

NCS NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Norland Conservation Society

June 2004



*The photograph shows St. James's Norlands Church in Addison Avenue.
(See inside for comment on the proposed mobile phone aerial).*

The way forward for the Norland Conservation Society

Success breeds its own problems...

Over the past 35 years, we have developed a loyal membership and a hard-working committee; we have worked closely with the Council on a wide variety of policies covering Planning, Traffic and the Street Scene. As a result, Norland is now a charming, relatively tranquil, self-contained enclave, with excellent communications with the City, which is much sought-after by families young and old.

So, has the Society worked itself out of a job? Sometimes an absence of pressing issues to get people worked up, and galvanise local concern, seems to make it difficult to recruit new members, and to retain existing members.

The ever-faster pace of working life for young and middle-aged families means they have little or no time to devote to a Soci-

ety, whose role might seem to them to have been fulfilled.

When a pressing issue does come up, the Society can provide a resource for support and help. Big issues, such as the proposal to put a 3G base station in the church tower of St James Norlands, the Extension of the Congestion Charge Zone, or the West London Tram, are just what we are there for - not just to protest, be negative, and refuse, but to help to develop rational soundly-based policies for dealing with them.

Into the bargain, of course, there are "run-of-the-mill" planning applications - 60 this year - where we have to remain vigilant and make sure existing policies are applied and enforced.

We have to have positive ideas for enhancement: see the article inside this 2004 this Newsletter on proposals to slow down traffic on Queensdale Road.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SUMMER PARTY 2004

Tuesday 22 June 2004
at 7.30 pm in
St James's Norlands
Church
St. James's Gardens,
W11

All residents of the Norland Conservation Area are welcome to attend.

Please join us, after the meeting, for food and wine; there is no charge for this! Come and meet your neighbours and make new friends

(Non-Members will be asked to join at the door).

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts
4. Election of Executive Committee
5. Discussion Forum:
 - 5.1 Queensdale Road/Addison Road Traffic Management
 - 5.2 The way forward for the Norland Conservation Society
 - 5.3 Addison Place Lighting

To join the Society please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary at 23 St. James's Gardens, London W11 using the form on the back page of this Newsletter.

In all our activities, we realise the need to communicate more and more, to ensure people continue to appreciate the importance of the Society to the Conservation Area, and to continually renew our membership (We now have e-mail contact with some 80 members, which is invaluable for quick communication about specific issues.)

We are currently reappraising our purpose and activities, to make sure we continue to enjoy the support that gives us credibility and strength. **We need your ideas as to the future role of the Society.**

We are a Conservation Society, not a general amenity Society. We are constituted to support the aims of the Civic Amenities Act, to promote high standards of town planning and architecture, to preserve, conserve, develop and improve..." See our Constitution on the NCS web-site:

www.norlandsociety.org.uk

Please come to the AGM prepared to give us your views as to the future aims and activities of the Society, consistent with our Objects, set out in our Constitution. We will be there to listen!

Clive Wilson

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Most unfortunately, Tony Perry was suddenly taken very ill a year ago, and forced to give up being Chairman. As the founding Secretary back in 1969, I volunteered to stand in for him as Acting Chairman.

We have had lots to do, and lots of vexed issues to tackle: the proposed 3G Base Station in the Church tower of St James Norlands, the CC Zone extension, the West London Tram, Traffic in Queensdale Road, as well as the usual offering of Planning

Applications, and the need to increase our Membership. Separate articles in this Newsletter cover all these topics.

New Committee Members

You will notice a number of new names have been co-opted during the year: Tara Stack for Princedale Road and Pottery Lane, Caroline Yardley for Portland Road, Annabel Wylie for Queensdale Road and Place. Many thanks to them for adding to our strength.

We are looking to strengthen the Committee further, and, in particular, we need a new Treasurer and a new Membership Secretary. If you can suggest anyone, (including yourself) who might be interested in getting involved as a Member of the Committee, if not necessarily to undertake either of these roles, please get in touch with Clive Wilson, Acting Chairman (details on back page)

AGM - Your views requested

You will see that we do not have a Guest Speaker at the AGM this year. This is because we particularly want to hear your views on two important topics: the proposed traffic calming measures at the junction of Queensdale Road and Addison Avenue, and the future role of the Society. The two articles on these subjects (p.5 and p.1) will give you background on both, and may provoke thoughts that you would like to express to us, your Committee. Please come prepared to have your say

Clive Wilson

WEST LONDON TRAM PROJECT

As reported last year, Transport for London is proposing a tram route along Uxbridge Road, linking Uxbridge with Shepherd's Bush Green, (and, possibly, eventually, with Marble Arch.)

