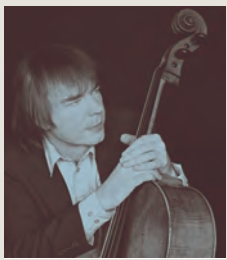




News

Please ensure we have your current email so we can keep you up to date on neighbourhood issues. Contact us: onslowna@gmail.com

Julian Lloyd Webber, our President, writes



When you look at South Kensington Station and you don't see a fifteen-storey glass office block above it, or you walk past the Victoria and Albert Museum without seeing a gigantic advertising bridge across its Cromwell Road façade, you are

witnessing just two of the Onslow Neighbourhood Association's recent achievements.

Behind the scenes the ONA continues to 'keep an eye out' for this unique and renowned corner of London, sifting through the huge number of planning applications, some of which – if passed – would destroy its character forever. At present there are ongoing discussions with Transport for London on its proposed Pelham Street and Thurløe Street retail development. This matter is far from over, but the meetings have already resulted in the modification of some of the

original large-scale plans.

For an organisation such as the ONA to count, it needs members, and the more members it has, the more it is taken seriously so that it can continue its invaluable work effectively. If you are not already a member, please do join, and if you are a member please encourage your friends to join as well. Protecting this beautiful area for generations to come is well worth the price of its small membership fee!

The Association cannot survive without volunteers (experienced in planning) who are willing to read documents, write objections and occasionally attend hearings; volunteers who can help with the annual Garden Party – a unique and wonderful event! – and anyone else who can help with general duties (filling envelopes, delivering this newsletter and the Garden Party announcements). If you can help in any of these categories, please email me at onslowna@gmail.com with 'Julian' in the subject line.



EDITOR'S NOTE: the ONA AGM will be held on Wednesday 29 March 2017 at the Natural History Museum in the Fleet Theatre at 6 pm for refreshments, 6:30 for the meeting. Please enter via the staff entrance on Exhibition Road, ten metres down from the NHM Exhibition Road entrance. Our speakers will be Amy Thompson and Chris Phiniefs of Transport for London who will update us on the redevelopment of South Kensington Station. Please come and bring neighbours.

photo: © Simon Fowler licensed to EMI Classics



Update: South Kensington Station

ONA continues to be actively involved with TfL in redeveloping South Kensington Station, one of the busiest stations on the London Underground network, used by approximately 30 million people a year. The station was constructed between 1867 and 1868 and altered in 1907 and 1951. It was listed by English Heritage (now Historic England) in August 2004, due to

efforts by local neighbourhood associations.

Last year we reported on the first stage of the upgrade – increasing station capacity. This includes the reinstating of the disused platform on the northern side for the District and Circle Line eastbound service, a new canopy for that platform, an enlarged ticket hall, new stairs from the ticket hall, and a new emergency exit

image: Peregrine Bryant Architecture and Conservation

South Kensington Station update *continued*

leading into Thurloe Square.

We and other members of the Consultative Working Group (CWG) have spent many meetings putting forward our views with TfL about the second stage, the Around Station Development (ASD). Although we did not succeed in persuading TfL to include step-free access (SFA) in stage one, it is currently anticipated that SFA to the District and Circle lines and the pedestrian museum subway will be completed in 2022 as part of stage two. SFA to the Piccadilly Line is to be completed in 2025.

In October 2016 the final brief for the ASD was produced jointly by Buckley Gray Yeoman (architects), Alan Baxter Ltd (Heritage advisors), TfL, planning officers of the RBKC, the CWG and other bodies. This brief states that the ASD will retain and refurbish the historic fabric of the station, the 'bullnose' and the Thurloe Street terrace (*as shown on previous page*), and develop new low-built housing above small shop units along Pelham Street, with an office building on the corner of Pelham Street and Thurloe Square.

We are pleased to see that the design, materials, scale and height of the redevelopment is to be respectful of the local context and heritage assets. We are delighted to see that historic shopfronts of Thurloe Street and the bullnose are to be reinstated to reflect their original design. The bullnose will not have more than one floor added and it will not incorporate an outdoor terrace, which could exacerbate noise levels for nearby residents. The next step is for the TfL to select a property development partner and then submit planning applications.

