



#### YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

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

Spring 2018

Hello everyone and welcome to our spring issue of the Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum, (aka Westbourne Neighbourhood Association) newsletter. Apologies for publishing this a bit later than usual - it was a busy spring. Please read on.

The big news is that our Neighbourhood Plan draft that we've developed with your input over the past several years is complete, and you would have seen a notice from us come through your door urging you to read through the plan and submit any comments to us before the 30th of June. You can find a link to the plan on our website: [www.nottinghilleast.org.uk](http://www.nottinghilleast.org.uk). If you still have comments, please email us at [nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com).

Sincere thanks to all of you who attended our AGMs over the past several years to view and comment on the proposals in this document, as well as those of you who participated in planning exercises, submitted thoughtful and constructive suggestions in surveys and emails, and attended our Neighbourhood Walk earlier this spring, where we had the opportunity to show you how our Plan will affect the area. After reviewing your comments and those from the planning authorities, neighbouring associations and other stakeholders, our Plan will be revised as necessary, and then it will be

formally publicised by Westminster for a further 6 week consultation period. Your comments and the Plan will then go to an independent examiner who will ensure that it meets statutory requirements. If so, the local authority will then conduct a referendum, and with a simple majority, the policies in this document will take precedence in our area and the projects will be prioritised when funding is available. We hope to reach this stage by the end of the year.

A clear message has emerged from our consultations on the Plan. Many of you requested a community office, more community events, a community notice board, and amenities designed around communal activities. We're heartened to see how many of you want to make connections with your neighbours and make our part of W2 a place where we can enjoy conversations on the streets, gather for social events and participate in volunteer efforts to benefit our neighbourhood and its residents. To accomplish this, we need more members. We've had a great response to letters we delivered to non-members earlier this year, but we'd still like to increase our numbers. Please be our ambassadors! If you can let your neighbours know about their neighbourhood forum, all they have to do is email and ask to be added to our membership list. It's free.

(Although we do need, and very much appreciate donations to fund some of our events and pay for insurance and printing). Our members receive twice yearly newsletters, are alerted to any consultations that affect our area, and will be notified about our events and meetings.

Thank you again for the interest you have shown in your area and for your support and involvement in our neighbourhood work.

Best wishes,

Suzanne Forte  
*Chairman*

## Public Realm

You've probably noticed two new picnic tables in Shrewsbury Gardens thanks to two of our local residents who wish to remain anonymous. We appreciate this generous donation and hope everyone will take good care of these tables and leave any rubbish from picnics in the bins provided. We checked with the residents of St. Stephen's Gardens who live next to the empty paved area in the garden to see if they would like a table tennis table there. Responses were 50% no and 50% yes. We are exploring other options - perhaps Shrewsbury Gardens, so that some of you can have a few summer table tennis competitions, when the heat subsides! We're also working on getting the outdoor gym equipment you requested, additional benches, game tables and the pergola reconfiguration for St. Stephen's Gardens.

## Carnival

As mentioned at our AGM, Carnival is under new management and the direction is inclusive and local. We met with the new organisers and they are interested in hearing our ideas for a Carnival that will be good for exhibitors and revellers as well as for local residents. Increased emphasis will be on artistic merit, children's day will be focused on children, and

those who exceed sound decibel limits will not be invited back next year. Half of the stewards will be recruited locally and it will be a paid position. Anyone interested in being a steward or contributing other ideas should contact the Carnival organisers through their website: [nhcarnival.org](http://nhcarnival.org). We have requested more loos that are more widely distributed throughout the neighbourhood and have wholeheartedly supported the enforcement of sound limits.

## Consultations

We forwarded a consultation to you about the proposed pedestrianisation of Oxford Street and hope that many of you responded. The proposal contained some admirable objectives that included the transformation of one of the most polluted streets in London into a landscaped area with public art, as well as the elimination of unnecessary bus routes which are used infrequently. While we are very much in favour of any steps to reduce vehicular traffic and we support the addition of green pedestrian spaces to link those that already exist, we did point out in our response a major negative for our area, which was the proposed change to the number 23 bus route. The scheme suggested that the number 23 bus be replaced by a new route and terminate at Marble Arch, with transfer to another route necessary for onward travel to Oxford Circus and points beyond. We looked at results from previous surveys as well as TFL statistics and found that terminating the 23 bus route at either Lancaster Gate or Marble Arch would result in 800 broken bus journeys per day from the Westbourne Grove area, which was the highest number of broken journeys of any of the proposed bus route changes. The assumption was that people would get off the bus at Paddington and hop on the newly opened Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) to Oxford Street and points east, but we argued that transfer wasn't feasible for our elderly residents and those with mobility issues. If the 23 bus or its replacement does need to be one of the routes that terminates at Marble Arch, we've asked for a single

weather-protected transfer point, so that people won't have to cross a busy intersection on foot to continue their bus journey on to the West End. There were significant objections from the residents' groups that ring Oxford Street, which included concerns about displaced traffic bringing higher levels of pollution to primarily residential areas. Alternatives are being considered and we'll let you know when a revised scheme is available.

