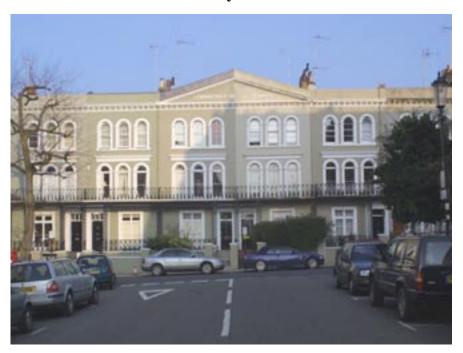
## News from Ladbroke

The Newsletter of the Ladbroke Association

Spring/Summer 2005

**Are Article 4 Directions Any Use? -** *Robert Meadows* 



### KENSINGTON PARK TERRACE NORTH

The first Ladbroke Conservation Area Proposals Statement was produced in 1976, when the special characteristics of the Ladbroke Estate area were recognised and the guiding principles for preserving and enhancing it were established.

Even at this early stage the importance of Kensington Park Terrace North, forming the eastern boundary of the Conservation area and making an important contribution to the local townscape, was recognised.

The terrace consists of a line of 30 three-storey houses centred on, and closing the vista of, Arundel Gardens, with Kensington Park Road forming a hard edge to the communal gardens north and south of Arundel Gardens.

This terrace, which is completely stuccoed, has to 'step down' the

hill of Kensington Park Road as it runs northwards. It does this rather cleverly by being articulated into five blocks of houses, enabling variety to be introduced in detail design and due emphasis to be put on the centre.

The rhythm is illustrated below:

### ABCBA

Three distinct types of house can be identified in the terrace. The centre block of six [148-158] is given special emphasis with a pediment extending over two houses embossed with the name "Kensington Park Terrace North". This centre block is also "listed". The houses in B and C blocks have pretty iron balconies, the latter being especially elaborate.

The terrace is wholly painted, with its unity and character being enhanced by appropriate painting methods with suitable colours. This aesthetic aspect was recognised

# THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

The Thirty-sixth AGM of the Association will be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2005 at 7:00pm for 7:30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, 59a Portobello Road, W11.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Minutes of last AGM
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4. Chairman's Report
- 5. Adoption of Annual Accounts
- 6. Re-election of Auditors
- 7. Election of Officers
- 8. Election of Committee
- 9. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members, proposed and seconded, should reach the Chairman at 2 Kensington Park Gardens, London W11 before the meeting.

in the 1970s when an Article 4 Direction [see page 4] was put on the whole terrace concerning the colours to be used. It also gave a form of control on this particular issue under current Planning Legislation.

For a time the approach worked well and the appearance of the terrace improved. Over the years, however, with so many of the houses changing hands, many unsuitable colours have been used

The central feature in particular has been badly treated. One problem is that the houses in the terrace are painted individually rather than in blocks and they weather differently over time.

Details of the Article 4 Direction and the colours to be used, with suitable options, are given in the current Ladbroke Conservation Area Proposals Statement. It is suggested that British Standard colours be used.

The Ladbroke Association is urging the Planning Officers to look into the question of the Terrace, to find out what has gone wrong, and to re-establish the proper application of the Article 4 Direction. Since the Association has written previously to the officers about this matter, it is hoped that this time some modus operandi will be found. It would be splendid to see this modest terrace restored to its former glory as one of the "set pieces" in the Ladbroke Conservation Area.

Robert Meadows

### THE BIG MATCH W11 vs WESTWAY -CONSERVATION CONTINUITY

To ensure the continuation of conservation efforts in the Ladbroke Estate, it is essential to inspire young people, including children, to see the importance of preserving the area's character and be inspired to get involved. A recent fundraising event in Notting Hill, for two local children's charities, provides an example of a possible

way for educating conservationists of the future.

