



The Police

Notting Hill Police Station: 7221 1212
Crime Prevention: 8246 0169
Police Traffic Support Unit: 8246 0186
Drugs Advice: 8960 5599

The Council

Dangerous Structures
Office hours: 7361 3838
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Dog Warden
Office hours: 7341 5761
Out of hours: 7361 6099
Dog fouling: 7341 5284

Environmental Health
Office hours: 7341 5282
Out of hours: 7373 6099
Noise and Nuisance Service
24 hours: 7361 3484

Parking
All enquiries: 7361 4380
Abandoned vehicles: 7341 5182
Removed vehicles and clamping:
Office hours: 7376 3674
Out of hours: 7376 8402

Pest Control Information
7341 5282

Refuse Collection
Commercial: 7341 2100
Domestic: 7341 5284
Removal of bulky household items: 7341 5284
Recycling: 7341 5148
Garden waste sacks: 7341 5284

Roads and Pavements
Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Scaffolding
Permits: 7361 4380
Complaints: 7341 5284

Skips
To hire: 7341 2100
Permits: 7361 4380

Social Services
Information: 7361 2915/2563
Out of hours: 7373 2227

Street Cleaning
Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Street Lighting
Office hours: 7937 5464
Out of hours: 7373 6099

Trees
7361 2763/2767

List revised 16/10/2001.

Please note
If you have access to the Internet, you can reach officials and departments 24 hours a day through the Council's own web site (www.rbkc.gov.uk).

Join our association

The aim of CTRAA (The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association) is to preserve and enhance our local neighbourhood. We are open to all residents in the area (see more details in the editorial box at right).

Currently we have around 400 members and new members are always welcome.

The annual membership fee is only £3 per person (£8 for 3 years).



Annual General Meeting

CTRAA's annual general meeting takes place on Monday 26 November at 8 pm in the Essex Church, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace. New and old members are very welcome. There will be free drinks after the meeting.

The Cherry Tree

A newsletter for the Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association
Editor: Thomas Blomberg
Daytime: 8237 7907
Evenings: 7938 3775
thomas.blomberg@sdi-media.co.uk
Material for future issues can be sent to: Flat 7, 18 Vicarage Gate, London W8 4AA

The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association

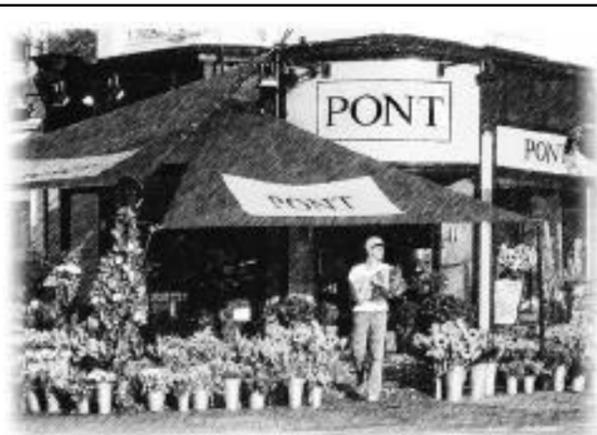
Chairman: Willoughby Wynne
39 Brunswick Gardens, London W8 4AW
Tel: 7727 9786

The aim of The Cherry Trees Residents' Amenities Association is to improve our neighbourhood and to function as our representative towards the Council and other authorities in matters concerning the area. Membership is open to all residents living in Palace Gardens Terrace, Strathmore Gardens, Berkeley Gardens, Brunswick Gardens, Inverness Gardens, Vicarage Gate, on the southern side of Kensington Mall, and on the eastern side of Kensington Church Street between Vicarage Gate and Kensington Mall.

Christmas Bazaar

On Sunday 3 November, between 11.30 and 3pm, the annual Christmas bazaar will be held at St. Mary Abbot's Church Hall in Vicarage Gate. A chance to meet neighbours and to buy anything from homemade jam to toys, books and designer clothes.

We thank the advertisers below for their contribution to the printing cost of this issue.



"It has a better selection than any other florist in London."

THE TIMES

If you show us this advertisement, we will be delighted to offer you a £10 discount on your next purchase.

PONT

104 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BU
Tel: 020-7727 6060 • pont@pont.co.uk • www.pont.co.uk



"Modern Italian restaurant, definitely upmarket, and with ambitious cooking."

When booking, mention this advert and receive a complimentary glass of champagne.



122 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT
Tel: 020-7229 4024

Record summer party, solemn autumn party

This year's summer party, held in Inverness Gardens Tuesday 26 June, drew a record crowd. Close to 150 neighbours from the Cherry Trees area drank (courtesy of Tuggy Meyer), ate (courtesy of Winkworth) and mingled (courtesy of themselves). The autumn party, held Sunday 16 September, became a very different event. On the evening of 11 September, the CTRAA committee had one of its regular meetings and, with everyone clearly shaken by the terrorist attacks in the US the same day, the main question was if the party should be cancelled, as it seemed very likely that several people in the area could have lost relatives and friends.

