
NOTTING HILL EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

A publication of the Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum and the Westbourne Neighbourhood Association

Autumn 2017

Issue 4

Hello everyone and welcome to our autumn issue of the Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum newsletter.

The WNA and NHENF have had a busy 6 months! Read below about our events, our public realm progress, and the status of our Neighbourhood Plan. We've now posted a summary of this Plan on our website, so you'll be able to review our objectives along with the policies and projects we've developed with your input. More information will be coming over the next few months and we will let you know when it is ready. www.nottinghilleast.org.uk

Our new committee members have settled in and our primary responsibilities are listed below. If you have any comments about the neighbourhood, you can contact any of us at our email address:

nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com

Chairman - Suzanne Forte

Vice-Chair and Neighbourhood Watch coordinator - Traci Weaver

Treasurer - Louise Terry

Secretary - Sarmila Bose

Plan team - Richard Perkins, David Rea, Andrew Pilkington and Suzanne Forte

Planning application reviews - Richard Perkins and Andrew Pilkington

Membership - Jessica Staddon

Minutes - Sheila Keating

Sue Quentrec, who served on our committee for 9 years has stepped down. She produced many informative newsletters for the WNA, worked with Trish Wrigglesworth on membership, oversaw our raffle contributions for our winter

parties, organised our online survey in April of 2016, got the word out before events via signs around the neighbourhood, and has been preparing the delicious food that we all enjoy at our parties. Although she is no longer on the committee, she has generously offered to carry on helping us with our parties.

David Hothersall, another long term WNA committee member has also stepped down due to other commitments. All of us have David to thank for intervening over the years to deal with many of the bus issues on Chepstow Road, and he was a smiling and helpful mainstay at our various parties and events. He too has offered to continue to help when needed. We thank them both sincerely for their contribution to WNA and NHENF over the years.

With regard to membership, it is our perhaps idealistic goal to have everyone in the neighbourhood be a member of the WNA/ NHENF so that our communication will reach a wide audience. In order to do this, we need to get the emails or telephone numbers of all of our residents. To that end, we have decided that from 2018 we will operate on a donations basis rather than subscriptions, so that everyone can be a member. We will still have costs - for printing, parties, and occasionally for equipment for presentations or events, so we will rely on your donations to help keep us operating. If we have any surplus income, we can put it towards some of the many public realm improvements we have identified. As stated before, our committee is a group of volunteers who give our time to the neighbourhood because we want to build a community, make our surroundings

more beautiful, and act as the liaison and advocate between our residents / businesses and other organisations on issues like Carnival notices, road crossings and road work, planning, and other matters that affect us all.

Can you please help us increase our membership by recruiting any of your neighbours who may not be members? If every member recruited 5-10 new members, we'd have the neighbourhood covered. Anyone who comes to us with 10 new members gets a prize!

Thank you and best wishes,

Suzanne Forte
Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan

We applied for a grant earlier this autumn to help us complete our Plan and are very excited that we have been awarded this grant. This will allow us to hire the services of a professional landscape architect/urban planner to review our proposals for public realm improvements and suggest others we may have missed, and a development control consultant to review architectural policies. It will also cover our display, printing, and distribution costs. We are communicating with our councillors, Labour from the Westbourne Ward and Conservative from the Bayswater Ward to make sure that our proposals supported by all of you are also supported at the council level.

Public Realm

Thanks to the generosity of our Labour councillors from the Westbourne Ward: Councillor Adam Hug, Councillor David Boothroyd and Councillor Papy Qureshi, (Wessex Gardens and Shrewsbury Gardens are part of the Westbourne Ward), we were able to have the trees pruned in Shrewsbury Gardens. This should help to let more sun in so the grass can recover. The Councillors also supported our request for repairs to the path and Westminster Parks did these repairs in September. They installed a new soak-away to prevent some of

the flooding that contributed to the mud this spring and repaved the path, so we hope you will benefit from these improvements.

The table tennis table mentioned in the Spring newsletter for the empty paved area in St. Stephen's gardens seems to be a more popular idea than gym equipment and we'd like to hear your thoughts about that. It might be fun to have a little competition in our area, an opportunity for some exercise, and a chance to interact with some of your neighbours. Email us if you have any comments.