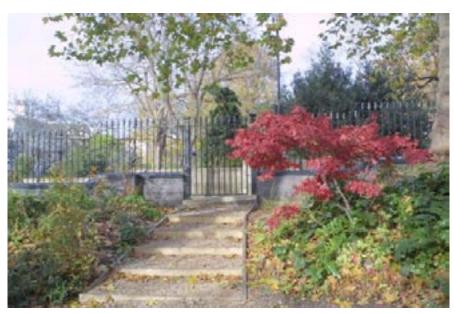
On 26th April, at the Westway Sports Centre, the Westway Performance Squad's best four tennis pairs played four pairs representing the W11 neighbourhood in a charity challenge tennis match to raise funds for the Squad and for Avondale Extra. Organised by Fiona Greenwood (founder of Avondale Extra which raises monies to fund extra-curricular activities for children at Avondale Primary School), together with Ruth East, Peggy Post, Jackie Morris and Angela Fenhalls (all Ladbroke residents), the result was a spectacular event that raised almost £21,000.

Those playing for W11 included Sebastian Faulks and James Tuckey who, aided by professional talents such as current British Davis Cup Team captain Jeremy Bates, won a close-fought competition against the young players from the Westway Performance Squad.

The Squad is hugely talented, with many players coming from immigrant families with no prior tennis experience.

The finishing touch for the evening, especially for the young players and guests, came when super-star singer Rachel Stevens (recently selected by PHM magazine as one of its "100 Sexiest Women") presented the prizes.

Peggy Post



Lansdowne/Clarendon Garden

### **GARDEN WALK**

The Association, led once again by Henrietta Phipps, whose fascinating, knowledgeable insights are invaluable for understanding how each garden was designed and developed, held another of its walks around some of the communal gardens in the Ladbroke Estate on 7th June, including Lansdowne/ Clarendon [see photo below].

## ALL DECKED OUT? BAZ'S THOUGHTS ON GARDEN DESIGN.

Peter Bazalgette, long term local resident, garden lover, and creator of the garden makeover television programme, 'Ground Force', was in a cheery mood. On looking out of his window at the communal garden backing onto his house he saw, to his delight, that the rose bed which he had disliked for so long had been dug up. It had been, to him, "the worst municipal planting" and he had been campaigning in vain to have it removed. Now it is to be replaced gradually by a semi-wild area. " It's wonderful; I couldn't be more pleased - I so hate all that regimented stuff," he says.

As do many of us presumably, but then none of us dreamt up the idea of the wildly successful 'Ground Force' that seemed to transform, in front of our eyes, countless ordinary gardens into identikit havens of designer decking, instant planting and the obligatory and ubiquitous water feature.

Peter, a convivial character, (his chosen favourite word for a recent newspaper survey was 'rumbustious') has different tastes in garden design. "I admire this new trend towards controlled wildness. What I personally like to see in a garden are things like bluebells, snowdrops, long grass...." The sort of garden that Baz (as he is universally known) really likes is grounded in the tradition of the classical English garden: "My dream garden would have somewhere in it a walk, delineated by white-painted brick pillars and wooden staves supporting white wisteria climbing up and over the structure."

As for decking, water features and all the other essential

structural elements made famous or infamous by 'Ground Force', Peter comments: "I love decking at the seaside, rather than in the city; it is associated, for me, with sand and dunes and wind." And water features? "Well, everyone loves to hear the sound of water somewhere in the background, though perhaps not necessarily as a feature."

He quickly adds: "I suppose you are going to say that that's rather hypocritical of me, given the influence of 'Ground Force' and its reliance on 'hard landscaping' with semi-architectural features like decking and platforms. So what I would say is that 'Ground Force'is a programme was designed for a new generation of garden owners rather than gardeners -an important qualification. It was a response to a generation that sees the garden as an extension to the house – a third or fourth room if you like - and wants to treat it accordingly. That generation are not gardeners in the traditional sense - they don't want to prick out seeds or pot on plants, in the same way that they don't want to cook or do much decoration although cookery and makeover programmes are equally popular.

These are skills that are departing, and will finally become purely the pursuits of a relatively small group of aficionados."

So don't blame Baz for the rash of decking, wind chimes and instant planting; just get out into your garden and start pricking out, potting on and talking to the bluebells at the bottom of the plot.

(Peter Bazalgette's book Billion Dollar Game is published by Time Warner at £12.99)

### Caroline Clifton-Mogg



No 14 Ladbroke Road, W11

### THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION'S PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

- FRAME, SET & MATCH

If, while travelling around Notting Hill during the summer, you notice a young man armed with camera and tripod photographing every building in each street, you'll be witnessing the practical manifestation of the Ladbroke Association's important and timely visual history project.

