



KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



Hugo Burnand

Dear Member,

Some things are never quite the same!

Coronations come in all shapes and sizes. The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6 May 2023 was planned meticulously over many years. That was not the case for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661 because the exiled King only arrived from France in May 1660 and planning could only start upon his arrival. The timetable was shortened further because the coronation date of 23 April 1661 was not confirmed until January leaving those involved little time to prepare pageantry fit for such a glorious occasion or organise their own regalia and lodgings – as Samuel Pepys observed in his diary for February that year.

No less glorious was the pageantry that unfolded in Westminster Abbey and The Mall in May this year. This time around there was no need to

create new crown jewels for Charles III as those made by Sir Robert Viner to replace items from the Royal Collection melted down during the Civil War in 1649, had survived the passage of time, notably the St Edward's Crown, Orb and Sceptre. Other parallels link the two coronations. As Pepys records, the extent and magnificence of preparations caused areas of the City to be cordoned off to protect ceremonial routes. This mirrored road closures in May that brought central London to a standstill and encouraged many of us to watch the spectacle from home while enjoying expert commentary on matters, historical, theological, regimental and procedural that were not available to citizenry of 17th century London.

The Knightsbridge Association has enjoyed several successes since I last wrote to you. The scaffolding enveloping Princes Court, the residential block opposite Harrods, has

been removed. It became clear around 2020 that scaffolding was being retained to support an advertising billboard and that little or no work was happening on the building itself.

It has taken four years and countless letters to TfL and the Council to make the case for removal, but it was not until the value of the monthly advertising revenue accruing to the freeholder became evident that steps were taken to dismantle the structure. Strenuous efforts by the Knightsbridge Partnership in co-operation with Councillors and Officers at Westminster City Council eventually ensured the removal of this eyesore. Another scaffolding site in Brompton Road will need to be dealt with when its current licence expires in December.

The KA supported residents objecting to the licensing application at 70 Brompton Road and, with support from Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau, the Licence was approved with additional conditions to protect residential amenity (see page 6).



Nammos site in Montpelier Street

Regarding Nammos, we have heard nothing further on proposed changes to their existing restaurant licence following KA's successful objections to two minor variations reported in the Spring newsletter. We await further developments. One negative outcome was our failure, along with many other objectors, to secure the partial reopening of South Carriage Drive and the closure of the Park Lane cycleway (see page 7–8).

It has been brought to our attention that estate agents in the area have an unusually high number of properties for sale in the Montpeliers and Trevors than one might expect normally at this time of year. I counted ten in one estate agent window alone. Speaking to Nicolas Van Patrick, it appears there are many factors at work including rising mortgage interest rates, concerns about a possible change of government at the next General Election, and a latent "Nammos factor". It is difficult to disentangle each issue, but the overall effect contributes to a

general market movement. We plan to include a residential market overview in the Annual Report due in December.

It is pleasing to see the Knightsbridge Partnership getting into its stride. On the 30 June, Felicity Buchan MP visited Knightsbridge at the invitation of the Partnership to explore business opportunities and challenges facing Knightsbridge. VAT-free shopping for overseas visitors and the status of the International Centre were high on the agenda followed by employment and workforce challenges imposed by Brexit, cross-border working with WCC on cleansing and commercial waste collection, and encroachment of the West End's night-time economy into Knightsbridge.

As an Observer on the Partnership Board, the visit provided an excellent opportunity to convey, in-person, our concerns about the impact of more and larger restaurants on residential amenity in Knightsbridge. We also referred to the fact that the Licensing Objectives do not require any scrutiny of the provenance of a restaurant operator or the source of their funding. We must avoid Knightsbridge becoming a "stress area" - as befell the West End - before Licensing and Planning Authorities are compelled to act.

A first meeting of the Partnership's Community Group was held on 16 May hosted by the Pavilion Club and chaired by your chairman. The purpose of the Group is to spread a wider appreciation of the Knightsbridge Partnership's support for the "wider community" including residents, schools, churches, and other key stakeholders. The next meeting will be held in the church hall of St Paul's Knightsbridge, 77 Kinnerton Street at 5.30 on Tuesday 7 November courtesy of The Rev. Canon Alan Gyle. We hope the next meeting will attract greater turnout as the Group's work becomes more widely appreciated.

The opening of the Serpentine Pavilion designed by Lina Ghotmeh is attracting architectural cognoscenti and coffee drinkers alike. The commission is given to emerging architects to create their first completed structure in England. This year's open, airy structure contrasts with Theaster Gates's black turret of 2022 - although good coffee is common to both! The pavilion offers a restful interlude for the long-distance dog walker; and we commend the design selection team for this year's choice.

