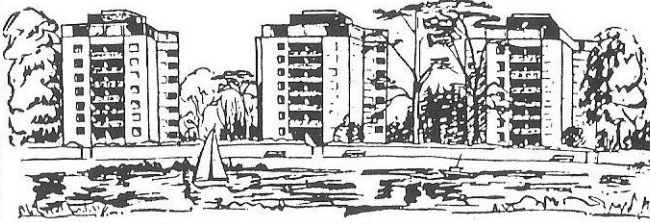


NEWS LETTER

No:
82



THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1989

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

AS THIS GLORIOUS summer slips through August it's not too soon to be turning our thoughts to the Annual General Meeting of the Albany Association, and of our freehold-owning Albany Riverside Co Ltd which precedes it. These AGMs will be held on the evening of

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 1989

At Tiffins School

Matters of major importance to be placed on the Association's Agenda should be notified to the secretary in plenty of time. The entire Committee is elected annually, three weeks being allowed for the ballot, of which the result is announced at the AGM. So nominations should be received well before the end of September. Residents wishing to offer their services shouldn't be shy of letting their names go forward. New blood is welcomed, and election contests are a healthy way of getting it. And **we are still looking for a new secretary!**

Fuller details of the two meetings will be circulated later, of course. In the meantime, please note the above date in your diaries. Thank you.

FLOODLIGHTS

RICHMOND'S EIGHT (still lampless) pylons now tower formidably over Teddington school's grounds, but when the trees are leafless it will be Kingston's riverside that will suffer most. Richmond Council responded sympathetically to our many objections on fencing. This has been lowered, the mesh painted, and ground level glare will be screened by banking and planting. But the problem remains of high-level intensive lighting, 5070 brighter than at controversial Shene School, and a major departure from Project D19 for Teddington in Richmond's 1985 Development Plan. That's what we continue to resist.

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[As campaigner for ALL Thames users, (as distinct from the Albany Association), May Bate adds this report...

As far as Teddington School the river, and indeed all Thameside development, has been treated with great sensitivity by Richmond Council. In theory, they could have refused themselves planning permission for the floodlights; in practice they had no alternative to accepting the "all-or-nothing" Sports Council terms for the grant needed to maintain the school grounds.

During recent months I have approached the Sports Council chairman John Smith, then his successor Peter Yamranton, the Sports Minister John Moynihan, then all the DoE Ministers looking after Environment, pleading for a compromise to help Richmond and save the Thames skylines. All in vain.

Next, with the help of Kingston's MP Norman Lamont I asked DoE Secretary of State Nicholas Ridley to find a solution to the conflicting policies of his various ministries with which it is impossible to comply. When Mr Ridley misunderstood and rejected my case Mr Lamont, to my surprise and gratitude, managed to get me back to Mr Ridley with further arguments - for he had now advised the 33 London boroughs comprising the London Planning Advisory Committee (LLPAC) that the Thames was one of London's greatest assets and they should protect its character and skylines. I wrote to all the other 32 London boroughs drawing attention to the Teddington dilemma. Although Mr Ridley again refused to intervene, before departing for the DTI, activity was building up behind the scenes.

On 13 July Kingston Planning Dept responded to my persistent requests for support by arranging a special evening meeting between Mr Gilks, Director of Development, Chief Planner A McMillen, vice-Chairman K Wootton, the three Tudor Ward councillors Lawrie Lee (Cons), Jenny Philpott (Ind) and Neil Bloom (Lib), with myself and observer Mrs B Armstrong. The outcome: an all-Party letter from Ward Councillors to the new Sec of State Chris Patten, drafted with Planning Office assistance, and another from Mr Mark Gilks to the DoE's London Regional Office. This generous response in councillors' and officers' time and expertise is greatly appreciated. Hopefully, we await better results!]

Obituary

MR JOHN HALL, 19 Ulster Ct, died on 12 June 1989

MRS RITA VAUGHAN, 23 Ulster Ct, died on 12 June 1989

New Residents

Welcome to:

MR PETER MURRAY, 14 Brunswick Court

MR & MRS A B PALMER, 27 York Court

MRS HELEN SANDFORD, 22 Brunswick Court

The Kennedy Fountain

MR & MRS D KENNEDY, of 24 Ulster Court, who are often abroad, made a donation of £50 towards the extra Association costs. We appreciate this generous gesture. The Committee thought it would be nice to allocate this money specifically to the fountain; we recently replaced the old broken top with a new one. This cost £48.55 plus labour. The whole thing has been plashing nicely this summer, helping us to keep cool just by looking at it.