South Kensington Station

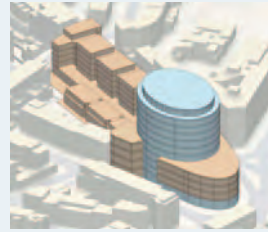
the journey so far...



1989
Scott, Brownrigg & Turner



1997
Terry Farrell & Partners



2002
Terry Farrell & Partners



2006
Francis Machin



2009
John McAslan & Partners



2016
Buckley Grey Yeoman



Planning Applications: *Sign up to be Notified!*

In our 2016 Newsletter, we reported that the RBKC Planning Department changed its policy of writing residents about proposed developments and instead will only notify us via a single A4 page in a clear plastic envelope, attached to the nearest lamp post or railing.

The consequence of this rather skimpy display could lead to unpleasant surprises. For instance, if a neighbour with a property backing onto your property applies to put an air conditioning unit in his rear garden, you are likely to be affected by the noise from this unit; but the single notice displayed by the Council will be in front of your neighbour's house and you may never see it. You'll be unaware of the application until the unit is installed and it is too late to object.

The solution to this is for each resident to ask the Council for an email notification of all planning applications in your street and the street that backs onto your property. The Council provides a free weekly email notification service to anyone who registers on their website. We suggest that everyone should do this to protect themselves from unwelcome planning applications. The procedure for enrolling for this service takes a few minutes, but is worth it.

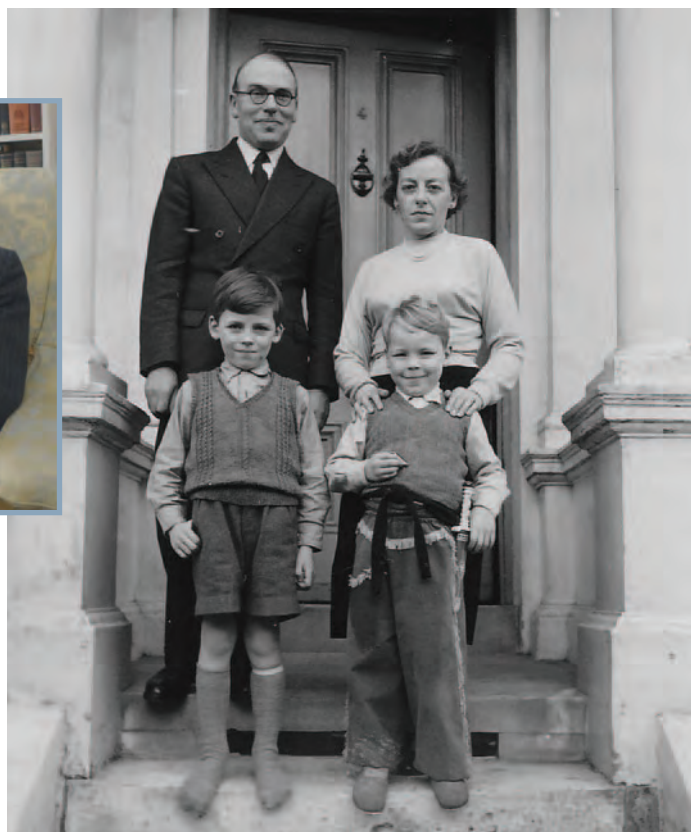
- 1 REGISTER** online at www.rbkc.gov.uk/MyRBKC/public/Registration.aspx
- 2 LOGIN** to RBKC at www.rbkc.gov.uk/MyRBKC/Login.aspx
- 3** On the left hand column of the Welcome page, select 'Email Notification Service'.
- 4** On the Email Notification Service page, under 'All Available Services', find the Planning Applications box and click on 'Subscribe' at right.
- 5** In the new window, under 'Criteria', click on 'Street' and then click on 'Next Step'.
- 6** In the new window, scroll down and 'add' the streets that interest you. Click on 'Next Step' and you will arrive at a window that confirms that you have successfully subscribed to the Planning Applications mailing list.

If you park your car locally, you can also subscribe to an email service that will notify you about parking suspensions near you – very handy to keep from being towed if you don't spot the suspension signs because you are away or not using your car every day.