## A News Flash from a Neighbouring Area

In Notting Hill Gate, a planning application for the Newcombe House site (on the south side above the station) was been "called in" by the Mayor for a summer 2018 final decision.

For more information:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/public-hearings/newcombe-house-public-hearing>

Background to the public hearing:

"On 14 March 2018 Kensington & Chelsea advised the Mayor that it was minded to refuse permission for the redevelopment proposals for Newcombe House.

On 26 March 2018, having considered a report on the case, the Mayor notified Kensington & Chelsea that he would act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning applications (under article 7 of the Mayor of London Order and the powers conferred by Section 2A of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act). "

The Mayor's initial stage 1 and stage 2 reports are available to download.

If you would like to comment, you can make your voice heard for this planning application before August 10 on the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) website: [www.rbkc.gov.uk/PP/17/05782](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/PP/17/05782) or by emailing your comments to [newcombehouse@london.gov.uk](mailto:newcombehouse@london.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch News

The sense of violation when your home has been broken into is horrible, and is often even worse than the material loss and damage that has occurred. Minimising the risk of this happening to you is within your hands.

Evidence suggests that some of the most effective ways of deterring burglary are often the simplest. Following is a check list of things which evidence has shown deter burglaries.

- 1) Strong doors with proper mortice locks.
- 2) London bars and Birmingham bars - strips fitted to the jambs of doors that strengthen them so that they are less easily kicked in. Highly recommended.
- 3) Window locks - essential.
- 4) Internal shutters.
- 5) Motion sensing external lights.
- 6) Internal lights, ideally with random switching on and off.
- 7) CCTV cameras (you are only allowed to record up to the edge of your own property).
- 8) No shrubs obscuring doors.
- 9) Observability by neighbours.

Joining your local Neighbourhood Watch or starting a Neighbourhood Watch on your street is highly recommended and recent figures from Neighbourhood Watch police reports show many break-ins occurred by forcing doors. We all urgently need to consider how to make our doors more secure from the inside and also to keep an eye out for our neighbours. Everyone needs to be vigilant and report suspicious behaviour to 101 but if a criminal act is being

committed do not hesitate to ring 999 and in both cases be prepared to give the location and any description of what you see. Never, however, put yourself in danger.

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](mailto: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](mailto:nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com)

## Planning and Conservation

In this issue we will add to our documentation of original architectural details around the neighbourhood, this time featuring Northumberland Place.

Just a reminder (*what follows in this paragraph is a repeat from our previous Newsletter so some of you may want to skip ahead to the photos!*) that our older housing is entirely within the Westbourne Conservation Area, with some listed buildings on Chepstow Road, Sutherland Place and Hereford Road, 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.

What follows are photos of some of the historic details on the facades of Northumberland Place.



House which has had a mansard addition with a traditional pair of dormer windows.



At left you see a mid-terrace house with, from top to bottom, a horizontal projecting cornice, at second floor level, a pair of 6 over 6 sash windows with sill below, and at first floor level, straight pediments over a pair of 4 over 4 sash windows with decorative iron Juliette balcony railings. Across the top of the ground floor, a concave black metal canopy with scalloped bottom edge is held up by vertical decorative ironwork supports flanking the front door, at the ends, and in some cases, the midway point. A low decorative iron railing runs the length of the shallow ground floor balcony. The pair of glass french doors on the ground floor have a very narrow mid-rail (horizontal wood piece running across the doors at the vertical mid-point). These doors would not typically have door pulls on the outside. The green front door on the left of this photo is presumed to be the original style of front door - frame with two tall vertical panels.