Janitor Retiring

MR HARRY WEBB, who has been The Albany's resident Janitor for nearly 14 years, is planning to retire later this year. We will all miss Harry, and his wife Joan, (and Pippa, their tortoiseshell cat). This is just a preliminary announcement; you will receive a letter from the Chairman in due course.

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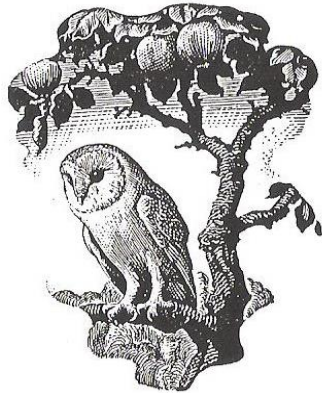
FIRE!!! Be Owl-Wise!

SINCE the last News Letter the extra new fire extinguishers have been placed in all Courts on all floors. Do you know how to use one in an emergency? Instructions are printed on each appliance. Don't wait for something to happen... read them NOW!

* * * * *

News Letter Binders

WE ARE thinking of getting a supply of binders (like those used for the Association House Book) to be available for those residents who would like to keep these Letters together. Details later.



THE ALBANY GARDENS



WE'VE BEEN able to enjoy more time in our gardens than usual during this lovely summer. The lawns, of course, have suffered most from the drought, but that's probably a small price to pay for so much sun. Weed-killer and fertiliser applications weren't as effective as they would normally have been, as we don't have widespread "watering-in" facilities. Shrubs too, especially the hydrangeas, have been looking a little sorry for themselves through want of a drink.

Our gardeners have been giving more attention to the shrubberies, remedying past neglected pruning and thinning-out. The southernmost border, near the Brunswick entrance, has suffered most congestion; the laburnum and flowering cherry will have to be moved from here and planted elsewhere. Old, dying and woody shrubs near the boundary wall have been removed; various flowering shrubs are under consideration for replanting here, including japonicas, jasmine, camelia and magnolia.

Honey fungus is still presenting a problem in the southern end of the garden. It is a relic of the diseased roots of a beech tree which died many years ago.

A major weeding problem is getting rid of the Oxalis, a persistent invader that looks something like a shamrock and propagates both by seed and by bulb. It is going to be difficult to eradicate it from many of the borders, including the rose beds in front of the courts where it is getting mixed up with the bordering begonias.

We're still getting regular visits from the Saturday night yobboes who seem to think it a hilarious joke to up-end the heavy ornamental stone flower vases and scatter the contents. The garden benches have also been tossed into the swimming pool again, miraculously "floating" on the rubber covers. We commend the patience of Harry Webb, sometimes helped by others, who stoically fish them out again as if it's a routine part of the job.



Frank Armstrong, gardens committee chairman, says offers towards the cost of more replacement shrubs would be welcome. Would a little tag bearing the name of the donor [like the name of the plant] be a good idea - or not? Residents' views invited.

* * * * *

SUNDAY LUNCH PARTY

AREN'T WE LUCKY with our mid-summer evening garden party? Perfectly perfect weather, a perfect riverside setting beneath the cedars, perfectly lovely ladies dispensing perfectly tasty food (so the men tell us) - all combining to create a perfectly happy atmosphere.



It was June 17, actually ... but that's as near to Mid-Summer Night as makes no difference.

After this came requests for another one. "We should do this more often", we were told. And "It's easier to meet and mix in the garden than it is in our flats."

The Committee had mixed feelings about this. Some thought that one party in a summer season was enough... for it can be a mistake, or at least an anti-climax, to try to repeat a very successful event. However, it was decided to put the proposition to all the residents, and let them decide. The idea: a lunchtime Get Together in August (because by then the evenings are drawing in) and do it on a Sunday, when more people are at home.

Well, so many people gave us the Go Ahead that the event is definitely ON - weather permitting, of course - for

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

from 12 noon till 2 pm

As usual we bring our own drinks for our own party. And as before, glasses will be provided. Plates of "finger snacks" will be welcome. Men needn't feel shy of making an offering, even if it's only a plate of bought-in cocktail sausages! It helps if people offering snacks let one of our two "menu co-ordinators" know. That only involves a telephone call, to either

Frances Roberts, 13 Ulster

546.0426

or

Pam Smith, 23 York Court

546.1977

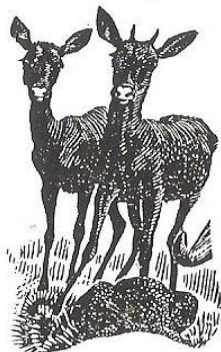


So let's hope for good weather (again!), a good turn-out, and another good time to be had by all.

