

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Dear Member,

For Londoners the 24 hours either side of midnight on July 6 2005 were, of course, extraordinary. Rarely in history can the exuberant optimism and anticipation of an entire city have changed so swiftly into despondency and fear. Moreover, while most events in life come and go, the consequences both of London's Olympic win and of the terrorist bombs will stay with us for years, even decades, to come. Both will impinge heavily on Londoners, particularly inner Londoners, and we may be sure that both will impinge heavily on the Knightsbridge neighbourhood, and on its residents.

However, as we are all agreed, life must continue as positively as possible, and in this respect you may be pleased to learn that we in the Knightsbridge Association – doing our small bit – have lined up some especially exciting social events for the next few months, several of them free to members. We firmly believe most people living within the neighbourhood want to feel part of a lively local community – which is not easy in a great metropolis.

Having said which, our principal role will continue to be, as it has always been, working on your behalf with local and other authorities on all the planning, traffic, cleansing, lighting, law & order and environmental issues that affect Knightsbridge.

Bowater House

Plans are being drawn up by the Richard Rogers Partnership for the redevelopment of Bowater House. While having some concerns, our Planning and Environment Committee has expressed cautious approval, as the plans evolve towards full consultation and the submission of a planning application. Though

modern, the proposals are not what might be considered typical of a Rogers design and the Committee believes they are a considerable improvement on the previous proposals

Normandie Hotel

Plans for the redevelopment of this site into a luxury hotel with penthouse flats have progressed further, and are now being considered by our P&E Committee.

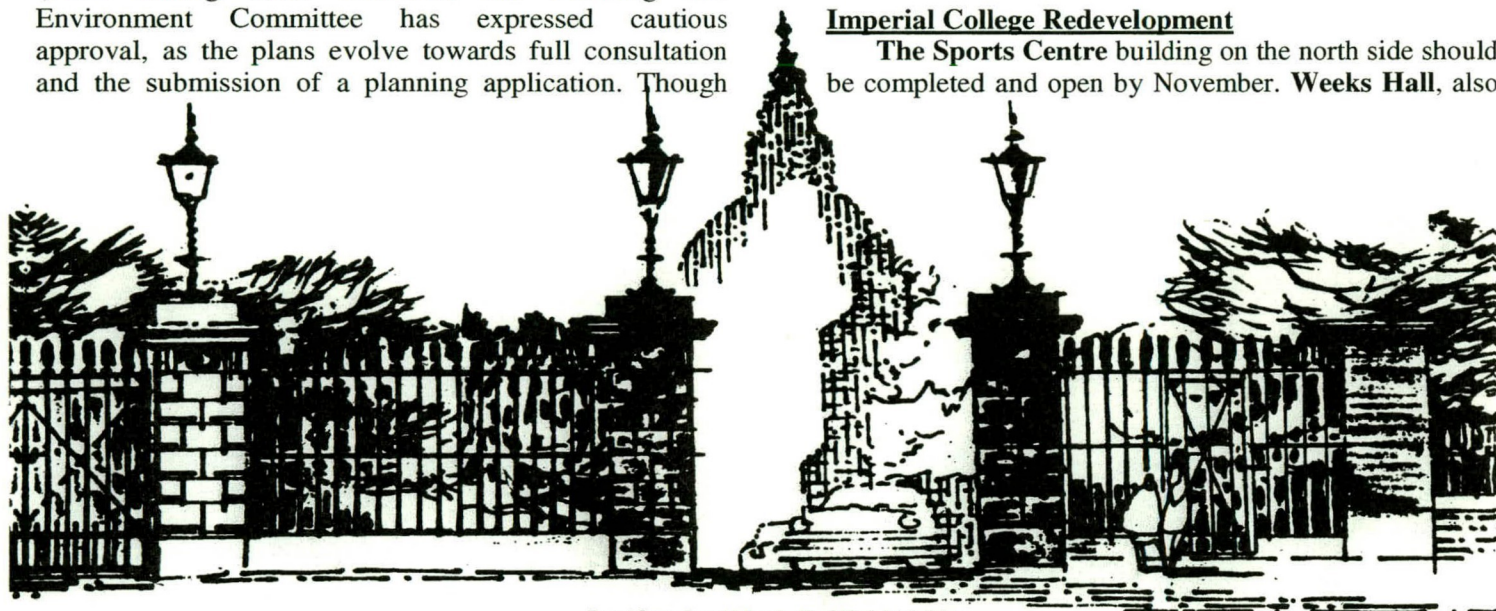
It is likely that both the Bowater House and the Normandie Hotel planning applications will have been submitted by early September, and that public exhibitions will be held in the last week in September. The KA will notify members of the details.