In the photo above you will see a pair of centre of terrace houses, at left, missing its cornice, and at right, the same house with cornice intact. Unlike the mid-terrace houses, these and the pairs of houses projecting at each end have corbels (curving scroll shaped brackets) supporting the pediments above first floor windows, and slightly different Juliette balcony railings. The windows at first floor are 6 over 6 sash windows, but have a different glazing bar (wooden dividers in a window) arrangement. Windows will vary somewhat on this street, reflecting the different owners or developers who would have built these in groups. The facades of these centre of terrace houses at ground floor are rusticated (having vertical incised grooves) similar to those on Sutherland Place.

## Where is Burlington Road???

(clue - it no longer exists....)



Burlington Road (now the Wessex Gardens Estate) is illustrated on this postcard sent on

January 14th, 1915

catching the 10:45 a.m. post. Daisy writes in telegram style to Mr. G. J. James of 4 Ninian St., Treorchy, Rhondda G lam. 14. 1. 15.

*'Our town residence. Sorry have not written before · have been very busy - Hope you are getting better & able to go out. Will write during the week · end if I have time. Daisy.*

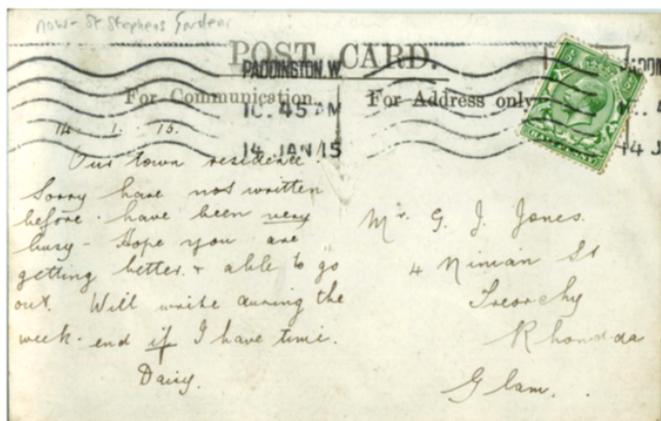
It seems in those times one could buy a postcard of almost any street. It was common to mark the picture with a note indicating the house into which one had moved, in this case marked with a pair of x's denoting no 54. In 1925 there were only about one thousand k1 (k for Kiosk) telephone boxes in the UK. In 1920 just one.

So by way of a ha'penny stamp the postcard was

a ready, if only way of economically communicating one's whereabouts. Ha'penny was the postage rate for postcards from 1894, increasing to one penny on 3rd June 1918. The use of the divided back of a postcard was first sanctioned by Great Britain in 1902,

other countries following. This allowed for one side of the card to be used for both the address and a message separated by a halfway line.

Burlington Road was built in the 1850s/60s. The view illustrated seems to be taken from the Ledbury Road looking east; there are near cobbles defining a walk across, perhaps lining up with the east pavement of Ledbury. Note the regular dips marking the street drains and gas



lamps low and sparse. Agents' awry letting placards make an early showing. Porches are paired, and so the chimneys (not visible) would be. The facade is palace style before it's a terrace, and stucco, imitating stone, frames the openings set in brickwork. This is a four storey street with  $\frac{3}{4}$  basements and possibly attics set behind the parapet. Centrally, two pediments as Greek temple roof triangles oppose each other as if in an urban north Italy. Paired houses at the ends project as bays, and have quoins at the corners attempting to further the street as a palace design. The facade to the left has no mews behind, but to the right or south there is a mews. The assumed servant class is disappearing with the mews no longer presenting with the house, or necessarily desirable. Houses are let in 'portions', the up portion and the down portion each having their entrance at the end of the ground floor interior hallway (the agent's placard illustrated to the right here offers the 'down portion') and from the 1860's lettings as such were marketed from the outset. Around this date marks a growing loss of confidence and the building market recesses until the late 1880's. The 1870's also seem to mark the end of the easy commodity in which cities were designed and built.

The illustrated view through to the east is axial and symmetrical (red line on map) looking across a narrower short street then called Westmoreland Road, further east Shrewsbury

Road (as now), then onto the long axis of St. Stephens Square (now Gardens). After this, eastwards onto gentle curving villa'd Westbourne Park Road. Surprisingly it is not set with a vista to a church. Nearby St. Stephen's Church is part of another system; it had seeded successful housing and it closed out the view north against the undesirable railway smoke of Brunel's 1854 Great Western railway. The long axial south view from St. Stephens extends through Kildare Terrace and carries on across the Westbourne Grove seeming to have had higher planning intentions on both Leinster and Princes Squares, maybe Kensington Palace beyond. Each of these squares could have offered an architectural frame through their terrace midpoints to engage with this north-south axial view, but refuse to do so.

