



Newsletter

ST JAMES'S CONSERVATION TRUST



VIEW OF ST JAMES'S PALACE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE. (From an Old Engraving)

JULY - DECEMBER 2010

Edition No.13



Purposes of the Trust

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in, or affecting, the area.
2. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.
3. To maintain the character and atmosphere of the area, with its social fabric, collection of ancient shops and private members clubs.
4. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area.

Diary of Events

5th July 2010	The Trust's Administrator attended the St James's Gateway Community Liaison Group meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to minimise disruption caused by The Crown Estate's development on Piccadilly and Jermyn Street.
7th July 2010	The Trust's Consultant Architect and Town Planner held a meeting with Mr Hank Dittmar, Chief Executive Officer of The Prince's Foundation, at St James's Palace to discuss the Trust's proposal for the enhancement of the Palace's forecourt.
23rd July 2010	The Trust's Consultant Architect and Town Planner held a meeting with the Westminster City Commissioner of Transportation to discuss transport matters related to St James's 2010.
27th July 2010	The Trust's Administrator gave evidence to the Planning Inspector on noise pollution and affordable housing in St James's.
4th August 2010	The Trust's Administrator gave evidence to the Planning Inspector on the Trust's wish that the core area of St James's should be included within the West End Stress Area.
17th August 2010	The Trust's Administrator attended a meeting of the Friends of St James's Park and Green Park when the use of St James's Park and The Mall for the Olympic Games was described. See article on pages 8/9
1st September 2010	Mr Christopher Fenwick, a Trustee, assisted by the Trust's Consultant Architect and Town Planner had a meeting with the Westminster City Commissioner of Transportation to discuss the two way road system in St James's, the enhancement of the forecourt to St James's Palace and the on-going improvements to St James's Square. See article on pages 6/7.
7th September 2010	The Trust mounted a display at the Residents' Society of Mayfair & St James's event entitled "How Green is my City". This was a useful public relations exercise for the Trust.
16th September 2010	The Trust's Administrator attended the AGM of Europa Nostra, a pan European cultural organisation of which the Trust is a member.
22nd September 2010	The Chairman had a meeting with the Westminster City Commissioner of Transportation to discuss matters concerning the public highway in the core area of St James's.
6th October 2010	The Chairman attended a presentation by The Crown Estate on their planned development of 7 Cleveland Row and Russell Court.
7th October 2010	The Trust convened a meeting to resolve amenity problems at night in Carlton House Terrace. This was held in the apartment of a resident and attended by the Strand & Whitehall Business Safer Neighbourhood Team, Metropolitan Police and a representative of Westminster City Council.
15th November 2010	The Chairman was briefed by Mr Eric Parry RA on the planned development of 7&8 St James's Square including the long façade in Duke of York Street leading into Apple Tree Yard.
16th November 2010	The Trust's Administrator attended the second meeting of the St James's Gateway Community Liaison Group.
24th November 2010	The Chairman had a meeting with the Westminster City Commissioner of Transportation to discuss public highway matters relating to the core area of St James's.
7th December 2010	The Chairman attended a presentation by The Crown Estate on their planned development of 7 Cleveland Row and Russell Court.

The Life of Henry Jermyn Creator of St James's

Henry Jermyn (1605-1684) was a young Stuart courtier who, largely due to his skill in speaking French, became the confidant and life-long friend of Henrietta Maria de Bourbon, the beautiful wife of Charles I, mother of Charles II and daughter of King Henry IV of France. The closeness between Henry Jermyn and Queen Henrietta Maria was widely attested to at the time.



Henry Jermyn 1st Earl of St Albans.



Queen Henrietta Maria de Bourbon.

Through the Queen's influence, Jermyn rose to prominence and power in Charles I's court. Yet as his status increased, the foundation on which royal power lay were shaken by the King's conflict with Parliament. As the crisis mushroomed in 1640-1641, and without holding any significant office, Jermyn became the most powerful man at court. Yet his plot to bring military forces to bear on Parliament backfired and he fled into exile in France.