The service would be provided by around 40 new trams running at frequencies of 20 per hour and at a speed of 12-15 miles per hour.

Public consultation is proposed during this summer, provided that there is a positive decision on funding from the Government. Following the period of public consultation, the Mayor of London would decide on whether or not to apply for a 'Transport and Works Order', which would be submitted in the winter of 2004/05.

The intention is to:

- * close the North side of Shepherd's Bush Green to all traffic except delivery vehicles,
- * make the West and South sides of the Green two-way - so far the only solution considered for re-routeing East-bound traffic which currently uses this North side

As all sides of the Green are already very congested, often resulting in long traffic queues westward on Holland Park Avenue, and northwards on Holland Road, the results of these changes are likely to be permanent traffic gridlock all down Holland Park Avenue, north on Holland Road, and round Shepherd's Bush roundabout.

For the Norland Area, it does not require much imagination to see the serious results of these plans, particularly if the Tram were extended to Marble Arch.

We will communicate arrangements for the consultation to all e-mail Members, and would ask all our Members to express the strongest possible objection to the closure of the north side of Shepherd's Bush, (and, eventually, to the use of Holland Park Avenue as no more than a tramway).

Clive Wilson

THE ANNUAL LECTURE

The Story of Norland Place School

This year's talk was given at the Ukrainian Social Club on 16 March by Mrs Sylvia Garnsey, head mistress of the school from 1966 to 1996 with the enthusiastic support of the school chamber choir conducted by Philip Lange and accompanied at the piano by the head master, Patrick Mattar.



Norland Place School
Holland Park Avenue

Norland Place School has been a local institution for nearly 100 years surviving two world wars and witnessing the changing scene along Holland Park Avenue from the days of the hansom cab to the rise of the ubiquitous private car. It was started by Miss Emily Lord in 1876 with five young children and occupied No 166 Holland Park Avenue (formerly 9 Norland Place).

She was one of the first English teachers to recognise the significance of the kindergarten and the value of co-education. Its numbers grew, girls remaining until the age of 18, whereas boys had to move on at 8. Handicrafts consisted of Swedish carpentry, clay modeling and cooking, while the only sport was swimming in the summer.

By 1892 there were six classes with an average of 12 pupils in each. As was to be expected, Miss Lord was a strict disciplinarian who believed in 'order and the rule of silence'. After her marriage in 1894, she handed

over the headship to four of her teachers, Miss Mary Langhorne and Miss Ada Tisdall and her sisters Elsie and Anita. The Victorian days were coming to a close, although the green Bay-swater horse-drawn bus still took passengers along Holland Park Avenue pausing to allow the horses to drink from a trough on the corner of Ladbroke Grove. The early years of the twentieth century saw important advances; the school crest was devised - a Maltese Cross bearing the motto 'Follow the Light, Uphold the Right' - the introduction of prefects and the school uniform. Most daring of Miss Tisdall's innovations was the introduction of hockey, played on fields in Acton, to which pupils were conveyed by horse-drawn bus. But war clouds were gathering and the warm and secure atmosphere was about to change.

At the outbreak of World War 1, on 4 August 1914, the Old Norlanders, an Association set up in 1904, were planning a magazine, the first issue of which appeared in 1915 giving the names of old boys who were fighting at the front; among their numbers were two Victoria Crosses, eleven Military Crosses and eight Mentioned in Despatches. The immediate post-war period saw the first two candidates pass the Matriculation Exam and go on to London University.

1920 marked the beginning of a new era for the school; a 7-acre sports field was acquired at Gunnersbury Avenue, so that cricket and tennis were added to hockey and a proper sports day could be held.

The 1920s and 1930s were halcyon days for the school, and numbers rose to over 330 pupils, but again war was on the horizon and the onset of World War 2, in 1939, coincided with the opening of the autumn term. Out of the 200 pupils expected, only one six-year old Greek boy appeared with his mother; however, in one

way or another, the school continued to function throughout the war, and whenever there was a lull in the bombing, families trickled back. Soon after the opening of the summer term, in 1945, peace was declared. The school had suffered a few scars, including some damage from incendiary bombs and the loss of its imposing wrought iron gates to the war effort.