On behalf of the Association Thomas Erskine is making a photographic record of every house, block of flats, church and any other building within the boundaries of the Ladbroke Estate to show the façade and usage of each property in 2005.

Apart from providing an architectural benchmark of the outside colours, materials and features, the photographs will also be an invaluable source for

planners in the future to decide on planning, conservation and restoration issues.

Following detailed discussion, the Ladbroke Committee decided that the project was one of the most important the Association could undertake to reinforce its mission to help preserve and conserve the architectural character and streetscape of one of London's most attractive, dynamic and popular localities.

Funded by a bequest, it aims to record visually the architectural and built environments of the Ladbroke Estate as they appear in 2005, warts and all. Committee member Robina Rose is master-minding and coordinating the project.

Thomas is ideally qualified to do the practical work. Having lived in Notting Hill much of his life and been mostly educated locally, he has a deep visual understanding of and feel for its architecture,

Elgin Crescent, W11





Lansdown Crescent, W11

together with a BA degree in photography (he graduated from Farnham Institute of Art and Design in 2002).

He is using a digital SLR (single lens reflex) Nikon D70 fitted with an ordinary 18-70mm zoom lens, plus a combination shift lens, an excellent combination for taking the photographs, which are then downloaded onto a PowerMac and printed on an Epson Photostylus. The results are quite stunning – evocative, attractive and faithful reproductions, as the photographs on this page and the previous page show.

Following initial problems, Thomas has worked out a flexible formula to undertake the somewhat daunting project. After visiting a selected street to snap a general pictorial record, he decides the locations and angles from which to take pictures of each building so the viewer can get a 'feel' for the architectural detail, as well as a 'bigger' picture of the wider streetscape.

Typically, he then shoots the front

of each building and links these together so that when printed the viewer can see the whole run along the street.

[See the phtograph of Elgin Crescent on the previous page].

Taking each picture in exactly the right place so they can be 'stitched' together accurately is especially difficult, particularly if spaces exist between buildings. The 'pile up' effect of parked vehicles also has to be avoided if possible.

The process is time consuming and demanding as the photographs of each location must be taken at the same time in appropriate weather conditions, when natural light is constant, but neither 'flat' nor too direct. Softer afternoon sunshine is proving best. Passers-by have already asked Thomas many times what he is doing and why. He takes the time to explain about the project as an architectural historical record and about the Ladbroke Estate as an architectural geographical entity, and finds many are uninformed about this unique area. Some help

him work by moving rubbish bags or offering other assistance.

When completed the project will not only show the Ladbroke area's buildings at a particular point in history, but will also illustrate its street life including vegetation, cars and road signs, as well as people going about their business, often with mobile phones in use.

Thomas is delighted to be involved in contributing to such a significant historical and architectural record, while also developing the technique of flat panorama photography as part of his own expanding portfolio.

Meanwhile, the Ladbroke Association will explore the possibility of producing a book of the photographs, so that residents can own a copy of this invaluable document.

Jan Brownfoot

#### **ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS**

Article 4 Directions are issued by the Council in circumstances where specific control over development is required, primarily where the character of an area of acknowledged importance would be threatened. They are therefore more commonly applied to conservation areas.

Such Directions are usually applied over an area rather than an individual property and are registered as a Local Land Charge, so that you will normally be aware of their existence.

You can always check with the Council.

The effect of such a Direction is to remove permitted development rights, thereby necessitating a planning application to be made.

Article 4 Directions are not issued without careful consideration, because the Council may be required to pay compensation in circumstances where you cannot obtain planning permission for development which otherwise would be treated as permitted development.

**David Campion** 

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

This is a new system of local development planning.

The Government has decided on radical changes to the planning system and Parliament has passed legislation which will change the way development plans are drawn up across England. The relevant provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into force at the end of September 2005 and a review of the Royal Borough's Development Plan will need to be undertaken in accordance with the new system.

The Act requires the Council to prepare a Local Development Framework - which will be made up of a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs) - by September 2007. This will replace the Unitary Development Plan at that point. The UDP is "saved" for those three years.

The Local Development Framework will include several Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The Development Plan Documents, along with the Mayor of London's London Plan, will form the Royal Borough's Development Plan and will be the basis upon which all planning decisions are made.

The following sets out the major components of the new system as it relates to development plans.

