

# Highbury Fields Association

Founded  in 1971.

## Newsletter - 1999

### Chairman's Report

Writers of weekly columns in newspapers sometimes start an article, "Regular readers will know ...." when they are about to launch once more on a favourite hobby horse. Writers of annual columns cannot claim to *have* any regular readers so no one is likely to say at this point, "Here he goes again"

It's more a case of "Here *they* go again". Let me set the scene. An attractive open park. A rising, curving sweep of road, set on one side only with handsome pairs of villas. A large, long-empty gap, overgrown with trees and shrubs, spilling down the hill to the roads behind.

Enter the villain, black cloak, mustachios, the lot. Murphy's are at it again. Every three or four years they dust off the old plans of Robin's Garden, fiddle about with the detail and are truly astonished when all they achieve for their trouble is abuse.

What if the style is brutalist; over dense? Who needs trees? If the roads are already over-parked, who minds a sudden large increase? We mind. The residents in Melgund Road, in Ronalds Road, in Arvon Road ; they mind.

As ever, we are involved in a number of planning applications. The elders of the Providence Baptist Chapel, on the corner of Baalbec Road and Highbury Place, wish to demolish the building and replace it with a smaller chapel, meeting rooms and either small town houses or flats which they would sell to help to defray the cost. They have been advised that the structure is in a poor state and would cost a great deal to repair, which they cannot begin to afford.

Two earlier schemes were turned down. Surveyors from the Islington Building Preservation Trust, who were asked recently by the Conservation Officer to do an interior survey, dispute the high repair estimates. At a meeting with the HFA and the Chapel's representative, the IBPT tried to persuade him that a viable economic case could be made for converting the inside of the building, retaining the existing facade. They also reminded him that he is obliged to supply details to justify the need to demolish a building within a Conservation Area. The HFA are

sympathetic with the Chapel's difficulties in staying in the present building but feel they should comply with the planning regulations and the requirements of English Heritage.

The 'Highbury & Islington Express' commented in July 1998, "Great tube line, shame about the location. Highbury & Islington station, blighted by an over-crowded ticket office and ugly exterior, could be in line for a major facelift".

They were referring to the planning brief, in which the LBI indicated their wish to see a new station complex, fronting directly onto Highbury Corner, a variety of shops and perhaps a hotel and the demolition of the 'temporary' post office. The brief also would allow for a possible connection to the East London Line and the possible closure of Highbury Station Road.

Public consultation on the brief was delayed because Railtrack started to prepare a feasibility study for the site. In December 1998 Railtrack presented their ideas, including a large tower block on the corner, to Councillors. It was clear that the plans did not accord with the Unitary Development Plan and were not acceptable to the Councillors.

Since then Railtrack have been reassessing their options and it is thought new ideas may be presented before the summer. In due course the Highbury Corner Consultative Group, on which the HFA is well represented, will discuss the scheme and how best to organise public consultation.

One of the current planning concerns are the spate of houses being built as 'infill', in between houses, or in 'backlands', in the gardens behind houses. A recent example, of both forms in the same site, was the cause of a recent battle in Aberdeen Park. Although there was a minor victory because the density of development was reduced, residents fear copycat schemes in the large gardens there. Another similar 'backland' plan is now proposed for the lower part of Corsica Street.

The HFA committee have decided recently that one of the most important criteria when examining any planning application is that of density. Islington is already a crowded borough ; too little green space, over-capacity public transport etc. The Unitary Development Plan gives some protection as it lays down the normal maximum number of habitable rooms per hectare, but is presently being reviewed.

We very nearly lost another valuable protection against planning excess when the team of Conservation officers were to have been victims of the Council's Budget Cuts and were only saved after an extensive and energetic campaign by the HFA and other amenity groups.

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM at 7.30 pm on Monday, 24th May at Christchurch, and at our annual Tennis Tournament on Sunday, 27th June. The tennis courts will start soon on a rolling programme of resurfacing which will mean that all of them, in turn, will be out of use at some point during the summer. Courts 1 to 4, behind the tennis hut, will also be flood-lit, so we can go on playing on those dark spring and autumn evenings!



