Blessed with bright autumn sunshine, and walking in the footsteps of his great uncle, the 9th Viscount Portman in 1952, the current Viscount Christopher Portman officially re-opened the Old Church Memorial Garden on 18th November 2012 after its recent renovation by the St Marylebone Society.

The project started in 2007 when residents contacted the Society concerned that the garden had not been restored as promised following its use by Marylebone School during their building works. It has taken over 5 years to get everyone’s agreement, raise funds and complete the work on site. Westminster Council’s support ensured that this project became a reality and the Lord Mayor, resplendent in her new blue and gold Jubilee robes addressed a crowd of over a hundred and fifty local residents who gathered to celebrate this historic community occasion.

Rev Stephen Evans officiated at the ceremony, leading the prayers and accompanied by the St Marylebone Church choir, beautifully singing Charles Wesley’s timeless hymns. Representatives from Hinde St Church included Revd. Sue Keegan Von Allmen, Val Reid and John Hicks QC and with Revd. Michael Persson representing the Swedish Church.

We would especially like to thank Cllr Robert Davis, John Tweddle, Garry Wise and David Sear from Westminster Council for their input along with the contractors, Tom Malone and Mark Howard of Enterprise and AN Contract Services Limited. Soft landscaping and planting designed by landscape designer Stephen Crisp and installed by Continental Landscapes, will bring colour, seasonal change and life back to the garden and we look forward to it blooming throughout the years.

We were delighted that the Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association contributed by sponsoring a commemorative bench as well as society members, Mike Wood, Sheila D’Souza and the Emerson family. We hope to eventually replace all the old benches and six more are available to sponsor. Please contact the society if you would like more information on this.

Thank you to all who donated funds to the project, large and small, including the Princess Grace Hospital, local residents and businesses and all of you, St Marylebone society members whose support and enthusiasm has sustained the project. This small public garden provides much pleasure to us all and is historically significant because it represents the birthplace of Marylebone, where in 1400 the original St Mary’s Church stood, surrounded by fields on the banks of the River Tyburn.

In 1952 the Society published a book recording the history of the site, which we are revising and hope to reprint later this year. If anyone has old photographs of the garden or chapel before its demolition, please could you send these to the Society for possible inclusion in the publication.
This Jubilee Year has been a time for celebration and also a time for reflection. The St Marylebone Society’s history runs parallel with that of our monarch and has witnessed many changes. In February the King’s Troop left St John’s Wood where they had been based for over 130 years, moving to Woolwich. Their former barracks will be redeveloped. The White Heather, last working tug in Paddington, represented St Marylebone in the Queen’s Jubilee pageant and residents partied in the street. We all enjoyed and survived the Olympics as the anticipated crowds and traffic chaos in Central London did not materialise.

A year has passed with no decision on the future Marylebone Library. The Westminster Consultation was woefully inadequate and many felt a foregone conclusion, leaving many in a state of confusion. Westminster’s preferred site is Luxborough Street, however, Luxborough Residents continue to campaign for retention of their play space. Meanwhile the old Library building continues to deteriorate. In the summer we had an opportunity to photograph and record the buildings before they are leased to the London Business School. Faded and neglected interiors, great spaces but needing urgent restoration. This will be the last Society AGM held in this wonderful reception room which has witnessed our meetings for 65 years.

The annual planning walk looked at the western side of Marylebone, specifically focusing on the Church St Futures Project. This involves new developments for housing and businesses, and ideas about what to do with left-over spaces. It aims to repair the urban fabric and reconnect areas historically separated and run down.

The area around Baker St is also being considered for upgrading. It is the ‘gateway’ into Marylebone and needs better access, lifts to the tube, landscaping and shop-front improvements. Portman Estate’s Baker St Quarter (BSQ) is a Business Improvement District which is working with corporate partners, such as Madame Tussaud’s and the St Marylebone Society, to work towards improving the area. Members are invited to attend a presentation by the BSQ on 11th March at 6.30pm in the Council House. Please RSVP to Planning Chair Cynthia Fole at mail@stmarylebonesociety.org

The changes in Marylebone over the last 64 years were illustrated at the Village Fayre with archive photos from the original SMS photographic competition, paired with images from the 2012 Art in Marylebone St George’s Day photo competition, which is organised by Tony Frazer-Price and myself.

