Club, on condition that it adopt the hues of his gin label - an early sponsorship deal.

Moving outside, the theme continued, as we noticed sponsors' advertising hoardings, and found out that boxes may be hired by other firms, too. In total, the ground hosts 28,516 seats, many areas containing un-bookable bench seats. Members may sit here, but

it is important to ensure that enough room remains for paying ticket-holders. From the vantage point of the benches, we learned more about the different buildings and their phases. The often photographed red-brick pavilion, housing principal Club rooms, was designed by Colin Verity, art collector and oil magnate. J P Getty paid for a stand. The third umpire sits in the Werner Stand and the MCC President has a box and stand for guests. Other sights underlined the work of those who maintain the ground: abseilers inspected the superstructure of a building, while another team operated a grass-dryer, in the form of a hovercraft.

Inside Lord's, art lovers were not disappointed. In the Long Room, many 18th century great painters, such as Francis Cotes and Nathaniel Dance, were represented. The Club was also an active patron of contemporary painters. Two exceptionally acute pictures by Andrew Festing in the Members' Bar were notable. More modern paintings of impressive cricketers lined the walls of the Museum, which also contained displays of cricketing artefacts. Its main, yet tiny, exhibit - with a whole room to itself - was of course, the urn containing the ashes, the legendary prize in England vs. Australia Test matches.

For all of us - including those puzzled by the rules of cricket and radio commentaries featuring the discussion of donated lemon cake - the morning's tour brought clarity and life to the subject. We gained a fascinating insight into history, both local and international, the inspiring dedication of cricketers though the centuries, and a human story of success, defeat, true sportsmanship and good humour. Soon, it will be Lord's bicentenary so let's hope to join in the well-earned celebrations of our long-standing and distinguished neighbour.

Allison Sharpe

Membership Report

On the plus side, this year we have been delighted to welcome two new Corporate members. Their valuable support is greatly appreciated. But despite our loyal membership, in the mobile society in which we live, we continually need to recruit new members to replace those who leave us or move away. Please help us by encouraging local friends and neighbours to join. An application form can be downloaded at: www.stjohnswoodsoc.org.uk/membership

Or you can contact me and I will write to them.

Current membership of the Society is as follows:

Individual Members	257
Joint Members	316 (158 couples)
Corporate Members	12
Total	585 members

Elizabeth Aldwinckle
Membership Secretary
(020 7624 8223)
info@stjohnswoodsoc.org.uk

Autumn Events

11 October 2011	Autumn Talk by Major W G Clarke <i>The Barracks and its occupants over the last 200 years</i>
22 October 2011	The Annual Tree Walk

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the St John's Wood Society will be held at 6.45 pm on Tuesday 20 September 2011 in St John's Wood Church Hall, St John's Wood Roundabout, London NW8 for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Resolution:

Resolution

That the Constitution produced to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman of the meeting for the purpose of identification be adopted as the Constitution of the Society in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Constitution.

By order of the Committee
Jackie Zelkha
Secretary

The enclosed insert shows the main changes to the Constitution. Copies of the new Constitution will be available at the meeting. Any member who would like a copy in advance, or a full, marked-up copy, should apply to the Secretary.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the St John's Wood Society for the purpose of carrying out the business specified in the Agenda will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 20 September 2011 (or so soon thereafter as the Special General Meeting convened for the same day and place shall have been concluded or adjourned) in St John's Wood Church Hall, St John's Wood Roundabout, London NW8.

By order of the Committee
Jackie Zelkha
Secretary

Annual General Meeting of the St John's Wood Society Tuesday 20 September 2011 at 7.00 pm

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 4 November 2010.

These are printed on pages iii and iv.

- 3. To receive the Annual Report.**
- 4. To receive the Audited Accounts.**
- 5. To elect the Officers.**

President	Michael Brent QC
Chairman	Peter Leaver QC
Vice-Chairman	Diana Eyre
Treasurer	Simon Connell
Secretary	Jackie Zelkha

The above have indicated their willingness to stand.

- 6. To elect members of the Executive Committee.**
Maria Jordan resigned from the Executive Committee during the year. Robin Snell has subsequently resigned.

Under Clause 13(b) of the Society's Constitution, Christine Cowdray, Stephen Higgins, John Villiers are required to resign from office at this Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election. They have indicated their willingness to stand again.

Clive Beecham has been nominated for election to the Executive Committee. Any other nominations for the election to the Executive Committee must be in writing and received by the Secretary not later than fourteen days before this Annual General Meeting. The maximum number of members of the Executive Committee permitted by the Constitution is twelve (excluding co-opted members and the Officers).

- 7. Any Other Business.**

Kit Malthouse, the Deputy Mayor of London, has agreed to attend the meeting and speak.

Canapés and wine will be served after the meeting.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
the St John's Wood Society
held on Monday 21 September 2010
in the Perry Gore Room
at St John's Wood Church Hall London NW8**

Present:

Elizabeth Aldwinckle	Michael Salmon
Christine Cowdray	Hilary Villiers
Diana Eyre	John Villiers
Jill Salmon	Jackie Zelkha

Diana Eyre, Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Mrs Eyre proposed that the Annual General Meeting should be adjourned immediately and would instead take place on 4 November 2010 at 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm. The resolution was put to the meeting and passed.

The floor thanked the Chairman and the meeting closed at 7.01 pm.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
the St John's Wood Society
held on Thursday 4 November 2010 in
St John's Wood Church Hall London NW8**

Michael Brent QC, President of the Society, welcomed everyone and thanked members present for their support for the Society. He explained that the meeting arranged for 21 September 2010 had been adjourned as the current Chairman, Andrew Mainz, had decided to stand down. Peter Leaver QC had agreed to take over as Chairman and as there were no other candidates, he was confirmed in the position.

The President thanked Andrew Mainz for his tireless work during the last twenty years, during which time he had served as Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Society owed him a huge debt of gratitude as he had always had the best interests of the Society at heart and had been unstinting with his time. Peter Leaver then added his own personal thanks.

