

- THE -
SIR KEITH PARK
- MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN -



January Newsletter 2009

Dear Supporter,

I hope you had a good Christmas and enjoyed your New Year celebrations. I would like to thank you for your valued support and continuing backing as the Campaign prepares itself for the new challenges that present themselves in 2009, and moves onto the next stage to secure a suitable site for a memorial statue of Sir Keith Park. Also, it was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Campaign's unveiling event of the selected final version of the Sir Keith Park maquette statue, on 30th October 2008 at City Hall, the offices of Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London.

This January 2009 issue of our newsletter contains a report and images of this recent Campaign event, and includes information on how you, as a supporter of Sir Keith Park, can further assist the Campaign at this critical stage. Your support so far has been invaluable but should you wish to help our cause further, then please assist the Campaign by contacting Westminster City Council to notify their Planning Committee that you wholeheartedly support the Campaign's effort and proposed scheme to see both a temporary statue of Sir Keith Park on the 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square and then a permanent memorial statue situated in Waterloo Place in time for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2010. Full details on how, and who, to contact at Westminster City Council are included in this newsletter, or you can contact the Campaign directly on: **020 7200 7332** or email: info@sirkeithpark.com or visit the website for further information.

The Campaign to date has been fortunate and successful in securing support from many individuals and organisations including members of the extended Park family resident both in the UK and New Zealand, Battle of Britain veterans, current serving members and veterans of the RAF and our other forces, the Mayor of London - Boris Johnson, various MPs, Peers, London Assembly Members and many more members of the general public. At the unveiling event recently held at City Hall, the Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes GLAM, and I outlined in our speeches the Campaign's objectives of placing a temporary statue of Sir Keith on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in Autumn 2009 for six months, followed by a permanent statue in Waterloo Place commemorating the 70th anniversary of the 'Battle of Britain' in September 2010.

The Campaign has now reached the point where submission of two planning applications to Westminster City Council Planning Department is imminent (in late January 2009). The Campaign is optimistic that by Spring this year we will have navigated the planning process having consulted at all stages with the Council, and the various other statutory bodies and will then know fully what the Campaign must do to comply with the wishes of Westminster City Council to ensure both the installation of the temporary statue in 2009 and the permanent statue in Waterloo Place in 2010, are achieved.

I would like to thank all of our supporters for helping us to achieve our aims so far and to ask you for your help going forward by continuing to ensure we apply pressure to the relevant authorities to achieve the aim of a suitable memorial to Sir Keith Park, which recognises his role, and that of those he inspired and led, during the Battle of Britain.

Kind regards,

Terry Smith

Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign



Final maquette of Sir Keith Park created by Leslie Johnson.

Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign - Planning Applications to Westminster City Council



Maquette Statue of Sir Keith Park.

Westminster City Council Planning Applications

The Campaign will be submitting planning applications for a temporary statue of Sir Keith Park on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, and a permanent statue in Waterloo Place with Westminster City Council Planning Department (WCCPD) in late January 2009. Both these applications follow previous submissions, discussions and correspondence with Westminster City Council and their Public Arts Advisory Panel (WCCPAAP), a panel who offer advice to WCCPD on planning application submissions concerning new statues. Initial responses from WCCPAAP have been positive regarding the final actual form of the statue proposal and the proposed permanent statue site in Waterloo Place. The Campaign team have also written to and met, or offered to meet, with local businesses, organisations and residents who are based around either the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square or Waterloo Place, to inform them of the Campaign's aims and objectives. The responses we have received to date have been extremely positive.

Even at this advanced stage in the Campaign however, no decision can be taken for granted, so the Campaign would like to ask you for your help.

For further information, please contact:
Karl M^cCartney, Campaign Director,
Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign,
Level 3, 155 Bishopsgate, London. EC2M 3TQ.
Email: campaign@sirkeithpark.com
Phone: 020 7200 7332 / 020 7200 7130
Fax: 020 7200 7678

How Can You Help?

If you are willing to further support the Campaign, you can do so by contacting the Westminster City Council Planning Department and informing them of your backing of the Campaign's Planning Applications and proposed schemes. You can do this by writing directly to Westminster City Council Planning Department (WCCPD), using the template letter below that includes the exact details of where to address your correspondence.

Every person who writes to WCCPD in support of the Campaign and proposed schemes strengthens the case for the planning applications we have submitted. We would ask you to write to WCCPD with your own letter, or the template letter shown below, which can be used to indicate your support. You can also access a copy of this text on our website, or download the text in a file from our website at: www.sirkeithpark.com

Mr. Michael Gray RIBA IHBC, [Your Address Here]
Principal Urban Design, [Insert Date Here]
& Conservation Officer,
South Area Planning Team
Westminster City Council
64 Victoria Street,
London, SW1E 6QP.
Email: sirkeithparkmemorial@westminster.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Gray,
I [Insert Your Name] would like to indicate my support for the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign Planning Applications for the placing of two statues of Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, GCB, KBE, MC and Bar, DFC, RAF (15 June 1892 - 6 February 1975). The first planning application is made with the agreement of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and the GLA, and is for a temporary installation of a statue of Sir Keith Park on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square. The second application, which has the support of many varied organisations and individuals, is for a permanent bronze statue of Sir Keith Park to be subsequently and permanently located in Waterloo Place, installed as an integral part of the 2010 commemoration of the Battle of Britain.