After the Civil war began Queen Henrietta Maria joined him abroad and together they raised a great army and waged a moderately successful campaign against Parliamentary forces. On their return to France in 1644, they established an unofficial power centre of the English court at the Louvre in Paris. During the rule of Cromwell, Jermyn worked ceaselessly to restore Charles II to the throne. This occurred in 1660, after which he focussed his life-long plan of creating peace between England and France; this resulted in the secret Treaty of Dover (1670) and created the Anglo-French Grand Design.

His great passion was architecture. As a protégé of Inigo Jones, and a future mentor of Sir Christopher Wren, Jermyn was one of the most influential men in the polarisation of classical architecture in Britain. The restoration of Somerset House and the creation of modern Greenwich Palace and Green Park both owes a great deal to him. His great work was St James's Square and the surrounding streets, including Jermyn Street. It was the first truly unified, residential square built on classical lines in London and it caused the growth of the West End of London to the extent that Jermyn has justly been hailed as the 'founder of the West End'.

By 1678, St James's Square was fully built. Jermyn had overcome the problems of persuading people to build his planned '13 or 14 great and good houses' by dividing the plots into smaller ones and sold them off freehold. He sold his original house and built another-and better- one in the northwest corner of the Square at a cost of £15,000 (approximately £1.2 million in modern money). Now, twenty elegant houses inhabited by an eclectic mixture of royal mistresses. Royal officials and relations of Jermyn lived behind the unified façade of the completed square. The discerning John Evelyn was certainly impressed. Jermyn's 'large and magnificent structures' he wrote, had brought about 'a renaissance' in English architecture.



St James's
1681 Ogilby and Morgan Map.

The St James's Conservation Trust recommends a recent book on the life of Henry Jermyn entitled "Full of Soup and Gold" by Anthony Adolph.

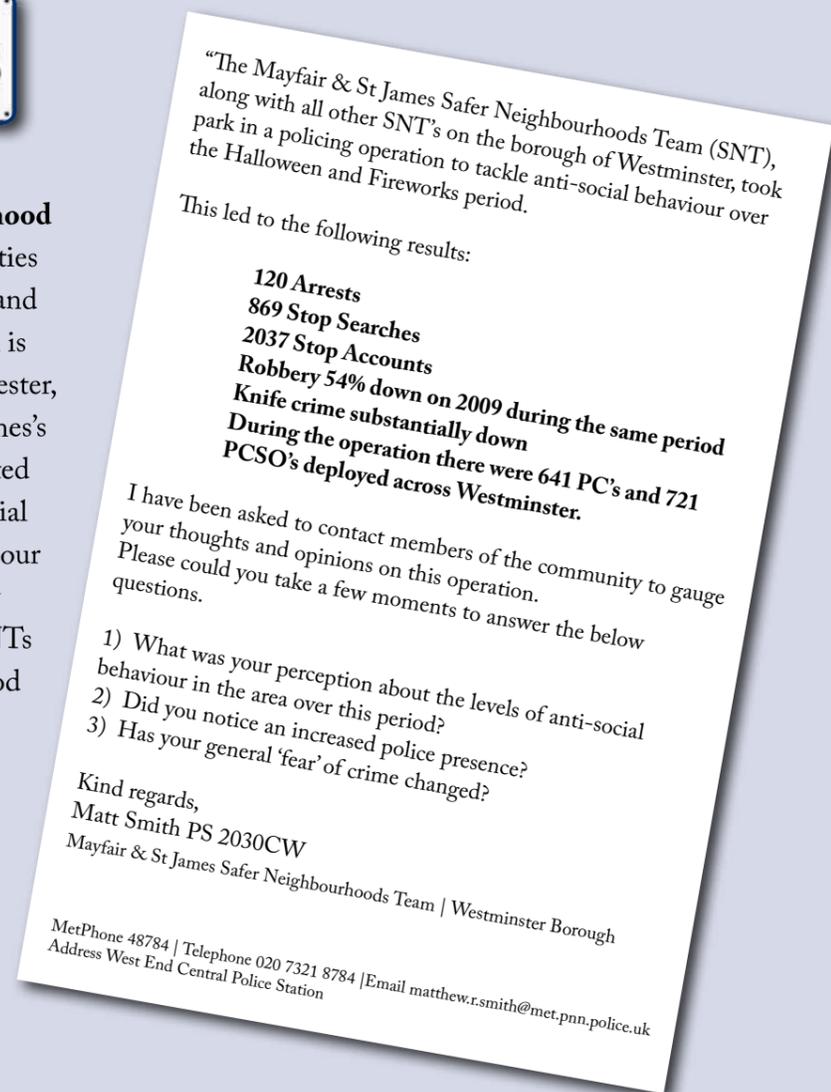
Copies of this book may be purchased direct from Anthony Adolph, 123 Victor Road, London SE20 7JT, Email : anthonyadolph.co.uk.; price £20.45 including postage. For more information, see www.anthonyadolph.co.uk/jermyn.htm (ISBN 0-9552951-0-6 978-0-9552951-0-2)

