



The Hammersmith Society

Newsletter – February 2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jazz Evening : Thursday 6 March 8pm at Kent House, Hammersmith Club, Rutland Grove, W6

Meeting for Residents' Associations : Tuesday, 26 February at Grove Neighbourhood Centre

**Historic Buildings Group Treasure Hunt round Old Hammersmith:
Saturday 17 May**

WEBSITE

Our website is just about to go 'live' at last. Do visit it, tell your friends and neighbours – and send us your comments on 'issues of the moment' relating to our area. Make the website one of your 'favourites' www.hammersmithsociety.org.uk. A special thanks to Dr Simon Davey who has designed and put it all together for us.

JAZZ EVENINGS

A new initiative – to have an enjoyable evening listening to jazz while at the same time being introduced to venues you may never have been to in our area. We hope these will become regular, if occasional, events at various different venues. We are kicking off the first one on Thursday, 6 March at 8pm (bar open from 7.30pm) at Kent House, Rutland Grove. Kent House is an mid-18th Century Grade II Listed building, and was extended in the 1920s to include the magnificent, newly restored ballroom/theatre which we shall be using. Kent House is the home of the Hammersmith Club. The music and singing will be provided by local, highly respected, jazz guitarist Jo Caleb and his jazz quartet plus his excellent jazz singer wife Elisa Caleb who Time Out describes as Ella-esque – with a style similar to this jazz great. Tickets £10 – preferably in advance with cheque payable to The Hammersmith Society and sae to 38 Ashchurch Grove W12 8BU. Do join us.

THE HAMMERSMITH SOCIETY ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

2008

It is already time to start thinking about your nominations for the 2008 Environment Awards. Nominations will need to be submitted by early May. The nomination forms and closing date will be announced in the next newsletter. To remind members : there is the main Award, the Nancye Goulden Award for smaller-scale improvements in Hammersmith, the Jane Mercer Award for co-operation, collaboration and consultation, as well as, of course, the wooden spoons for things that should not be happening in our area.

The winners will be announced at the AGM. Further details in the next newsletter.

MEETING WITH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

In May 2007, the Hammersmith Society initiated and hosted a meeting for representatives of all local Residents' Associations. It was generally agreed that this was a useful forum and be repeated. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday, 26 February – one of the issues to be discussed will be whether 24/7 policing in Shepherds Bush has helped or just moved the problem – if any members have any views ahead of then do please let us know.

LATEST NEWS

Heathrow Airport – Proposed 3rd Runway and end of Runway Alternation

The Council has leafleted all residents of Hammersmith about the planned expansion of Heathrow. It is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday 12 February at the Town Hall to discuss its impact, and an exhibition on the scheme from 4-12 February also at the Town Hall. If you are concerned about the expansion, do attend the Council's meeting, make your views known to your MP and the Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly) and fill in the DfT's Response Form, either on line or available at the Town Hall exhibition.

THE PROPOSALS A Third Runway is proposed to the north of the present two, and a 6th terminal. The runway is to be fully operational by 2020, with the full number of daily flights reached in 2030. **There are presently approx 473,000 take-offs and landings per year from Heathrow. With the Third Runway this would increase to about 605,000 by 2020 and 702,000 by 2030 – the increase equivalent to a new airport the size of Gatwick.**

EFFECT ON HAMMERSMITH Hammersmith will see a dramatic escalation in noise, pollution, road traffic congestion and Piccadilly Line overcrowding. 4.5 million extra tube passengers and 25 million extra trips by road.

NOISE: Central and North Hammersmith are not presently under a flight path and we have very little aircraft noise. The line Chiswick, Hammersmith, Kensington High Street will be one of the new flight paths for arrivals for about 70% of the year. DfT says this means approx 343 flights per day coming in over Hammersmith between 7am-11pm, or 1 every 2-3 minutes. There will also be departing flights because some departing to the south-west will then turn and come up to pass over Hammersmith. This produces the much mentioned figure of "every 90 seconds at peak times".

The proposals say Hammersmith will not come into the bracket of serious aircraft noise (over 57 dBA). However, a report commissioned by the Government itself (ANASE) last autumn

concluded that the “onset of community annoyance” starts at 50dBA, and Airportwatch puts Hammersmith squarely in the 50-plus dBA contour if the 3rd Runway goes ahead.

NIGHT FLIGHTS The new flight paths coming in over Hammersmith would be used at night as well as daytime if present restrictions are changed.