The outgoing Chairman, Andrew Mainz, said how fortunate the Society was that Peter Leaver had agreed to take over. He wished to thank everyone who worked for the Society, especially Elizabeth Aldwinckle, the Membership Secretary. He would of course continue to support the Society in any way he could.

1. Apologies for absence were received from a number of members

Apologies were received from Executive Committee Members, Christine Cowdray, Diana Eyre and Joe Sucharewicz as well as from a number of members of the Society.

2. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 24 September 2009 were agreed.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

No report was made as the former Treasurer, who had retired, was not present.

4. **To Elect the Officers**

The Chairman announced that all the Officers were willing to continue apart from the Treasurer who would be replaced by Simon Connell. No other nominations had been received.

5. **To Elect Members of the Executive Committee**

All the current members were prepared to stand again and were proposed and seconded.

6. **Chairman's Report**

The new Chairman explained that the Executive Committee were going to have a 'brainstorming session' to look at ways in which the Society might develop. He talked about joining forces with the local History Group, which might encourage more members who are interested in the history of this area.

Other possibilities were a Film Club and a Fine Arts Group. The Society would have a stand at the High Street Christmas Fair involving local businesses and shops which was planned for 28 November 2010. Proceeds from the fair would go to the local Hospice.

Another idea might be to organise a street party in the High Street next summer.

The Chairman also wanted to develop closer links with neighbouring societies and build up membership of the Society.

The Chairman said how impressed he was with the Planning Committee who were inundated with work. He conveyed good wishes to Christine Cowdray, Chairman of the Planning Committee, who had recently been unwell.

7. **Any Other Business**

Alan Irvine raised the matter of the pupils of Abercorn Place School who used Violet Hill Gardens at playtime. The Chairman explained that this was a long-running situation and that every possible legal remedy had been used to no avail.

Mr Silbert, a resident of Marlborough Hill, mentioned the building works that were planned for Quintin Kynaston School and his concerns about how these would impact on local residents. He pointed out that there were still a number of anti-social issues and residents should continue to make their objections known to Westminster Council.

John Villiers explained how the Planning Committee worked and the processes that took place. He said that Christine Cowdray's hard work had considerably increased the influence that the Society now had with Westminster Council.

The increase in basement developments was discussed. It was felt that it would be helpful if the Society could share concerns with neighbouring societies.

Cllr Lindsay Hall and Cllr Cyril Nemeth explained how they put forward the views of the St John's Wood residents to Westminster Council.

Elizabeth Liddell talked about the work of the Regent's Park Fine & Decorative Arts Society and the nine lectures and visits to places of interest that take place during the year.

Maria Jordan said that the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre was very keen to have the support of the local residents.

James Hewitt asked about the proposed eruv and asked what the Committee's position was on this. The Chairman explained that no application yet been made. He said he would ensure that the membership would be fully informed when any application was submitted.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

The St John's Wood Society

Registered Charity No 232270

Annual Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2011.

Organisation Structure

The Trustees (who comprise the Executive Committee of the Society) meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Society. They have a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the Society.

Objectives – Activities

The main objects of the Society, as set out in its 'Constitution', are as follows:

1. To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in St John's Wood.
2. To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.
3. To oppose by any reasonable means available to the Society, any development in any part of St John's Wood, which in the view of the Society would detract from the beauty, history and character of that part or its features of general public amenity or historic interest.

The Society strives to foster a close working relationship with other local amenity groups.

Financial Review

The Executive Committee reviews the level of income and expenditure and performance of the investments at regular meetings held during the year. As shown on page viii, the financial activities during the year resulted in a net surplus of income over expenditure of £7247 (2010 £(183)).

The principal funding sources for the Society are by way of membership fees and investment income.

The trustees actively seek to increase the number of members in pursuit of the Society's objectives.

The Executive Committee, which meets regularly, examines the Society's requirements for reserves, on a regular basis and in the light of the main risks to the Society.

A cautious approach is adopted towards the investments by the Society and the Society aims to maintain at least two years' recurring administrative costs in its reserves.

Any requests for grants are reviewed on an individual basis by the Committee.

Peter Leaver QC
Chairman

The St John's Wood Society

Registered Charity No 232270

Annual Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees and Executive Committee

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993;

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner:

The Society has approved I D Stubbs FCA to be independent examiner.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 11 July 2011

Peter Leaver QC Simon Connell

The St John's Wood Society

Registered Charity No 232270

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the St John's Wood Society

I report on the accounts of The St John's Wood Society for the year ended 31 March 2011, which are set out on pages viii to x.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and,
- to state whether particular matters have come to me attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act, have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: I D STUBBS FCA, 136 Baker Street, London W1U 6DU

Statement of Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2011</i>	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2010</i>
	£	£
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		
Receipts		
Voluntary receipts:		
Annual subscriptions including Gift Aid	12,696	8,893
Amenity Society Grants	650	650
Visits and Advertising	3,930	893
Other Income	1,600	–
Investment income:		
Interest on bank deposits	20	25
Charifund units – distributions	2,034	2,031
Total Receipts	20,930	12,492
Payments		
General activities of the Society:		
Newsletters, including despatch costs	5,359	5,435
Planning Committee costs	5,000	5,000
Cost of meetings and visits	959	496
Liaison with other amenity bodies	–	40
Other expenditure:		
Advertising and exhibitions	150	200
Website costs	127	236
Management and administration:		
General office expenses	1,488	703
Accountancy fees	600	565
Total Payments	13,683	12,675
Excess of Receipts over Payments	7,247	(183)
Gain on investment asset : unrealised	1,960	10,252
Bank Accounts at 1st April	53,082	43,013
Bank Accounts at 31st March	<u>62,289</u>	<u>53,082</u>

The notes on page x form part of these accounts.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2011</i> £	<i>Unrestricted Funds 2010</i> £
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES		
Investments	41,385	39,425
Bank Accounts	21,940	18,190
Accruals	(4,546)	(4,533)
Debtors	3,510	–
	<u>62,289</u>	<u>53,082</u>
Assets retained for Charity Use	<u>62,289</u>	<u>53,082</u>

**Approved by the Executive Committee on 11 July 2011
and signed on their behalf by:**

Simon Connell, Hon Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee

The notes on page x form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements to 31 March 2011

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

(a) Basis of Accounting:

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value using the Receipts and Payments basis.