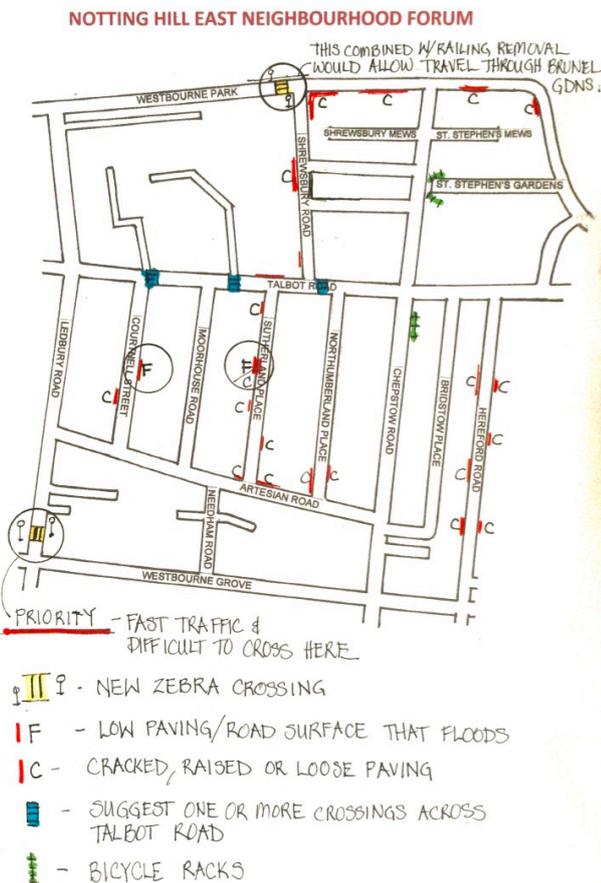
We've written to the Cabinet minister in charge of Highways to ask for the light at the corner of Chepstow Road and Talbot Road to have an additional 4-5 seconds before changing. Our elderly residents, those with small children, and a few with distracted dogs find it difficult to get across before the light changes. We had requested this change in 2016, and we've been told it is a matter for TFL. Our councillors for Bayswater have been made aware of this issue, and we hope they will be able to help us get this changed.

We also wrote to Westminster planning about installing our community notice board behind the Westbourne apartments on Artesian Road. Various planning permissions have to be applied for in order to have a notice board on a public highway, and there was a concern that this board will attract graffiti. We will continue to press the council for this item or an alternative, as it would be a valuable way for us to communicate with all of you and you with one another. Our Bayswater Ward councillor Richard Holloway will help us with this continuing effort.

We submitted a pavement survey in September to the Highways department of Westminster so that we will be considered in their budget allocations for the coming year. We have many cracked and irregular pavements around our area, and we hope to get those fixed during the next repair cycle. Our comments last year about the state of the pavements on Chepstow Road helped to get the new pavements we have today. In our September submittal, we included the

crossings and bicycle racks you have asked for, and will continue to work towards these improvements.

PAVEMENT SURVEY 2017:



Carnival

We wrote over the spring and summer months to the departments in charge of overseeing Carnival to make sure we could pass along any information to all of you. Although we have repeatedly requested that we be included in any communications about Carnival, we are still finding out about these things at the last minute, and apologise for notifying you about the residents' meetings only one or two days before. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has been the public face of Carnival until recently, but at the last residents' meeting at the Tabernacle, we made contact with a Westminster representative who has promised to keep us better informed. We recently emailed our members with a link to a Carnival survey produced by the two boroughs and we hope you will take the time to fill out this survey. It is

important for the Carnival organisers to hear your views. The link is attached here:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/survey/nottinghillcarnival2017/nhc2017.htm>

Police Station Mergers

The mayor has proposed an operational merger between the police forces that are currently borough-based against the background of a squeeze on funds. It seems that the political parties in Westminster oppose this merger. Living on the border of the Royal Borough it is important to consider how this merger might in fact benefit us. We suffer from the fact that the forces are separate. We receive Neighbourhood Watch information of break-ins, car theft and other crimes from the other side of Bayswater, but not a word about what is happening on the other side of Ledbury Road. Not long ago a man in obvious distress was reported to the Westminster force and by the time the police arrived, he had staggered beyond our borough boundary and they could do nothing about it. Unless someone comes up with some real and convincing arguments, consider whether you may want to vote yes to mergers.

Neighbourhood Watch is Expanding

Sutherland Place has joined Northumberland Place, Chepstow Road and Artesian Road in having a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The aim is to cover our entire area. Your street can be the next one to take part!

Neighbourhood Watch is about being part of a community team whose members work to protect each other from crime and anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of life in their area/street. Each Watch is independently run by residents with support from the Met Police and Westminster Council.