Neighbourhood Planning, now high on the political agenda, has been something the Society has involved itself with since its foundation post WW2. The Chairwoman was delighted to meet Ruth Eldridge earlier this year, first secretary of the SMS and charged with commenting on The County of London plan in 1948.

Following the Localism Bill, Neighbourhood Planning continues to dominate the SMS planning committee’s agenda and they continue to consult and negotiate with our members and neighbours at the Marylebone Association. In 1951 the creation of The Old Church Memorial Garden was a great example of a real neighbourhood plan, as was its recent restoration project.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers, the planning committee council members and all of you for supporting the SMS.

We were privileged to welcome the writer and architectural historian Gillian Darley to speak at our AGM. Gillian has written a host of books and articles on a range of subjects from architectural heritage and conservation to her acclaimed cultural history of Mount Vesuvius. Her recent biography of Octavia Hill was the subject of her lecture to members and highlighted the debt we owe this remarkable, pioneering woman. Octavia Hill worked tirelessly to improve housing and today the row of cottages on Ranston Street, flats in St Christopher’s Place and her first restored dwellings on Garbutt Place stand as testament to her foresight and vision to improve workers’ housing in Marylebone.

Her book Octavia Hill: Social Reformer and Founder of the National Trust, is thoroughly researched and brings the fascinating story of Octavia Hill to life.


Chair - Gaby Higgs, President - Colin Amery and AGM speaker Gillian Darley.
In February 2013 businesses in the Baker Street and Portman Square area will vote on whether proposals to improve the area through a Business improvement District (BID) will go ahead in April. The objectives of Baker Street Quarter are wide ranging and will work to benefit all those working and living in the area. They have been developed following extensive studies and consultation with local businesses, residents and visitors.

**Strategic Objectives**

- Create a High-Quality Public Realm
- Represent, Position and Promote
- Establish a Premier Business Hub

The long-term aims of the partnership include improvements to Baker Street Station, the removal of the Baker Street-Gloucester Place gyratory and enhancements to the retail and leisure offer. Other projects include a local business directory, app and privilege card; food markets; a CSR programme making it easier for businesses to donate time and resources to good causes in the local area; a job brokerage assisting businesses in employing local people; and, an ambassador service to provide visitor information, support local businesses and monitor and report issues in the public realm (overflowing bins, potholes, lights out etc).

To find out more, view the full BID Proposal or contact the Baker Street Quarter team:

W: www.bakerstreetquarter.co.uk
E: info@bakerstreetquarter.co.uk
T: 020 3056 5910
The essentially round Temple Church had had a projection of a single-bay chancel to the east but when, in the 1230s, King Henry III expressed a desire to be buried in a church, the Templars demolished it and built the current three-bay chancel in preparation. As it turned out Henry changed his mind and he was subsequently buried in Westminster Abbey.

By a miracle the Temple Church escaped destruction in the Great Fire of 1666, which destroyed many of the buildings of the Inner Temple. It was not so lucky in the Second World War. In May 1941 a fire started by an incendiary-bomb led to the collapse of the wooden roof of the round western end of the Temple Church, which took much of the circular wall with it. The heat of the fire cracked the chancel’s Purbeck marble columns but its vaulted roof held up. There are some very informative explanatory panels hung around the walls of the church which reproduce photographs showing the devastation caused by the fire. Including, bizarrely, a fashion shoot with models standing amidst the rubble. It took 17 years to rebuild the church. The round western end is almost completely a reconstruction but it contains some interesting stone effigies of 13th century knights—most, heavily restored and not necessarily in their original positions. It also contains some carved grotesque heads (some copies, some new), which are unusual for being on the inside rather than on the outside of the church. The cracked Purbeck marble columns of the chancel have been replaced by new ones quarried from the same source and set at the same outward-leaning angle. Christopher Wren had been commissioned in the 1670s to refurbish the medieval church in the classical style. In the first half of the 19th century the church was given a neo-gothic make-over, by Sir Robert Smirke among others, and Wren’s wonderful Baroque altarpiece was sold off – thus escaping destruction in the 1941 fire. It languished for a while at the Bowes Museum in County Durham but, happily, it was brought back and reinstalled as part of the post-war restoration.