With the departure of the then head mistress, Miss MacClymont, in 1949, two members of staff, Miss Harvey and Miss Evans took over to develop the school in the post-war period and six years later Mrs Garnsey joined the staff. Holland Park itself was now beginning to change with the influx of people from other areas of London who bought houses in the area to acquire more space for their growing families. The squares around began to blossom again, and so did the school. By a stroke of good fortune, after the sale of No 168 Holland Park Avenue (leaving the school to operate from Nos. 164 and 166), No. 162 came up for sale and this was then acquired. These three properties now constitute the premises of the present school. In 1976, Norland Place School celebrated its centenary.

Mrs Garnsey ended her talk with slides of pupils and staff over the past century, ending with the choir singing 'Follow your Dream'. A record audience of over 130 included Old Norlanders of many generations who recognized themselves on the screen, but whether or not you were one of them Mrs Garnsey entertained us all with her lively evocation of life in a much-loved school which has now entered yet another century.

Kathleen E Hall

ODE TO NORLAND

HOW THE FOXES LOST THEIR (BOTTLE) BRUSHES

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling's Just So stories)
(An extract from a more elaborate story)

In the days when animals lived in their proper places, O Best Beloved, foxes lived in the country; but comfortable living from the fast food and dustbins attracted them to the towns.

"We have to do something about them", Mackintosh Scott told his brother Corkscrew, as the two cats lay in the sun on the wall of their garden in Addison Avenue. "Do about who?" "Oh don't be stupid, the foxes of course". Corkscrew was not very bright. "We have to have a truce with the dogs in the area so we can all be in league against the foxes." "How do we go about it?" "For a start get Errol and Tom Gray, the cats from next door, and get them to tell the dogs they live with, George and Toto, you know, the little dog that barks all the time." "And I am sure on the other side, Posy Wood QC, would be an enormous help with any legal advice." "We all have to make an effort."

The following day the 4 dogs, including Zephyr Wood (who was new to things legal) and the 4 cats joined by Shadow Carmichael all got together in the front gardens of the 3 houses. They made a plan, financed by Martin Ingell, the Ginger Tom from Queensdale Road.

"Who will rid us of these turbulent beasts?" The QC spoke, "You all know others who live in the Norland Conservation area, and it is up to us to get hold of as many as we can to chase these beasts away. Now, Errol & Tom get hold of Max Siddons, I know he is a bit old, but he's experienced. Mac & Corky, you go across to Addison Place and speak to Scotty & Joe Boundy,

they will be excellent & very tough, being common farm cats and used to a scrap or two."

As they cogitated, in the afternoon sun, a couple of retired acting dogs hove into view. "Hello," said Bobby Dazzler and Tachi Windsor. "What's going on, can we join in?" "Climb through the railings, we're planning to get rid of the foxes. If you can get hold of as many others as possible we have a chance of success".

Off they went and collected Hamish Smith who was languishing outside his house agents, then off to collect the young but very keen Muffin Delaney (Hamish's cousin) at the church school.

On the way they encountered Herr Olsen. "Donner und Blitzen", the dog said. "Was ist los?" "Cut the chatter, follow us we're getting rid of the foxes." "I 'ave frends in uzzer streets" said Blitzen, "& vays of making zem join!" Night fell.

By now M. Reynard and his mates knew something was afoot. They slunk around peoples' gardens & Norland Square, it was good there at night as no one else came. "I know there's a large party at one of those posh houses in Addison Avenue and we won't be able to get to the dustbins?" "We have to, I'm starving." "They'll be after us." "Well, just bark a lot."

Lily Murlis, the Bengali Consultant on animal resources, led a gang from Royal Crescent. William Egerton-Smith, a rather superior Burmese, roped in his brother Moses from Queensdale Road, "Come on, you must help, you're much younger than that bloke who carried those 10 Tablets. If he can do that, you can help." "Well," said Moses, "as long as you keep out of Scotty's way. You know you are sworn enemies."

At just about midnight, the party in the posh house was coming to an end. The foxes were desperate for food. "Come on, I'm starving." "Well don't keep barking, everyone will know we are

about." They crept from Norland Square via the garden walls of Queensdale Walk, unobserved by Corky, Mac, Posy, Zephyr, George, Toto, Errol & Tom & all their friends, who were lying in wait in Bobby's front garden. Lily, Scotty, Martin & Shadow came up Queensdale Road. William, Moses, Blitzen with Muffin, trying to keep up, approached from St James Gardens.

The party goers had all gone, the house locked & bolted and the lights were out.

The foxes approached the dustbin area through the railings of the front gardens, unaware of hundreds of night vision eyes upon them.