The decision was, however, to have the party as planned, as it would give people a chance to meet and talk about what had happened. Although the attendance couldn't be compared to the summer party, those 110 who did come clearly used it as an opportunity to reflect and contemplate.



The summer party in June filled Inverness Gardens totally.

Instead of the usual welcome speech, the CTRAA chairman, Willoughby Wynne, talked about the horrific event and expressed the Association's deep sympathy to anyone in the area who may

have lost family members and friends, before proclaiming a minute's silence in respect of the 7,000 dead. The wine was once again supplied by Tuggy Meyer and the

food by Winkworth, with catering from Lemon Grass Restaurant of 243 Royal College Street, NW1 (020-7284 1116). On the next page you find more pictures from the two parties.

Vicarage Gate House boarded up

In early September workmen boarded up Vicarage Gate House in anticipation of a very long wait for a new owner. The CTRAA has learned that a party interested in building a new, private nursing home on the site has been in contact with the agency representing the current owners, the Elizabeth Finn Trust, but apparently found the asking price much too high. The Council is not willing to allow a change of use, which may well be challenged, so the wait for a new owner may be lengthy, unless the price comes down.





Summer and autumn party pictures



The transformation of eastern Kensington, from country village to "the old Court suburb" and finally to a bustling part of London, started when William III and Queen Mary moved the regent's official residence from Whitehall to Kensington Palace as they jointly succeeded to the throne in 1689. Suddenly, the little village of Kensington became the rage among British nobility and everyone else who wanted to stay close to the royals.

With William and Mary came courtiers, ambassadors, clergy, officers, royal retainers, courtesans and royal builders. They in turn brought footmen, valets, maids, cooks, stable hands, gardeners, workmen and soldiers. Except for the most immediate royal staff, which lived in the palace, and the soldiers, who were housed in the Guards Barracks, they all had to find accommodation in the neighbourhood. Most of them settled around Kensington Square (an ambitious building project that had been started in 1685 by a Thomas Young) and along its entry from High Street, Young Street (which Young named after himself). All these people attracted shopkeepers and various craftsmen to the area. Kensington started to grow.

When the court settled in Kensington there were only two larger houses along the eastern side of Church Lane below the vicarage, the original York House and Maitland House, and a few houses down at the High Street corner. The big open area in between (today covered by the Lancer Square complex and the enormous 3a Palace Green) was appropriated by the palace for its kitchen garden. The western side of Church Lane was open land above the church, except for the grounds of Campden House, halfway to Notting Hill.

The first new houses

In 1724 a bricklayer turned builder, John Jones, had acquired the land on the western side, between the church and Parson's Yard (in 1821 renamed Holland Street), and started to erect houses on it. Of these only six remain, nos. 9-17, while 1-7 were replaced with new houses in 1760. The Catherine Wheel pub was originally called the George Inn, but was rebuilt in 1870.

In Holland Street itself Jones built on both sides, although none of those six houses remain. Holland Place, the short one-way street by Pierre Pêchon Patisserie, didn't exist until the beginning of the 20th century, and the old wooden house and the small constructor's yard in it are the vestige of the stable yard for the northern Holland Street houses, which earlier had its entry in Holland Street.

In 1726 Jones started to build in what is today Duke's Lane, which resulted in a legal dispute with the owner of Campden House, Lord Lechmore, who regarded it to be a private way to his property. The outcome of the dispute is unknown, but a map from

1736 shows houses on both sides of Duke's Lane, while another map from 1745 shows houses on the southern side only. Those maps also show a couple of houses on the western side just above the bend in Church Lane.

By 1761 Kensington Palace's role as the monarch's residence had ended, in favour of Buckingham Palace, and it became "merely" a home for other members of the royal family. This, however, did not mean that the palace stopped lending royal glamour to the neighbourhood, something we could all witness when Princess Diana lived there.

Further up the lane, on its eastern side, there had been a brickfield for 50 years on the site where there previously had been a 16th century house called Sheffield House (on top of today's Berkeley Gardens). It had been bought and torn down by two local builders in 1725. The bricks manufactured on this site were probably used for many of the houses built in Kensington during this time, including perhaps the extensions and modifications of the palace. In 1791 a Thomas Robinson (according to some sources a gardener to George III) bought the estate and re-built Sheffield House as a brick-faced three-storey Georgian mansion.

After that, not much happened along Church Lane for some time. By 1822 a row of houses had been built in the bend on the site which today is occupied by Marqueen Court and Olaf Court, and Campden House had sold off some land to the south, which meant that it had lost its imposing tree-lined approach from High Street Kensington (which it was called by then) and instead made its access from Church Lane. A map from 1841 shows four new streets going west from the northern part of Church Lane: today's Kensington Place, Edge Street, Peel Street and Campden Street.