Mayfair & St. James's Safer Neighbourhood Team, Metropolitan Police



Each Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) receives its priorities from a Safer Neighbour Panel and the Mayfair & St James's Panel is chaired by Mrs Virginia Chichester, a St James's resident; the St James's Conservation Trust is represented by its Administrator. Anti-Social behaviour is a high priority for our Panel, and has been adopted by our SNT, as it has for many SNTs in Westminster. Over the period of Halloween and Guy Fawkes night our SNT was involved in a Westminster wide anti-social behaviour operation.

Set out to the right is a report on this operation from Sergeant Matt Smith, the Mayfair & St James's SNT leader:



"The Mayfair & St James Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT), along with all other SNT's on the borough of Westminster, took park in a policing operation to tackle anti-social behaviour over the Halloween and Fireworks period.

This led to the following results:

- 120 Arrests
- 869 Stop Searches
- 2037 Stop Accounts
- Robbery 54% down on 2009 during the same period
- Knife crime substantially down
- During the operation there were 641 PC's and 721 PCSO's deployed across Westminster.

I have been asked to contact members of the community to gauge your thoughts and opinions on this operation. Please could you take a few moments to answer the below questions.

- 1) What was your perception about the levels of anti-social behaviour in the area over this period?
- 2) Did you notice an increased police presence?
- 3) Has your general 'fear' of crime changed?

Kind regards,
Matt Smith PS 2030CW
Mayfair & St James Safer Neighbourhoods Team | Westminster Borough

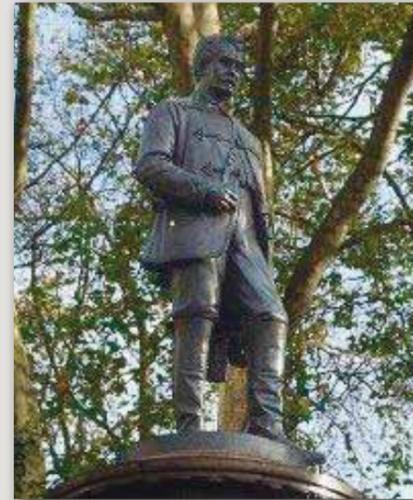
MetPhone 48784 | Telephone 020 7321 8784 | Email matthew.r.smith@met.pnn.police.uk
Address West End Central Police Station

Letters to the Editor

The Trustees would welcome letters from readers concerning the history, architecture, commerce and social life of St James's, for inclusion in future Newsletters. We would also welcome information which could be used by the Trust to support future planning and licensing objections to Westminster City Council. Contact: Mr. Brian Woodham, The Administrator to the St James's Conservation Trust, 5 Twycross Road, Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2HH Tel: 01483 230 875 Email: brianwoodham@tiscali.co.uk

From Scottish carpenter's son to Commander of British Army, India

On the eastern side of Waterloo Place is a statue, by Carlo Marochetto, erected in 1867 in memory of Field Marshal Sir Colin Campbell, ennobled as Lord Clyde.

