

THE

ISSUE 86 | JULY 2022

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

SAVE OUR BUSES

YOU CAN HELP TO SAVE
VITAL BUS ROUTES SAYS
NICKIE AIKEN MP

SCULPTURE TRAIL

A SERIES OF SCULPTURES ARE
ON DISPLAY FOR A FEW SHORT
MONTHS AT CHELSEA BARRACKS





Registered Charity No: 1168619
Patron: Lord Fellows of West Stafford DL

IN THIS ISSUE

JULY 2022

**Welcome to
The Belgravia Society
magazine, covering all
aspects of village life in
Belgravia and beyond.**

EDITOR

Mary Regnier-Leigh

CHAIRMAN

George Waite

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mary Regnier-Leigh

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fredd

www.fredd.co.uk

This magazine has been independently produced by the Committee of The Belgravia Society on a voluntary basis with regular contributions from local residents and other authors in and around Belgravia.

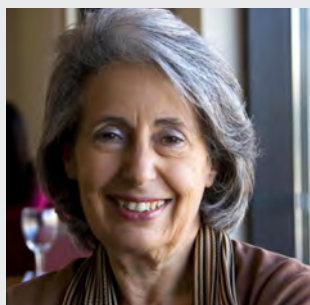
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The Belgravia Society
63 Belgravia Court, 33 Ebury Street,
London SW1W 0NY, United Kingdom

www.thebelgraviasociety.com

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



This month written
by your Editor,
Mary Regnier-Leigh
Standing in for
George Waite

*To celebrate the past,
improve the present, and
engage the future*

We received an email from Paul O'Grady of Grosvenor reporting their proposals to redevelop 48 Elizabeth Street and 22 Eccleston Street as restaurants. They will be consulting all neighbours and setting out the details. Both existing premises, if we have correctly identified them, are estate agents offices.

Our immediate reaction was, surely we have enough places to eat in Belgravia already. However, when we stop and think, what is the alternative? The utility shops we would like to see cannot afford the rents. We already have specialist shops. We could have more but they generally cater only for a limited range of goods and buyers.

Retail trade has changed, as many purchases are made online. It is easy, cheap and the goods come to your door. The percentage of sales by online retailers is increasing.

We are concerned that more alfresco premises are being introduced into residential neighbourhoods. Elizabeth Street already suffers alfresco noise and disturbance to residents. Grosvenor says, "We are conscious that restaurants

will require careful operational management agreements so as not to contribute negatively to the street environment or surrounding residential amenity".

They also say, "Nevertheless, we are conscious of the consistent comments we have received from both residents and workers that additional and more varied restaurants would be welcomed."

The workers who have asked for new restaurants leave for home after they have enjoyed their evenings. Even the residents who have asked for more restaurants do not necessarily live within hearing range.



John D Wood Estate Agents



Sotheby's

However, we accept that more variety of food would be welcome, especially at more affordable prices. It will be for Grosvenor to ensure the restaurants do not contribute negatively to the area.

Another concern is how viable will restaurants remain? Already some of our restaurants do not open all the time; they simply cannot get the staff. In addition, food and energy costs are going up exponentially. Apart from our domestic worries, we are seriously concerned about the future in terms of whether many restaurants can survive in this unpredictable geopolitical situation.

There is one definite benefit though: Grosvenor will use the upper floors to add a residential flat to Elizabeth Street.

When/if you get Grosvenor's consultation letter, do reply. It is important that neighbours make their views known. Let us know too at info@thebelgraviasociety.com. ▲



INVITATION TO THE NEXT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

We would be delighted for you to join our video meeting. Please let us know by email if you wish to be linked in info@thebelgraviasociety.com.

We can only accept a limited number, so first come, first served.