Just as they were pulling out the rubbish, the alarm was given. "Go for it, gang!" Yapped Ella Carmichael.

They all fell upon the foxes. There was a terrific scrap, fur flying and a few casualties. Miso Carmichael and his chum from Notting Hill rushed forward with a stretcher.

With the gang in hot pursuit, the foxes (tails like bottle-brushes) fled back towards Norland Square.

There, to prevent their escape, was Handel Purvis, successfully frightening them away with an amazingly terrifying sound of screeching from his violin; recently acquired from the newly opened Handel Museum.

The Reynards lost a lot of bottle, and were last seen getting on a night bus in Holland Park Avenue.

Sometimes when the moon is full, O Best Beloved, you may see the ghost of The Brushless Fox.

Veronica Scott

The Roundabout

Traffic concerns and the Roundabout at Queensdale Road and Addison Avenue

Last year another traffic survey was carried out across the Conservation Area. The survey once again found that there was no significant speeding or traffic volumes in our area that could warrant any traffic calming measures to be undertaken. Whilst many of us still feel that the traffic rat runs that plague us constantly need a focussed solution, we must also accept the findings of the traffic surveys.

This recent survey will act as an excellent benchmark for any further traffic concerns that we may have especially given the White City development and the proposed expansion of the Congestion Zone.

However, the council did offer us an olive branch and said that they would look at the roundabout at the junction at the Queensdale Road and Addison Avenue for significant improvement. The Norland Conservation Society and the Council have had a number of exploratory discussions where the Council have undertaken to upgrade the roundabout so that it would indeed function as a proper roundabout - the diameter would be slightly increased and it would have a kerbed surround.

This development would go hand in hand with a commitment by the Norland Conservation Society to fund and sponsor a piece of attractive art work that would sit and be housed on top of the roundabout. This is an exciting development and indeed would be the most ambitious project so far undertaken by the Society.

There could be a significant time delay in this project implementa-

tion given the need to consult as well as commission (and fund) a suitable piece of work for this roundabout.

In negotiations with the Council, they have agreed to go ahead and start to build the roundabout if we could find a sculptor who would lend us a piece of art work for a period of time. This achieves a number of aims. It allows work to start on the building of the roundabout much sooner than would otherwise be the case, and more importantly it allows all of us to have a temporary piece of suitable artwork in place for everyone to view. It is thought that it will be a great deal easier to decide on the right piece of artwork once a temporary structure is in place.

The Conservation Society will be keeping you updated as to our progress with the council and with identifying a temporary piece for the roundabout.

The Committee would like to hear Members' views on this proposal, and we will be allocating 15-20 minutes of time at the AGM to listen to any comments and suggestions you may have. Please come prepared to have your say!

Martin Short

18 Addison Avenue

Since its purchase by a developer in 2002, 18 Addison Avenue has been the subject of seven planning applications (or amended applications). The Norland Conservation Society objected to two: a rear extension to the house, which we considered excessive development, and the erection of a double garage with access from Queensdale Walk, which we argued would damage the unique character of the Walk. Despite strong local opposition, consent was granted on appeal in June 2003 on the grounds that a garden of 17 metres was environmentally acceptable, although this failed to take into account the rear extension. In July 2003, consent was granted for a further rear extension. It was therefore of little surprise to learn that the owner had decided not to build the garage as this would have left a garden of only 5.5 metres, but instead proposed to install double gates to allow access for off-street parking for two cars.

Kathleen Hall

The Roundabout at the junction of Queensdale Road and Addison Avenue



PLANNING 2003-2004

Some 60 applications have been reviewed since June 2003.

This figure, rather larger than last year, represents proposals which were largely acceptable, and even architecturally tactful and ameliorative.

We are grateful to owners and architects for their sensitivity to the high standards of this Conservation Area.

A few applications have been contentious, not least that for 16E Portland Road for the development of a constricted backland site. The application was nonetheless granted.



16E Portland Road

Another application for an overbearing mansard extension to the 'prow' site of 12 Penzance Place, to which we objected, has seemingly been dropped by the applicants.



Norland Place

We have similarly objected to the overdevelopment of an equally restricted backland site behind upper Portland Road. At the time of writing we await the outcome.



76 Holland Park Avenue

Also outside our area, but sufficiently important for us all to be concerned for passenger safety, was the temporary permission for a large number of table and chairs on the pavement at 76 Holland Park Avenue, which dangerously restricted access to Holland Park Station. Permission is now for a greatly reduced number of tables and chairs and this has been rigorously enforced. All this after much effort on our part.

