

Past, Present and Future



It is not all about Towers, or Tribulations, or even Triumphs.

Much of the Society's work and success has been in representation, negotiation, modification; in subtleties rather than in excitements; and in an unrelenting battle to prevent the worst, to retain and encourage the best, and to prevent slow attrition. Whether or not we have been successful, and continue to be so, is in your judgement. One thing is sure, that without our continued representation your urban landscape would be very considerably worse.

We aim also for the future best. We supported, for example, proposed improvements to upgrade Kensington High Street. And where development and site permit it, we seek truly distinguished modern architecture. A present case is the proposed re-development of South Kensington station, a site which in our view demands excellence.

The Society's remit continues and expands. We

have joined the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership in the belief that our interest in the urban landscape may also legitimately serve social amelioration. And we are presently discussing generous prizes to be awarded annually for an extra-curricular piece of work on Kensington by pupils in our secondary schools, whether public or private.

Prospective members may like to know that we organise about eight events (lectures or visits) each year, together with an annual general meeting usually in April, with a well-known speaker.

If you find our past interesting and worthwhile, and our present to be truly in pursuit of quality and excellence, then you need us, and we need you. Please take a membership form, send it in and join us, and join such activities as you can. Your support is essential. We hope to meet you.

Thanks are due to the Royal Borough staff for their considerable help with this exhibition, as also to the Council which takes seriously its foundation strategy 'to give priority to the protection and enhancement of the residential character and amenity of the Royal Borough'.

We thank John Bickel for generously providing ready access to the papers of Mrs Gay Christiansen, indispensable to this exhibition. We also acknowledge gratefully the support of the Brunner Charitable Trust in making this exhibition possible