(b) Investment Income:

Investment income is included in the unrestricted funds when received and there are no restrictions on its use.

(c) Investments:

Investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are included in the unrestricted funds.

(d) Funds:

The unrestricted accumulated fund is available for use in accordance with the aims of the Society.

2. INVESTMENT:

The investment, shown below, is held to enable the Society to fund its activities as and when needed. It is quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

	<i>2011</i>	<i>2010</i>
	£	£
The Equities Investment Fund for Charities ('Charifund')		
3,561 Income Units:		
Market value at 1 April 2010 (3,561 units)	39,425	29,173
Add: Unrealised gain/(loss) for the year	<u>1,960</u>	<u>10,252</u>
Market value at 31 March 2011 (3,561 units)	<u>£41,385</u>	<u>£39,425</u>
Historical cost	<u>£27,024</u>	<u>£27,024</u>

3. TAXATION:

As a charity, the Society is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within s505 of the Taxes Act 1988 and s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

A Whig in the Wood

There arrived at 27 Park Road in 1819 a well-to-do bachelor whose father had 'set him an example of all he had to avoid': Henry Bellenden Ker, FRS. His father had been the unsuccessful claimant to the Roxburghe title and on the collapse of this case, early in Henry's adulthood, a professional career became essential for the young man, who settled on becoming an attorney specialising in Chancery work. He was destined to be one of the busiest and best rewarded lawyers of his generation.

By the time he decided upon the Wood for his home, Henry had already found time to pursue a number of outside interests. His skill as an engraver had accounted for his election to the Royal Society – these were the last years of Sir Joseph Banks's incumbency, when an amateur gentleman of good birth found few obstacles to mixing socially with the few scientists of distinction. In his chambers at Lincoln's Inn, Ker's pupils included three future Lord Chancellors and others who testified to their leader's idiosyncrasies. Henry's rough edges had not been rubbed off at any school; he had no siblings and remained always something of a spoiled child. He was too often cantankerous and overbearing, particularly as regards officialdom. But he was so well connected that Cockerell designed his house in Park Road, and Eastlake (eventually Keeper of the National Gallery) designed a dining room for it which created a minor sensation in its day. As no illustration survives, it may be of some interest to quote a description:

'The sides of the room are divided in two parts; one is painted in vertical panels, reaching to within two feet of the ceiling forming a frieze representing an architectural landscape. The panels contain figures representing the chase and capture of hares and birds supposed to be caught for dinner, and the preparation of different fruits for dessert. The landscape of the frieze consists of columns and other architectural forms, representing the foreground of the landscape. No animals, figures or forms are introduced, of which there is not a precedent in the figures collected from the ruins of Pompeii. The result carries the mind back to the style of decorating rooms adopted by the most civilised people of the world two thousand years ago'.

Ker felt that too much fuss was made about this novelty of his, but the dining room was a centre of entertainment for many of the most interesting among his contemporaries. Here, for example, is his near neighbour Thomas Drummond, then a leading member of the Ordnance Survey Office: 'I dined with the Lord

Chancellor (Brougham) the other day at the house of an intimate friend of his, Mr Ker, with whom I have become very intimate. Mrs Ker is a pleasant woman and their society is very agreeable. The Chancellor had expressed a desire to see the brilliant light [an invention of Drummond] which he had heard of... accordingly I put up the apparatus in Mr Ker's greenhouse, the lamp being directed to the drawing room. There were only eight persons present, all intimate friends of Brougham's, so that the conversation, at and after dinner, about men and things, more especially the Reform question, was most entertaining and interesting. After retiring to the drawing room I displayed the light, at which they expressed great admiration although the Chancellor seemed afraid of his eye, and could hardly be persuaded to look at it. I spied him, however, peeping at a corner and immediately turned the reflector upon him, but he fled'.

Mrs Ker, incidentally, was the beautiful and intelligent Elizabeth Clarke of Waltham Cross, whom Henry married in 1824. Eastlake painted her in a celebrated portrait now in the Tate Gallery. She was an intimate friend of Harriet Martineau (who found Henry difficult but came frequently to Park Road) but Henry often differed from his wife in public. No wonder that she and Harriet used to spend a fortnight a year together at the Swiss Cottage, Cheshunt, the Kers' country house – with the master of the house happily absent.

Henry Ker's father had been an eccentric Whig who had given little attention to public life. Henry himself was no less Whiggish, but in his generation that meant associating with schemes for parliamentary and other reform and the promotion of popular education. So involved was he with the Reform Act in 1832 that this cost him his fellowship for the Royal Society – he neglected to open the circular reminding him to renew his subscription. A Whig candidate for Norwich in the next General Election, his stand was unsuccessful, but he turned to authorship and more artistry.

One interest he shared with his wife was horticulture. Elizabeth Ker wrote a little book about gardening for children in the junior series of publications put out by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, of which her husband was a committee member, and for which he put together biographies of Michelangelo and Wren. He contributed woodcuts to the Penny Magazine of the SDUK, and his drawings were used to engrave illustrations for an edition of Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*. But before his

retirement he became best known as a frequent contributor to the *Gardeners Chronicle*, specialising in orchids, of which he had a fine collection at Park Road.

Some of his articles betray his political sympathies, which remained with him throughout. 'As to the difficulties and expense of growing orchids which will always keep them amongst the aristocracy of gardeners,' he wrote, 'I believe that we will soon find keeping the more easily cultivated [healthy], which will make this class as common as they are beautiful. We must have orchids for the millions. I know that there are many respectable academicians who always maintained (and some even now who still maintain) that the arts are essentially aristocratic. I suggest there are numbers now who could tell a different tale. I have met only one serious objection to the cultivation of orchids for the million, namely the cost. Some plants now sell for a shilling a piece and a short time ago were among the dearest. As soon as there is sufficient demand, nurserymen will propagate the quick growing plants and sell them at a price within the reach of all'.