The "greening" of Sloane Street continues to cause disruption to traffic flows and residents alike and will continue to do so until October 2024 (see page 8). For those most affected by the works, there may be some solace in considering the disruption

that must have been caused to residents living around Sloane Square during the cut-and-cover construction of the District Line circa 1872....

In our Spring newsletter we reported the mixed reactions we had received to the roll-out of food waste collection bins by Westminster Council. Shortly before this newsletter went to Press, we circulated a questionnaire to KA members to capture opinions from those living in a range of different types of accommodation, including freehold houses, multi-tenanted town houses and apartment blocks. We are now collating and interpreting responses and will publish results in the annual report in December. Thank you to those who have already responded. For those who may have missed the original survey email, the simple six-point questionnaire can be found on page 16.

It is with great sadness that I record the deaths of three prominent members of our community: The Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville on 13 May 2023, MP for the Cities of London and Westminster from 1977 to 2001 (see obituary below); The Earl Cadogan, (right) also known as Viscount Chelsea on 11 June 2023; and Phyllis Lusher, our Treasurer prior to Olivia Cox taking on the role some ten years ago. Phyllis's Obituary will appear in the Knightsbridge Association's annual report in December.



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We are grateful to the Cadogan Estate for their support for the work of the Knightsbridge Association and for their leadership in setting up

Business Improvement Districts in Knightsbridge and Kings Road. We are fortunate to have benefitted from the vision of Earl Cadogan and his family, one of the great London estate owners.

Peter Brooke delivered a speech to the Knightsbridge Association, reported in full in *Grapevine* newsletter of 14 February 1997. Commenting on redevelopments that took place in Knightsbridge from the mid-1950s onwards he counselled: -

"I shall make no forecasts of Knightsbridge in the next century.... I have simply sought to make the point that history repeats itself and that vigilance, as Knightsbridge displays, needs to be our watchword."

He concluded his remarks on a reflective note with a quotation from his great-grandfather's 1908 diary:

"The walk across the park was very pleasant. I love these late Autumnal evenings in Kensington Gardens when the faint blue mist lies low on the water and the birds cry in it like ghosts. A thin sickle of a moon hung over the church spire ruddy gold in the purple sky and an evening out of the long past seemed to flood into me and fill by being full. These slow, quiet decaying evenings - what a power they have. They belong to the spirit and move it like music."

I opened this newsletter by saying "some things are never quite the same". This is certainly the case with the topography of Knightsbridge since that diary entry was written 115 years ago. Go to the parks on a sunlit evening, however, and you will find that nature still provides moments of quiet reflection that remain immutable.

Melville Haggard

Chairman

OBITUARY



John Stillwell / PA Images

The Rt Hon. the Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville CH, PC

Peter Brooke was the distinguished and popular MP for the Cities of London & Westminster from 1977 to 2001, when

left Parliament and was elevated to the peerage. He died in May aged 89. During his long parliamentary career he held several cabinet

posts, including Northern Ireland Secretary, where he was responsible for inaugurating the province's peace process.

As Secretary of State for National Heritage, he oversaw the restoration of Windsor Castle, following the fire in 1992, and the founding of the National Lottery. He also oversaw the campaign to repair and restore the Albert Memorial.

As our local MP he was always courteous and helpful. In 1993 he gave a charming and erudite talk to members at our AGM.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Carol Seymour-Newton

BROMPTON ROAD

There has been plenty of activity in and around Brompton Road so far during the year. A further flagship store, for Ugg, is opening on the Knightsbridge Estate, following Burberry and Apple. Hooper's Alley has re-opened – the stepfree access to Knightsbridge Tube, located there, will open in the new year. The majority of the new office space at One Hooper's Court has been let and the apartments, Knightsbridge Gardens, are now on the market.



Hoopers Court

We understand the lease for the hideous sweet shop next to Holland and Barrett is due to run out in a couple of years.

The former Topshop building on the corner of Brompton Road and Lancelot Place is to become a luxury furniture shop with a restaurant for customers on the first floor. (See page 6)

Further down the road, in Princes Court – 88 Brompton Road – a gourmet Turkish café has applied to open up in place of two of the tatty foreign exchange shops which have recently closed.

At long last the scaffolding blighting the exterior of Princes Court since 2018 has been removed (see above and Chairman's Review). Meanwhile, attention focuses on the old Scotch House building, on the Brompton Road/Knightsbridge corner. Permission has been given for hotel use – without restaurant – for part ground and first floor of the former Burberry premises, with the rest of the ground floor and basement due to become a high class French café.



The old Scotch House building

Scaffolding was erected here some time ago and little or no work appears to be being carried out whilst the advertisement hoarding is no doubt providing a substantial amount of revenue to the owners. Space for pedestrians to pass by is extremely limited and could pose a security risk.