Exhibition Road Project

Following the success of the Olympic bid, it looks highly likely that funding, particularly Lottery funding, will be made available for this Project. Together with other local Amenity Societies, KA has expressed concern about some of the proposals and the method of consultation. We are worried that the promoters, led by Kensington & Chelsea, seem to be trying to bias the consultation methods in the Project's favour from the start. We want a proper public consultation with traffic and environmental assessments and fully worked up drawings, so we can come to reasoned conclusions on how the proposals might affect local residents. We are also pressing for an exhibition to be held locally over several days so that residents and others can reach an informed opinion, and comment to the relevant Council.

Imperial College Redevelopment

The Sports Centre building on the north side should be completed and open by November. **Weeks Hall**, also



President: Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge

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on the north side, is suffering from the same problem as Southside, with bits of masonry coming away from the facades. Scaffolding has been erected for safety reasons and to allow a thorough investigation and repairs to be carried out. **The Health Centre** has transferred, until completion of the new Southside building, to temporary accommodation on the tennis court site. Meanwhile **Southside** is shrouded in scaffolding and demolition should be completed by end- November. The first KA/Imperial College redevelopment meeting took place at the end of July, and these meetings will take place monthly from now on.

Hyde Park

The Live8 concert saw a vast area of the Park fenced off for a considerable period of time. Comments received by KA reveal that the noise was not as bad as at the Wireless Festival concerts. However such events continue to cause unacceptable problems of both noise and disruption.

Road Closures:

Sunday 4th September: *South, North and West Carriage Drives from 05.00 hrs. to approximately 14.00 hrs (At which time South Carriage Drive will only reopen between Alexandra and Prince of Wales gates).*

Tuesday 7th – Tuesday 14th September: *North Carriage, and Saturday 11th – Monday 13th September: South Carriage from 13.00hrs.*

Both the above for Proms in the Park. *Dates include normal Sunday closure of South Carriage).*

Sunday 18th September: Horseman's Sunday. *North Carriage Drive closed all day, plus normal Sunday road closure on South Carriage Drive.*

Saturday 24th September: Possible rally. *This may impact on North Carriage with possible closure.*

Sunday 16th October: Nike 10k Run: *All roads closed until 14.00hrs approx.*

Miscellany

* **South Kensington Station –**

Now the Station has been listed, inappropriate development will happily be more difficult. South Kensington is integral to the Exhibition Road Project and sensible traffic and pedestrian solutions will be crucial to the success of the scheme.

* **Congestion Charging Extension –**

KA wrote to TfL vigorously opposing the scheme as being pointless and unnecessary. Distribution of the consultation leaflet was patchy and we have drawn this to the attention of Angie Bray, our GLA member.

* **Montpelier/Trevor Square Barrier consultation –**

Distribution of the leaflet was again patchy. Consequently the consultation period had to be extended and the results have not yet been made public.

Social Events

20/21 British Art Fair at the Royal College of Art 15th – 18th September: The organisers are offering complimentary tickets to KA members. This Fair is considered the market leader for Modern British art, and

also has a good selection of contemporary art. It is supported by most leading UK dealers.

For free tickets, ring Gay Hutson on 020 8742 1611 or e-mail: organisers@artfairs.demon.co.uk

Evening at Bonhams Monday 17th October

Bonhams Knightsbridge have kindly invited KA members to an exclusive private view of their Vision 21 and Jewellery Sale on Monday 17th October 7 - 8.30pm. There will be a brief presentation on Vision 21 - Post-War and Contemporary Paintings, Sculpture, Works on Paper and Modern Design Furniture, Contemporary Ceramics, 20th Century Fashion and Jewellery. Specialist experts will be on hand for any questions you may have about collecting, buying at auction or insurance valuation. Wine and canapés will be served. The Sale catalogue will be sent to members with the invitation. Any member wishing to attend should RSVP to Phillipa.ashworth@bonhams.com or call Miss Ashworth on 020 7393 3811.

For security reasons, only those who RSVP will be admitted.

Evening at the V & A – 23rd November

In co-operation with the Victoria and Albert Museum, we are holding a private champagne evening at the V & A on Wednesday, 23rd November 2005. This will include an introduction to the National Art Library by the Senior Curator and the opportunity to view selected treasures not normally on view to the public. Full details together with application forms will be sent out nearer the time.

Again, for security reasons only those who RSVP will be admitted.

Royal Albert Hall Ticket Offers

The Royal Albert Hall has generously agreed to offer complimentary or discounted tickets to some of its events to KA members. Because many of these offers are 'last minute', they can only be handled by e-mail. So if you would like to receive these special last minute tickets, please send your email address to Carol Seymour-Newton at seymour@skymarket.org. Your e-mail address will remain with KA and will not be passed on to the Royal Albert Hall.

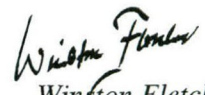
Annual General Meeting:

Monday 12th December, 6pm in the Concert Hall of the Royal College of Music.

Membership:

Please encourage your neighbours to join the Knightsbridge Association. Membership leaflets can be obtained from Carol Seymour-Newton.

I look forward to seeing you at some – or indeed all – of our forthcoming events.



Winston Fletcher

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