Sir Keith Park's tremendous achievements during the Battle of Britain (and in World War I and World War II) remain to date largely unrecognised by the majority of the public. I believe that a fitting recognition would be the placement of a memorial statue to Sir Keith, who apart from his remarkable personal achievements, and the achievements of all those he led, also stands as a figure of recognition for the Commonwealth individuals who gave so much, both directly and indirectly, during the Second World War. Installing these statues of Sir Keith Park would go some way to raising the profile of the sacrifice of so many for all of us in our country today and commemorating a great man whose vital role has for far too long been overlooked.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name Here]

Please send this letter, or a letter in your own words, indicating your support of the schemes to the address above as shown on the template.

Unveiling Event at City Hall, Office of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson



Unveiling of Maquette Statue of Sir Keith Park at City Hall - Present in this image are: from left to right: Lady Dowding, daughter-in-law of Lord (Hugh) Dowding; His Excellency Derek Leask, New Zealand High Commissioner; Terry Smith; Edward Fox OBE; Terence Stevens-Prior, great great nephew of SKP; Isabella Stevens-Prior, daughter of Terence Stevens-Prior; Richard Barnes GLAM, Deputy Mayor of London; Flt. Lt. K. Lawrence DFC RAF Ret'd, & Flt Lt W. Walker RAF Ret'd, BoB Veterans; Les Johnson, Sculptor of Sir Keith Park Statue; Lt. J. Keatings RAF Ret'd, Wg Cdr T. Neill DFC AFC AE RAF Ret'd, Flt. Lt. O. V. Burns RAF Ret'd & Sqd Ldr T. Iverson AFC AE RAF Ret'd, BoB Veterans; Laurette Cummins, great great niece of SKP; His Excellency Dr. Michael Refalo, Maltese High Commissioner.

We would like to thank the many supporters of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign who attended the spectacular unveiling event held at City Hall, London, on Thursday, 30 October 2008. Terry Smith and the Campaign Team enjoyed meeting so many of you. The event was extremely successful with speeches given in support of the Campaign by Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes GLAM and Terry Smith. The maquette was unveiled by Terence Stevens-Prior, great great nephew of Sir Keith Park, who attended with one of his children, Isabella. Also present representing the Park family was Laurette Cummins, great great niece of Sir Keith Park. The Deputy Mayor spoke of his personal connection to the Battle of Britain and was very happy, as were all other supporters, to see and meet the various veterans of the Battle of Britain who attended the unveiling event.

Those present were impressed by the representation of the final statue of Sir Keith Park created by the talented international sculptor Mr. Leslie Johnson. Mr. Johnson's many previous works include a recently unveiled statue of Brian Clough OBE and the 'Slavery Memorial Statue', backed by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London - the model of which was unveiled in August 2008 and will eventually be installed in Hyde Park. Les Johnson was chosen to produce the final statue of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign following proposals from various sculptors, the final proposal being selected by a group of Campaign supporters including the Sir Keith Park family, and having taken the views of various members of the Park family into consideration.

The Campaign would also like to make a special thank you to the Deputy Mayor of London Richard Barnes GLAM, and his GLA colleagues who attended, and to the six Battle of Britain veterans, who attended on the day and who have offered so much support to the Campaign by attending all our events and sharing their stories with so many of you. Also the various MPs and Lords, members of the Park family and many supporters who were welcomed to the early-ish morning event. Video footage of the event can be viewed at: <http://www.sirkeithpark.com/video.aspx>



Battle of Britain Veterans with Maquette Statue of Sir Keith Park.



Terry Smith & Richard Barnes GLAM, Deputy Mayor of London speaking at the unveiling of the final maquette statue of Sir Keith Park at City Hall.

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Steam Trains

Southern Railway's Battle of Britain Class, Pacific, 'Sir Keith Park' refurbishment and renovation continues apace at Southern Locomotives Ltd.. The 'Sir Keith Park' locomotive frames and wheels arrived back in Swanage on 4th November 2008 and the boiler went to Somerset for restoration later on in the same week. Some images are included here of the 'Sir Keith Park' locomotive as she is now, was then, and will be again in the near future!



Some of our supporters may be interested to know, and may like to attend, the official re-dedication of 34070 'Manston' one of the sister engines to 'Sir Keith Park'. This event will take place on Saturday, 4th April 2009, at Swanage Station. Southern Locomotives Ltd. would be very happy to welcome any supporters to this event.

For further details contact:

simon@supersonictravel.biz or on: 01474 833 263

www.southern-locomotives.co.uk

Simon Troy, Southern Locomotives Ltd.
16 Arcadia Road, Istead Rise, Meopham,
Kent. DA13 9EH

Website www.sirkeithpark.com

Our Campaign website has now been updated with recent video footage and a range of excellent images of the unveiling event held at City Hall on October 30th at the office of the Mayor of London. Also recently added is video footage, and podcasts of Dr. Stephen Bungay explaining the vital role Sir Keith played during the Battle of Britain. Dr. Bungay is an author and historian who is a leading specialist in the study of the Battle of Britain.

We will be continuing to add further video footage, images and Campaign News to the website on a regular basis. Please keep up to date with all the latest Campaign news by visiting our website:

www.sirkeithpark.com



Portrait of Sir Keith Park by John Mansbridge - held in Wellington, New Zealand as part of the National Collection of War Art.

Petition

To date we have received globally a tremendous amount of signatures to both our online petitions as well as the hard copy petition forms held at various locations in the UK and in New Zealand. The Campaign continues to receive signatures on a daily basis to our website petition www.sirkeithpark.com/petition.aspx, as well as those sent via post into our Campaign.