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PLANNING

ALBANY COURT is a small block of twelve flats on the Richmond Road, only a stone's throw from us. Recently a planning application came before Kingston's Development Committee to erect four extra flats in its roof space (as has happened elsewhere). The application was rejected, to the great relief of the objectors who live in that Court, and of neighbours. Thank goodness we in The Albany need no longer fear that this sort of application can threaten us! Now we own the freehold our future is in our own hands.



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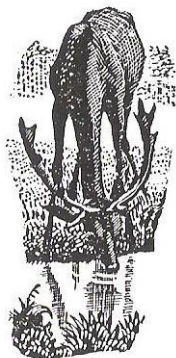
KINGSTON INFORMATION

A PANEL of Kingston Guildhall executives and councillors recently met to give information and answer questions from representatives of local Residents' Associations. We have asked to be advised of future meetings of the Information Panel - and to be added to the list of recognised associations so that the Albany may be represented in future.

* * * * *

PRIVATE MOORINGS

THE DRAFT of Kingston's Monitoring Report on its past year's Planning and Development states that "further refinement" of Local Plan Policies controlling private moorings on the river may be necessary. "Conflict occurs", it states, "where a permanently moored boat blocks river views or impedes the massive or active recreational use of the river."



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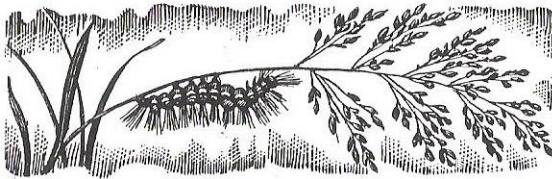
FLOODS & STOPCOCKS

CONCERN is felt that stopcocks to some individual flats may require urgent attention. These are the control cocks at which the supply from the Water Main is turned on or off. In the event of any plumbing breakdown it's essential that the Main can be cut off quickly, otherwise serious flooding could occur both in one's own and in neighbouring flats.

Since the Albany was built in the early 'sixties some of these stop cocks, if seldom or never checked, may have become badly furred up, even inoperable. Should one break, instead of turning, the result could spell disaster.

Our managing agents, Judith Jones, say their plumber M, Wybrow would inspect and report on stopcocks at £5 per flat, the cost to be borne by each leaseholder. They will be sending a letter to this effect to all residents, together with a form to be filled in requesting the inspection if desired.

Nobody is obliged to have this service; the decision is up to you. However, the Committee would feel happier for an assurance that all stopcocks throughout the three courts had been checked and either found to be in good condition or, if necessary, receiving the necessary service.



LIFTS

SINCE THE MAY News Letter referring to proposals to "refurbish" the lifts further inquiries have resulted in lower quotations. Details circulated to all residents by J Jones show that a basic improvement programme of internal washdown, new recessed ceiling light, rear wall safety-backed mirror with steel buffer-type protective handrail, could be initiated at £1,300 per lift - a total of £7,800 including VAT, for all Courts.

If a majority decide they want improved lifts, then this is the minimum the committee feel able to recommend. The work could be charged against existing funds, NOT subject to a special levy. Comments should be sent to the managing agents as soon as possible.

Carpeting. A suggestion has been received that lifts should have new carpets. This raises problems, the lift floors being vulnerable to dirt and damage, especially in the absence of separate service lifts. Some lifts have been recarpeted by the residents they serve clubbing together to meet the cost. One result is that carpets bought this way seem to get better looked after.

THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



THE COMMITTEE of the Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except in August. Its present membership is set out below.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Chairman: | George Newman (York) | 546 0392 |
| Secretary: | May Bate (York) | 546 1461 |
| Treasurer: | Frances Roberts (Brunswick) | 546 0426 |
| | BRUNSWICK - Frank Armstrong | 546 8230 |
| | Peter Clarke | 546 3276 |
| | Reg Cook | 546 7191 |
| | Margaret Parkinson | 546 4142 |
| | ULSTER - Norman Pearson | 546 5385 |
| | Frances Roberts | 546 0426 |
| | Alan Spong | 546 3993 |
| | YORK - Edmund Russell | 546 5713 |
| | Pam Smith | 546 1977 |

This Newsletter comes to you from the Committee of the Albany Association.

August 1989