If you missed the SMS visit to the Temple Church, we would definitely recommend it. It can effectively be done as a self-guided tour – based on the large number of fascinating information panels put up throughout the church. There is a visitor’s fee of £4 (free for senior citizens) and you might like to check the website for opening times: www.templechurch.com

Mike Wood

*It was emphatically not, as one of the protagonists of Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code claimed, modelled on the pagan Pantheon, in honour of the sun.
PLANS FOR THE COUNCIL HOUSE AND LIBRARY ANNEXE

Plans have recently been submitted to Westminster Council by The London Business School (LBS) for a scheme to renovate and make alterations to the Council House and Library Annex. The St Marylebone Society were asked to consider and comment on their proposals, and we were fortunate that the architects, Sheppard Robson were able to present their ideas at the Society's February planning committee meeting.

Following disappointment and facing the reality that Westminster Council could not financially restore the buildings to their previous public uses, we were delighted that LBS were successful in securing the buildings to expand their organisation as we consider this an excellent use for the buildings. We understand that LBS need to make changes to meet their requirements for state of the art teaching and conference facilities and hope that they will take our comments on board. LBS is an important, established institution in our neighbourhood and we look forward to cooperation and a positive outcome for all involved. The documents can be seen on Westminster's planning website searching with the reference 12/12626/FULL. If you do not have internet access or wish to see the drawings more clearly please contact the Society to arrange a suitable time to look at the paper documents and drawings we have received as part of the consultation.

Dear Society,

I am a member of both the St Marylebone Society (contributing a Lionel Bart article earlier this year) and of the Inn Sign Society, where the interests recently converged.

In the Inn Sign Society’s latest Journal is a picture of the pub sign of the Thornbury Castle in Enford Street, Marylebone. The caption asks: “Does any member know why a pub in Marylebone is named after Thornbury Castle in Gloucestershire, a Tudor mansion house that is now a luxury hotel?”

Maybe one of our members might shed some light on the matter. If so I would like to pass it on to the Inn Sign Society.

All the best,

Mike Pentelow
Until I left the UK to live abroad in 1989, I had lived in Harrowby St.

Harrowby Street’s chief claim to fame, or notoriety, is that one of its minor tributaries is Cato Street, connected to it by a picturesque archway which locals used to call “The Bay”. Cato Street was, as everyone knows, where a heinous but unsuccessful plot was hatched to slaughter the entire Cabinet while it was at dinner in Lord Harrowby’s house in Grosvenor Square.

Apart from this sanguinary drama Harrowby Street has left little imprint in the sands of Marylebone’s history. Originally it was called Queen Street and according to my grandmother its reputation in Victorian days was such that policemen only dared walk its length in pairs. Its name was changed to Harrowby Street in memory of Lord Harrowby.

By the time I was a schoolboy in the 1950s, attending the nearby RC Tyburn School in what is now Old Marylebone Road, Harrowby/Queen street was somewhat more salubrious. Nevertheless, every Sunday the Sally Army band would march its length and come to a stop outside the Duke of York pub, where it would perform a 30-minute concert of mournful hymns. In fact the Duke of York (1889), or “The Dook” as it was known locally, was eminently respectable by the 1950s, being a favoured watering-hole for some of the stars of the British film industry. Sundays in Harrowby Street also saw the arrival of the cockles andwhelks man, pushing his barrow and announcing his coming with a strange strangled cry. On other days would come the knifegrinder in his little van, the rag and bone man on his wagon drawn by an old nag, and then, of course, the coalman, pouring great stiff sacks of the stuff down the coal-holes in the pavement.

Children still played hopscotch in Harrowby Street in those days and swung on home-made ropes hung from the arms of the street lamps where the lamplighter rested his ladder to ignite the gas flame. Every street had its juvenile gang – some more menacing than others. The Forset St Gang were the most feared of all. Forset Street was still pure Dickens in the 1950s: a dingy, dirty line of ragged cottages blackened by time and soot, where grubby rags seemed to serve as curtains in the smeared windows. I always tried to avoid passing down Forset Street.

For a child growing up in Harrowby Street in those far-off days, long before computer games and mobile phones, there was one major attraction: the toy department of Garrould’s store. Garrould’s was housed in an ornamental Victorian block on the north-west corner of Harrowby St and Edgware Rd. It still retained some of the quaint trappings of the Victorian retail trade - payments were sent to a central cashier in tubes that ran on overhead wires. As a boy I used to haunt the toy department of Garrould’s.