### Railings

There is more to railings than you might think : the design, the finials, the materials and setting them in hot lead ! Together with our neighbours, we recently re-instated railings and gates that were taken down in the war. With the invaluable workmanship of an artist in metal work, Tony Smith, and making use of an historic photograph we found of the originals, we have tried to make a small, and I hope agreeable, improvement to our part of Highbury Place, at the start of Church Path.

Robin Mabey

### Chamber Music for a Summer Evening

The Schubert Ensemble will be performing at Christchurch on Wednesday, 30th June at 7.30 pm.

### Controlled Parking Zones

A year ago a brave resident in Highbury Terrace stuck her head above the parapet. Her road, together with Ronalds Road, Framfield Road and the other streets that run down the hill to Holloway Road lie just outside the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) 'E'. Hence free parking for residents. She was finding, however, that the free parking extended way beyond friends and neighbours: commuters found those roads very useful for access to the Victoria Line; camper vans parked up for the winter; wrecks without Road Fund Licences found haven there. She did a survey but found that most of her neighbours felt, on balance, that they wanted the *status quo*, even with the problems of double-parking.

Twelve months later the situation has deteriorated. In November a new CPZ started the other side of Liverpool Road in Barnsbury. Commuters switched their attention to other parts of Barnsbury but also to the top of the Fields. The dire effect of that first new CPZ has led to a second and larger controlled area extending down to Caledonian Road which will start in June. Earlier in the year transport officials in the LBI thought it most unlikely that a new CPZ would be investigated for the area to the West of Highbury Terrace : other areas in the borough had a higher priority, although by 2001 the whole of Islington will be controlled.

With the furious cries of Barnsbury residents ringing in their ears, they now realise that a second CPZ there will rapidly spread the pressure in our direction and they have recently circulated leaflets about two new schemes : a so-called Holloway CPZ for our area and another for the Nag's Head.

Discussion with officials makes it clear that barring massive opposition these two schemes will go ahead albeit with possible minor detail changes. The Barnsbury consultation period is over. The opportunity to comment on the two new schemes is limited by the distribution of the leaflets only to households in the immediately affected areas. However there's an exhibition of the schemes in the foyer of the Central Library in Fieldway Crescent from the 13th to the 30th April, which is also the last date for returning questionnaires.

To receive a copy of the leaflet, you can contact:  
The Project Centre Ltd.  
tel. 0171 841 3793 fax. 0171 278 9401

There are some interesting innovations proposed. Residents would be able to purchase a limited number of one-use vouchers to pass on to their visitors; there would be pay and display machines or parking meters for up to two hours visitor parking ; some parking bays would allow either resident permit holders or pay and display motorists. All will depend, however, on the detail. How many parking bays will be allowed? Will there be sufficient space for all those who wish to park? What will be the effect on neighbouring streets outside the new CPZs? What will be the next domino to fall? Do take the time to examine the proposals.

**Do make the effort to return the questionnaire**

## Sadler's Wells

Since our last Newsletter, the new Sadler's Wells theatre has opened after a two-year closure for total re-building. We welcome back one of our major local assets.

This is the sixth theatre since 1683 built on this site; the last one was opened by Lilian Baylis in 1931. We are told that the new theatre has an enlarged and flexible performance space, and that it is equipped with the latest technological advances.

The new foyer and open staircase are infinitely more spacious and airy. The new auditorium, dark grey throughout, is discreetly elegant; the seats compact but comfortable, the sightlines good, and the considerable rake in the stalls a great improvement.

The pierced metal panels framing the stage can be tilted and lit or, indeed, used as screens to display images that can extend the total stage picture. And what beautiful new curtains, rich and shimmering, whose colour can change from production to production - no tired old red velvet here, nor gaudy gilt !

Work is still going on; teething problems have to be sorted out. But whatever minor reservations one has, it is a delightful modern theatre and, despite all fears, it opened on time ! Above all, it is on our doorstep !

The honour of opening it went to the Rambert Dance Company, to be closely followed by the Royal Ballet with a three-week season at what had been its birthplace : the two founding companies of English ballet rightly sharing this celebration.

In the months that have followed we have been delighted by a wide range of national and international dance and lyric theatre including the Royal Opera, the Ballett Frankfurt, the Pina Bausch company, the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Pacific Northwest Ballet from Seattle.