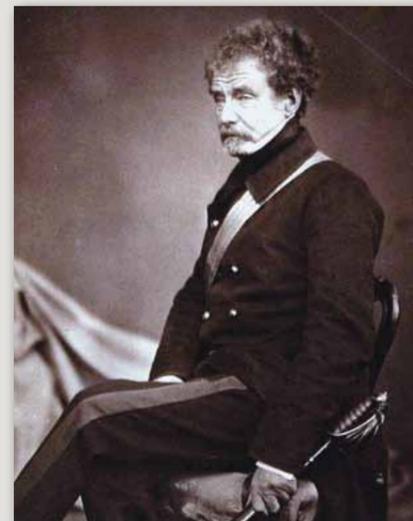


Statue of Lord Clyde in Waterloo Place.

Lord Clyde was an outstanding Victorian soldier, born in Glasgow in 1792, son of John McLiver, a carpenter from Mull. He was educated at the High School of Glasgow and at the tender age of ten he entered the Military Academy at Gosport at the expense of his maternal uncle, Colonel John Campbell who subsequently paid for his commission when he became an Ensign in the 9th of Foot, aged 16, and adopted his uncle's surname.

During his long career he saw much fighting and was wounded several times. As a young officer he was wounded twice in major battles in the Peninsula wars (1808-1814). He then served for a number of years in overseas garrisons and in Britain

Aged 44, he was posted to China for ten years, where he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier – General. He then served with distinction in India, taking part in the Second Sikh war from 1848-49, and was wounded for the third time in the course of the Battle of Chillian Wallah. At the decisive victory of Gujarat his skill and valor contributed largely to the success of the British forces. He was made Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1849.



Portrait of Colin Campbell, 1st Baron Clyde, 1855 by Roger Fenton. (by courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery)

Despite his age, 62, he took the Highland Brigade to the Crimea in 1854 and was largely responsible for the victory at Alma and with his "thin red line of Highlanders" he repulsed the Russian attack on Balaklava. On the close of the Crimean War, Sir Colin Campbell was promoted to Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

The outbreak of the Indian mutiny called for a general of tried experience and in 1857, Lord Palmerstone offered him the command of British forces in India. Being unmarried, with no family ties and still ambitious at the age of 65, he eagerly accepted, left the next day and reached Calcutta 33 days later. He organised the army and brought about the relief of Lucknow. For these services he was raised to the peerage in 1858 as Baron Clyde, of Clydesdale in Scotland and promoted to the rank of Field Marshal on his return to Britain. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Despite lacking the dash which won Britain so many victories in India, Lord Clyde was regarded as a brave soldier and a careful and prudent leader. The soldiers, whom he led, were devotedly attached to him and he commanded unvarying respect.

The restoration of *Two-Way traffic* for Piccadilly and St James's- Implications for St James's scheme

The St James's Two-way scheme, which includes Pall Mall, St James's Street and Piccadilly, is making good progress and is scheduled to be completed before to the Olympic Games in 2012.



The proposed two-way traffic system in St James's.



Piccadilly median strip.

Traffic modelling indicates that, once the main road works are completed, the present traffic hold-ups will disappear.