Right: The Taylors in Neville Terrace, 1957
Inset below: Bill Taylor in Onslow Square, 2017

Local Hero

Founding Member of the ONA looks back, and ahead



If ever there was an advertisement for the benefits of growing old in South Kensington, Bill Taylor is it. Taylor moved to London in 1946, and with his wife Julia bought a house in Neville Terrace in 1952. They moved to a flat in Onslow Square in 1974, where he still resides. Julia died twenty years ago; since then Bill has lived on his own, with help with housekeeping and cooking and regular visits by members of his family.

In 2013, he received the Mayor's Award for the work he has done for the ONA, which he helped found over 45 years ago and where he remains an active committee member. He will turn 100 on 27 July 2017.

Peter William Edward Taylor was born in Berkshire, grew up in Winchester, and went to Cambridge to study natural sciences under C.P. Snow. He ended up getting a double first in mathematics in two years, then spending a further two years reading law. Like half his class, he was in the Officers Training Corps because 'it was plain to everyone that there was going to be a war before long.'

Within a month of the declaration of war, Taylor was in France, serving in an Artillery Survey Unit. His maths skills made him a good fit to help develop and utilise sound-ranging techniques, using lines or lattices of microphones to locate the position of enemy batteries or track missiles. He was evacuated with his men from Dunkirk in 1940 after spending a harrowing night in the dunes without artillery while expecting the arrival of German tanks. Rising to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel, he spent the later years of the war in Tunisia, Holland, Belgium, Germany and the UK.

1946 was a busy year, when he moved to London, was called to the Bar and married Julia. Julia trained as a nurse and was appointed chief physiotherapist at St. Mary's Paddington. Bill took chambers in Lincoln's Inn and specialised in property and financial matters.

In their Neville Terrace home, Bill and Julia brought up their two sons, Malcolm, who has had a career in publishing, and Nigel, who also went to Cambridge and is a GP in Bristol. Bill has four grandchildren, two of whom now live in London.

A catalyst for the foundation of the Onslow Neighbourhood Association was the unannounced appearance, in Neville Terrace and other streets, of concrete fluorescent 'bent toothbrush' lampposts, replacing the previous decorative Victorian lampposts.

Julia took around a 'lamppost petition' objecting to these eyesores that many residents signed, leading to the Council's decision to conduct a public consultation and eventually the installation of more suitable replacements.

Bill and Julia invited the lamppost signatories and other interested locals to an inaugural meeting of what would then become the Onslow Neighbourhood Association. Bill drew up draft rules and a constitution that enabled ONA to be registered as a charity.

'The Council itself wanted local amenity societies to be set up, in order to get the residents' views of planning,' Bill says. The first AGM of the ONA took place in 1972, with Bill as Chairman, architect Hugh Brady as Secretary and the Rt Hon. Sir Denys Buckley as the first President.

Bill feels it's important for residents to stay involved in organisations like the ONA. 'The planning system is for the benefit of the residents. It's essential for us to do what we can to use it to our advantage. Our councillors are extremely helpful and we need to let them know how to help us.'

Bill retired 'for the first time' at the age of 77. He was then persuaded to take another case that took several more years.

Bill still comes to ONA committee meetings and events, when he is not otherwise occupied, aided only by his umbrella, which doubles as a cane. 'It's only a problem when it rains,' he says.

What is the secret to his longevity? 'It's been said, and I think it's true, that you have to choose your parents appropriately,' he says. 'In my case my mother lived to be 102 and was never seriously ill. My father died of a heart attack before he was sixty, but he smoked a packet of cigarettes a day. His own father outlived two wives, married a third, and was 73 when my father was born.'

'I've also really enjoyed every phase of my life. I've been very lucky.'



Whale Watching: From top, the construction of the blue whale model and the hang of the blue whale skeleton, both taken in 1934 at the Museum's Mammal Hall. Above, Plate 43 from *British Mammals* by Archibald Thorburn (1920) showing *Balaenoptera musculus* (blue whale) and *Balaenoptera physalus* (fin whale).

Gone but not forgotten:
Dippy was given a
dazzling send off



Artist's rendition of the blue whale skeleton in Hintze Hall.