Soon we are to see a new production by Welsh National Opera of 'Peter Grimes', Benjamin Britten's great first opera, which had its premiere in the old Sadler's Wells in 1945. And there is more, much more, to come.

We shall go singing and dancing into the streets. Because this, surely, is the whole point : in our borough we have a new theatre, a theatre that will continue the great tradition of Lilian Baylis to provide quality performances at affordable prices that will enrich our lives with delight and inspire us to face the world with energy and laughter.

Paul Williams

## Towards a Green Space Strategy

### *The Management and Development of Open Spaces in Islington*

In November 1998 Paula Clayton-Smith, Acting Head of Environment and Leisure and Bob Gilbert, Environment Services Manager, produced a report on the above subject. They identified a number of what they felt were inadequacies in the current methods of Open Space management, particularly in the approach to contracting. There are 88 hectares of parks and open spaces in the borough, of which Highbury Fields is the largest with 11.7 hectares.

The department manages 520 sites of which 395 are open spaces on housing estates or small sites including highway verges, planter boxes and gardens in residential homes and day centres. There are a total of 200 children's playgrounds.

Some of the problems which the department identifies and which particularly affect Highbury Fields are :

- a) contracts encourage the separation of different functions within a park - horticulture, sport provision, nature conservation, public events etc.
- b) there is no sense of ownership, responsibility or particular care between mobile teams of gardeners or park managers and individual sites.
- c) there is no positive encouragement for community involvement either in direct management or consultative groups.

The department suggests a ' Green Space ' Review to include:

1. the encouragement of a diverse range of uses and users for each site.
2. bringing together different functions under single site management.
3. the encouragement of community involvement in the planning, management and support of parks.
4. the development of a range of different types of service provision more closely related to the needs of individual sites and incorporating partnerships, joint ventures, charitable involvement and local management.

A further draft report is due this Spring followed by public consultation in the Summer and, hopefully, implementation by the end of the year.

The HFA committee have been pushing for years for more involvement in how the Fields are used and maintained. We will be nurturing the tender shoots of the ' Green Spaces ' vision for Islington.

Martin Jones

# Preventive maintenance: the way forward?

A personal view by *George Allan*.

Some time ago, a friend and I spent a day clearing knee deep rotting leaves from the parapet gutters of St Botolph's, Aldersgate, in the City of London. The churchwardens had done nothing to clear the gutters for five years, as a result of the long-threatened redundancy of the church. Our work was, unfortunately, in vain.

The leaves had caused rainwater to overtop the guttering and penetrate the building, causing an outbreak of dry rot which has cost £500,000 to repair. It might all have been prevented by regular attention from one man with a brush and a bucket, costing about £200 a year.

This demonstration of the combined power of leaves and rain to ruin our heritage made me question why I - and most of building conservation movement in Britain - had become preoccupied by heroic, last-minute rescues of historic buildings, from extreme dilapidation brought on by lack of even the most basic care. For every building-at-risk triumphantly saved with huge amounts of scarce public money, hundreds more are getting on quietly with the businesses of rotting away, often unnoticed. Why, I asked myself, did the movement not see, and act upon, this paradox?

Further surprises greeted my inquiries. Ruskin had realised this nearly 150 years ago, and Morris a generation later. As Ruskin put it in 1849 (speaking of Rouen Cathedral):

*The principle of modern times... is to neglect buildings first and to re-store them afterwards. Take proper care of your monuments and you will not need to restore them. A few sheets of lead put in time upon the roof, a few dead leaves and sticks swept in time out of water course, will save both roof and wall from ruin. Watch an old building with an anxious care; guard it as best you may and at any cost, from every influence of dilapidation".*

In this article, I want to set out why I believe we must put preventive maintenance back at the center of our Strategy, if the condition of the nation's historic buildings is not to go into relentless decline, from which we will never have the resources to rescue more than a fraction of them.

## What maintenance is

Clearly, maintenance is not a complete substitute for repairs, and like anything else, if done badly, it can cause problems. Some elements, particularly roofs and rainwater goods, have a lifespan and need periodic renewal. The role of maintenance is therefore to keep the elements of a historic building functioning for as long as practicable, thereby preserving materials, craftsmanship and character, while minimizing both risk and cost.