**Our next meeting is on
13th September 2022
(No meeting in August)**

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

Do you enjoy writing? We would be delighted to receive articles and short stories about Belgravia/our neighbours/ London and beyond – all voluntary, of course. Discuss your ideas with us at info@belgraviasociety.com

TAKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR BUSES



**BY NICKIE
AIKEN MP**

I need your help to Save Our Buses. The Mayor of London has plans to abolish 22 entire bus routes and change many more. His plans will cut through Belgravia, pushing more people going to work, to medical appointments, to school, to college or to the shops onto busier, less frequent routes with longer travel times, or into expensive taxis and private hire vehicles.

Already, thanks to the huge local response, together we have forced the Mayor to extend his consultation. It will now close on 7th August 2022. We must ensure as many people as possible have their voices heard so we can Save Our Buses. Find out more at www.nickie.news/SaveOurBuses.

The 211 is one critical route being cut from Westminster. Currently, the route starts in Waterloo, travels through Westminster, Victoria, Pimlico and Belgravia before continuing to Chelsea and Westminster, Royal Brompton, Royal Marsden and Charing Cross hospitals. Under the Mayor's plan, the 211 would be scrapped from Westminster, instead starting at Battersea Power Station, skipping our neighbourhoods, and continuing its journey to Hammersmith. Route 14, another pivotal route to Chelsea and Westminster, Royal Brompton and Royal Marsden hospitals, is set to be scrapped entirely.

The historic route 11, connecting Belgravia to the City, as well as route 16 from Victoria to Cricklewood, also face Mayor Khan's axe. He is proposing both services be withdrawn entirely.

The Mayor claims this is about money. It isn't. Transport for London has already received support throughout the pandemic totalling £5 billion, the largest single recipient of pandemic support across the transport sector. The Mayor has failed to get a grip on TfL's finances.

As a former Leader of Westminster City Council, I have run a £3 billion organisation. I know what it is like to face Government cuts, but you find efficiencies and new ways of working.

The Mayor has proven he is not fit to run our transport network. In the House of Commons, I raised whether now was the time for the Department for Transport to consider putting Transport for London into special measures. We can't go on like this.

The Government has been clear that it would cover the cost of COVID, but not the cost of Khan. The Mayor has repeatedly been warned that his decisions would put Transport for London on a less secure financial footing and inevitably lead to undesirable cuts and delays. Shamefully, the Mayor's actions have resulted in him cancelling or delaying 22 out of 26 major infrastructure projects during his first four years as Mayor of our fantastic city.

Alongside colleagues, I've written to the Mayor urging him to stop the grandstanding and focus on doing what has been asked so that we can achieve the long-term funding deal we all want.

Together, we can stop the Mayor's plans. Join the campaign to Save Our Buses and find out how to respond to the consultation at www.nickie.news/SaveOurBuses. ▲



HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND GARDENS

The Horniman Museum and Gardens was announced as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 at a ceremony at the Design Museum in London and live on the BBC. Most people do not know of this remarkable museum and its superb gardens.

The museum was founded in 1901 by Frederick John Horniman. He had inherited his father's Horniman's Tea business which, by 1891, had become the world's biggest tea trading business. The proceeds allowed Horniman to indulge his lifelong passion for collecting, and, after travelling extensively, had some 30,000 items in his various collections covering natural history, cultural artefacts and musical instruments. The Horniman Museum and Gardens is located in Forest Hill just across the road from Dulwich. A 20ft (6.1m) totem pole, carved from red cedar, stands outside the Museum's main entrance. It was carved in 1985 as part of the American Arts Festival by Nathan Jackson, a Tlingit native Alaskan.

During 2021, following a period of reflection prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate emergency and other geopolitical issues, the Museum's curators reimagined the role so they could be a creative hub for their local community. The result was a transformational Reset Agenda – an ambitious programme focused on re-orientating activity to reach diverse audiences more representative of London, and encouraging young people's interests



Horniman Museum and Gardens

and opportunities. It has a vast number of collections ranging from palaeontology to anthropology, and archives to musical instruments. The gardens offer grasslands, a wild garden and aquarium, sunken garden display, a band stand and a conservatory.