#### **Development Plan Documents**

Development Plan Documents are those documents which equate most closely to the Royal Borough's current Unitary Development Plan and will be given the greatest weight when determining planning applications.

Given their importance, Development Plan Documents will be subject to rigorous procedures involving community involvement and formal testing through an independent examination. They will be adopted by the Council after receipt of the Inspector's binding report.

Development Plan Documents may include:

### The Core Strategy

This will set out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Royal Borough. It is likely to include a requirement for new housing derived from the London Plan as well as other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure and community uses and transport development. All of the Council's other Development Plan Documents must be in conformity with this Core Strategy.

#### Site Specific Allocations of Land

These will include allocations for specific uses on specific sites within the Royal Borough.

### The Generic Development Control Policies.

These are a limited suite of policies which will be in accordance with the Core Strategy. These policies will set out the criteria against which planning applications will be considered.

#### A proposals map.

### Supplementary Planning Documents.

The Supplementary Planning Documents will be similar to the Council's current Supplementary Planning Guidance and will elaborate on the Development Plan Documents, with which they must be consistent.

They will be adopted by shorter, simpler procedures and will not undergo independent testing. Accordingly, whilst Supplementary Planning Documents will be capable of being a 'material consideration' in determining planning applications they will be afforded less weight than the Development Plan Documents.

### Sustainability Appraisal

The Council will need to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal on all of the Local Development Documents which form part of the Royal Borough's Local Development Framework. This will allow the Council to assess the possible impact that the Council's policies might have on the environment and help the preparation of plans which will promote sustainable forms of development.

The final sustainability appraisal report must be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the examination of the 'soundness' of the Council's Development Plan Documents.

### Local Development Scheme (LDS)

As part of the new system, the Council adopted its Local Development Scheme on 23 May 2005. The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable on a three year basis (updated annually) of the programme necessary to deliver the Local Development Framework.

It specifies the Local Development Documents which will be produced, and the timetable and milestones against which progress will be measured. The Scheme is also the starting point for the public to ascertain the status of the Local Development Framework, and the processes and timetables for its future development.

### **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

The Statement of Community Involvement is a document which sets out how the Council intends to involve and the local community in both the formation of the future Local Development Frameworks and in planning applications.

This document will be developed in consultation with the public and other interested parties in order to reach consensus on the Council's approach towards community involvement. The soundness of the Statement of Community Involvement will be examined by an Inspector at an independent examination.

The timing of this examination has yet to have been confirmed but the Council expects it to coincide with the examination of the soundness of the Council's other Development Plan Documents. This is scheduled to take place in February 2007.

Until such time as the Statement of Community Involvement is adopted the Council must meet the minimum requirements for consultation as laid down in Regulations. The Council currently exceeds these requirements and intends to continue doing so in the future.

### LIST OF BUILDINGS IN THE LADBROKE CONSERVATION AREA

Property         Year Designated           All Arundel Gardens         1969           Communal Gardens Arundel Gardens         1969           36-94 even Blenheim Crescent         1969           41b, 43-137 odd Blenheim Crescent         1969           Communal Gardens Blenheim Crescent         1969           All Boyne Terrace Mews         1969           All Bulmer Mews         1974           35-41 odd Chepstow Villas         1969           54-62 even Chepstow Villas         1969           1b, 1c and 12 Clarendon Cross         1969           2-110 even Clarendon Road         1969           13-71a odd Clarendon Road         1969           13-79 odd, incl. The Quest Clarendon Road         1969           16-36 even, 50-126 even Elgin Crescent         1969           1-15 (odd) Elgin Crescent         1969           1-15 (odd) Elgin Crescent         1969           1-15 (odd) Elgin Crescent         1969           Communal Gardens Elgin Crescent         1969           Crescent Mansions Elgin Crescent         1969           Crescent Holland Park Avenue         1969           Holland Park Station Holland Park Avenue         1969           The Mitre PH Holland Park Avenue         1969           1-15 odd, 2-28 ev
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4-38, 54-184 even Kensington Park Road  Buckingham Court Kensington Park Road  1969  1975
$\epsilon$
Communal Gardens Kensington Park Road 1969
Elim Pentacostal Church (Kensington Temple) 1974
Kelvin Court Kensington Park Road  1975  Vancington Tomple Kensington Park Road  1060
Kensington Temple Kensington Park Road 1969 Latimer House Kensington Park Road 1975
Matlock Court Kensington Park Road 1975
Princes House Kensington Park Road 1975
St Peter's Church Kensington Park Road 1969
All Ladbroke Gardens 1969
Communal Gardens Ladbroke Gardens 1969
2-94 even Ladbroke Grove 1969
7-119 odd Ladbroke Grove 1969
1-63a odd Ladbroke Road 1974
2-10 even incl. Police Station Ladbroke Road 1974
12-86 even Ladbroke Road 1969
65-139 odd Ladbroke Road 1969 88 and 141 Ladbroke Road 1978
Mercury Theatre Ladbroke Road 1974
All Ladbroke Square 1969
Ladbroke Square Gardens 1969
3-18 consec. Ladbroke Terrace 1969
All Ladbroke Walk 1969
42370 Lansdowne Court 1969
All Lansdowne Crescent 1969
Communal Gardens Lansdowne Crescent 1969
All Lansdowne Mews 1969
All Lansdowne Rise 1969
All incl. Garden at rear Lansdowne Road All Lansdowne Walk 1969
Communal Garden Lansdowne Walk 1969
Prince Albert PH (11) Pembridge Road 1974
142A Portland Road 1969
15-17 odd Portobello Road 1969
55-63 odd Portobello Road 1969
65-111 odd Portobello Road 1975
115-177 odd Portobello Road 1989