## Why we don't maintain our buildings

First of all, it is not just our historic buildings we as a society neglect. We neglect them all: schools, theatres, hospitals, public housing, the lot; and it is not just the UK - it is the same virtually everywhere else, with one significant exception to which I will return.

We are surrounded by many things - from childhood inoculations to MoT tests for cars - which experience has shown to be good long-term investments in preventing bigger problems later, but for buildings - even historic buildings - there are few such influences.

Recent research into attitudes towards repair and maintenance has shown that only a tiny fraction of private owners take a long-term view of the needs of their properties. They spend money on cosmetic rather than priority needs, as the mood takes them, and get their advice,

if any, from informal contacts in the building trade. Building surveyors are regarded as poor value for money, producing reports so hedged about with exclusions as to be virtually useless. It is in this environment that neglect thrives, prompting the obvious question: what are the institutions of building conservation doing about it?

## The role of maintenance in conservation strategy

Central Government - DETR and DCMS at least makes the right noises in *PPG15 (Para 7.1)*:

*"Regular maintenance and repair are the key to the preservation of historic buildings. Modest expenditure on repairs keeps a building weather-tight, and routine maintenance (especially roof repairs and the regular clearance of gutters and downpipes) can prevent much more expensive work becoming necessary at a later date... regular inspection is invaluable."*

So what happens to these fine words in practice?

## English Heritage

English Heritage imposes maintenance conditions on its grants, but refuses to grant-aid it, as Parliament empowered it to do. This has been its policy, and that of its predecessors since 1955. This was helpfully explained to me by Oliver Percy



of EH, in 1995, as follows:

- 1 Owners are unlikely to take up grants because, if they cannot be bothered to spend any of their own money on maintenance, thereby decreasing the value of the building, it is unlikely that they will be swayed by an offer of grant aid which will inevitably be smaller still.
- 2 Diverting funds into maintenance to avoid buildings becoming at risk in the future would be at the expense of buildings that are at risk now and will be lost without grant aid for repairs.
- 3 Complete neglect may be less damaging than enthusiastic do-it-yourself or 'improvements' such as plastics windows.
- 4 "Maintenance schemes for buildings at risk might well delay achievement of satisfactory long term solutions through the identification of an appropriate new use and owner coupled with full repair".<sup>4</sup>

I find none of these convincing. Because some owners bodge their buildings, none should be encouraged, still less given grants, to prevent the decay of the nation's heritage, by well-informed maintenance, to the long-term benefit of the heritage, their bank balances, and EH's hard pressed grant budgets.

The final reason is important. I am astonished how much energy goes into the search for the elusive 'final solution', while the building itself is left to rot. The resulting decay may render the search for a new use completely pointless. Why not extend our options by 'mothballing' problem buildings until economic conditions improve and sympathetic owners appear? Have things changed with EH's glossy new buildings at risk initiative? Sadly, I doubt it. Clearer priorities and more grants, certainly - but as before, for repairs notices, acquisition and rescues, not prevention. Apparently Ruskin and Morris got it all wrong.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, fortunately, seems to have maintenance firmly on its agenda. Its recent strategy document makes it clear that local initiatives to carry out preventive maintenance will be viewed favourably by HLF, and moves are afoot to follow this up.

### Other organisations

Other building conservation bodies subtly reinforce the repair led culture of the movement. They fund and give awards to glamorous and expensive rescues, conversions and final solutions, not maintenance.

The Architectural Heritage Fund, for example, is endowed with some £11M of largely public money, regularly topped up with more, and lends money to charities to purchase and repair historic buildings but only as long as the project involves a new owner or a new use. Charities or congregations struggling to maintain their buildings in their original use are ineligible. Is it a surprise that BPTs have always focused on major repair projects, have few sources of funds for anything else, and hence contribute little to solving the problem, when the AHF's vast resources are available only for heroic last-minute rescues?

There are honourable exceptions. SPAB has kept the candle burning for everyday care for over 100 years. It organises courses for owners and publishes literature, and another charity 'Upkeep' aims to educate the public in appropriate repair and maintenance techniques of all buildings.