So why did 'Burlingtonopolis' have such a relatively short history, to be entirely replaced by the Weatherbury/Casterbridge development? An easy answer has been a degrading into the unmanageable, suggesting demolition. Or was it as with the museum buildings of Albertopolis in South Kensington, the English found themselves confronted by symmetry and axes that had gone too far, a whiff of over centralised organisation, of undesirable power?



## Obituaries

### Edmund Laird-Clowes

My father, who has died after a fall, was the fourth generation of his family to live in the neighbourhood.

Growing up in Kensington, he worked, after a short period in publishing under Graham Greene at Eyre & Spottiswoode, as an antique dealer specialising in English silver, and for the last 20 years until his retirement, as a director of Spink & Son in King Street, St James's.

In 1990, he moved with my mother Sonia to Sutherland Place from the house in Campden Hill Road where they had brought up three children.

They were extremely happy in their new flat and after my mother died in 2001, my father continued to live there on his own until his death in November 2017.

He loved walking and was a familiar sight around the neighbourhood, always beautifully dressed with hat and stick at the ready. Even after it became too difficult for him to get to the park, he continued to derive real pleasure from walking around the streets and looking at the buildings he had known all his life.

He will be sadly missed.

Born 2/9/1923

Died 21/11/2017

*Nick Laird-Clowes*

“I often met Edmund out and about in the area. He was always impeccably turned out and would raise his hat in greeting! He was part of our neighbourhood for such a long time. We will miss him.”

“I used to say hello to Mr. Laird-Clowes although we never exchanged names. I complimented him on his sneakers once, and he beamed. He was wearing a beautifully cut linen jacket with pocket square, and the navy blue sneakers were a modern touch, but perfectly coordinated with the rest of his clothing.”

*Two neighbours from Sutherland Place*



## Neighbourhood Events

### Winter Party

On the 6th of December, we had our Winter Party at St. Stephen's Church. After years of having planning exercises and quizzes woven into our Winter Party, this one was purely social, much to the relief of all who attended. The Ebony Steel Band entertained us with their talented playing and well-chosen holiday music. As always, we thank Reverend Jeremy Allcock for allowing us to have our event in St. Stephen's Church, and Roger Hulme for being our bartender, joined this year by John Iglehart and his spirited winter rum punch!



### Neighbourhood Walk

On the 22nd of April we had our Neighbourhood Walk led by Suzanne Forte and Richard Perkins. The purpose of this year's walk was to show people how and where our Neighbourhood Plan policies and projects will change our area. Attendance included residents and councillors and we received some helpful suggestions that were incorporated into our Plan draft. We thank all of you for taking an hour and a half out of your weekend activities to join us.

## Swap Day

On the 20th of May we had our spring Swap Day at the corner of Talbot Road and Sutherland Place. Sincere thanks to our neighbours at the corner of Talbot Road and Sutherland Place for allowing us to use their wall as part of our display space. Among the items swapped were a guitar, a bicycle, ship prints, lots of toys and books, a nearly new Patagonia vest and a beautiful aubergine velvet gown. Thanks to all of you who brought donations.

NHENF will be having our next Swap Day in October. Please be on the lookout in the autumn for our notices and signs.



## Little Big Lunch

On the 3rd of June we had our fourth annual Big Lunch, part of the Eden Project's UK-wide Big Lunch event. What a day we had! Perfect weather, a good turnout of adults, children, and dogs, delicious food, many introductions, floating bubbles, and some new public art left behind. Thanks to all of you who participated. We're so glad you joined us for this very pleasant gathering.



## The Environment - our rubbish

Have you ever wondered what happens to your rubbish after you put it in your bin? Well we did, and asked Westminster. Not only were our questions swiftly answered, but we were offered a tour of the waste plant in southeast London - the final destination of all of our rubbish. This is not to be confused with our recycling. We hope to visit the recycling plant in the future.

After our bin bags are picked up by the lorries, they are taken directly to SELCHP, (South East London Combined Heat and Power), a facility opened in 1994 and located in Deptford. The rubbish is emptied into a giant concrete bunker where a 5-ton (!) claw grabber picks up loads of waste and transfers it into the feed hopper of a combustion boiler. The waste is mechanically pushed from the end of the chute onto a combustion grate in the boiler, where it is dried before the actual combustion starts, burning at a minimum of 850°C. Dioxins are broken down by the process. Ammonia is added to neutralise nitrogen, the gas that results from all sorts of combustion and helps to create smog. This turns it into salts, which are then captured. Other acidic gases, created by burning any type of material, are exposed to activated carbon, which

attracts them, and they are then neutralised with liquid lime milk. A filter then captures these and the residue is ash, used by the construction industry, and metals that are recycled.