Princes Court scaffolding

The licence runs to 31st December 2023. The KA and WCC are keeping a watchful eye.

A novel application has been submitted for the first floor of Princes Court for use either as an “interactive museum” or as a flexible commercial, business or service premises.

Brompton Road falls under three authorities – TfL, RBKC and WCC – which makes getting anything done both complicated and time consuming. However, with the advent of the Knightsbridge Partnership, things are looking up. Security guards who have been employed to patrol the street have been instrumental in cutting down on street crime and shoplifting.

Rubbish collections have, to a great degree, been co-ordinated and the number of companies

involved, whittled down – and the street is noticeably cleaner and freer from rubbish. We are pressing jointly with the Partnership for action to be taken to paint and repair the rundown railings along the raised pavement areas on the north side of Brompton Road.

Off Brompton Road, in Lancelot Place, Nos. 15 and 1 Trevor Place have now been revealed and it is disappointing to see that the original proposal for vertical planting on the façades seems to have been dropped. Construction work on nos. 3–11 is well under way with late Spring 2024 being the date for completion.

Another disappointment is Barclays Bank's decision to close down their branch on the corner of Hans Road. How times change! Some years ago every other building in Brompton Road was a bank or building society.

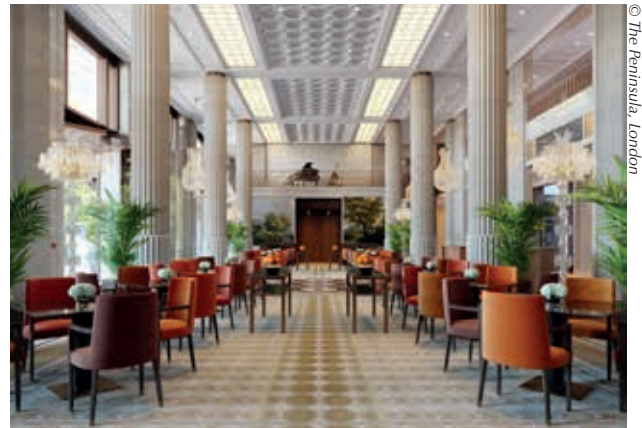
Now it's all cafés and restaurants.

NEW HOTELS

THE PENINSULA



The Peninsula Hotel, with spectacular views over Hyde Park and the Wellington Arch, will open in September to considerable fanfare. The main entrance, in the form of a courtyard in the style of a classic English garden is accessed off Grosvenor Crescent. A shopping colonnade either side of the Grosvenor Place entrance, which is guarded by two Chinese lions, leads straight into the triple-height Lobby featuring all day dining including the famous English tea. In addition to 131 rooms, 59 suites and 25 residences, the hotel features five restaurants, a spa and fitness centre and eight event spaces including a ballroom to accommodate 450 guests for seated dining and up to 1200 guests for cocktail receptions.



The Peninsula Hotel lobby

The KA has attended meetings of the Community Liaison Group since inception. A committee member was invited to join a preview and tour in August.

THE EMORY HOTEL

33–39 Knightsbridge

Construction and fitting out of the new hotel is almost complete and it is expected to open around the end of the year. Focus is now turning to the reinstatement of Old Barrack Yard.

The intention is to upgrade the road and pavements using high-quality new York Stone and Granite Setts, creating a much more pleasant environment for all those who use Old Barrack Yard. All hotel-servicing will be relocated to the basement, accessed off Wilton Place, reducing the amount of service traffic stopping in the Yard.

Whilst works will take approximately three months to complete, some changes have been necessary for those wishing to access the Yard. Access routes are signposted and workers are on hand to assist. The Emory, is part of the Maybourne Group, as is the adjoining Berkeley Hotel.

ROUND AND ABOUT

KNIGHTSBRIDGE GATE,

55–93 Knightsbridge and 1–4 William Street

Latest news is that nine of the 18 retail units are let with a further seven under offer and close to legal agreement. The committed tenants include Ares Modena, a luxury Italian coachbuilder, and a high-end wellness concept. Both will be opening later this year and together will occupy over 50% of the retail parade. The public realm work at

William Street is also nearing completion, with the road due to be open and fully operational at the end of August.

HARRODS' LIGHTING



Harrods is taking significant steps to reduce its direct emissions by 2030. As part of this commitment, Harrods is replacing its iconic external lighting on Brompton Road with new LED lighting that is approximately 80% more energy efficient. The new lighting system will honour the heritage festoon bulb lighting design, that was originally installed in 1959 and enhance the building's façade by highlighting its unique architectural elements

through layered lighting, in addition to providing opportunity for innovative lighting displays. The lighting designer Harrods has partnered with is the world famous L'Observatoire International which has experience of working on many iconic buildings worldwide. The project, which includes delicately cleaning the terracotta façade and general repair and maintenance works, is currently underway and is expected to be completed in December 2023.