Norland Place has been brutalised by the uncontrolled conversion of a pleasant and characteristic 19th century mews house into a modernist glass box.

Following our urgent request, RBKC is finalising an application for an Article 4 Direction to bring Norland Place under Council planning control. We hope no more horses will bolt from this mews.

119 Portland Road, latterly Orsino's, applied for change of use on the upper floors to residential, and retail on the ground and basement floors. We felt that this proposal was far more conducive to the peace of local residents, especially at night, and we have raised no objections. The application has been granted.



119 Portland Road

Please continue to report planning concerns at once to the Planning Secretary. Early notice always helps.

Robin Price

THE LONDON LECTURE

The Council's second annual London Lecture was given this year by Simon Thurley, the Chief Executive of English Heritage

One of his major themes was the question of how we treat Conservation Areas.

He questioned whether it was right to treat such areas as being preserved in aspic such as to prevent new developments taking place within them. Norland Place is a case in point!

David Campion

TREE STRATEGY

New initiatives: the RBK&C Tree Strategy document.

A document published in January by the Borough's Planning section has elicited a flurry of excitement, absorbing the scrutineers of our watchdog committee.

The introduction of such a document is admirable, fulfilling the need for an interface between local authority and the public in treescape conservation.

Without this information, residents and newcomers may not immediately apprehend the importance of the Borough's trees in a landscape and historical sense or recognise that they are an element of protected heritage. .

This worthy dossier runs to 56 pages of detailed analysis of the Council's policies on public and privately owned trees. Here are some of the issues dealt with.

1. Replacement of trees in the event of their destruction or removal.

A requirement exists, intended to maintain the number of trees in the Borough, but no mechanism to follow up or enforce it. Penalties, where applied, are not properly related to the gravity of the offence.

There exists a sliding scale for evaluation of trees based on points of merit, which is an accepted industry standard. In some cases the penalty for loss or damage of trees may relate to advantage gained by developers in terms of increased site value.

We feel that these measures should be incorporated in RBK&C policy.

The document declares a timid intention to initiate prosecution in appropriate cases. We have asked for a statement of stronger resolve - otherwise,

how can a developer be expected to take the matter seriously.

2. A particular concern is the **maintenance of street trees** and the Council's pruning policy. Some of the trees growing alongside Red Routes are managed by Transport for London - these should be afforded the same protection as privately owned trees.



We require more specific protection of established trees from damage by subterranean development, including cable trenching.

It appears that at least 8,000 of the Borough's trees are actually at risk of root damage by cable contractors. There is apparently little legal provision requiring them to make special provision for the well-being of trees. Contractors should be required to present a tree protection method statement and submit to penalty clauses.

3. Of central importance is implementation of the **Town & Country Planning Acts**.

The document lacks a proper summary of the Act, including penalty scales and enforcement measures.

This should include an outline of

the Council's policy in determination of planning applications where trees may be affected.

We feel that arboricultural assessment should be a preliminary in the planning process, perhaps taking the form of an environmental impact analysis.

Development consent should be conditional upon compliance with arboricultural restrictions.

It is clear that an integrated

enforcement policy should incorporate measures already implemented by other Boroughs in London such as Westminster City Council and Camden Council

4. As a public information document and reference manual, it is excessively cumbersome. Elements of the text recur frequently among paragraphs swollen by obscure sub-headings. Many of these peter out apologetically when a resolution is called for.

A more concise document might help the reader to answer specific

questions without wading through the entirety.

Our verdict:

All mouth and no trousers.

The document is currently in draft form. We have responded to the Council's request for comments.

Fergus Kinmonth

(Photograph by Jeremy Barrell)

Note: This article follows from a joint meeting between representatives of the Kensington Society, the Norland Conservation Society, the Ladbroke Association and the Pembridge Association with the objective of responding jointly to the Council's consultation on its Tree Strategy.

MOBILE PHONE MAST

The PCC of St Clement and St James has been approached by the mobile telecommunications company Hutchison 3G with a view to installing a mobile phone base station in the Church tower of St James's.



Mobile phone networks throughout the world are being expanded to provide additional (Third Generation - 3G) capability, to allow video and internet access on mobile phones. Five companies were granted licences by the Government to operate 3G in the UK, and these companies are now in the process of rolling out their networks, - each aiming to achieve coverage of 80% of the population by 2008. Given that we live in the capital city, it is highly likely that all five operators will seek to provide coverage in our area. Hutchison 3G already have antennae on the Hilton Hotel, Lancaster Road and in Shepherd's Bush. Their request to use the church tower is intended to complete their coverage for this area.