Kent BPT has been experimenting with volunteer maintenance teams, which visit buildings principally to re-motivate existing owners towards taking appropriate care measures. Apparently sane adults will spend a day clearing gutters and rodding drains on church roofs, if properly motivated and trained, and at almost nil cost!

The Church of England's quinquennial inspections, and Council for the Care of Churches are examples of good, long-term thinking. Sadly, although the quinquennial system can work well, its main focus is on repairs rather than maintenance, which is often skimmed or ignored, causing the need for further repairs, as it did at St Botolph's. What the Church needs is more people to wield the ladders and drain rods.

Local authorities largely follow the EH model and grant-aid repairs rather than maintenance, but the Oxford conference on Buildings-at-Risk on 22 May 1998 heard from a number of authorities quietly carrying out maintenance-led initiatives.

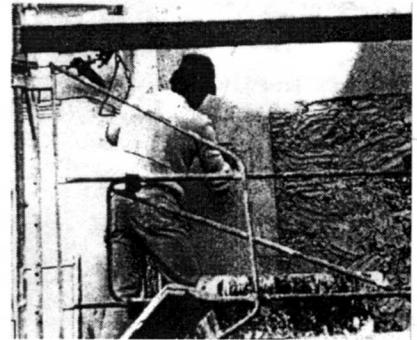
One district carried out a free survey of all its Grade 1 and 2\* buildings every five years. Another organised routine gutter clearance operations, and a third repaired the rainwater goods of town center buildings as part of street repaving works. Sadly, these are isolated examples.

What about the professions? It is clear that they are part of the problem. Large repair budgets and daring, complex rescue projects provide glamorous work for large numbers of professional people, but they have entirely failed to dispel the fears that discourage many owners from getting timely advice.

### An alternative strategy

The time has surely come for a decisive switch in strategy. We cannot go on spending huge sums on repairs while doing nothing to avoid or reduce the need for them. How, then, should we go about it?

First, I believe local authorities already have plenty of ideas for tackling the problem at a local level, using surveys, publicity and grants. A little thought, a conference or two - and a whole range of 'best practice' activities could spring up. They could even start with preventive maintenance of their own historic buildings!



Secondly, BPTs are a natural vehicle for volunteer maintenance work, with new thinking, leadership and training, and the HLF appears to be ready to consider applications to fund them.

Building owners must be wooed and encouraged to think of the long-term care of their buildings. The 'Make do and Mend' report referred to earlier contains an admirable agenda for action, principally involving information and advice, which is as relevant for historic homes as it is for others.

Perhaps the most exciting possibility, however, is the creation of specialised professional maintenance teams along the lines of the Dutch 'Monumentenwacht'.

This charity operates 45 teams of dedicated maintenance workers, who tour the country's historic buildings carrying out agreed maintenance plans and immediate temporary repairs, advising owners on any further work required. Because they do not do the further work, they are seen as trust-worthy and impartial.

A seminar in Bath on 9 October 1998 organised by the University of the West of England and Bath Preservation Trust heard the Director of Monumentenwacht give an account of its work, and saw one of its experienced and well equipped teams in action on the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel.

A steering committee has been set up to take this idea forward in the UK, and anyone interested in this initiative is welcome to contact me. There are major differences, such as the high degree of public subsidy the service enjoys in the Netherlands, but we are determined to persevere.

## Conclusion

Preventive maintenance makes such profound sense that it is remarkable that we have to relearn so painfully what was obvious to Ruskin and Morris. The challenge is immense, but there are signs that new thinking from local authorities, BPTs, and the HLF may turn the tide towards a more sustainable future for our historic buildings. I urge everyone concerned to start thinking seriously about what they could do to prevent, rather than cure, disrepair.

*George Allan. is a Committee member of SAVE, Treasurer of the Kent BPT and a Councillor in Islington. The article is written in a purely personal capacity.*

*Anyone interested in being kept informed of the initiative should contact George Allan by any of the following means:  
Address: 66 Prebend Street. London N1 8PS. tel: 01 71-359 4625 (home), 0171-356 4258 (work), fax 0171 359 9699,  
e-mail: gallan@gn.apc.org*

## Notes and References

- 1 *The Stones of Venice*, John Ruskin
- 2 *Make do and mend: explaining home-owners approaches to repair and maintenance*, Prof Philip Leather (ed) (1998), Policy Press (available from Biblios Books on 01404 710971 at £11.95)
- 3 The report was principally concerned with pre-1919 terraced housing and inter-war semis in Bristol, Leicester and London and a wide range of housing in central Scotland
4. Letter to George Allan dated 27 September 1995.