To establish a Watch, someone or a group of people must be willing and able to coordinate the Watch voluntarily. The scheme is flexible, but most Watches in our neighbourhood are

organised street by street. It is up to the coordinator(s) how it is run, but the hope is that street coordinators will want to come together periodically to discuss the most effective way forward and share information.

Watch members have a responsibility to watch out for suspicious or unusual activity and report it to the police. When residents join a Neighbourhood Watch they will be informed by the Met how to report a crime and what to look out for in their area. They will also become familiar with crime prevention ideas, so that they can take steps to keep their homes and belongings safe. Our neighbourhood is fortunate to have a Met Police Officer who spearheads this effort and sends out monthly crime reports and other important information. A Met representative may be able to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings and speak to members about crime prevention.

If you would like to start a Neighbourhood Watch on your street, please contact Westminster's Neighbourhood Watch:

Phone: 020 7641 2117

Email:

neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk

Local Watch Coordinators are:

Northumberland Place: Jacqui Nelson & Shane Porter

Sutherland Place: Traci Weaver

Contact us if you'd like to join their watches.
nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com

Planning and Conservation

Our older housing is entirely within the Westbourne Conservation Area. We also have some Grade II listed houses sprinkled around our terraces, which have certain rules and requirements for renovating and changing,

and Bridstow Place has an Article 4 direction that controls some of the exterior features of the houses. As the owner of a property in a Conservation area, you are not allowed to demolish anything from the outside of the property without planning permission. There may also be restrictions on what you can add to these properties. In our survey, you supported our two approaches to the alteration and renovation of our buildings, which were to allow more freedom at roof level and in the rear of our terraced properties, but to take a more historically strict approach on the facades of these buildings below parapet level. As and when work is done to our houses, we would like to see all original historic detail on these facades reinstated properly. The fronts of these houses form the walls of our streets, and therefore, improving these facades will benefit us all. We've realised that many of our residents don't know what these houses looked like originally and thought it would be helpful to publish design guides for each of our streets, so that when residents renovate their houses, they can put back appropriate details. In adhering to these historic precedents, our residents will have a better chance of having favourable responses to their planning applications, and once our Plan is approved, will comply with its proposed requirements. In each of our upcoming newsletters, we will feature one of our streets and once we have covered all of them, we will create a booklet, augmented by sketches, that can be distributed more widely including to our estate agents selling properties in the area.

There is sometimes variation on the facades within a street. If you are planning a renovation and have questions about which details are correct for your facades, you can email us and we will steer you to the right information, or you can contact the conservation department at Westminster.

On the next page we have photos of the original historic details on the facades of Sutherland Place.



Photo at left illustrating from top to bottom: a projecting **cornice** with **dentil** moulding underneath (rectangular blocks with spaces between), **frieze** (flat band) above a **string course** moulding running horizontally across the facade just above the **capital** (top) of the decorative **pilaster** (flattened decorative column on wall) to the right of second floor windows. Each triangular **pediment** above first floor windows is held up by a pair of **corbels**, (scroll shaped brackets) shown also in photo below. The surface of the facade render has incised lines to simulate stone blocks.



Photo at left and above show the original decorative **balcony railing**. The balconies are supported by a pair of **Tuscan columns**, shown at left, capped by an **abacus** (square supporting slab) above the round column capital, (convex top), with **triglyphs** above - a tablet like element of 3 vertical parts, each with 2 tassel-like pegs below (6 total), called **guttae**. The facade render below the balconies at ground and lower ground levels is **rusticated** (having incised horizontal grooves), in imitation of the cut stone courses of the Roman precedents.

The ground floor window **sills** are supported by a pair of **corbels** and have a **cast iron ornamental sill railing** above. You can see these, and the rustication of the facade at this level in the photo below.



Some of the houses on Sutherland Place had a **balustrade** above the parapet, shown below on right. The central 3 houses of the long terrace on the east side of the street have arched **pediments** above the first floor windows and fluted **pilasters** with **Corinthian** capitals, both shown on the house on the left below.



Obituaries

Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Dame Jennifer Jenkins lived the latter part of her long life quietly at Hereford Mansions. Her neighbour Sally Sampson has written:

' Dame Jennifer was a much loved resident at Hereford Mansions, where her quiet wisdom, decisiveness and architectural expertise made her an invaluable director of the Hereford Mansions Residents association. She loved the W2 area and its buzz, and enjoyed shopping at Sainsbury's and lunching at local restaurants (Aphrodite was a favourite.) She was a brisk walker right up until the end of her long life, and always took the four steep flights of stairs up to her flat rather than the lift. She never lost her keen interest in politics and enjoyed analysing the characters of our current leaders! We miss her.'