I knew nothing then of the history of Garrould’s, but I did know that at one time my grandmother had worked there. I am now 67 and I am compiling a family history and this has led me to investigate the story of Garrould’s Garrould’s was founded sometime in the 19th century. Judging by a print from the 1850s it seems to have been a general drapery emporium, but by the 1890s Garrould’s had expanded to occupy three different premises, in the Edgware Road, Queen Street and Nutford Place, and it was a leading supplier of nurses’ uniforms and equipment. By the 1950s it had dwindled to occupying just that one building at the end of Harrowby Street and it had become a general department store.

In the 1960s Marylebone suffered grievously from the brutalism of modernist planners. The Marylebone Flyover tore a vicious gash across the Edgware Road; in Nutford Place a superb Regency terrace was bulldozed for the unalluring Marriot hotel; and Garrould’s was swept away for the construction of a Lego-like tower block.

If any reader knows what happened to the records of Garrould’s I would love to hear from them.

Adrian Marlowe, an SMS member in the 1960s, now lives in Holland.
The coat of arms of the Metropolitan Borough of St Marylebone, created at the beginning of the 20th century, contains multiple allusions to the Virgin Mary. The parish church of 1400 and the current one were of course dedicated to her and “Mary” in the name Marylebone derives from this fact - i.e the church of St Mary by thebourne or river (the River Tyburn is said to be represented by the blue and white wavy lines on the shield). Not only is Mary herself represented on the coat of arms, but it also features lilies (including the “fleur-de-lis”) and a rose, which have traditionally been associated with Mary. For example, a legend says that when Mary’s tomb was opened to show Thomas that her body had been assumed to heaven it was found to contain only lilies and roses.

Most significantly, if the Gospel of Luke is to be believed, the motto itself is actually a direct quote from Mary, translated into Latin (except for one minor edit – see below). The Gospel starts off with a description of how the formerly barren Elizabeth becomes pregnant through the divine intervention of the Holy Ghost. Then six months later, when the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is to conceive the son of God, Mary asks how this can be, given that she has not, in the Biblical sense, known a man. The angel refers her to the case of her cousin Elizabeth “who was called barren”, but who conceived – and Mary is assured that with God nothing is impossible. At which point Mary says to the angel (Chapter 1, Verse 38) “[And Mary said], Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” Which in the Latin (Vulgate) version reads: “Dixit autem Maria ecce ancilla Domini fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum et desisset ab illa angelus”.

The bit highlighted in red, meaning “Be it unto me according to thy word”, is essentially the St Marylebone motto. By deleting the word “mihi” (“unto me”) it becomes “Fiat Secundum Verbum Tuum” (Be it according to thy word). Presumably the deletion of “unto me” is a tidying up/simplification exercise, whereby the distracting particularity of the remark in context is removed and a more general, but still essentially religious, sentiment is expressed – let things be according to God’s word/will. And what could be more natural for an organisation of local government with its roots in the Parish Vestry, that it should choose to be guided by this religious sentiment.

However, in the creation of coats of arms and mottos there has been a long history of playing with multiple meanings, through the use of rebuses and puns, that stretches back at least as far as Elizabethan times. Bearing this in mind one wonders whether it is possible, that in addition to the religious reading of the motto “Be it according to thy word”, the motto’s crafters intended to imply, in parallel with it, a democratic message. The Metropolitan Boroughs at the start of the 20th century were a new form of democratically accountable local government, which replaced the vestries. So a possible reading of “Be it according to thy word”, is that things ought to be done according to the word/will of the electorate. This may be an anachronistically modern reading but, in the absence of evidence of authorial intent, who is to say that it was not an additional meaning intended by the motto’s creators?

If readers have any evidence one way or the other about the intended meanings of the motto, it would be most interesting to hear from you.

Mike Wood

Marylebone
Marylebone;
A familiar, particular place,
Intuitively felt,
Whose atmosphere oxygenates
my homing instincts.
Place whose city soil welcomes my roots.

Marylebone,
I’ve known and loved you all my life,
Yet I’ve often lived apart from you.
Within your boundaries,
stands a gentle threader of my history;
And this, is Bryanston Square.
In this haven of rootedness,
I cherish my beginnings
In God and in history.