Planning Controls

The 1994 Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order ruled that the Church of England was exempted from the requirements of preservation and planning authority rulings for their buildings which were

either listed or within Conservation Areas.

Moreover, Government has directed local councils to implement controls only when planning permission is required, and has stated that local government must not concern itself with health risk issues. If planning permission is not required and the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) guidelines are met, (and this installation would operate at much lower levels), the present situation allows mobile phone operators to install base stations without consultation with the Council. The Planning and Conservation department of the RBKC has confirmed that the Council has no power to refuse the installation of base stations on health grounds.

In this case, Hutchison made an application to the Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development, - which was refused. This means the proposed development requires planning permission, but not listed building consent. If Hutchison were now to apply for Planning Permission, the Council would consider whether the appearance of the building would be materially altered, and would take into account residents' views. But, in accordance with Government guidance, they would not be able to refuse the application on grounds of health risks or concerns. To refuse permission on these grounds, they would have to be able to prove it would cause harm, - which they cannot. If Planning Permission is granted, the development could go ahead, - subject to the agreement of the PCC.

The same would apply to a proposal to install the base station in any other building in the near neighbourhood, which did not result in any visible changes to the appearance of the building where it was installed. (It is important to note that the

Church would gain £15,000 p.a. for use of the site, which could be used for maintaining and improving the Church building or for expanding its work with young people.)

Health Fears

Health fears tend, at least partly, to be driven by justifiable scepticism of Government-sponsored health assurances (BSE/CJD etc). At present scientific research from various institutions provides no integrated result.

Mobile telephones and their associated base stations emit radio waves that can penetrate human tissue, producing a heating effect. The ICNIRP (see above) has determined international safety guidelines for radio wave exposure emitted from base stations. Provided power absorption levels remain below the guidelines, temperatures inside the body should change by less than 1 degree and no adverse health effects due to heating should occur.

Dangerous levels of emissions will only be encountered very close (up to 3 metres) to the source of transmission i.e. immediately adjacent to a mast. At a distance of 15 metres from the mast, emission levels will have declined so rapidly that exposure levels are one thousandth of the acceptable limits.

Fragmented scientific evidence raises some doubts - mainly in relation to the use of handsets and their possible association with certain types of cancer, and other biological effects.

* Researchers in Sweden have noted a possible link between exposure to radiation from mobile phone base stations and the early onset of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and damage to memory and learning abilities. But:

* Studies in Italy "provided fresh evidence that radiation from all such devices using

these frequencies and power levels, play an important role in activating genes that can trigger cancers and help cancer cells multiply".

* Other health studies have found a statistically significant relation between 3G fields and feelings of well being and cognitive functions (fatigue, irritability, headaches, etc)

But little specific replicated research has been published in scientific literature. Most studies are so new, or still on-going, and cover such varied issues, that there are no correlated conclusions about the immediate effects. Even less is known about the long-term effects of exposure. At the moment there is no conclusive evidence, or even a growing body of indicative evidence, of adverse health effects arising from the operation of mobile phone masts.

In May 2000, The Government's Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones issued the "Stewart Report", Mobile Phones and Health, which concluded on balance that "there is no general risk to the health of people living near base stations: ...exposures are expected to be small fractions of guidelines". However, it was not possible to say that exposure to RF radiation, even at levels below national guidelines, was totally without potential adverse health effects, and it therefore called for a "precautionary approach" - which is also urged by the Diocese of London, in advice to churches.

The Stewart Report was updated last year by the Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR), and found: "Exposure levels from living near mobile base stations are extremely low: the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to human health."

Almost all studies note a level of uncertainty and call for further research. No one can

conclusively state that there is NO health hazard associated with long-term routine exposure to radio frequencies generated by these systems.

Research into the effects of mobile phones continues. A number of on-going studies in the UK will be publishing their results over the next 12 - 36 months. The unknown long-term impact of the technology is an issue of much wider importance and relevance than just the impact on Norland. Two recent High Court judgments have confirmed that public fear and concern should be a material planning consideration to be taken into account by local authorities in considering applications.

The Vicar of St James's stresses that no decisions have been taken, nor will be taken without full consideration of all the arguments, and as much factual information as possible to inform the PCC's decision.