Dame Jennifer was born in Hampstead, the daughter of Sir Parker Morris, the Westminster town clerk who produced those national standards for council housing that far exceeded in quality those the market provided at the time. She was chairman of the Consumers' Association, a member of the executive board of the British Standards Institution, member of the committee of management of the Courtauld Institute, a member of the Ancient Monuments Board, serving also as secretary to the Historic Buildings Commission and later as its president. She was a magistrate, a director of both Sainsbury's and the Abbey National and a reforming chairman of the National Trust. Married to the late politician Roy Jenkins who effected the most significant social reforms of the last half of the twentieth century, Dame Jennifer is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mary Jennifer Jenkins, public servant, born 18 January 1921; died 2 February 2017

Roger Broad

Sadly, Roger Broad, a long-term resident of Northumberland Place did not survive essential heart surgery in the early autumn of 2017 bringing to an end more than 50 years of living in the area. After his marriage to Sarah in 1964 they moved into the house that she had purchased in 1960 and it subsequently became the family home for their three children, Matthew, Adrian and Averil. They also owned a house in France and a cottage in Wiltshire but London was their centre and he and Sarah were stalwart supporters of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Association. Roger was born on the 31st March 1931 in Southampton to parents who were both teachers. He won an exhibition to Queen's College, Oxford where he read history. After National Service in Scotland during which he said he spent time teaching the Scots English, he became a journalist working as a reporter for the Birmingham Post. Later, after his marriage to Sarah, they had a temporary home in Luxembourg where he edited an English language publication for the coal and steel industry. Once the EU was founded they came back to this country where he became head of press affairs for the London office of the European Parliament. He decided to take early retirement in order to write full time. He published many books of military history and also chronicles of the European Union, a couple in collaboration with an old friend, Robert Jarrett. The publications included a short guide to the Common Market. One can only speculate about what he might have written now that Britain appears to be withdrawing from the EU. There will be a missing link in those casual street encounters when Roger could always be relied upon for some witty and very often insightfully caustic comment on current affairs.

Neighbourhood events and other happenings

Neighbourhood Walk

On a sunny Sunday in May we had our Neighbourhood Walk about the life and times of Louis Lucien Bonaparte, led by architect Andrew Pilkington.

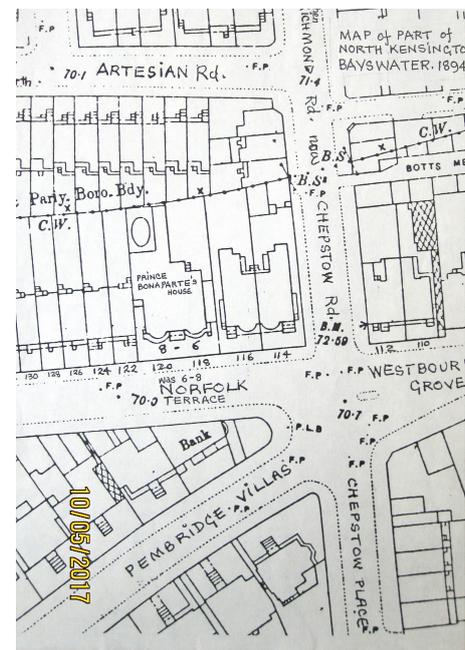
Our walk started at 6 - 8 Norfolk Terrace (becomes Westbourne Grove later), home for 40 years of His Imperial Highness Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, sometimes referred to as the “Prince of Bayswater”. ¹ (map at right)

Our Prince was born on the 4th of January, 1813 at Grimley in the Malvern Hills District of Worcestershire, and lived in a house called Thorngrove. A few years before, his father, Lucien Bonaparte - Prince of Canino left Italy following a quarrel with his great brother, Napoleon 1st. While crossing the Atlantic bound for the U.S.A., he was arrested by the British and brought to England where he remained under “light surveillance.” ²

In 1814, the Bonaparte family went back to the continent where the Prince lived until his return to England around 1851. He moved into 6 - 8 Norfolk Terrace and used these two houses as one villa with connecting adjoined entrances.