THE BERKELELY HOTEL.



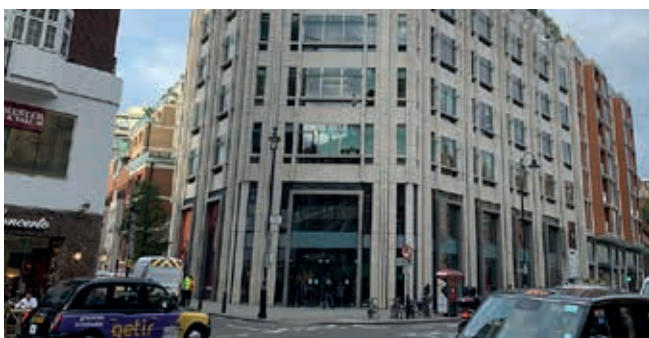
The hotel is opening its rooftop – usually reserved for staying guests – to all for the rest of the Summer with a brand new bar. Guests will be able sit by the pool enjoying a glass whilst taking in the evening views over Hyde Park.

LICENSING REPORT

Paul Meitner

As is often the case in the Summer the number of licensing applications has tailed off in recent months, although there is still plenty to report.

DOMIO, 70 BROMPTON ROAD (formerly Topshop)



We joined an online meeting with the applicant and local residents, at which the revised layout plan was presented, including the “ancillary restaurant” on the first floor, a major cause of

concern for residents in the apartments behind the building. We supported residents with their objections to Westminster City Council (WCC) and made our own representations. The application was heard and approved by WCC's Licensing Committee subject to numerous stringent conditions.

We believe this to be a satisfactory outcome, with proper engagement by the applicant with local residents (unlike some other developers) and a licensing committee that has listened to residents' concerns.

BOCCA LOUNGE and RESTAURANT, 3 Cromwell Road

A neighbouring Residents' Association (RA) alerted us to this application, which involved the extension of the terminal hour for late night refreshment from Midnight to 2.30 a.m. Although strictly speaking not in our area we supported the

strong objections lodged by concerned residents and RAs. The application was heard on 27 April and although the licence was renewed the additional hours sought by the applicant were not. Had the application been granted in full this would have set a very dangerous precedent and allowed other premises in RBKC to argue that they should be granted the same terms.

TREATS

7-11 South Kensington Arcade

This was another application where we provided support to neighbouring RAs concerned about noise and mess created by the patrons of this establishment. Following consultation with RBKC the applicant agreed to amended conditions relating to the cleaning of outside areas and the placing of notices asking patrons to leave quietly. Most of the objections were then withdrawn and the application was approved by RBKC.

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL (WCC) LICENSING POLICY

Several Westminster Residents Associations (RAs) – including the KA – joined a working party to review the existing licensing policy and look at

possible changes. So far we have met just once, via a hybrid in person / Zoom format. We will report back once there are substantive matters to report.

CONSULTATION ON THE POSSIBLE CONTINUED DEREGULATION OF ALCOHOL “OFF SALES” and TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES (“TENS”)

The Government has consulted with RAs and others concerning the above. Without further legislation the relaxations introduced in 2020 would have expired at the end of 2023, reverting to the original provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. This would mean that premises would be restricted to holding a maximum of 15 TENS, spread across a total of 21 days, each year (the current limit is 20 TENS, across 26 days). After consulting with Richard Brown at Westminster Citizen’s advice, we expressed our view that the temporary provisions should not be renewed at the end of this year. This will ensure that all licensing applications (other than those exempted as TENS) would be subject to a proper process of review and appraisal.

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Chris Barrass and Simon Birkett

PARK LANE

Transport for London (TfL) announced on 12 July 2023 that it had decided to make permanent the current arrangements in Park Lane. Subject to funding, they will look to make some technical improvements to the scheme e.g. around the configuration of bus stops. Details here: haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/park-lane.

The KA had objected to keeping the current arrangements and pushed for a compromise between TfL and the Royal Parks which would have created a high capacity Constitution Hill-like segregated cycling route along the Broad Walk in Hyde Park. This would have allowed the removal of the cycle lane from Park Lane while still filling an important gap in the London-wide cycling network. We had also pushed for the re-opening of South Carriage Drive at least five days a week.

TfL’s report and announcement explained that

“Park Lane is a strategic route for all types of traffic, including cyclists. TfL must use the limited road space to cater for all users both now and in the future, including general traffic and freight, buses, coaches, taxis and cyclists.” TfL went on to explain that it had seen up to 2,400 cycle trips a day on Park Lane and journey times for vehicles up to one-two minutes longer on a two-to-four minute journey.