It is open to question whether Public Health concerns should concern the NCS. In contacts with the Church and the Council, we have stressed the need for a precautionary approach. We also feel the need to inform our Members as succinctly as possible about the issue. All those who have an opinion should make their feelings known to both the PCC, (The Secretary to the PCC, 95 Sirdar Road, W11 4EQ), and the NCS (Please copy Clive Wilson, Acting Chairman). The Vicar, Hugh Rayment-Pickard is very keen to hear from all parties, and if you do have any further questions, please write to him at the PCC address above.

Clive Wilson

**PROPOSAL TO EXTEND
THE CC ZONE**

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the consultation period for the proposed extension of the Congestion Charging

Zone will have expired.

We hope you received the leaflet inviting comments, and that you will have replied. Distribution of this consultation leaflet was so poor that the ability of local people to hear about the proposals and make their views known has been seriously compromised.

Your Committee supported the Kensington Society and RBK&C in opposing the proposals, which we considered seriously flawed for two main reasons:

(1) the peripheral route on the west side of the extended zone is planned to go through the Earls Court one-way system. This route is already heavily blocked for most of the day. Any increase in traffic using it to avoid entering the CC zone would back up in both directions, North- and South-bound, making it impossible to get anywhere in West London by car.

(2) dividing the Kensington borough is totally unacceptable since it will isolate a large number of residents (including those in affordable housing) from doctors, schools, libraries and essential services, and create an underclass within their own Borough. This surely cannot be part of the Mayor's aims?

We feel it is much too early to consider extending the Congestion Charging Zone. It is our view that the GLA should wait and see what the impact of charging has been on business (particularly retailers) and on city life, before rushing to extend the Zone westwards into Kensington & Chelsea. Present indications suggest that:

- * traders suffer, especially smaller retailers
- * congestion charging may be suitable for commercial areas, but not for areas which are primarily residential

Clive Wilson

NEW GATE FOR NORLAND SQUARE

Norland Square is about to get some new double gates and it is hoped that an opening ceremony will take place on 13th June when the Square will be open to the public.

The gates will be located on the South East side near the e-Bike shop on the corner of Holland Park Avenue.

The new gates will match the style of the original railings and will enable larger garden machinery to get in and out of the Square. They will also facilitate moving marquees and other equipment. The committee believe they will achieve some cost savings from the use of larger mowers.

The design and positioning have been carefully evaluated to ensure that if the residents ever decide to restore the boundary

NORLAND SQUARE MANSIONS

Norland Square Mansions is a purpose-built block of flats constructed in the 1930s and situated on the South West corner of Norland Square at its junction with Holland Park Avenue.

A planing application was submitted to the Council on 17th December 2003 for the erection of a roof extension, to create a penthouse flat with roof terrace, and alterations to the existing elevations.

It was proposed that the black corner panels would be painted white, to balance the composition of the flank facades, the ground floor shopfront on Holland Park Avenue would be re-designed and the rear walls of the balcony recesses would be rendered white.

The most contentious part of the application was the proposal to increase the height of the building with the additional floor.



with railings the new gates would "fit like a glove"

The project has received full support from the Norland Conservation Society and RBKC. The architects are Susan Walker Associates with Metalcraft

(Tottenham) being responsible for the building and the new wrought ironwork.

The improvement is to be much welcomed.

David Potter

Apart from an approval given in 1974 for a roof addition to provide a penthouse flat, there have also been a number of refusals in 1973, 1976 and 1980; in the latter case this decision was the subject of an appeal that was dismissed.

The December 2003 planning application was refused by the Council's Planning Services Committee on the grounds that it would unbalance the uniform

roof line on the Western side of Norland Square and be detrimental to the architectural cohesiveness and harmony of the Square and contrary to Policies contained within the Conservation and Development chapter of the Council's Unitary Development Plan. The adjacent terrace of houses in Norland Square are listed as Grade 2.

David Campion



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts for 2003/2004 show that the Norland Conservation Society continues to maintain a healthy balance that is considered to be sufficient to mount a challenge to any proposals by the authorities that might inflict environmental damage to the fabric of its conservation area.

As with all charities, the Charity Commission keeps a watchful eye on annual accounts such as ours.

Martin Short

STREET REPRESENTATIVES

The members of the NCS Executive Committee who represent the various streets within the conservation area, and are the primary contacts for membership and subscriptions, are:

Addison Avenue & Addison Place:
- Veronica Scott

Norland Place & Norland Square
- Martin Short.

Portland Road - Caroline Yardley
& Tony Perry.

Princedale Road & Pottery Lane
- Tara Stak.

Queensdale Road & Queensdale
Place - Annabel Wylie.