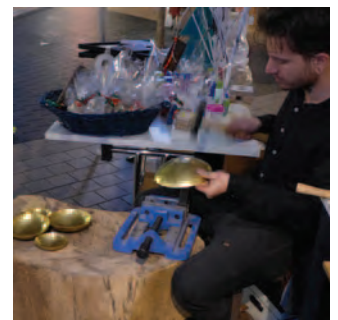
Natural History Museum: *Works in Progress*

Last July, the Council approved the Museum's planning application to redevelop its 15-acre grounds, which will include a new entrance on Queen's Gate to reduce queues, more green space for visitors and, as promised, a public water fountain.

In November, the Museum hosted a family-friendly farewell party for 'Dippy' the Diplodocus, who has been removed from Hintze Hall and is currently on tour in the UK as a 'roving ambassador for science.' A bronze version of Dippy will end up outside, on the refurbished grounds. The blue whale skeleton replacing him in the hall will serve as a symbol of warning – as whales were hunted to the brink of extinction – and of hope – as the whale 'is also the first animal we as humans took a decision to protect,' as Sir Michael Dixon, the Museum Director, wrote. Works to repair the historic railings around the museum took place in January. The NHM has been keeping in touch with ONA and other neighborhood associations to inform residents of upcoming works and its efforts to minimise disruption.

The third annual Exhibition Road Community Christmas Street Party, organised by South Kensington Estates, took place on 8 December 2016. Free mulled wine, tea and snacks were provided. Goldfinger Factory, a social enterprise based in North Kensington that supports artisans from disadvantaged backgrounds, sold hand-made gifts and raised an additional £150 in donations.

Christmas: *Community Cheer!*



useful Numbers

To report building material
or rubbish blocking the road
or pavement:

STREETLINE 020 7361 3001

To report noise and nuisance –
late loud parties, out-of-hours
construction work, etc.:

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
020 7361 3002**

To report anti-social
behaviour – aggressive
begging, disorderly
or disruptive conduct:

**MET POLICE 101 and/or
SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM
020 7161 8982 or
07768 178 122**

**CALL 999 for a fast response
to a dangerous situation**




ONA Garden Party


The annual ONA Garden Party will take place on **Thursday 15 June** in Onslow Square. Details about the event will be sent out closer to the date.



photos: Laura Mosedale

Protecting Your Neighborhood: *More Actions by the ONA*

 Last spring, the Victoria & Albert Museum planned an exhibition with the engineering company Arup. To advertise it, Arup put in a planning application to construct a temporary bridge across the Cromwell Road frontage of the V&A. As most of us know, this elevation is a highly decorated front to the main entrance of this Grade I listed building. Although the application was initially supported by a planning officer of the RBKC, your Association, the Brompton, Thurloe and Knightsbridge Associations, and the Kensington Society all joined together to oppose it, on the basis that this was an advertising structure that would deface the significant view of this unique building. (Anyone who has visited Venice in recent years will be aware of the disgraceful shrouding of the Rialto Bridge and the Doges Palace in advertising material.) The Associations felt that once this sort of advertising on listed buildings in our borough had become accepted, there would be no end to this practice. Thankfully the Planning Committee, made up of Ward Councillors, agreed with us, and the application was rejected.

 The RBKC Council has a document called *The Local Plan*, over 500 pages long, which contains all the statements, visions and planning attitudes of the RBKC for the Borough. In recent months the Council has been revising three quarters of *The Local Plan*, and has issued a revised edition for the local Associations to comment on with a view to producing a final version for submission to a Planning Inspector, for final approval and implementation, at the end of 2017. This Association and others have spent many hours trying to modify various sections, and in particular around South Kensington Station, to prevent the increase of eating and drinking establishments, at the expense of retail units that sell useful things for residents.

Our attitude is that the museums should be increasing their own catering facilities, not simply relying on the local facilities around South Kensington. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the attitude of RBKC is to allow more retail shops to convert to restaurants and cafes. We hope our comments will be taken into account in the final version of *The Local Plan*, which should be available in draft form by our AGM in March.

Would you like to contribute to this newsletter?