TfL confirmed that there are *“frequent collisions or near misses”* between pedestrians and cyclists on the Broad Walk, supporting our view that better arrangements are needed there. However, they explained that: *“It is not appropriate for large numbers of cyclists and pedestrians to share Hyde Park; TfL cannot make changes to the Broad Walk to make it suitable to be shared; the problems on the Broad Walk will get worse if TfL does not act; Park Lane would be part of a growing cycle network; and Park Lane is a safe,*

visible route 24 hours a day". TfL went on to say that it "cannot insist that the Royal Parks segregate cyclists and pedestrians along the Broad Walk". It seems that the apparent "stand-off" between TfL and the Royal Parks remains.



Queen Elizabeth Gate

Looking ahead, the KA's priority will be to seek improvements to the junction with South Carriage Drive and the re-opening of South Carriage Drive at least five days a week. Some people have suggested the introduction of traffic lights at the Queen Elizabeth Gate but we are concerned that they could worsen tail-backs for traffic heading north from Hyde Park Corner.

PICCADILLY UNDERPASS VENTILATION FANS



Westminster City Council ("Westminster") is having to replace the ventilation fans inside the Piccadilly Underpass which have reached the end of their service life. During these (emergency) works only one lane of the underpass will be open to traffic in one direction at a time and both lanes will be closed on some weekends. Works began on 10 July and are expected to continue until mid-December 2023. Westminster is warning that the works and timetable are subject to change, if they encounter unforeseen difficulties, and may not be completed until 2024. The Council has a webpage

with updates on the direction of lane closures and expected weekend working. Please see: www.westminster.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads-and-highways/piccadilly-underpass-ventilation-works.

SLOANE STREET FUTURE



The major improvement works to Sloane Street have continued through 2023. These have included: raising pedestrian crossings; widening and improving pavements; new street lighting, a raised road table at Cadogan Gate to discourage noisy, fast-moving vehicles; and street furniture such as planters and cycle racks. There is much more work to do.

The switchover from the closure of Sloane Street northbound to southbound was deferred from the end of August to November 2023. This may have been, perhaps in significant part, due to the KA expressing concern that this change should not happen while safety improvements are being undertaken to the Piccadilly Underpass. In essence, our concern is that reducing the number of exits eastbound from Scotch House Corner from three to one seems likely to cause more congestion in the main roads and rat-running through local streets, not least during the busy Christmas shopping and Winter Wonderland periods.

We have received many assurances about the two separate projects. For example, that Westminster and RBKC actively participate in ongoing road network co-ordination meetings, utility companies are aware of the works, an update of any traffic notification signs/boards and the lane switch will be given at a September meeting with residents (see below), and that bus route diversions will be advertised on the Sloane Street Future and TfL websites once finalised. The last of

these is unlikely to be available in September. RBKC has reiterated that traffic management plans including re-routing are thoroughly investigated before changes are made and that they will look at problems and situations as they arise and act accordingly.

For details about the Sloane Street Future (“SSF”) project, including the timing of works and changes to bus routes, please sign up to their newsletter at www.sloanestreetfuture.co.uk/. Please also attend their next residents meeting at 6-7.30pm on Monday 25 September online or in Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ. You must register online via their website or let them know by emailing them at sloane.street@fmconway.co.uk. A further meeting will take place in January 2024.

We have asked for the SSF project’s letter drop area to be extended to include the KA’s catchment area but this has been “deemed unnecessary” by the SSF project team on the basis that people could receive information from the KA and via the Sloane Street Future website (and newsletter). The KA suggests therefore that members sign up for the SSF newsletter, check the SSF website, share useful information with neighbours and always email the SSF team on sloane.street@fmconway.co.uk with any questions, concerns or suggestions including about the collateral impacts of the scheme. Please attend the SSF residents’ meeting in September, online or in person, if you care about traffic issues.

Looking further ahead, the KA is seeking clarification on the final design proposals for the junctions between Sloane Street and Scotch House Corner and Sloane Square as these may determine congestion and overall journey times in Sloane Street.

KENSINGTON HIGH STREET CYCLE SCHEME

RBKC announced on 20 July 2023 that they have decided to introduce new advisory cycle lanes on the eastern and western sides of Kensington High Street. These involve painted dashed white lines without any physical infrastructure. RBKC proposes to expand the width of the cycle lanes to two metres wherever possible (given that the Highway Code requires vehicles to leave at least 1.5m when overtaking cyclists) and amend the design slightly to reduce the potential impact on traffic. We await details and timing.

CLEANING UP



Westminster Council announced in July that it had invested £20m in 45 new electric refuse vehicles. These vehicles produce zero exhaust emissions and should significantly reduce noise, cutting air pollution and reducing the borough’s carbon emissions. This exciting new fleet – the largest in the UK – will be rolled out in coming weeks. They will be powered directly by energy generated from the waste they collect.