Royal Crescent & Royal Crescent
Mews - John Murlis.

St Ann's Villas - Rosemary Baucio.

St James's Gardens, Darnley
Terrace, Penzance Street &
Penzance Place - Catherine
Wilson.

Taverner's Close, Queensdale
Walk & Outside Norland - Kathleen Hall.

THE NORLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY WEB SITE

A large number of local societies across the country now have their own websites which are used as a means for providing information both for their own members and also anyone else who may wish to find out about their roles in society. The Norland Conservation Society is no exception and has attempted to follow this trend.

The advantages of a website are that it can be updated with new content as required so that members do not have to wait for the next formal issue of a Newsletter which may only come quarterly or annually. Perhaps, more importantly, a website provides a useful means for recording information for historical purposes which is readily available and perhaps more so than within the filed archives of an organisation.

Those with an interest in obtaining further information about the Norland Conservation Society, and who have access to the Internet, can have a look at our website at:

www.norlandsociety.org.uk

This contains copies of the current and previous Newsletters as a source of historical information. You will need a copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer to display the latest Newsletters.

We welcome any ideas put forward for improving the content of the Norland Conservation Society website.

David Campion



THE COUNCIL'S E-MAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Council enables those interested to subscribe freely to its weekly E-mail Notification Service providing selected details of all planning applications within a Ward or a Conservation Area or in up to ten individual streets. Anyone with access to the Internet can sign up to this service using the url:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/emailnotification

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004 - 2005

Chairman:	Clive Wilson	52 St James's Gardens
HonTreasurer:	Martin Short	27 Norland Square
HonSecretary:	Amanda Frame	23 St James's Gardens
Planning:	Robin Price	Flat 2, 5/7 Princedale Road
Annual Lecture:	Kathleen Hall	6 Taverners Close
Membership:	(vacant)	
Newsletter/Web/IT	David Campion	12/13 Pembridge Crescent
Members:	Rosemary Bauccio	20 St Ann's Villas
	Keith Hunter	15 Queensdale Road
	John Murlis	41 Royal Crescent
	Anthony Perry	10 Penzance Place
	Veronica Scott	24 Addison Avenue
	Tara Stack	31 Princedale Road
	Caroline Yardley	57 Portland Road
	Annabel Wylie	44 Queensdale Road
	Catherine Wilson	52 St James's Gardens

(The Society is trying to find someone to take over the role of Hon Treasurer and someone else to take on the role of Membership Secretary)

MEMBERSHIP

We have put a major effort into boosting our Membership this year. Our number of Members gives us credibility and strength in our representations to the authorities.

As a result, we now have 18 new Life Members, giving 160 in total, and 163 renewing annually - including 76 new members, making 323.

A warm welcome to all...we hope you will join in and enjoy the Society's activities.

There are still about 50 Members from 2003 who have not renewed. If they still live in Norland, we do hope they will renew - either right away by contacting their Street Representative (listed on the previous page), or at the AGM on 22 June.

Particularly encouraging is that 10 of our Life Members have made additional donations even though, of course, they have paid their subscriptions for Life. AND 181 Members, who have paid subscriptions this year, have signed the Gift Aid form - thus enabling us to increase our income by some £420.

We are enormously grateful to David Campion for hours and hours of work setting up our Membership database

We now have e-mail addresses for some 80 Members. This enables us to communicate quickly about any up-coming issues, and remind you of Society events. If anyone is on e-mail and has not let us have their e-mail address, please send it to us at:

info@norlandsociety.org.uk

Just complete the form on this page (or a copy of it if you wish to retain this Newsletter intact) and either forward it to the Membership Secretary at 23 St James's Gardens or bring it with you to the AGM.

Clive Wilson

Subscriptions for Membership Year 2004

Rates for 2004 are:

	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Concessions</u>	<u>Life</u>
Single	£5.00	£3.00	£50.00
Couple	£10.00	£6.00	£80.00

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

Tel/E-mail:.....

Please complete and return this form or a copy of it with your cheque to your Street Representative or to the Membership Secretary, c/o 23 St James's Gardens, London W11

GIFT AID DECLARATION

To help us to gain maximum benefit from changes made within the UK tax system we would encourage you to complete the following if you are an eligible UK tax payer.

Name & Address of donor:

.....

Signature:.....

This Newsletter was edited by Anthony Perry from contributions made by members of the Executive Committee and others; photographs were taken by and the layout was composed by David Campion using the Adobe InDesign 2.0.1 software.

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