(Dark pair of houses on the right of upper photo; on lower photo these are to the left, with Arthur's Stores on the corner)

He died while visiting Fano, Italy on the 3rd of November 1891, but his body was returned to England for burial. He is buried in Kensal Green, at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, where we plan to visit his meticulously self-designed tomb on the anniversary of his death in November of 2018. Not to be too cryptic, but more about that next year!



For more information:

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lucien-Bonaparte>
- <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelplang/spanish/hispcoll/hispexhibl/bonaparte/bonaparte.html>
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8505200#>

¹Essay by Felicity Ashbee

² <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lucien-Bonaparte>

Little Big Lunch

We had our Little Big Lunch (so named because ours is a small version held on a different day of the Eden Project's nationwide Big Lunch event in mid-June) on Sunday, June 4th in Shrewsbury Gardens. For any of you who missed this event, you might want to make sure to put it in your diary for next year. We have some very talented chefs in our area, and the food was recipe-swapping worthy! We hope more of you come next year so we can drop the "Little" from the title.



Swap Days in May and October



Swap Days have become a regular event in the spring and autumn and we'd like to thank all of you who have brought along clothing and items to fill our tables. Who says nothing in life is free? We're gratified that at the end of our last two Swap Days, despite the quantity of things delivered to us, we had almost nothing left behind. Thank you to our neighbours at the corner of Talbot and Sutherland for allowing us to pitch our tent in their front garden. We encourage all of you to come along to our next one in May of 2018.

Garden Competition

This year we had two winners of our Garden Competition: 61 Artesian Road and 20 Artesian Road. Attached here is a link to a wonderful photo essay of our neighbourhood gardens by Richard Perkins. We'd like to thank all of you in the area with green thumbs for giving us such beautiful displays.

<https://sway.com/tYM2ssUhwKDw2LCK?ref=Link>



Adopt a Tree & Can't Plant Programme

Do you all remember the image at right from New York City illustrating how they landscape their street trees? Below is our version, minus the iron work. (Maybe someday!) Why not grab a bag of soil and plant up one of our neighbourhood trees. Who would dare throw a bag of dog litter on these, and if they did, well, we can't answer for our less aesthetically appreciative residents...

We also asked you in an earlier newsletter to let us know if you'd be willing to help any of our residents who might not be able to plant their own gardens. If you are willing to do so, please email your name to us. We can then prepare a list, and as we locate these vacant gardens, we will introduce you to those who can't plant. We all benefit from more greenery and flowers on our streets.

nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com



The Environment

While there still may be some skeptics out there doubting man-made climate change, none of us can deny that there is too much plastic going into landfills and the ocean. Every Monday and Thursday we see piles of our refuse on the streets awaiting Westminster's collection. In each newsletter, we will try to mention one thing we can do to reduce our plastic or other waste.

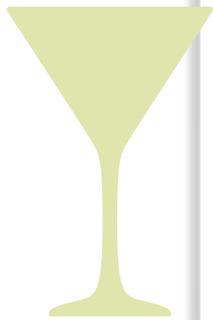
At Portobello Wholefoods under the Westway, you can hand your washing up liquid, liquid laundry detergent and fabric softener containers to the staff and they will refill them for you. While you'll still pay for the liquid, you won't be sending another container to landfill or recycling. There may be other stores in the area that provide this service.

And just a reminder, as one step in dealing with our pollution problem, please don't forget

WHEN YOU STOP, SWITCH OFF!

Please remind any vehicles you see idling in our streets.

Upcoming Events



NHENF / WNA

Winter Party

Wednesday, December 6th

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church

Award winning Ebony Steel Band to play

Drinks, Canapés, Raffle

£ 10 admission - under 18's half price



Really Useful List

Experienced decorator and paper hanger, with degree in interior design. Excellent results.

Rupert Rutherford - 07982 849706 or 0208 743 1844

Antique furniture restoration and conservation

Piers Keating Restoration - 01963 440705 or 07476 755806

All-purpose builder

Peter Cyparski - 07738 830970
pcyparski33@gmail.com

Recommended by Sheila Keating

Plumber

Alpine Plumbers LTC, Felix Marco 07957 294830
Gas Safe

Garden Builder and also Christmas Trees

Hew Stevenson, Shoots and Leaves 0208 563 7733
www.shootsandleaves.co.uk

Recommended by Suzanne Forte

Plumber

Elgan Davies 07870 161434

Recommended by Sarmila Bose

Thai Massage. Firm professional approach and wonderful benefits

Om -14 Chepstow Road

Recommended by Richard Perkins

If anyone wishes to recommend a good service provider, please email us at:

nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com