The Knightsbridge Partnership BID (Business Improvement District) and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) also made progress in July with the official launch of a new cleansing team dedicated to Brompton Road and the business part of Knightsbridge. They are delivering a proactive deep cleansing programme to improve standards on the RBKC and Westminster sides of the business area.



RBKC’s six wardens blitzed Brompton Road in July – which, although a TfL Road, they decided they could not wait for TfL to take action!

LAW AND ORDER REPORT

Anne Wright and Frances Blois

THEFTS FROM and OF LUXURY CARS



Our Ward Police continue to report throughout our meetings of the increase in thefts from vehicles – thieves need less than a minute to smash a window and snatch a tempting article from the back seat or mobile phone off the dashboard. Parking in a dimly lit place only assists these “smash and grab” thieves, but as ever the warning is to keep your car locked and nothing of any value left obviously visible.

Worryingly there is also reported an increase in thefts of high value vehicles which are also a target for thieves in our neighbourhood. These luxury vehicles can be whisked away in very short time using new sophisticated technology to access, start and take away cars.

There are a number of videos on the web which clearly demonstrate how to do this by one perpetrator holding a transmitter and standing next to the property identified as belonging to the owner of the vehicle holding an amplifier. The amplifier is used to boost the signal from the key – often left in the property’s hallway – and send it to the transmitter held by the other partner in crime. This signal essentially becomes a ghost key and tricks the car into thinking the real key is nearby.

Other methods used involve the reprogramming of target vehicles software by use of a handheld device that connects to the car’s on-board diagnostic (OBD) port which is the entry point

to the system. This provides the information required to generate a copy of the original key fob and thereafter cloned onto a blank fob by the hacker.

Our Police have been taking these thefts much more seriously in the past few years as these criminal acts, although not as intrusive as a home burglary perhaps, obviously feed into a much wider network of criminality, such as county line drug dealing and the illegal sale of weapons. Cars stolen are often taken across the Channel – in whole or in parts - before their owners realise, they are missing. Criminal gangs switch number plates which mean the police are not able to follow the missing vehicles on automatic number plate recognition systems.

Prevention therefore is crucial, and our Team Police are urging owners to use signal blocker pouches when storing their keys inside their homes and make sure car trackers are activated – and use a steering wheel lock.

STOP OIL DEMONSTRATIONS

The right to demonstrate and engage in peaceful protest have been tested over the last months by the disruption caused by a small minority of protesters who have highlighted that more needed to be done to protect the public and businesses from what have become unacceptable actions.

The “Public Order Act 1986 (Serious Disruption to the Life of the Community) Regulations 2023” was approved in Parliament in May this year. The revised regulations bolster Police powers to respond more effectively to harmful protests that cause or risk causing serious disruption to the life of the community, and which have a disproportionate impact on the majority seeking to go about their everyday lives, cost millions in taxpayers money and put lives at risk. Incidences of halting public transport networks, disrupting fuel supplies and preventing hundreds of people getting to their workplaces, schools and hospitals have been all too present in our City and in our local community.

The new measures introduced (amongst other things):

- Locking on as a criminal offence involving fines and or imprisonment
- Going equipped to lock on – ditto
- Interference with key national infrastructure – ditto
- Giving powers to London Police to attach conditions to an upcoming protest or prohibit an assembly causing a trespass.

The revised regulations which criminalise the protest tactics improve the police's ability to manage such protests and take a proactive approach to prevent such disruption happening in the first place.

ARE e-BIKES AND e-SCOOTERS LEGAL?



It is legal to ride an electric bike if you are 14 or over provided it meets certain requirements. These electric bikes are known as “electrically assisted pedal cycles” (EAPCs) and there is no need to hold a licence to ride one, neither does it need to be registered, taxed or insured. The criteria of what is an EAPC is, amongst other things, that it must come with a pedal assisted motor and have a maximum power output of 250 watts and should not be able to propel the bike more than 15.5 mph – at which speed the electrical assistance must cut off! Any electric bike that does not meet the EAPC rules is classed as a motorcycle or moped and needs to be registered and taxed and one would need a driving licence to ride one – and wear a crash helmet!

An e-scooter is different and the law treats the e-scooter – at for least now – as a powered vehicle (technically a Personal Light Electric Vehicle) and therefore, unlike the e-bike, it is classed as a motor vehicle under the road traffic legislation.

Because e-scooters do not generally comply with traffic laws – they do not have rear lights or registration plates – it is not legal to use a privately

owned scooter on a UK road. If caught riding an e-scooter a fine including a fixed penalty notice will follow.

The annual casualties in a report from Transport for London show that serious injuries caused by “other vehicles” such e-scooters are on the rise – up to 56 last year from 10 the previous year.

