



ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
CONFERENCES - BANQUETS - MEETINGS - TRAINING

Max Jack Esq.,
Director, Crown Estate Paving Commission
12 Park Square East
Regent's Park
London NW1 4LH



29 September 2009

Dear Mr Jack,

The lime trees in St Andrews Place

The Royal College of Physicians welcomes the application from the Crown Estate Paving Commission to Camden for the removal of the four dreadful lime trees in the pavement of St Andrews Place. The problems that they cause have been well set out in your letter. The three main concerns of the College are the trip and slip hazards, the danger of one of the trees actually falling, and the shade they produce.

The problem with high pressure hosing down the pavement to remove the sticky aphid secretions adds the additional hazard that it removes the mortar between the paving stones. The gaps trap high heels, increasing the danger to visitors and staff.

I am concerned that the safety of staff and visitors will be increasingly at risk if these trees remain. I marked and photographed the cracks in the tree with the most lean from the vertical in February 2009 and enclose some of these, with a photo of the fungus that was growing in the stump of a branch. These cracks appear to be increasing once again as some have now extended beyond their February marks, and it appears that part of this tree may break off and fall.

The new medicinal beds in the frontage of the terrace are impaired by the shade. The plants there, chosen from the first British authorised pharmacopoeia of 1618 (and well documented by Culpeper in his herbals), need more light to thrive. An increasing number of visitors are coming to see the medicinal garden at the College (over 100 came yesterday) and we would wish to present this unique educational resource with plants growing optimally.

I will not repeat what you have so clearly set out, but we would welcome the planting of the white-barked silver birch *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* in the flower beds (currently rose beds) on the other side of the roadway. They would be in keeping with the environment and with the medicinal garden.

Yours sincerely


Dr Henry Oakeley, FRCP, FLS, VMH
The Garden Fellow