The Kers retired to the Villa Albert, Cannes, so that Henry could be within easy reach of his friend Lord Brougham. At a party at Lord

Lyndhurst's in 1859, when three other Lord Chancellors were present, Ker said of Brougham (after he had left) that 'there is always a foundation of truth in his statements, but he is a terrible exaggerator', 'No', said Lord Lyndhurst, 'I consider the worst exaggerator the man who understates'.

One of his colleagues on the SDUK paid tribute to Ker in these words: 'he did me incalculable good in his rough-riding when I was learning my paces in this intellectual menage. It was like the discipline which a young barrister receives on his first circuit... to see the kind heart and the earnest good will, all concealed by the levity of tongue, to find indifference ripening into friendship – this was my experience of a man whose ready talent, whose social aptitude, rarely failed to secure the friendship of the young and of the aged – one who was a warm politician without the bitterness of a partisan'. The amateur orchid growers of today, if only they knew of Henry Ker's significance, would be equally grateful for his interest in their skills.

Malcolm Brown
Hon Archivist

St John's Wood History Group

The History Group has greatly expanded its activities in the past few months. As reported in the last *Newsletter* our new website is on line at www.stjohnswoodmemories.org.uk There you will find articles on historical figures in St John's Wood such as Charles Binny, 1747-1822, who has a handsome memorial in St John's Wood Church. He served the Nawabs of the Carnatic in Madras. Another article explores the life of Frederick Goodall, artist, 1822-1904, who spent the last years of his life in Avenue Road. In addition there are items recorded with living residents of our area such as Monty Dare, here during the war, and Rose Watt who grew up in the now demolished Townshend Cottages. We are still learning how to manage the website and it will improve in appearance over the next few months as well as gaining more material. We are appealing for contributions about the area, and comments too, so that it becomes a worthwhile interactive site.

The Open Day at the Westminster Archives in April was very well attended by about fifty people. This was when the website was launched: there was a talk about Lord's, and behind the scenes examination of the treasures relating to St John's Wood. These include maps, documents, drawings and other images - there is far more available than we could see in the one day.

A very successful coffee morning was held in the Library with the help of Amy Crouch. We had many old photographs on show from the Westminster Archives, and visitors who dropped in were able to add to our knowledge of the people and places depicted.

Our History Group meeting in May was held in the Queen's Terrace Café when Mireille Galinou gave an excellent talk on the Eyre Estate papers and how to use them. They are all catalogued by her and available at the Westminster Archives. It is this body of material of course which was the basis for her definitive book on *St John's Wood, Cottages and Villas*.

Work is still being carried out on the recording of St John's Wood Church. We are checking all the detail, compiling the findings into a very specific order and typing it up in the way that is required. As well as to the Church, copies will go to English Heritage, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Church House and NADFAS, (the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies).

Members of the History Group are discussing three further projects. One concerns the covers which protected the chutes outside houses down which coal was tipped to the cellars below. Many

coal-hole covers have already been removed and paved over. However, it is known that some of these attractive covers still exist in Allitsen Road and these will be photographed and recorded with the help of local schoolchildren. Marijke Green and Pat Rawlinson are leading this project. Please contact us if you know of any remaining coal-hole covers in other roads.

We have applied for a grant to enable us to print self-guided tours of St John's Wood. Routes have yet to be decided but might include blue plaques, artists or musicians, or architecture of note. Leaflets would be available from the library, surgeries, newsagents and so on, and should attract regular residents as well as the extra tourists who may visit the area during the Olympics.

Another project has just been suggested. This is a photographic competition. During the Diamond Jubilee week in June 2012, individuals would take photos of people and places in St John's Wood. Planning for this competition is in the very early stages and details will be available in due course. As well as giving us a snapshot of our area at a particular date, it would be of interest for the future. It could be repeated in ten years time! Does anyone have photos taken here in 1952 when the Queen came to the throne?

Our next History Group meeting will be held at the Queens Terrace Café at 6.30 pm on Thursday 15 September. Please get in touch if you would like further information about any of the matters mentioned in this article.

Louise Brodie

brodie.louise@googlemail.com

Local News

Lord's Report

Another year and another busy season at Lord's. A small part of me thought, that after three Tests last year, we might be in for a quieter 2011. However, yet again, MCC has proven itself adept at throwing up all sorts of intriguing events, on and off the pitch, to keep our noses well and truly to the grindstone.

For the second consecutive year, MCC played its first match of the season not at Lord's but in Abu Dhabi. An MCC team took on (and beat) the county champions Nottinghamshire in a contest played with a pink ball under floodlights.

As many of you will know, the Club has been at the forefront of experiments with pink balls in the hope of finding a way for Test cricket to be played at night (red balls just aren't visible at night under lights). I just want to reiterate that we are not suggesting that Lord's hosts floodlit Test cricket. In England, thankfully, Test cricket tends to attract strong support, but elsewhere, particularly in the subcontinent, West Indies and New Zealand, crowds are on the wane, so the idea of floodlit cricket is to reverse the decline abroad.

So from the technicalities of the game on the field, to the myriad politics off it. On 4 July Lord's hosted one of MCC's most high-profile events – the MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture. It was delivered by the Sri Lankan, Kumar Sangakkara, one of the finest batsmen of this generation, and one of the most erudite and eloquent too. He made the headlines with his strong opinions on cricket administrators – that they should be free from political influence and corruption, and should use the growing riches in the game not to curry personal favours but to guarantee the future health of Test cricket. I could not agree with him more – he's a brave man and an asset to both the Sri Lankan and world game.

Away from all things cricket, Lord's will host its first wedding in August after being granted a licence to host ceremonies in the Long and Writing Room in the Pavilion and the Thomas Lord Suite. The ground will also be hosting some of the world's finest archers in October as preparations for the Olympics intensify. A Test event, taking place between 3 and 10 October (set-up begins on 27 September) will comprise men's and women's team and individual competitions, to replicate

the format during the Games. We are still awaiting details from LOCOG about the possibility of being able to invite local residents, and if we do I will pass on details to the SJWS Chairman.