## Contemporary Art Flourishes in Highbury

London: Stroll through the Covent Garden Festival this spring, and you may spot a familiar face. Christian du Plessis, who owns the Heifer Gallery on 3 Calabria Road, is organising a display of contemporary art that will appear in Covent Garden restaurants, shops and theatres from late May until early June.

The Covent Garden event is the second major exhibition organised by du Plessis, a long-time Highbury Fields resident. In early February, he brought together paintings and sculpture from 31 artists in seven countries for a festival in Mayfair. This event also featured opera, cabaret and jazz and raised money for two charities including the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

The Mayfair festival was a success and du Plessis hopes to organise a similar event early in the new millennium. "For such a tiny back street gallery, we have associations with some major artists," du Plessis says.

The Heifer Gallery draws its name from the cow family. The Calabria Road property was a dairy earlier this century, only becoming a gallery in 1988. "I couldn't call it the cow gallery, so I called it the heifer gallery," du Plessis says.

A South African native, du Plessis has transformed the property into a major venue for contemporary art. Residents walking by the gallery may notice new paintings and sculpture appearing in the window on a regular basis.

What may be less obvious is the number of distinguished visitors and artists attending gallery functions throughout the year. For example, both the Spanish ambassador and the cultural attache to Great Britain last year attended an opening for the works of Aurelio Moreno, a portrait artist from the Costa del Sol.

And earlier this year, the Russian ambassador and cultural attache attended an exhibit of painting, graphics and sculpture of Russian artists living in Britain. "Some of the people who come here, might otherwise never visit Islington," du Plessis commented.

With rare exceptions, Du Plessis limits Heifer Gallery exhibits to the works of living painters. This means that the gallery, together with the festivals, can contribute to the careers of established painters.

From his perspective as a gallery owner, du Plessis is in a unique position to observe trends in modern art. Based on recent gallery sales, he believes the art world is in the midst of a shift away from abstract art and toward more figurative paintings.

"Abstract paintings still sell in New York. But elsewhere,

people are beginning to ask for more traditional paintings, " he said. These include, still lives, landscapes and nudes.

On sunny summer afternoons, it's not unusual to see du Plessis, a devoted neighbour, watering plants outside the gallery or removing graffiti from the walls of adjacent property. He praises Highbury for its intellectual and cultural life, but also is looking forward to a quieter life outside London some time in the future.

Victoria Ellington

### Walter Richard Sickert - 1860 - 1942

As you approach Highbury Fields from the roundabout, past the four smart red telephone boxes have a glance at No 1 Highbury Place on your right. Yes, of course the plaque will tell you that Walter Richard Sickert taught and worked here from 1927 to 1934. Most of us know that he was an influential and successful painter and etcher. The actor turned artist, writer, teacher and more, was born of German and Danish parents and studied here with Whistler and in Paris, where Degas was his mentor. Sickert was the undoubted star of the Camden Town group. His subjects were portraits, landscapes and city scenes - famously of London "low life" and music hall scenes. He was the master of dingy urban realism. Many of his paintings can now be seen at the Tate and other famous galleries. There are, however, some mysteries...

Search the Internet and you will find hints of darker doings. Involvement with the famous Jack the Ripper case is suggested - perhaps Walter's knowledge of the seedier side of London life and his influential status enabled him to protect the identity of a well known person who was also Jack the Ripper and helped to deflect the prying eyes of police and detectives, just as his masterly brush strokes gave a soft ambiguity to some of the scenes he painted of desolate interiors. Indeed, he later painted a series of works based on the Whitechapel murders of 1888.

Our Council claims that shortly after his death they purchased a collection of Sickert's paintings, drawings, photos and etchings. It is a shame that these are stowed away, unseen by deserving tax payers - except for a rare showing in 1970, when one viewer observed "These works were seized in lieu of unpaid rent". This story may be apocryphal but it would be so gratifying if our worthy Councillors could find some nook in our vast collection of publicly owned property to show old Walter's work and give all our citizens a chance to appreciate his genius.