The government has since the Spring of 2020 consulted on legalising e-scooters and they indicated in the call for evidence that they were looking at regulating e-scooters so that they are treated in the same manner as e-bikes which as detailed above is a low regulatory speed limit bar.

The rental of both e-bikes and e-scooters has however been permitted on an extended trial by both Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster although in the case of e-scooters the same could only be used on a road or cycle lane – and not a pavement.

This is an area of law and regulation which will be watched with interest and by our Councillors given the obvious dumping of rental bikes in the middle of pavements, and dangerous use giving rise to obstructions to other road users and pedestrians. Our Police lack current enforcement ability in terms of manpower and regulation to deal with what could become a serious concern if the designation of e-scooters changes to that of e-bikes and both are not used responsibly.

ILLEGAL PARKING AND TRADING



This ice cream van parked on Brompton Road, a Red Route, pushes traffic into a single lane and seems to be immune from enforcement action. The double red lines are clearly visible

but it can be seen trading there very happily, every afternoon and evening, apparently invisible to the Police and any other authorities.

Unlike double yellow lines, there are virtually no exceptions to red route parking on double red lines. No stopping, waiting, loading or picking up or setting down of passengers is permitted on red route double red lines which account for a number of our main roads in Knightsbridge.

Licensed taxis are permitted to drop off and pick up passengers on red route double red lines and disabled blue badge holders are permitted to pick up and set down disabled passengers on red route double red lines.

But otherwise it is no stopping at any time!

WARD PANEL, STATISTICS and OTHER NEWS

The Knightsbridge and Belgravia Ward Panel had their quarterly meeting at the beginning of July; it is held in the Caledonian Club and has representatives from throughout the area. This is an ideal opportunity to understand what the local issues are and for the Westminster Police team to meet the residents and businesses. One of the main criticisms is that we never see a Police patrol.

Most of the Statistics remain unchanged, although the importance of reporting an

incident is vital. The theft from cars sometimes belonging to non-residents on shopping trips or visiting the Albert Hall often go unreported.

The acoustic cameras in Exhibition Road have assisted the Police with preventing the noisy late-night car meets which have blighted residents lives for many years.

On August 15th the Met Police are holding a community conversation event in Paddington to discuss *A New Met for London*. Details of this report can be found on the Police website.

Anne Wright is working with the Brompton and Hans Town Police team. We also receive reports from the Knightsbridge Partnership and minutes from the Safer Parks meetings.

Scams and Cybercrime continue to be issues which are not obvious on the street. Which Scam Alerts gives useful up to date information – fraudsters are always looking for unsuspecting victims who let their guard down long enough to be exploited.

Pedicab legislation continues to be on the Agenda so hopefully there will be news before the AGM.

The local priorities remain unchanged, although we all need to remain vigilant when away from home, particularly with mobile phone and watch thefts.

In an emergency always ring 999.

LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE and BELGRAVIA WARD
(under Belgravia on the police websites)

Email: knightsbridge.belgravia.SNT@met.police.uk
Tel: 020 7321 9292
Mobile: 07769 164 785 (not 24 hrs)

RBKC RESIDENTS

BROMPTON and HANS TOWN CLUSTER
(under Knightsbridge on the police websites)

Email: Brompton.SNT@met.police.uk
Tel: 020 8246 9247
Mobile: 07825 966 793

Other useful links to note are:

Police websites www.met.police.uk and www.police.uk

Action Fraud www.actionfraud.police.uk

Call 101 if you require non-emergency police assistance.

Contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you wish to supply anonymous information.

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

HYDE PARK

THE NEW SHOP



A first for Hyde Park, a shop opened in July at the newly renovated boat house on the north side of the Serpentine Lake. All profits will be reinvested back into caring for the parks, including through conservation to support the parks' wildlife, restoration projects, learning and volunteering activities. At present products are not available online, but there are plans for online retail in 2024.

EVENTS

BST SUMMER CONCERTS



Sponsored by American Express, the summer extravaganza returned to Hyde Park in June entertaining sell-out crowds over three weekends. An array of famous acts included

global pop icon PINK, Guns n'Roses, Billy Joel and Springsteen & the E Street Band. In between the weekend performances, BST's midweek programme offered free entry and a range of free weekday activities and entertainment including live music and cabaret shows, Wimbledon screenings, outdoor cinema and the Royal Parks nature and heritage workshops.

WINTER WONDERLAND



Opening on Friday 17th November 2023, Hyde Park Winter Wonderland will be back for the 15th year, with lots of new features and attractions including the UK's largest outdoor Ice Rink, an exciting new Magical Ice Kingdom, Zippos Christmas Circus and Cirque Berserk shows and the Giant Wheel.