Changes will be made to its contents as a result of pre-submission consultations which will take place over forthcoming months. Formal consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement will take place in December 2005.

Download and print the Draft Statement of Community Involvement from the Council's website on:

### www.rbkc.gov.uk

This is only a snapshot of the new system proposed by the Government. Full details can be found on the website for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

#### **Getting involved**

Anyone wishing to be to consulted on the future preparation of the Royal Borough's Local Development Framework, or would just like to know more about the process of drawing up of the future Local Development Framework, should e-mail the Council's Planning Policy Team at:

### PlanningPolicy@rbkc.gov.uk

or ring on 020 7361 3879.

Alternatively you can write to:

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Planning Policy Team Room 331 Town Hall

Hornton Street London W8 7NX

The Council has published the first of a series of LDF newsletters, which explains the main elements of the new planning system, outlines the next stages in the process and asks for your views on who we should consult and how you would like to be involved.

**David Campion** 

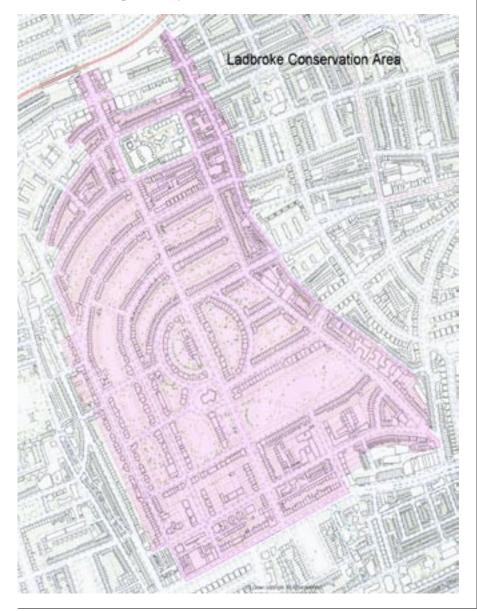
### BUILDING OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Those who own properties in the Ladbroke Conservation Area have a legal responsibility to apply to the Council for planning parmission when they intend to carry out alterations to their buildings - ignorance of the law is no excuse for not doing so!

Buckingham Court Portobello Road Kelvin Court Portobello Road Matlock Court Portobello Road Princess House Portobello Road St Peter's Church Hall (59A) Portobello Road 1 and 2 Rosemead Road All St Johns Gardens Communal Garden St Johns Gardens St John's Church St Johns Gardens 1-13 consec St Marks Place 2 St Marks Road 1-25 consec. (All) Stanley Crescent Communal Gardens Stanley Crescent All Stanley Gardens All Stanley Gardens Mews	1975 1975 1975 1975 1969 1969 1969 1975 1975 1969 1969
All Stanley Gardens	1969

#### THE EXTENDED LADBROKE CONSERVATION AREA

The Association is now having to keep a watchful eye on a much larger area as a result of the designation by the Council of the boundaries in a northerly direction. We are, therefore, keen to recruit new members, who live in this extended area, and to encourage a wider committee membership to cover this additional responsibility.