Finally, we continue our analysis with respect to the redevelopment of the ground. Given the importance of getting it right and the changing economic climate, we are reassessing our requirements and ensuring we leave no stone unturned in our analysis. We are very conscious of keeping residents abreast of our plans and when we have news of note, we will share it with you.

If you have any concerns, queries or suggestions for us, send us an email: community@lords.org

Keith Bradshaw

MCC Secretary & Chief Executive

The Regent's Park Allotment Garden

Managed by a dedicated team of volunteers, alongside staff and students from Capel Manor.

Capital Growth – a London-wide community food-growing initiative – runs an exciting programme of activities in the garden, including free open days, and training sessions run by local experts.

Training sessions can be booked by emailing: training@capitalgrowth.org Cost £20 for individuals or £10 for Capital Growth members.

Coming up in September:

Wednesday 21st 5.30pm to 8pm and
Saturday 24th 10.30am to 1.00pm

Training – Seed-Saving and
Fruit and Vegetable Preserving

Sunday 25th 11.00am to 5.00pm

Open day – Harvest Festival

Chefs and bakers will be cooking fresh produce from the garden. There will also be experts from the Royal Parks Guild and a children's scarecrow-making workshop.

www.capitalgrowth.org

St John's Wood Library

St John's Wood Library has started a new reading club for crime lovers. The Crime Readers Group meets on the first Monday of every month and is becoming very popular. The long-standing St John's Wood Library Book Club continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month. See the library webpage for information about what the groups are reading:

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/news/sjwevents/>

Our Saturday morning Under-Fives Song and Story Session has been a popular venture for busy dads and mums who aren't available during the week. Grandparents also very welcome. Every Saturday at 11.00

am. Other sessions are every Tuesday and Thursday at 10.15 am.

We want to know what you want to read! If you have tried to borrow a book from the library recently and didn't find what you were looking for, or if you're fed up with waiting ages for your book to arrive, please feed this back to library staff who can improve distribution channels with our suppliers. Tell us in person or email stjohnswoodlibrary@westminster.gov.uk

Amy Crouch

The Editors congratulate Amy on becoming Manager of the Library.

Lord's Neighbourhood Group Report

Our group together with the St Johns Wood Society and local residents generally has been active in the last six months in working with the MCC and the Council to minimise any negative resulting from changes and developments at Lord's.

Floodlights We are still working with the MCC with the goal of installing fully retractable lights or modern screening so the lights, when not in use, would not be seen from the St Johns Wood Conservation Area.

Noise, Litter, Congestion and Security The Group has been pleased so far this season with the level of noise from Lord's and hope that the MCC will continue these more acceptable levels for future years. Noise surveys were being carried out at two matches this season and we will review the results once available. We look forward to further modernisation of the acoustic systems that should result in better modulation and lower volume so improving the spectator experience and the noise spill for some residents close to the ground. Another factor that has helped residents this year has been the introduction of a dedicated phone number (07527 320529) to deal with any concerns regarding noise spill during a match. We thank the MCC for this innovation.

We are disappointed that the 'Match Day Optimum Traffic Scheme' (MOTS) that was supposed to have been implemented by the Council for this year has not even yet been planned or devised (see the Society's *Traffic Report* in this *Newsletter* for more details).

Local residents have reported some incidents this year where spectators' cars have obstructed private driveways or narrow streets. We are exploring with the Council and the police how residents can report and prevent these obstructions.

The MCC agreed to conduct a traffic survey for a weekend match day and again we look forward to reviewing the results.

Olympics We were informed by the MCC at the last meeting of the Lord's Community Group that there will be an archery test event from 1-10 October 2011.

Summary As Lord's is located in the most densely populated area of all the major match grounds in the UK it is important that we continue our work to minimise any negative impact that further changes in the operation and infrastructure of Lord's Cricket Ground might have on the enjoyment of our neighbourhood.

Lord's Neighbourhood Group's sole focus is how changes at Lord's impact on the amenity of its neighbourhood. The Group is closely associated with the St Johns Wood Society and some Group committee members are also members of the executive committee of the Society. LNG and Society members and some other local residents are also members of the Lord's Community Group a consultative group organised by the MCC and chaired by Cllr Robert Rigby (for more information on the MCC's Lord's Community Group please email community@Lords.org or visit www.Lord's.org/Lord's-ground/Lord's-community

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Group or would like to receive news updates via email regarding Lord's development plans then please us by email on Lord'sneighbourhood@yahoo.co.uk, stating your name, address and contact telephone number. Alternatively call our dedicated mailbox on 0844 579 6949 (enter the voice mailbox number of 11031). We look forward to hearing from you.

Claire Rayden

Lord's Neighbourhood Group



At St John's Wood Church, on 22 June, St Alban's Day, Fr Owen Dobson, was ordained priest by Bishop Graeme Knowles, the Dean of St Paul's. Fr Nicholas Wheeler, Priest Missioner of the City of God, Rio de Janeiro, preached and the choir sang music by Michael Cayton, the Director of Music, Harold Darke's setting of the Mass in F, and John Ireland's fabulous anthem *Greater Love*. There were representatives from local churches, the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, and the Regent's Park Mosque. There was a big party afterwards, and a jolly time was had by all!

THE LAST HURRAH! A farewell to The King's Troop

St John's Wood has resounded to the clip-clop of military hooves for more than two centuries. The Royal Horse Artillery has had a presence here since 1804 and the barracks in Ordnance Hill, built in 1836, houses The King's Troop and its horses. The riding school, in particular, is a beautiful, airy, listed building.

The King's Troop was so named by King George VI when he visited the barracks in 1947, and its chief duty is to provide the splendid horse-drawn gun carriages for ceremonial occasions. St John's Wood residents have come to recognise the early morning clatter of horses' hooves and metal-wheeled gun carriages when the horses are exercised. Soon, though, the area will be quieter, and less characterful, as the Troop is being relocated to Woolwich this autumn.