The square cries out joy and healing
to bruised spirits,
By peaceful greenery spreading out
To give soul to urban emptiness.
Plane trees standing sentinel
With gentle eyes,
Are hugely unobtrusive.
They are a hallmark of home,
And deep-rooted symbol of hope.

We are pleased to welcome Andrèa Coore to the St Marylebone Society Council as Membership Secretary.

The Society is looking for new members, please give the enclosed membership form to a friend, neighbour, etc. or get them to email membership@stmarylebonesociety.org

Your name and email address are held on a computer database for the sole use of the St Marylebone Society.
RIBA Coffee Morning

Members enjoyed conversation and coffee in the stylish surroundings of RIBA’s art deco ballroom. Following a short talk by curator Justine Sambrook on the use of colour in architectural photography there was a chance to enjoy the library exhibition and also interact with an amazing innovative sculpture, ‘The 21st Century Light Space Modulator’.

Christmas Party

This year we celebrated Christmas dinner, Italian style, thanks to an inspirational idea by Dorian Aroyo to host this at Briciole restaurant on Crawford Street. The starter of many classic Italian dishes just kept coming, the main course and dessert were delicious and the wine and hospitality of Umberto Tosi created a wonderful, festive atmosphere to start off the Christmas Season in Marylebone.

St Marylebone Society Children’s Art Competition 2012

Jeremy Deller & Matthew Higgs judging.

Now in its fifth year the St Marylebone Children’s Art Competition culminated in an exhibition in Marylebone Station on 14th October, thanks to the generous and enthusiastic support of Chiltern Railways. The theme of the competition was “My favourite place in Marylebone”.

The wide range of work illustrated how diverse and interesting our neighbourhood is and just how differently we all see Marylebone. Congratulations are due to all who submitted artwork to the competition; it was wonderful and inspiring.

Judges were once again international art curator, Matthew Higgs and Turner Prize winning artist, Jeremy Deller.

Irrespective of age the judges considered all the entries and selected Manying Lo, with a water colour of ‘Marylebone Station, as the overall winner and she was presented with the silver cup donated by the Keen family to celebrate our 60th anniversary.

The judges commented: “This is technically accomplished work. The piece records the everyday. Like a flâneur the artist truly observes and records the comings and goings of the station. It is a nice touch that she is in the scene but not coloured in. It conveys the idea of the artist as being apart, as an onlooker. There are references to the work of Edward Burra and obviously to Japanese anime. The perspective is good, the composition and detail show sophistication. It is an engaging work.”

Photography Competition

A Day in the Life of Marylebone – St George’s Day – 23 April 2013

Take your camera and capture evocative moments within and around Marylebone on St George’s Day and the long weekend of 22nd – 23rd April.

Choose up to three of your images to send to our website www.artinmarylebone.org by midnight of 26th April.

The fifty best photographs will be selected, published in a commemorative hardback book and exhibited in Marylebone this summer.

Open to anyone with a digital camera. For details and competition rules see www.artinmarylebone.org

St Marylebone Society Programme 2013

Wednesday, 13th February, Marylebone Association Coffee Morning, 10.30am, Coffee morning at Canteen, 55 Baker St, London W1, £5.00 Everyone welcome – no need to book.

Monday, 4th March, Saint Marylebone Society Coffee Morning at the Dorset Square Hotel, 39-40 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QN, in the Potting Shed Bar 10.30 am. Refreshments for this event come with the compliments of the Dorset Square Hotel.

Thursday 7 March. Sir John Soane Museum – Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London WC2. This large period house contains a remarkable collection of antiquities together with fine arts, especially Hogarth’s and many examples of eighteenth century furniture. There has been a recent refurbishment with many items not previously on view. Meet outside 11.00 am FREE.

Tuesday, 16th April, Marylebone Association Coffee Morning at the Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London, W1U 3BN 10.30am, £5.00. Everyone welcome – no need to book.

Tuesday 16 April. The Bank of England Museum – entrance Bartholomew Lane London EC1. The Bank of England was founded in 1694 and there is a fascinating collection of banking history and commercial development through the centuries including coinage, early cheques, gold and bank notes. Meet outside 3.00 pm FREE.


Sunday 16th June, Howard de Walden Summer Fayre. Marylebone High Street. Come and help on the stall.

For more information and late bookings please contact: St Marylebone Society Events Secretary, Douglas Temple, Flat 1, 23 Seymour Place, London W1H 5BH – 020 7723 6417.

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