Over the past two years, the St James's Conservation Trust has, on advice from leading traffic experts, promoted the two-way road scheme in St James's and brought its potential advantages to the notice of residents, businesses and the private members clubs in St James's. Confidence in the efficacy of the scheme is based on the advice of road traffic engineers and includes the following advantages: -

- The removal of street clutter.
- The efficient use of road space for traffic.
- The improved redistribution of vehicle traffic.
- The integration of road traffic with the Trust's conceptual design for the improvement of St James's Palace forecourt.
- Cyclists who habitually cycle against the present flow in St James's Street will now be able to lawfully cycle in both directions.
- Railings on the edges of the public footways are to be removed, particularly in Piccadilly thereby effectively increasing the width of the footway by about 18 inches.
- Footways in most of Piccadilly, and possibly in St James's Street if funding is available, will be paved with York stone paving.
- Some Bus traffic could use Pall Mall and St James's Street which reduce the existing congestion of bus traffic.
- The integration of road traffic with the Trust's scheme for St James's Square where the design work is now complete.

The present One-Way system in St James's dates from the 1950s and 1960s when the present Gyratory System was introduced. The St James's gyratory system, which includes Pall Mall, St James's Street, Piccadilly and Lower Regent Street, was typical of others that were introduced in London and other major cities. At that time traffic engineers gave preference to the movement of cars over pedestrians in the expectation that vehicle traffic would move more freely. A Gyratory System is defined as a traffic system requiring the circular movement of traffic through a System of one way streets to avoid the need for one line of traffic to intersect another. The Gyratory principle had been known to road traffic engineers since at least 1909 and were considered as having the advantage of keeping traffic on the move.

The new Two-Way system in St James's will cost about £14 million of which £7 million has been funded by Transport for London; £3.5 Million by Westminster City Council; and £3.5 million by The Crown Estate. In addition Fortnum & Mason and probably other local interests will be making a significant contribution.

St James's Palace forecourt improvement proposals

Although the new Two-Way road system will provide an opportunity to implement the long cherished desire of the St James's Conservation Trust, to enhance the forecourt of St James's Palace in time for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012, there is currently no public funding. The Project has been discussed in 2010 between Mr Hank Dittmar, Chief Executive of The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, and Mr Peter Heath RIBA MRTPI for the Trust. In addition, English Heritage is helping to promote this scheme and may fund a replica heritage gas lamp standard, which stood in front of the Palace at the end of the 19th Century.



The proposed layout for the junction of Pall Mall, St James's Street and St James's Palace forecourt, put forward by Westminster City Council, and to be implemented when further funding is available.

Cheques for Public Subscriptions for funding the St James's Palace enhancement should be made out to Westminster City Council and forwarded to Mr Martin Low, Westminster City Commissioner of Transportation, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP

Credits: Peter Heath RIBA, MRTPI, (Technical Director-Atkins Public Realm, Tel: 020 7121 2376, Email: peter.heath@atkinsglobal.com) Atkins Limited provided source material for articles on planning matters in this Newsletter.