A dinner took place on 30 June 2011 in celebration of the time the Troop has spent in St John's Wood, and local residents were invited to dine and mingle with the officers and men, as well as with the horses! The evening started with a champagne reception in the courtyard where we watched Beating the Retreat with the bandsmen and bagpipes marching and countermarching on the parade ground; this was concluded with the thrilling echoes of The Last Post sounded by a solitary bugler from the top of a building at sunset.

Dinner was served in the Riding School, where the sand floor had been covered by matting carpet. Elegant candle-lit tables were placed in the centre of the hall, leaving a perimeter where horses were paraded, the most memorable display being the Post Horn Gallop towards the end of the proceedings. The delicious food was prepared by the Master Chef, Sergeant Darren Passmore, and if the food we were given was anything to go by, the soldiers are very well looked after.

The Commanding Officer, Major Neil Cross, welcomed us and told us about the history of The Kings Troop and the active service it had seen in diverse fields of action including, recently, Iraq and Afghanistan, a far cry from its ceremonial duties. Then an evocative and moving film montage of The Royal Horse Artillery over the centuries, created by Clive Beecham and John Nadler, was shown. And an auction was conducted by Andy McVinish, a Christie's auctioneer who had flown from the USA the night before. His connection with the Gunners was his

grandfather, who served in the Australian Artillery in World War II. The auction raised £100,000 and the evening is expected to contribute, after all expenses, £170,000 for The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund which gives much-needed support to needy serving and retired Gunners and their families who find themselves in financial difficulties.

This memorable occasion was a wonderful send-off to The Kings Troop from St John's Wood where it has endeared itself to the residents. We wish them all good fortune in their new quarters in Woolwich.

Stuart Sanders

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WOS' & SGTs' MESS**

The Committee of the St John's Wood Adventure Playground needs new members to help govern and support the Playground.

The Playground has provided the neighbourhood's children with play, care and educational opportunities for over 50 years. We aim to support children's individual and social development so that each is provided with a foundation for their own, and their communal, fulfilment.

If you are interested and would like to join us in this exciting venture please write Liz Maxwell, Interim Chair, c/o the above address (by post or email with a max. of 200 words).

Committee meetings take place every 2 months and are held in the evening from 7 pm - 9 pm as a rule. There are other events which Committee members can join in such as the barbecue at the end of the summer programme to which representatives of each faith centre in St John's Wood are invited, as well as sub-committees, fund raising, etc.

Further information about the Playground can be found at our (developing) website: www.adventureplayground.org.uk (which includes a link to the Interfaith Walk).

Police Report

Report from Inspector Rosie McLean, Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector for North Westminster.

In Sept 2009 I was posted to Harrow Road Police Station to oversee the six Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the north west of the borough. In April 2011, I was given extra responsibility and Abbey Road, Regent's Park and Church Street wards were added to my portfolio, previously under the management of Inspector Michael Wright. Insp Wright has not gone far; he is looking after other Safer Neighbourhood Teams out of Marylebone Police Station.

No sooner had I taken over the teams at St John's Wood when I was informed that I would be losing Sergeant Denis O'Connor, who had been selected for promotion to the rank of Inspector. I am sure that I speak for all the community when I wish Denis the best of luck in this new role and future career.

I am pleased, however, to announce that an excellent replacement for Denis has been found and started on the ward in June. He is Sergeant Ricky Kandohla. Ricky has had previous experience of running a busy Safer Neighbourhood Team on Hillingdon Borough, so will have no problem finding his feet and carrying on from where Denis left off. He has run pro-active teams so will not be shy when dealing with the crime aspect on the ward; he is fully aware of the challenges ahead of him. I am sure in the coming weeks and months you will all get a chance to meet Ricky at community events and various meetings.

Dealing with crime

The Westminster control strategy this year centres around six key areas, many of which are reflected in the ward panel priorities set by the community.

- counter-terrorism
- gangs/youth violence
- robbery/snatch/burglary
- violence
- drugs and their visible manifestations
- anti-social behaviour

For the first two months of this financial year Abbey

Road, Regent's Park and Church Street wards have all seen a drop in recorded crime. However this is marred by an increase in reported robberies and some high-profile smash-and-grabs, in which high-end fashion shops have had their windows smashed and goods taken. Unfortunately this has not been exclusive to the City or the West End. St John's Wood High Street has also been targeted by these gangs.

Sergeant Pace is all too aware of the anxiety this causes the local businesses and residents and has factored this into his patrol strategy. Every day when the Regent's Park Team are on duty, a member of staff is posted to the High Street. Staff hours have been changed to make sure there is cover in the morning when the shops open and likewise when they close. The team is working closely with Westminster wardens and other visible agents on the street to make sure that any early sightings of suspects on motorbikes in the area are relayed to the police as quickly as possible. We have asked Westminster City Council to look at improving the CCTV in the area.

With regard to robberies, the Safer Neighbourhood teams have been working closely with the robbery squad in order to gather evidence and identify suspects. Arrests have been made and officers are patrolling at key times in key locations. From looking at the crime reports iPhones and Blackberries appear to be favourite items for the criminal to steal. In order to not attract attention, try not to make calls or play with these items when walking down the street.

Contact details:

- **Abbey Road**
• 020 8721 2462 or 07920 233897
• AbbeyRoad.snt@met.police.uk
- **Regent's Park**
• 020 8721 2463 or 07920 233896
• WestminsterRegent'sPark.snt@met.police.uk
- **Church Street**
• 020 8721 2098 or 07843 065924
• ChurchStreet.snt@met.police.uk

Metropolitan Police:
Non-emergency phone number 101
Emergency phone number 999

The Queen's Terrace Café

Those interested in St John's Wood will want to know about The Queen's Terrace Café, which is located in a side street close to the junction of Wellington Road and Queen's Grove. The fact that it is run by Mireille Galinou, the author of *Cottages and Villas*, a new book on the history of St John's Wood, means that not only does the cafe serve simple meals at modest prices, but it is also a cultural oasis where notable pictures are displayed and events connected with St John's Wood are organised.