The schedule on the left may be useful as an aide-memoire as to which buildings have the status as being sited within the conservation area; if your building is on this list then you might also need to apply for "listed building consent" to carry out alterations.

A word of warning - you should check with the Council to make sure whether additional buildings have been added to this list as the Ladbroke Association cannot take responsibility for providing a definitive list that is kept up to date.

In fact, the Schedule above does not yet include all the buildings within the Extended Ladbroke Conservation Area and the Council is currently working on the necessary amendments.

David Campion

### THE EXTENDED CONGESTION CHARGE AREA

The Mayor of London has recently issued for consultation is detailed proposals for a western extension of the Central London Congestion Charging Scheme and is seeking the views of residents and others by 15th July 2005; the questionnaire (available from the Library if you did not get one) asks you how important you think that it is to tackle congestion, whether you support the proposal, whether you support the chosen boundary, whether you agree with the revised hours and any other suggestions.

It seems that the Mayor is determined to implement the scheme so outright rejection appears to be an unlikely outcome of the consultation process.

The proposed cost for residents has now gone up from £2.50 to £4 per week.

You can also make your views known at short notice on-line at:

#### www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/cc-ex

Those who oppose the proposals are advised to respond as soon as possible.

**David Campion** 

### BACKGROUND TO THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

**Founded**: The Ladbroke Association was founded in 1969.

**Boundaries**: Holland Park Avenue to the south, Clarendon Road to the west, Blenheim Crescent and Elgin Crescent to the north and Portobello Road and Pembridge Road to the east

Origin: The original impetus for the setting up of the Ladbroke Association was as the result of a proposal by the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to cut down and replace all the street trees at the south end of Ladbroke Grove adjacent to Holland Park Avenue.

CAP: The original Conservation Area Proposals Statement for the Ladbroke Conservation Area, made under Section 277 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, was published in 1976. The Ladbroke Conservation Area was the first to be designated by the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 1969.

### THE CURRENT CONCERNS OF THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

Some of the current concerns of the Society, among others, are:

- Portobello Road to be re-designated as a local shopping area
- Trees pruning and replanting as stock ages
- Estate Agents Boards the ban to be extended
- Shopfronts preservation/ restoration of originals
- Swimming Pools implications for drainage and trees
- Air Conditioning Units
- Mobile Phone Aerials
- TV Aerials

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- Planning Authority Resources
- Article 4 Enforcement

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTS OF THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The objects of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means but not otherwise:

- To encourage and promote high standards of architecture and town planning within the Ladbroke Estate Conservation Area
- To stimulate and promote 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.

provided that the Association shall not join or be affiliated with any political party.

Anyone wishing to view the complete Articles of Association of the Ladbroke Association can do so via its website at:

www.ladbrokeassociation.org.uk

### NEWSLETTERS ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE

The following back Newsletters are available for viewing and downloading from the Association's Website:

- Summer 2001
- Winter 2001
- July 2002
- March 2003
- Spring/Summer 2004

### THE GOALS OF THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The current goals are:

- To document the area by producing a comprehensive photographic archive,
- To continue to monitor and influence planning decisions,
- To broaden and enlarge the membership,
- To encourage enforcement of planning decisions

### THE OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

President: Sir Angus Stirling Chairman: Charles Levison

Vice-Chairman: -Hon Treasurer &

Secretary: Paul Bastick

Members: Jan Brownfoot, David Campion, Anne Chorley, David Corsellis, Jean Ellsmoor, David Marshall, Robert Meadows, Peter Mishcon, Malcolm Pawley, Peggy Post, Robina Rose, Niel Sebag-Montefiore.

Hon Auditor: Guy Mayers Minutes Secretary: Diana Ward Newsletter Editor: Jan Brownfoot

Photo Credits: David Campion Thomas Erskine

### JOIN THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

I would like to join the Ladbroke Association. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £5.00, payable to *The Ladbroke Association*.

Name:
Address:

To: Paul Bastick, Hon.Treasurer, The Ladbroke Association, 75A Ladbroke Grove, W11 2PD

The artwork and layout for this Newsletter was composed by David Campion using Adobe InDesign 2 software.