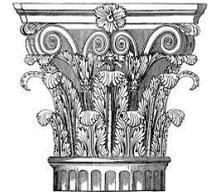


THE PEMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

...supporting the Pembridge Conservation Area, Kensington, since 1972
www.pembridgeassociation.london | Registered Charity No 267406



June 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Pembridge Association,

Garden Party 2021

We hope that you are all well and able to enjoy the sunshine which has certainly raised our spirits. Assuming that restrictions continue to be lifted the Pembridge Association Committee is hoping that you will **“save the date” of the evening of Thursday 29th July** when we are looking forward to meeting you at our annual Association Garden Party. Invitations will be sent out to members shortly but do bring friends, neighbours, or family. It should be a great evening in the beautiful garden of Leinster Square and we would love to talk face to face with our members again and welcome any potential new members.



The PA has opposed the felling of this mature tree (on the left) on Pembridge Villas. Its fate has yet to be decided. STOP PRESS: The tree is t be pruned, and not felled!

Turquoise Island

The sharp eyed amongst you will have noticed that both the interior and exterior of the Turquoise Island lavatories in Westbourne Grove have recently been refurbished by the Council following our highlighting of their poor condition. This long overdue redecoration and installation of new facilities is the first of what we hope will be a string of further projects on this iconic site which was largely created through the vision and energy of the late John Scott working with Piers Gough CBE. Our next project will be to restore the marble drinking fountain which has been out of action during the pandemic and is now rather cracked and worse for wear.

Your Recollections

It has been a particular pleasure for us to to learn more about the Island, the drinking fountain and other achievements from the Association’s past from former PA Chairs, Vicky Butler and David Hales. We are aware that there is much more to share so if you have any memories, artefacts such as missing newsletters or photographs of the conservation area please do contact us at:
membership@pembridgeassociation.london

Local Walks

We know that many of you enjoyed the lively talk and reminiscences of local historian, archivist and founder of *West London Walks*, Caroline MacMillan at our 2019 AGM and some of you may know that she sends out a regular email listing the local walks that she will be leading that month. We will be circulating these emails to members but, if you would like to go onto Caroline’s circulation list, do send her an email at southwold7@tiscali.co.uk

Spring Clean

One of the less pleasant features of Notting Hill life which we know our members particularly dislike is the growing presence of graffiti, spray painted over walls, shop fronts, residences and bus stops. Your Association in conjunction with the Ladbroke Association and local residents from Portobello Road is currently working with RBKC officers and Councillors from Colville and Pembridge wards to come up with a plan to Spring clean some of the worse hit areas. In the first instance we encourage you to report it to RBKC Streetline either by calling : 0207727784 or online: [Report a problem | Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea \(rbkc.gov.uk\)](#) and then clicking on “*waste and street environment*” which leads to a form where graffiti can be reported. You may also want to raise the issue with your Ward Councillors. Please do let us know the results or if we can further assist you. We are currently experimenting with a range of invisible anti-graffiti paints which mean that graffiti can then easily be removed with water and we will let you know how successful this trial is.

Campaigning

Your Association has been especially busy in recent months with planning issues relating to new licensed premises. We have successfully represented the interests of residents in the Inspectorate (Appeal) case brought by *Chuc's* restaurant in Westbourne Grove for night-time use of their rear outdoor courtyard. We have, and continue to, oppose a recent flood of extensions of late licenses and what we have considered to be excessive outdoor seating applications in various Portobello and Westbourne Grove establishments where we believe they will cause noise and nuisance issues. We have also continued in association with other nearby Residents Associations to oppose a number of applications relating to the new Ruby Hotel (the old Marks & Spencer site in 146 – 164 Notting Hill Gate). The latest of which proposes large and garish illuminated signage on several frontages including at high level which we feel will further downgrade this stretch of our local high street.

Listed Buildings

On the residential front we continue to take a keen interest in our Conservation Area's many beautiful heritage buildings, led by Andrew Pilkington RIBA. It is of particular concern that the interior features of Listed buildings are often not subject to the same care as their more obvious external appearance. We have consistently intervened in applications particularly in Pembridge Square where we feel that either authentic features should be reinstated, or historic features should not be removed. Those of you who attended our on-line AGM held in February may recall Andrew's presentation highlighting the effect on the streetscape of houses which have lost decorative structures including original chimney pots, railing and gates breaking the harmony of terraces where these features were once uniform. We are currently awaiting a decision from RBKC regarding enforcement action against an owner who has removed a number of heritage features and used inauthentic or inappropriate replacements.

As ever we hope that you will continue to let us know of any planning, licensing, or transport/highway issues in the Conservation Area or nearby which affect you. Thank you for supporting our work through your membership and we look forward to seeing everyone soon.

With best wishes,

Executive Committee Pembridge Association