If you are in St John's Wood at lunchtime, why not visit the cafe for soup, a salade Niçoise and coffee for the bargain price of £9? The cafe is attractively designed with modern decor and friendly service.

Michael Salmon

7 Queen's Terrace, London NW8 6DX 020 7449 2998
e-mail: queenterracecafe@btinternet.com
opening times: Monday to Saturday – 9am to 6pm

Local Scout Group

The 8th St Marylebone Scout Group (The Diehards) has been doing very well. We now have 18 scouts with 6 more starting in September – approximately 60:40 boys to girls. Both our cubs and beavers are doing well and we will start recruiting more beaver scouts (6 to 8 year-olds) in September. We are still trying to recruit more leaders and helpers (part-time or regular).

Our scout group went on two camps over the Easter holidays (one of the camps being a green-field camp i.e. no built or standing facilities – back to nature!). This camp was held as a joint camp with our brother group in Hemel Hempstead (led by our former scouts). Over 35 scouts and 20 leaders took part in this camp – a great outdoor-learning adventure for both adults and scouts. Survival techniques were part of the weekend as well as pioneering, orienteering, night op games and plenty of home/camp cooked food.

I took 12 of our cubs to our district campsite in Croydon at the end of May. This was an eye-opener for 95% of our cubs who had never camped under canvas. It was a 'district camp' so almost all our district scout groups attended. In all there were 54 scouts with 15 leaders and helpers. Addiscomb is perfect for first-time campers as well as training for weekends: scouts learn new skills in meeting and getting involved with new people and making friends with other groups.

Our scout group has linked up with the Metropolitan Police and recently 8 of our scouts helped the police with the Music in the Park Concert, held in Hyde Park. Our scouts attended an official briefing with all the police taking part in the day's events. They then went on patrol with our leaders and police patrols, to advise the public on safety and security. They also helped to give directions to people who were lost or needed directions. We hope this is the start of getting really involved with the local community. It also goes towards a new scout badge called 'Policing in the Community'.

Our beaver scouts sent Boris Johnson a birthday cake which was extremely well received by Boris and his staff. The cake was made by Debby Waldron (mother of one of our scouts and beaver scouts). The little Borises were all made by beaver scouts.

Back in April the scouts were visited by a workshop of stunt skills co-ordinators and trainers, who put the scouts through their paces on how to fall properly without getting hurt as well as pugilist skills (use of fighting with sticks and swords etc) and how to play-fight without touching each other.



Two weeks ago we were invited to the Paddington Fire Station where the scouts were shown some of the skills and training given to the Fire Brigade. This proved to be highly entertaining and again a great eye-opener for the scouts on how to deal with fires, floods and some basic emergencies.

We would love to hear from local groups and organisations who would welcome help or scout-involvement in projects and charities. We are also hoping to start rehearsals in October for a group Christmas show to be held at our scout headquarters in Hill Road and will be looking for input from theatrical and musical people who can spare a little time on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

Cliff Jordan (Group Scout Leader)
0844 414 5459

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'Housing Benefit Cap' – A Local Perspective

One of the first dramatic changes George Osborne made when the Coalition Government took power last May was to cap Housing Benefit to a maximum of £450 per week. Some readers might be surprised at the apparent generosity of even that amount, but when one considers that it currently stands at a maximum of £2,000 per week and that the annual bill for Housing Benefit has doubled to £21.5 billion in the last ten years, St John's Wood residents might understand why something needed to be done to reform such an unsustainable policy and protect the next generation from a bleak and debt-laden future.

The proposed cap will come into force in January 2012 and in the meantime there has been much speculation in the press along with local headlines declaring 'Housing Benefits cap puts schools in crisis' and 'Benefit change will harm area's diversity', so – at the risk of being political (but then I am a local politician) – I thought I would give readers an opportunity to consider some straightforward facts behind the headlines so they can form their own opinions and hopefully, fair judgement. I for one am weary of hearing a one-sided argument, when the case for reform is so compelling.

Firstly the Housing Benefit cap only applies to those renting in the private sector; our settled social housing community in Westminster of 26,000 residents remain unaffected because their rents fall below the cap of £450 per week (still equivalent of £23,400 net p.a. and therefore above the average PAYE salary in the UK); so hysterical claims about ethnic cleansing or the mass exodus of the poor are very misleading.

The Local Housing Allowance was introduced by the Labour Government in 2008. Prior to that time we had approximately 5,000 residents in Westminster claiming discretionary Housing Benefit in the private sector, but by 2010 that number had increased to 8,000 i.e. a net increase of 3,000 new households, simply because prior to 2008 they – like most averagely paid PAYE employees – could not have afforded to live in the heart of one of the most expensive cities in the world. The LHA started at £350 per week for a single room apartment and goes up to £2,000 per week for five bedrooms. Who could blame anyone for wanting to live in Mayfair or St John's Wood, but most folk on limited means have to cut their cloth as indeed do most of Westminster's key workers who face a daily commute from more affordable homes outside the city centre.

The effect of introducing statutory rates in the private rental market at such generous levels had the dual effect of distorting the natural market - making it more expensive for those living without subsidy - but worse was the impact on our schools and services as they fell under severe strain to cope with the influx since 2008.

Many of our schools were forced to expand class sizes

and by last September we had real problems finding places for so many. Westminster has an added problem as it also has had to cope with an average of 63,000 short-term migrant families who come and go through our school system (the equivalent number as the whole of Birmingham and Manchester put together), as many often return to their home countries for extended leave, don't have English as a first language and don't bring a school subsidy with them even when they have HB entitlement.

Another anomaly of HB entitlement is the ability to claim 13 weeks rental in absentia (ie whilst one is abroad or visiting 'home'). This is something PAYE employees (and WCC administrative officers) on four weeks annual leave struggle with; how could they ever have 13 weeks rent paid for whilst on holiday or abroad? And further it begs the question if they have another home abroad, why are British taxpayers funding a London home left empty? The temptation to sub-let and the flaws in the system mean we are easily targeted by potential fraudsters.