The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2012

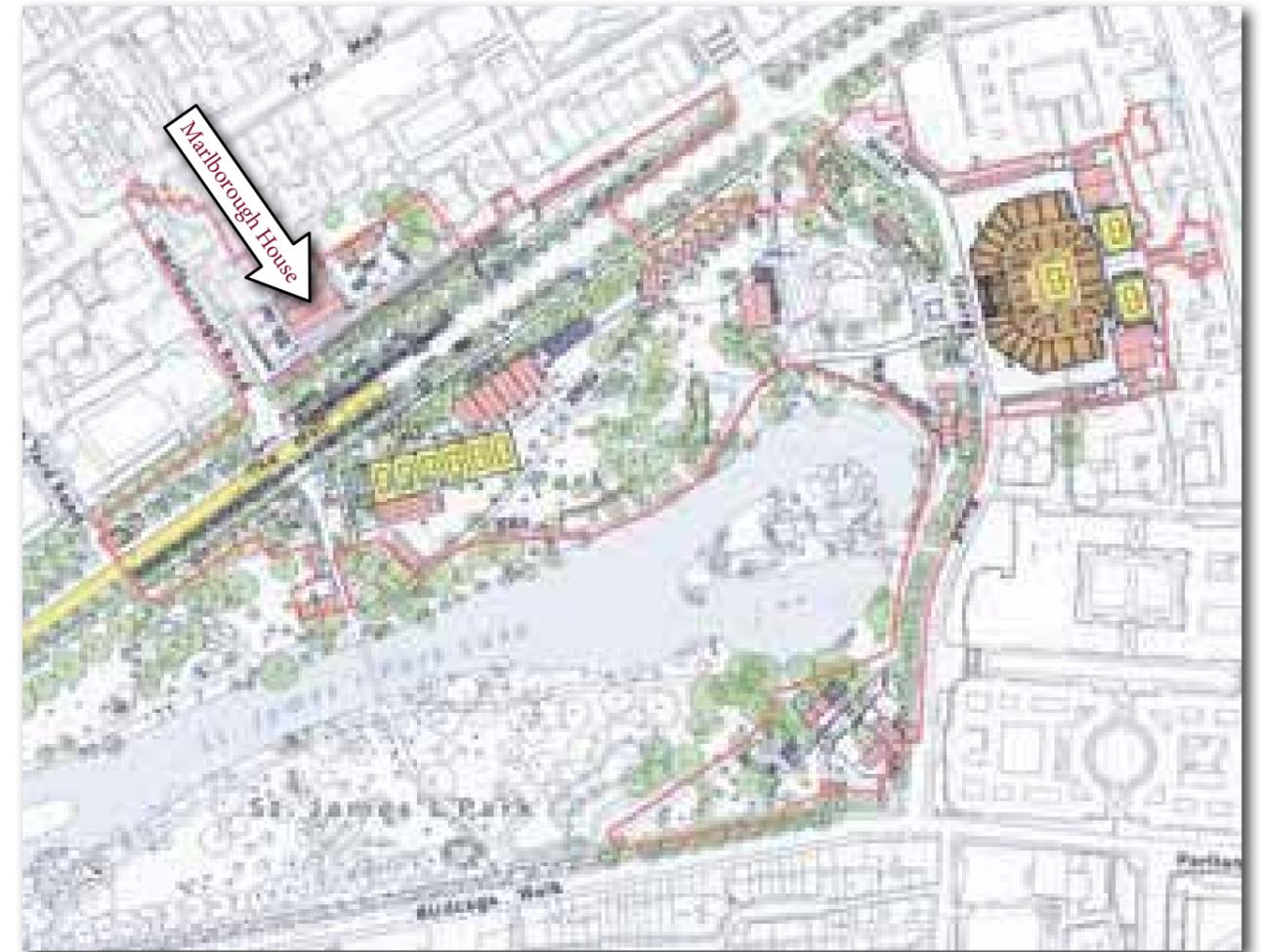
In 2012, some events of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held on Horse Guards Parade, The Mall and within a large part of St James's Park which will be used for warm-up games and Marlborough House which will be a centre for administration and communications. This will be preceded by event Tests in 2011. The map opposite shows the Olympic site in St James's which overlaps with the southern part of the Area of Benefit of the Trust. The arrow indicates Marlborough House (a Grade I Listed Building).



Marlborough House Grade I by Sir Christopher Wren.

Full details of events and activities in 2011 and 2012 are set out below.

Event		Competition days	Provisional competition dates	Field of Play
Test Beach Volley Ball		6	9-14 Aug 2011	Guards Parade
Test Road Cycling		2	12-14 Aug 2011	The Mall
Test Marathon & Race Walk		1	30 May 2011	The Mall
Beach Volley Ball		13	28 July 2012	Horse Guards
Road Cycling	Men	1	28 July 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Road Cycling	Women	1	29 July 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Race Walk	Men-20k	1	5 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Race Walk	Women-20k	1	10 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Race Walk	Men-50k	1	11 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Marathon	Women	1	5 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Marathon	Men	1	12 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall
Paralympic Marathon		1	9 Aug 2012	Start/finish The Mall



There will be a period of setting-up and event removal as indicated in the table below.

