

NCS NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Norland Conservation Society

June 2009



Holland Park Avenue - Monday 2nd February 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year, 2009, is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Norland Conservation Society, and to celebrate it a special supplement is included with this Newsletter. All of us who live here know that the Norland area is unique, for its relative calm and spaciousness, but also for its sense of neighbourhood - in fact, its almost rural charm. Anyone coming to Norland today will find it difficult to imagine what it was like then, but perhaps the supplement will help you to visualise it, and also some of the ways in which we have helped not only to preserve, but also to improve it.

At that time there was no planning control, so anything was allowed. However, it was probably only because in the aftermath of World War II there was a shortage of building materials

that much of our fine architecture has remained unspoilt. So we have much to celebrate. However, every year new threats and challenges arise. This year a particular threat faces St James's church tower, so we have made Save the Tower our 40th anniversary project, in the hope that we can help raise the balance of £18,500 needed to restore it (see page 7). 2008/9 has been a year of progress:

Positive developments

Our proposals for a programme of Article 4 Directions to protect the street scene and prevent undesirable alterations to non-listed buildings have been accepted in principle; these will be included in an updated Conservation Area Policy Statement, on which we will work with RBKC. There have been more successes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SUMMER PARTY 2009

Tuesday 23rd June 2009

at 7.30pm in

St James Norlands Church

St James's Gardens, W11

All residents of the Norland Conservation Area are welcome to attend. (Non members will be asked to join at the door). Please stay after the meeting, for food and wine.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
- 2.. Chairman's Report.
3. Planning Report.
4. Treasurer's Report & Adoption of annual Accounts.
5. Election of Executive Committee.
6. Any other business - Discussion forum.

GUEST SPEAKER:

**The Rt Hon.
Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP**

in contesting unsuitable planning applications by making our case in person to the Applications Sub-Committee, insisting on the correct application of planning guidelines set out in the UDP; and excavation and construction work has started

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on the huge storm-water holding tank under Addison Avenue. This will not solve the fundamental problem of lack of capacity in the Counter's Creek sewer; however, following substantial pressure from all quarters, and, in particular, our redoubtable councillor, Julie Mills, and our MP, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Thames Water are now putting forward long-term plans for a relief sewer. We will not be plagued by estate agents boards much longer; following concerted pressure, it is now planned to renew and extend Regulation 7 which prevents estate agents boards from covering all Conservation Areas in the Borough. Central Government approval is taking far too long. Lastly, concerns remain about subterranean development.

New issues and threats

The 316 bus route down St Ann's Villas and Royal Crescent in our view is quite unnecessary, as the existing 295 is more or less empty most of the time. Having objected and lost, it is hard to see what to do next. We are also concerned at the vandalistic approach to tree pruning most recently evident in Addison Avenue.

The third runway at Heathrow, which would make life a noisy misery for the whole of North Kensington is far too big an issue for us, but one on which we support the objectors.

In all our efforts, we are extremely grateful to our ward councillors Julie Mills and David Lindsay for their support. Thanks to you too, our members, for your support, and particularly to life members who make donations. Please keep telling your friends and neighbours about what we do, and get them to join the Society.

Clive Wilson

MEMBERSHIP

The strength of the Society's voice in protecting, preserving and enhancing Norland depends very much on the strength of our membership. Following a successful membership drive, numbers are up from last year. We have recruited 16 new members so far, bringing this year's total to 350 members. Please encourage your neighbours to join.

Renewals: If any members have not yet renewed their subscriptions, please could they renew, either right away by contacting their street representative (listed on the back page) or at the AGM.

It would be a great help if our existing members could take the time to update their personal details including correct name, address, telephone number and email address on the form provided in the Membership Renewal packs.

E-mail addresses: We now have e-mail addresses for some 200 members. This enables us to communicate quickly about any upcoming issues and remind you of Society events. If anyone is on e-mail and has not yet let us have their e-mail address or if you have changed your email address, please send it to me at: noniewolff@hotmail.com

Standing Orders: It would be a tremendous help if you could pay by standing order as it greatly simplifies the collection of subscriptions and also saves you having to write a cheque every year. Standing order forms were sent out with membership renewals.

Gift Aid: We would appreciate it if all members who pay income tax would sign a gift aid form as this adds to the value of annual subscriptions and donations and

costs individual members nothing. We are very thankful for our existing life and other members who have been kind enough to send us a donation in addition to their subscriptions. This boosts our income by about 30%. All donations are gratefully received! Once again, our most sincere thanks go to David Campion for his painstaking work in setting up and maintaining our membership database and creating and updating our website.

Nonie Wolff

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2008 show a surplus of about £1,000, a little more than that for 2007.

Members' subscriptions and donations were close to those of the previous year, and Gift Aid continues to provide a welcome supplement. The annual lecture, well attended, made a higher profit than in 2007. Interest income continued to benefit from the move of our deposit to a more favourable account.

In 2009, expenditure is expected to be a little higher than in 2008. The 2009 annual lecture was even better attended and yielded an increased profit, but interest income will be much lower. For the Society to have a continuing surplus of income over expenditure, it is important that members' contributions continue at the levels achieved in the last two years. With a closing balance on the General Fund of about £16,000, the Society considers that it has sufficient funds to meet the costs of its normal activities, and is well able to afford the proposed contribution of £5,000 to the St James' Norland church tower appeal.

John Hodgson