I have served on the Discretionary Housing Payments Review Panel (where tenants have accrued debts on their tenancies they cannot repay and where WCC can – where justified – help out) for 3 years. Whilst one might argue that the cases that come before us may not be atypical; I have yet to hear a case where the claimant arrived before 2008 which suggests to me that many of our HB claimants are relatively new to Westminster and reasonably transient. Statistics show that 60% of our claimants above the cap arrived since 2008.

There will be cases of hardship and we are dedicated to ensuring those genuine cases where settled, long-term families with strong connections to Westminster are carefully and fairly managed through the changes to ensure their children's education is not disrupted. But the realities and the numbers are not nearly as dramatic as is being suggested. 70% of our landlords have said they will reduce rents as they re-adjust to natural market force, which is good news for everyone, not just those on benefits.

So far from the crisis in our schools being created by the HB cap that some local headlines have claimed, the cap will actually help to cure the crisis of overcrowding and the pressures of a nomadic population on Westminster's classrooms, as well as bringing back some fairness to an absurd system that has allowed those not working to claim over £100,000 p.a. of tax-payers' hard-earned money to live in areas most of us can only dream about.

Clr Lindsey Hall

Abbey Road Ward

Chairman 2010 Backbench Committee

WCC Conservative Councillors

EDITORS' NOTE: Local News does not necessarily reflect the views of The St John's Wood Society.

OBITUARIES



Painting by Michael Noakes

Vivien Noakes 1937-2011

Vivien Noakes who died on 17 February 2011, was a beacon of brightness and gladness to everyone fortunate enough to be numbered among her very wide circle of friends. With her husband Michael and their children Anya, Jonathan and Ben, their presence in the Wood brought back thoughts of another age, when the many local Royal Academicians would open their studios before the Summer Exhibition. In those days, 'Academy cake' would be passed round the studios: how different to the generous hospitality Vivien offered at 146 Hamilton Terrace. The most eclectic company gathered there and Michael's paintings on view included landscapes as well as portraits of major significance.

Vivien was the international authority on Edward Lear and guest curator of the Royal Academy exhibition in 1985. At the service of celebration of her life held at St John's Wood Church, both Nicholas Parsons and Frank Thornton, among several

others, gave readings from Lear's poetry. Her Oxford doctorate, achieved in her 50s, on the neglected First World War poet Isaac Rosenberg, led to her edition of his complete works (2008). Academic recognition of her scholarship had been awarded earlier in her fellowship of the Royal Society of Literature. She travelled to deliver lectures at Harvard, Yale and many European universities, museums and art galleries.

One fortnight she and Michael staged a double act performing to audiences on Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* during a Mediterranean voyage. Anyone on board listening to Vivien 'off duty' might have guessed that she had taken part in meetings of a domestic book club. Fewer would have realised that her services to the local community here included a period when she advised on the governors' curriculum at Quintin Kynaston, before becoming a governor herself for three years. Fewer still (apart from Society members) would know of her article on *The Lost Underground Stations of St John's Wood* (Spring 2005) during her editorship of this *Newsletter*. Certainly Michael and Vivien's best known joint enterprise is the splendid illustrated volume entitled *The Daily Life of the Queen* (2000), in which Vivien wrote up the events of a year shadowing the Court.

In her early childhood Vivien lived in the neighbourhood of Malvern, where she and Michael moved in 2007, having spent thirty three years in Hamilton Terrace. She gave readings at local poetry gatherings and continued to make progress on her novel based on the First World War. This long-awaited work was within just weeks of completion at the moment of her passing. Our deepest sympathies go to her husband and family.

Malcolm Brown

John Chambers 1943-2010

John Chambers was well known as a furniture expert and craftsman throughout our circulation area. It has been said that there are very few local houses that don't contain items that were either bought from him or repaired by him, and everyone agreed that his skills and pleasant manner always made it a pleasure to have dealings with him. He was the sort of honest tradesman that is all too rare in London of today. In later years he moved to Somerset though he continued to advertise for London work and regularly travelled up to collect and deliver. He died unexpectedly in November 2010, after a short, rapid, illness.

R Bell

(extract from a longer version originally published in *The Lion*)

Useful Contacts


This list has been updated by the editors. Please notify us of any further changes.

- **Local Police Stations:** 020 7722 4447 central number
St John's Wood – open Mon-Friday
20 Newcourt Street, NW8 7AA
Paddington Green – open 24 hours
2-4 Harrow Road, London W2 1XJ
New Non-Emergency number: 101
- **British Transport Police:** 020 7380 1400
for Railway & Underground only
- **City of Westminster Council**
www.westminster.gov.uk
 - Adult Education: 020 7297 7297
 - Environmental Action Line 24 hours 020 7641 2000
(noise, recycling) recycling@westminster@westminster.gov.uk
 - Environmental Health matters: 020 7641 1063
 - Food Safety Team (9-5): 020 7641 1092
 - General enquiries: 020 7641 6000
 - Head of Green Space (John Tweddle): 020 7641 6307
jtweddle@westminster.gov.uk
 - Highway Issues Helpline: 020 7641 6275
(pot-holes, drainage, street lighting)
 - Planning information NW8: 020 7641 2017
 - Planning Enquiries desk: 020 7641 3095/3097
planninginformation@westminster.gov.uk
 - Residents Parking: 020 7823 4567
 - Small Repairs Scheme: 020 8206 5890/1
(for over-60s (organised by 'Staying Put' in association with WCC))
 - Trees: 020 7641 6096
 - Ward Councillors: 020 7641 2322
www.westminster.gov.uk/cabinet
- **Telephone Preference Scheme** (to prevent cold calls): 0845 070 0707
- **Royal Courts of Justice Advice Bureau:** www.rcjadvise.org.uk
- **Citizen's Advice Bureau:** 441 Harrow Road, London W10 4RE
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/westminstercab
Westminster Adviceline: 08444 111 444
- **Karen Buck MP**, Westminster North: 020 8968 7999
www.karenbuck.org.uk
buck@parliament.uk

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