Mary Kleinman

### Crescent Children's Home

The centre offers short term intensive home-based support and advice for families/carers with younger children. They need reading books and would greatly appreciate a few hours reading tuition from retired teachers. If you can help, please ring Roy or Sindi on 477 4073



Walter Sickert



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I have been at Holloway Police division nine years, six of which were based at Highbury Vale Police station. During this period I have carried out many roles and in September 1998 I was appointed Neighbourhood Watch Liaison officer for the Highbury sector. As well as other duties, it is my role to promote Neighbourhood Watch to new and existing Schemes.

Police actively encourage members to report matters of concern promptly, while in return they should be kept informed of local crime trends either via myself or the Community contact officer. One of the ways that I attempt to achieve this goal is by publishing a newsletter four times a year.

*How to contact us :*

Emergency	999
Holloway Police Station	0171 263 9090

Neighbourhood Watch Enquiries	
- PC Chris Bartley	0171 421 0645
Community Contact Officers	

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
----------------	--------------

PC 353NH Chris Bartley  
Neighbourhood  
Watch Liaison Officer



## Help with planning

In case you are not aware, part of the planning officer's job is to help and advise. Therefore it is always worth consulting them as to what is possible before going to the expense of having plans drawn up which won't pass muster. This applies particularly to schemes in a conservation area and to listed buildings.

It might be helpful to write an article, with the help of the Conservation Officer, giving details of the "Do's and Don'ts" and what is permissible in listed buildings and Conservation Areas. These could be circulated to Estate agents so that prospective buyers will realise what they have to conform to.

It might save time and grief on all sides !

Jean Burnett

## Bollards in Highbury Crescent

After a lot of pressure, we have succeeded in having 126 bollards removed, which were very unsightly. They were put in when there were no yellow lines. However there is still a need to improve the pavement side of the Crescent. The Council was preparing to fit new paving stones around each bollard !

Miles Thompson

## Forward Planning

The Council has a plan setting out its policies and proposals for the use of land in Islington. This is known as the UDP and it dates from 1994. This is now being revised and the Council intends to publish its proposed alterations in June. There will then be a six week period for public consultation and objections. We need to keep a close eye on this as the UDP is an important document with which the Council has to act in accordance unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

Robin Mabey



*We're practising for the tennis tournament !*

## Islington Building Preservation Trust

The IBPT campaigns to save buildings that are neglected and deteriorating, sometimes near to collapse

"To preserve for the benefit of the people of Islington and of the nation at large, whatever of the historical, architectural, and constructional heritage make exist in and around the Borough ...." Their main professional advisers are: Chairman, David Gibson, *architect*, and Andrew Smith, *structural engineer*, who was awarded the only "Heritage" award for Excellence in 1998 by the Institution of Structural Engineers.

Should you need advice, do ring them on 0171 226 2207.

Jean Burnett and Maryse Jones  
IBPT Trustees

## Brushing up on Brahms

The young man diligently sweeping our streets in recent months is Andrew Danezi, A.B.R.S.M. After his morning's exertions on our behalf, he spends his afternoons as a piano teacher. Classically trained, he is available for private tuition leading to graded exams and competitions. Beginners only !

Telephone 6 - 8pm 359 4907 or 07957 646806



## HIGHBURY FIELDS ASSOCIATION : COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Martin Jones, *Chairman*

Anita de Lotbiniere,

*Membership Secretary*

Maryse Jones, *Treasurer*

David Boniface

Jeannie Burnett

Victoria Ellington

Jean Engel

Muriel Feder

Judy Graham

Bay Hodgson

Carrick James

Ian Kelly

Randal Keynes

Mary Kleinman

David Knight

Liz Lydiate

Robin Mabey

Jennifer Purchase

Miles Thompson

Paul Williams

Ginny Worsley

Nominations for new members for the Committee, proposed and seconded by members of the HFA, should be made to Martin Jones (see above) by Thursday 20th May. Appointments to the Committee will take place at the AGM on the 24th May