Event	Facilities	Activity	Duration	Dates
Test	Event facilities	Set-up	21 days	July 2011
Test	Beach Volley Ball	Removal	17 days	August 2011
Phase 1	Event facilities	Set-up	10 days	6-15 Jun 2012
Phase 2	Event facilities	Set-up	36 days	18-23 Jul 2012
Phase 1	Horse Guards	Removal	19 days	13-31 Aug 2012
Phase 2	The Mall	Removal	21 days	10-30 Sep 2012

In summary, in 2012 there will be Olympic Games activity in the St James's Area, including setting-up and removal extending over a period of **117** days.

The St James's Conservation Trust commends the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games for its meticulous planning of the events in St James's. Great efforts have been made to ensure there is no damage to the trees in St James's Park and to the Listed Buildings and heritage items in the area. This is particularly relevant to Marlborough House, a Grade I 'Wren' building which will be used as the 'Games Family' lounge.

The Catalpa or Indian Bean tree

in St James's Church, Piccadilly

There was great sadness, and even anger, amongst people in St James's when, in April 2010, it was found necessary to cut down the Catalpa tree in the churchyard of St James's Church, Piccadilly. This became necessary after one of the church authorities received a phone call to say that this well-loved tree had keeled over and a large part of its upper branches and foliage were being supported by the church's iron fence and overhanging the public footway in Piccadilly. Up until this time, the tree, which is thought to have been planted in about 1929, was supported by a metal stand. Immediate action was required because the tree posed a danger to anyone in its vicinity.

A tree expert from Westminster City Council responded with great speed and in accordance with its powers vested in the Council for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, she ordered the upper branches that were leaning over the fence onto Piccadilly to be cut off and, on the following day, because of the decayed nature of the tree, instructed that the whole tree should be felled. Catalpa trees are notorious for being prone to falling down in this way.



Felled Catalpa tree in St James's Church yard.

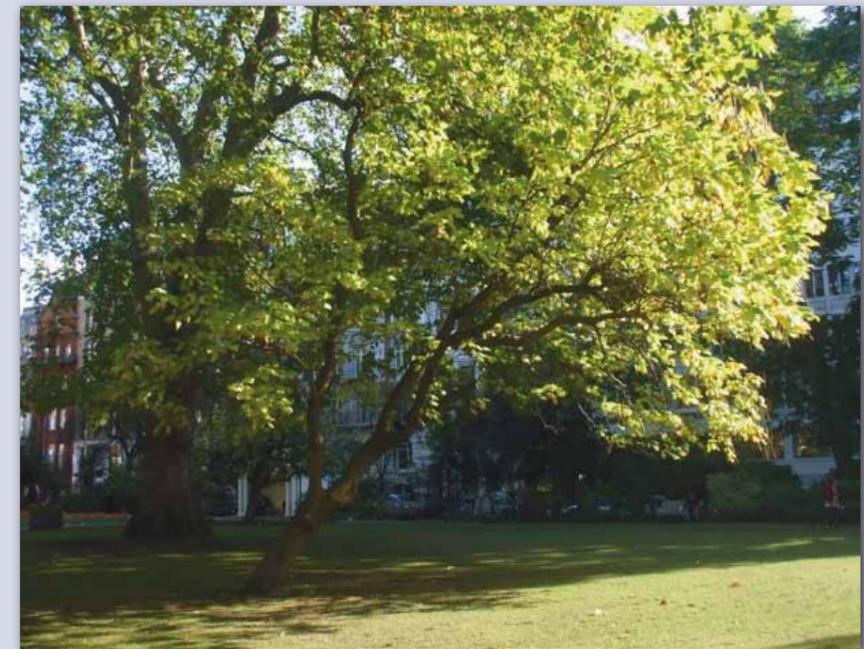


Blossoms of Catalpa bignonioides.

