

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Monday June 25th 1979 at the Knights of St.Columba Club, 11 Lansdowne Road W.11. Mr.Ian Grant was in the Chair.

MINUTES had been circulated, and were approved and signed.

HON.TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon.Treasurer reported that,despite increased costs of unavoidable expenditure on postage, stationery and printing, there was an excess of income over expenditure during the year ended 31st March 1989 of £ 54. Covenants had provided a refund of £ 52 from the Income Tax authorities and bank interest accounted for a further £ 43 on the credit side. A donation of £ 50 was made to the St.John's Church Restoration Appeal.At the end of the financial year the Association was in the black to the tune of £ 774.

Membership numbers seem to be locked obstinately in the range of 220 to 230 households, and the introduction of friends and neighbours to the Association would be welcome.

The Hon.Treasurer's Report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chairman, Hon.Treasurer and Hon.Secretary were re-elected.

There were five vacancies on the committee, one member having left the district, and the other four were eligible for re-election. Of these Mr.D.Simson did not wish to stand again. Mrs.Bingham and Mr.Herring were re-elected, and Messrs J.Lever and P.Thorold were elected. One place was left vacant, as it might be necessary to co-opt for some special project.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was very agreeable,said Mr.Grant, to be able to report on the completion of a project of very long standing in the Ladbroke area, namely the replacement of the railings round St.John's Church. The church occupies a key position at the top of the hill in Ladbroke Grove, and the broken chain link fencing (which dated from the removal of the original railings during the war) did nothing to enhance its setting. The new railings,though not so massive as the originals,were correctly set in the original kerb stones, and gave the proper complement to this important building.He understood, however, that funds had fallen somewhat short of costs, and that any financial contributions would be most welcome. The Association had,for its part, given a further £ 50, making a total contribution of £ 100.

He could also report the Association's great pleasure at the restoration of No.63 Ladbroke Grove and its boundary wall, as this house and its neighbour at 2 Lansdowne Crescent are a vital foil to the church. Their construction of matching Kentish ragstone links them visually to St.John's, and they also occupy key sites on the crest of the rise..The demolition of these houses, which had been proposed at various times in the past, was strongly opposed by the Association, and it was very satisfactory to see that this now appeared increasingly unlikely.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued

Another matter which ended satisfactorily was the proposal to occupy one of the houses in Stanley Crescent as a foreign embassy. There was considerable opposition from other householders in the street, which was strongly supported by the Association, and the Council restated their desire to keep embassies out of the Ladbroke area to the Government concerned. The proposal was eventually dropped.

The photographic survey of original mouldings and details in the Ladbroke area was now of impressive size, and had been supplemented by some more wonderfully atmospheric photographs taken by a member Mr. David Cavanaugh. These pictures were on display at the A.G.M. and would later be on show at the Kensington Public Library.

Finally, the continuing deterioration of the cabmen's shelter at the South end of Kensington Park Road had been causing concern to the committee, as members felt that this piece of local history should not be allowed to disappear. Unfortunately, so far there had been no success in establishing the ownership of the shelter, (which was unoccupied), or who was responsible for its upkeep, neither the Council nor the G.L.C. seemed to feel much concern about its fate. Should any member be able to throw any light on this matter, such help would be greatly appreciated.

A.O.B.

There was some discussion on subsidence possibly caused by the roots of trees.

A question was raised about the traffic in Ladbroke Grove. The Chairman said that the committee would look into this matter.

Permission had kindly been granted for the use of the adjoining Gardens for drinks, following the meeting, but unfortunately it was a cold evening, and not at all attractive for sitting out of doors.