DfT’s CONSULTATION DOCUMENT Strictly speaking the Government is not consulting on whether there should be a third runway (which it has approved already in principal) but on associated environmental and noise issues. **The very technical “Response Form” put out by DfT does not offer the opportunity to respondents to say they oppose the 3rd Runway.** HACAN (the organisation leading the campaign : www.hacan.org.uk) suggests filling it in only with one’s name and address and “I oppose all further expansion at Heathrow” at the end. Alternatively, the Richmond Heathrow Campaign’s website gives a more detailed suggested response on www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org/questionnaire . Whatever your view, do respond! You can respond online at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/heathrowconsultation/>

Town Hall CarPark Site

Schemes by three developers were recently on display in the Town Hall and the Committee has submitted a response to the Council outlining aspects of each scheme which we feel would be inappropriate for this important site in Hammersmith. The Council has now decided which one of them to appoint, Grainger/Helical Bar, as its development partner. This is the scheme which the Committee felt was the best/least worst option, although there are aspects of the scheme which we do not like, particularly the effect on the listed Town Hall of the raising of Nigel Playfair Avenue to reach the required height for a bridge over the A4, the safety aspects of such a bridge and its effect on Furnivall Gardens. We are also unhappy with the current design of the new buildings. We will continue to raise these aspects of the scheme with the Council and developers while they are drawing up a scheme to submit for planning permission.

Shepherds Bush Green

A public exhibition has recently been held outlining proposals for a £3.3million revamp of Shepherds Bush Green by respected landscape architects Whitelaw Turkington. The design recognises that it is a common and will retain its big, open feel. It will be divided by paths into three main grassed sections, with slightly raised areas, a section that can be used for entertainment, play space for young children, a multi-purpose sports area and a restaurant/café. The historic war memorial will remain in its current location.

Allied Carpets Site

The new developer Network Housing has come forward with outline plans for a much smaller housing scheme than that turned down by the planning inspector in 2006. However we felt that the design was unsatisfactory for such a visible site. We understand they are having a rethink.

St Stephens Church and Primary School, Uxbridge Road

It is very satisfying when applicants for planning permission ask for the Society’s advice and take it - and then come up with a scheme which we can whole heartedly support. A couple of years ago we had to object to proposals made by the church for a new parish hall built on the church yard/open space around the church; we felt the size, design and building on the open space was wholly inappropriate. Their new scheme is excellent, fits in beautifully with the church and will result in improvements to the open space. Likewise the adjoining school has revised its initial proposals for a new building to provide a nursery class so that we are now able to support them.

uPVC Windows

The Society has campaigned for many years to stop the replacement of wooden sash windows with those made of uPVC which do not preserve or enhance the character of Conservation Areas. The Council has now ruled that in Conservation Areas uPVC windows may not be used at the front of a property but can be used at the rear. However this of course only applies in these Areas and there are no controls where it is not a Conservation Area, unless planning permission is being applied for for other development to the property,. We have asked for the boundaries of existing Conservation Areas to be reviewed but unfortunately understand this is not likely to be undertaken for some time.

Academy on Stamford House Site, Goldhawk Road

Two City Livery Companies – the Mercers’ who run the two St Paul’s Schools and the Information Technologists have come together to set up an Academy school on the former young offenders’ unit site on Goldhawk Road. Your Committee is supportive of this proposal which will give greater educational opportunities to our young people in the southern part of Hammersmith. We have responded to the consultation expressing our concerns as to whether the site is big enough for a school to be built on it without gross over-development. We are also worried that ‘design and build’ is being proposed as this system seldom results in a distinguished building.

Barnes Riverbank

The Society is very concerned to learn that the Port of London Authority – apparently without consulting our Council - is proposing to fell virtually all the trees growing in the riverbank in Barnes. Removing this ‘green edge’ will radically change the much loved and admired views across and along the river. We have written to the PLA asking for immediate action on a management plan which would include planting replacement trees to ensure that the views are sensitively managed for future generations.

Council’s Website

TAKE A LOOK at the Council's website from time to time. It has lots of items of local interest and frequently gives details of meetings or exhibitions on issues that affect life in Hammersmith. www.lbhf.gov.uk

News by email

KEEP INFORMED BY EMAIL Are you receiving emails from us with updates of local planning issues and public meetings? If not, it may be because you have changed your email address, or have never given it to us! If you want to be kept in touch by email, send your address to the Secretary at: whitlockmelanie@hotmail.com

Subscriptions

Have you already paid your subscription for 2008? If you pay annually by cheque and have not yet done so please could you send yours made payable to The Hammersmith Society to Julian Hillman, 19 Flanchford Road, London, W12 9ND.

Subscription rates are:

£15 for organizations - £6 for families or couples - £5 for individuals - £3 concessions (seniors,students,unwaged)

Thank you to those who pay by standing order as it makes our Hon Treasurer’s job so much easier!