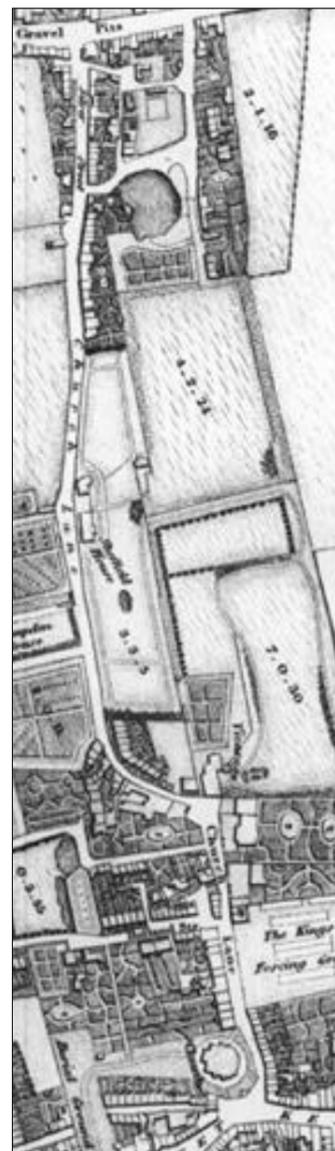
The big building boom

However, by 1850, it was time for the big development boom. Kensington, as all of London, was growing rapidly by this time. When Queen Victoria was born in 1819, Kensington's population was 12,000. By 1850 it was nearly 50,000 and when she died in 1901 it was 176,000.

In 1854 Sheffield House was demolished to make room for the big development that we today know as the Cherry Trees area (see article in The Cherry Tree 2/99) and houses began to spring up all along the eastern side

Kensington Church Street, part 2 - from 1700:

In only 50 years the country road was transformed into a city street



In 1822 most of Church Lane was still a country road, but fifty years later it had become a busy city street.

of Church Lane above the vicarage. In 1856 the palace kitchen garden by Church Lane was replaced by new barracks for the palace guards, as the original barracks had to be removed to make room for "Millionaire's Row" (Kensington Palace Gardens).

In 1862 Campden House burnt down. According to some, a replica replaced it, but on the Ordnance Survey map of 1878 the grounds are marked as "Campden House (ruins of)" and no house is to be seen.

Three years later Father Herman Cohen bought a piece of land on the northern side of Duke's Lane (he him-



Tudor-inspired Church Close is actually one of the youngest Church Street houses. It was built in 1927, only eight years before Vicarage Court behind it.



The house at the entrance to Melon Place is one of the oldest in that part of Church Street.



The houses near St. Mary Abbot's church are the oldest remaining, built between 1724 and 1760.

self rented a house just above, on the site of today's Newton Court) and started to build the Roman Catholic Carmelite church, which 10 years later was followed by the Carmelite monastery next door in Duke's Lane. By 1878 all the land along Church Lane and its northern part, Silver Street, was occupied by buildings, except the Campden House grounds, but by 1900 that changed as well, with the construction of the red-bricked Sheffield Terrace block and the Campden House Court flats.

This didn't mean that building stopped, though. Older houses were replaced by newer, sometimes quick-

Bad planning saved the Cherry Tree area

If planning efforts of various official bodies in the late 19th century had been as co-ordinated as they are currently, the Cherry Trees area wouldn't have existed today. Instead of the bend around Winchester Court, Kensington Church Street would have continued in a straight line from High Street to Notting Hill, thus replacing Vicarage Gate and Brunswick Gardens. Our area would have been cut in half.

Long before the Cherry Trees area was developed there had been strong forces in motion for a straightening of Church Lane, by moving the vicarage that sat as plug at the bottom of today's Vicarage Gate. However, by the time the vicarage was moved, the new houses in the bend of Brunswick Gardens provided a new blockage, followed by more houses behind them, all the way up to Notting Hill Gate.

Well, today we can only be thankful for that lack of co-ordination.

ly and in other cases after more than a hundred years. Among the more noticeable replacements we find the original York House and Maitland House, on whose joint gardens first the new York House complex was built in 1904, followed by the recently refurbished 30 Kensington Church Street on the site of Maitland House in 1924, and the Tudor inspired Church Close replaced the original York House in 1927.

Newton Court and Bullingham Mansions replaced a couple of older houses in the Church Street bend in the 1890's, of which one is supposed to have been the home of Sir Isaac Newton during his last years.

Winchester Court

In 1935 Winchester Court was built on a site originally occupied by a large private house, which first had been converted to a convent and later became the Orphanage of St Vincent de Paul.

Some of the houses along Church Street were damaged during the Second World War, among them the Carmelite church, which was later replaced by a new church.

In the early 1960's all the older houses at the northern end were replaced, as part of the big and ugly redevelopment of Notting Hill.

Finally, in 1972, the military barracks were closed and the Lancer Square complex was eventually erected in their place.