New for 2023, the Santaland Unlimited Pass offers unrestricted access to over 15 family rides in the Santaland area.

Introducing a new Scandinavian themed Market Square, the Christmas Market will be complete with brightly coloured Danish-style chalets, artisanal crafts and "hygge" bars.

For further information:
Hydeparkwinterwonderland.com
Tickets are now available to book online.
Any questions/comments/complaints
tel: 0300 061 2222

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

URBAN NATURE PROJECT



The Trustees of The Natural History Museum, London

Sir David Attenborough and Doug Gurr, Director of the Museum

Sir David visited the Natural History Museum to unveil a poignant quote as part of their Urban Nature Project. The redevelopment, which is turning the Museum's five-acre gardens into a biodiverse green space, is part of a national project to help nature thrive in our towns and cities.

In bronze lettering, Sir David's compelling words from COP24, "The future of the natural world, on which we all depend, is in our hands" now adorn the east carriage ramp to the Museum's main entrance.

The gardens will open to the public in Spring 2024 and the Museum staff cannot wait to welcome you to South Kensington's transformed gardens.

TWO CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

POLAR SILK ROAD

Melting Arctic sea ice is opening a channel known as "The Polar Silk Road". This exhibition featuring Gregor Sailer's photography, documents our complex relationship with the environment and the wide-reaching impacts of climate change.

Runs to 24 November 2023. Free entry.

TITANOSAUR – LIFE AS THE BIGGEST DINOSAUR



The Trustees of The Natural History Museum, London

On display for the first time ever in Europe, meet one of the largest creatures to have ever walked the Earth. Step into the larger-than-life world of the colossal *Patagotitan mayorum* in our fun, interactive exhibition for all the family. Walk beneath this towering titanosaur, touch a cast of its skull and see how you measure up to this extraordinary sauropod.

Runs to 14 January 2024.

GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL 2023



© Brendan Foster

Inaugurated in 2019, the Festival is an annual coming together of Imperial College London and sixteen cultural institutions of South Kensington, when they throw their doors open and transform the outdoor spaces around Exhibition Road.

Around 55,000 visitors of all ages crowded into Exhibition Road over a weekend in June to share in the myriad of activities across science, art, music and design.

Researchers and academics engaged with visitors on topics like climate action, food sustainability and medical innovations, hearing their thoughts and questions.

From the cutting-edge scientific breakthroughs of today, predictions and hopes for the future, and untold stories of the past, this year's festival had something for everyone.

LONDON OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND



© Diana Jarvis

A record 117 private gardens and garden squares opened their gates to the public for a weekend in June. This included two balloted tours of 10 Downing Street. Other highlights included Lincoln's Inn Gardens; Montague Street Gardens in Bloomsbury and Nomura International PLC. More locally, Ennismore Gardens, Lower Garden Rutland Gate, Cadogan Place north and south and Thurloe Square all participated.

The Nomura garden offers spectacular unobstructed views of the River Thames and the City of London.

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023/24

Our 62nd AGM will take place on Monday 15th January and we are delighted that the management of the Mandarin Oriental have kindly agreed once again for it to be held in their magnificent ballroom.



FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SURVEY

WCC KA MEMBERS ONLY

We are extending the time limit on our Food Waste Collection survey until **30 September 2023**, and will cover the results in the Annual Report in December. For those who may have missed the original survey email, here it is again. Please email your comments to info@knightsbridgeassociation.com

- ❖ Are you using the service?
- ❖ Are you located in
 - (i) a flat
 - (ii) a flat in a mansion block or
 - (iii) a house?
- ❖ Are food waste bins the right size?
- ❖ Do you use both the small “caddy” and the larger food waste collection bin, or just one of them?
- ❖ Is the supply of plastic food bags adequate?
- ❖ Does getting wet food waste out of general waste help you and, if so, how?
- ❖ Suggestions for improving the service.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Noise: WCC **020 7641 2000**
RBKC **020 7361 3002**
The Parks: **0300 061 2222**

USEFUL CONTACTS

WCC Knightsbridge/Belgravia
Ward Councillors

Cllr. Tony Devenish tony.devenish@london.gov.uk
(Tony is also our GLATfL member)

Cllr. Rachael Robathan rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk

Cllr. Elizabeth Hitchcock ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk

REPORT A FAULT

To report faults re lighting, pavements, potholes, blocked gulleys etc. go to:
www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it
www.rbkc.gov.uk/report-it

RBKC Brompton and Hans Town
Ward Councillors

Cllr. Mary Weale Cllr.mary.weale@rbkc.gov.uk

Cllr. Walaa Idris Cllr.walaa.idris@rbkc.gov.uk

Cllr. Sof McVeigh Cllr.sof.mcveigh@rbkc.gov.uk

All information correct at the time of going to press. Please check websites