An observer considered that this much loved tree should have been saved but the local authority Tree Officer, having assessed the fallen tree, decided it should be removed in the interests of public safety. The parishioners are now being asked to decide what type of tree should be planted to replace it. Perhaps it will be another magnolia tree to match the fine specimen in the same yard.

About 30 years ago, the Rector, the Reverend Donald Reeves introduced a custom to hold part of baptism services under the Catalpa tree, which is known for its beautiful flowers and hanging seed pods; perhaps this was redolent of the past when the broad canopy of the Catalpa was used for services and reminded parishioners of the strong link between nature and human life.

This tree was a *Catalpa bignonioides*. Catalpas were introduced into England in about 1728 from North America and, although once rare, are now relatively common; for example there is one in the St James's Square gardens. They succeed well in rich, dampish loam, and exist well in smoky situations. The book "Great Trees of London" states "there are only 56 trees in London exceptional for their height, girth, reach, age or rarity; of those only 10 are in Central London and include the Catalpa in the yard of St James's Church, Piccadilly." However, this tree, although beautiful and well-loved, is not rare. In spite of this, Brian Sewell, the art critic and media personality, wrote in May 2010 that a publication called "Time Out" was publishing an illustrated paper back of "The Great Trees of London" which includes rare trees, including the Catalpa that stood in St James's Church yard. However, this opinion is not supported in "London Trees 1920" in which A.D. Webster said "There are many fine specimens of Catalpa in London, where it grows from 30 to 50 feet in height and grows with vigour in many crowded centres, as in Middle Temple gardens, by the House of Parliament, Fulham Palace, in Manchester Square and Camden. Flowers from the one in Manchester Square were sent each year to Queen Alexander".



A Catalpa tree in St James's Square gardens.

The St James Conservation Trust supports the Westminster City Council principle to protect significant trees in private ownership by the appropriate use of Tree Preservation Orders and enforcement of breaches of control; and is confident that Westminster's tree stock is planted and when appropriate, as is the case of the St James's Church Catalpa, replaced, in accordance with contemporary arboricultural best practice, and with careful consideration of its relationship with townscape, amenity and biodiversity.



Support for the St James's Conservation Trust

Those who care for St James's are all too aware that this unique area is a fragile treasure which is under intense threat from destructive influences. The energies of the Trust are actively spent preserving St James's for future generations to enjoy. In running the Trust, the Trustees give their time free and the overheads of the Trust are kept to the minimum. This includes paying for architectural and other specialist advice, legal fees and for a full time administrator. Most of the donations it receives are devoted to meeting the costs of essential planning and legal advice.

There are many calls on the Trust's funds. Some are predictable, but most occur on an *ad hoc* basis, in response to events. Over the past twelve years, the Trust has received many generous donations from its friends and these funds have been used sparingly and wisely. The Trust only has small reserves, and without the generosity of its supporters, the Trust would be unable to continue its work. It is estimated that our present annual expenditure will be about £80,000, and we still need donations to reach this sum. We look forward to the day when we have accumulated sufficient regular support to go some way towards producing an adequate annual income.

The Trustees of the St James's Conservation Trust would, therefore, welcome donations and an annual commitment would greatly help the Trust in establishing a sound financial base. In addition, legacies made in favour of the Trust would materially ensure the future of the important work of the Trust. All donations will be formally acknowledged and the value of donations from private individuals would be greatly enhanced if donors completed the Gift Aid forms which are available from the Administrator. Cheques should be made out to the St James's Conservation Trust and sent to:-

The Administrator
St James's Conservation Trust
C/o Morgan Cole solicitors
Buxton Court, 3 Westway
Oxford OX2 0SZ
Mobile: 07821 377299

Alternatively, the standing order form to be found online at www.sjctrust.co.uk can be made out to the Trust's bankers:-

Adam & Company Plc
22 King Street
London SW1Y 6QY
Tel: 020 7839 4615



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