Impressively, the heat energy from this process turns water running in pipes alongside the boiler into steam, which drives a turbine to produce electricity. This electricity is transferred to the National Grid, which takes it into central London. The residual hot water provides low carbon heat for some of Southwark's estates, and because it is gas-free heat, it cuts down on CO2 emissions. In the entire history of this facility, SELCHP has never once breached EU emissions limits. And here's a fun fact for you - it would take 120 years of SELCHP waste processing to create the same dioxin quantity as a 15 minute firework display!

While all of this may seem like good news, this plant is at full capacity. They operate 24/7 and process up to 460,000 tons per year of our rubbish, but because railway lines surround this facility, expansion is impossible. That means any increase in rubbish will be a problem. This admonition, "There is no such thing as throwing something away; it merely moves from one location to another", has never been more relevant, and we all need to think about how we can cut down on our contributions to the waste stream.



*Our rubbish and the "claw"*



*Looking into the inferno*

## The Environment - bags and recycling

Some of us have been buying biodegradable or compostable rubbish bags, thinking these wouldn't contribute to plastic in our landfills and oceans. It turns out that because our rubbish is incinerated, the more environmental choice is to use recycled rubbish bags. The biodegradable/compostable bags use virgin materials, so use of them further depletes our natural resources. And if they get mixed up with recycling, because they stretch, they get clogged in the machines. Westminster's clear recycling bags are recycled, but contamination with other kinds of plastic film interferes with this process. So, please use recycled plastic bags for your rubbish and Westminster's clear bags for your recycling - or go bag-less and take it directly to the recycling bins on our streets.

Westminster also provides reusable recycling bags, which can be picked up at the Mobile Recycling Centre at Warwick Avenue in Maida Vale on Saturdays from 10 am – 3 pm. You can pick them up at some libraries as well, but ask ahead. They are 30 cm x 27 cm x 46 cm high.

Residents can also apply to get the hard plastic recycling bins via this link:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/recycling-bags>.

Please put shredded paper in paper envelopes, or if a large quantity, in paper bags to keep it in a more consolidated form. Un-contained shredded paper flies off the conveyor belt at the materials recovery facility. While all that confetti in mid air might signal a party, it's probably a real nuisance.

Cardboard boxes with plastic tape can be recycled, but removing as much of the plastic tape as possible helps. Envelopes with plastic windows can also be recycled, but tissues and kitchen roll cannot, so those should be put in with your rubbish.

There is a bin on Moscow Road for plastic bags, and any supermarket or other plastic bags can be put in this bin for recycling. We hope to get one of these in our neighbourhood in the future.

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.

## 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](mailto:pcyparski33@gmail.com)

*Recommended by Sheila Keating*

*Plumber*

Alpine Plumbers LTC, Felix Marco 07957 294830  
Gas Safe

*At-Home Hair Cut, Colour and or Style*

Memet Senol, 07957-140067  
*Recommended by Suzanne Forte*

*Garden Builder and also Christmas Trees*

Hew Stevenson, Shoots and Leaves 0208 563 7733  
[www.shootsandleaves.co.uk](http://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](mailto:nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com)

## Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum Membership

I certify that I live, work, or have a relevant interest in the Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum area.

Signed:..... Print Name .....

Address..... tick if business owner or worker ( )

Email..... and/or Phone Number .....

Please fill this in as legibly as possible, and please give us your address or telephone number so we can contact you if we have any problems with your email.

**If you have any special skills that you would be willing to contribute to the group, please note them here:**

.....

**Membership is open to all in our area, and is free. This form can be filled in and left at 1 St. Stephen's Mews or you can email us the information. Donations are entirely voluntary and will help us to continue to do our work for the neighbourhood. Donation cheques (made payable to WNA) or cash may be posted to, or left, as noted above, with Cye Elliot at 1 St. Stephen's Mews, London, W2 5QZ, or brought to our AGM or other events.**

**Donations can also be transferred directly into our account: Sort Code 60-02-08, Account number 7861-4023. If you choose to do this online, please reference your surname, street number and street name, (very important) and please drop us an email to let us know you wish to be a member.**

[nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghilleastnf@gmail.com)