Please email the editor
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lpmosedale@me.com

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Julian Lloyd Webber

Honorary Secretary
Eva Skinner

Subscription
£15 per annum

ONA is a Registered Charity
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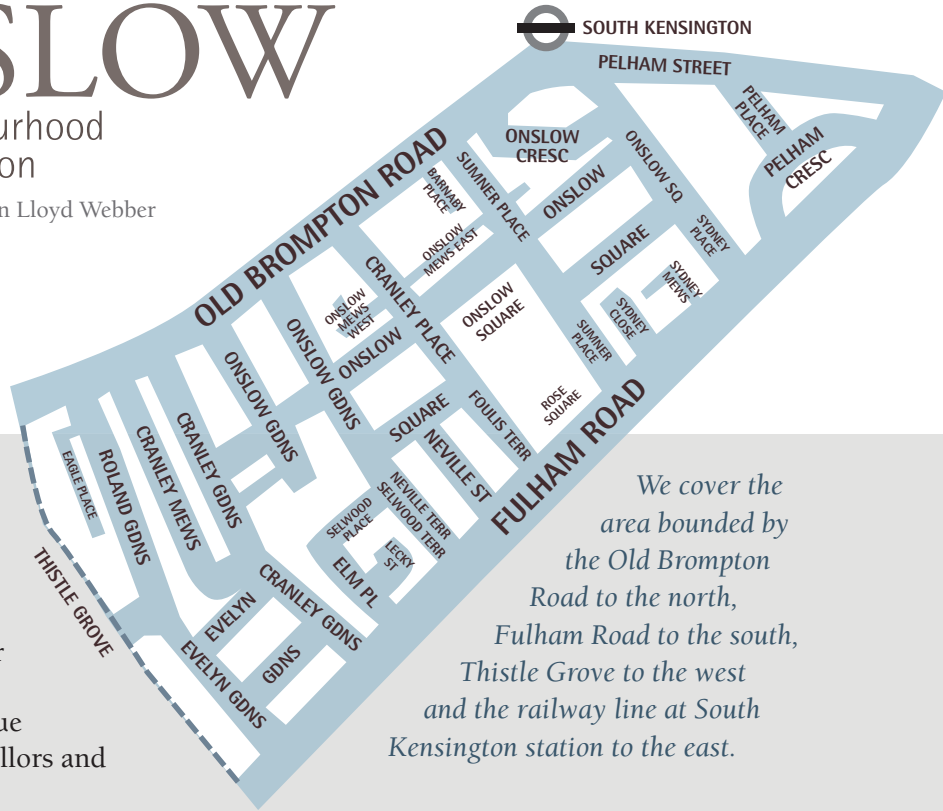
ONSLOW

Neighbourhood Association

President Julian Lloyd Webber

Join us!

The Onslow Neighborhood Association was formed in 1973 to protect and enhance the residential and environmental quality of much of the western part of the Wellcome Trust estate in South Kensington. We keep in touch with this annual newsletter and regular email updates. We host the only garden party permitted in Onslow Square, which is a unique opportunity to meet your neighbours, councillors and representatives of other local associations.



We cover the area bounded by the Old Brompton Road to the north, Fulham Road to the south, Thistle Grove to the west and the railway line at South Kensington station to the east.

The objectives of Onslow Neighbourhood Association are:



- To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning
- To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the neighbourhood
- To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest
- To take all other steps to protect and advance the interests of persons living within the neighbourhood



PAYMENT BY STANDING ORDER To: The Manager, (name of your bank)
address of your bank postcode

On receipt of this request and on each subsequent 5th January until further notice, please pay to the HSBC Bank Ltd, 40-05-14, Gloucester Road Branch, 95 Gloucester Rd, London SW7 4SX, the sum of £15 for the credit account of the Onslow Neighbourhood Association (Account No. 6101 1723)

from my account No. sort code

OR: PAYMENT BY CHEQUE I enclose a cheque for £15

please print your name address
..... email

giftaid it

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick this box Yes, I want the Onslow Neighbourhood Association to claim Gift Aid on my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

PLEASE SIGN



& SEND TO:

signature please print your name

Susanna Trostdorf, ONA, 10 Roland Gardens, London SW7 3PH

ENQUIRIES: onslowna@gmail.com