A further focus of the Reset Agenda was the 696 Programme, considering the responsibility public organisations have in supporting local music. The Horniman is also spearheading the collaboration amongst museums through its MAGNET group of organisations sharing collections-based touring exhibitions. Jenny Waldman, Art Fund Director and Chair of the judges for Art Fund Museum of the Year, said: 'The Horniman Museum and Gardens has now blossomed into a truly holistic museum bringing together art, nature and its myriad collections. Its values are woven through everything it now does, with a passionate team breathing life and meaning into every object, performance, plants and animal. In many ways it's the perfect museum, and I would encourage everyone to go and experience all it has to offer.'



Totem pole

Dame Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museums, and judge for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, said: 'The Horniman Museum and Gardens are championing the natural environment, commissioning artists and music festivals, to bring the eclectic collections of Frederick Horniman new relevance with diverse communities. They are setting the agenda for how a traditional museum can reinvent itself through powerful ideas.'

If you are in South London, do visit the Museum or consider a special trip there. ▲

HOUSE OF FRASER

105 VICTORIA STREET



CGI of new building

Contractors Erith Group have been appointed to start the enabling stage of works on site. They are due to receive vacant possession of the House of Fraser in August 2022. By the time you read this magazine it will have closed. Works will commence with the usual site set up, investigation surveys and with hoarding and scaffolding shortly afterwards.

Planning permission was granted by WCC in April 2021. The building will have 450,000 ft² of floor space. It will be mixed-use and we are told it will be the largest fully electric building with a net zero emissions in the UK on completion. The redevelopment is due to complete in 2026. We will follow this major development with great interest.

The Erith Group is a family-run, employee-owned trust, founded in 1967 by Tom Darsey. The company's ethos then, as it is today, is one of quality of service and client satisfaction with a strong emphasis on safety.



Cherrie O'Kane

Their Community Liaison Officer is Cherrie O'Kane who did the same job for Erith at the Cleveland Clinic. Cherrie was a wonderful liaison officer and I am sure she will do the same great job again. ▲

EVERY LITTLE HELPS – amazon smile

If any of our readers are Amazon customers and have not signed up yet to their charitable "Smile" scheme you should note that The Belgravia Society is now a member. Amazon will contribute 0.5% out of any purchase you make. It may not be a lot on its own, but little sums add up and we need donations to fund our magazine and other activities.

All you need to do to join the scheme is go to smile.amazon.co.uk. You can then put our full name – "The Belgravia Society" – in the search box and confirm. That's all there is to it. When you next go into Amazon, type in "smile.amazon" instead of just "Amazon", then just carry on as normal. Nothing else is necessary. The donation is automatic on completion of any purchase.

THINK ZERO



BY PAUL O'GRADY
DIRECTOR OF BELGRAVIA
GROSVENOR PROPERTY UK

At Grosvenor Property UK, we have set some of the most stretching environmental targets in the property sector to not only minimise detrimental impact as a business, but actively advocate for our peers and the partners we work with to do the same, helping to drive down emissions and tackle the 40% of UK emissions the built environment is responsible for.

In 2019 we launched 'Think Zero', our pathway which lays out our strategy to become net zero by 2030, through dramatically reducing carbon emissions (by 52%) and purchasing authentic offsets to bring our impact to zero. We have committed to report on this progress every year to 2030, to transparently reflect how we are progressing and share learnings so we can work together to accelerate action and support the future resilience of our places.

Our latest update has demonstrated we are already well underway, with our emissions as a business having dropped by a quarter (24%) in the last two years, almost half-way towards our 2030 target. This success is a testament to the fact we started out with the tools for success in place, from developing guidelines and processes to make our activities more sustainable and deepening our approach to collaboration with our partners and the communities we work with.



Grosvenor HQ in London – Fossil free

The levers accounting for the observed reductions include our decarbonisation programme, focussing on deploying £90 million of investment into our historic Mayfair and Belgravia portfolio, in the aim to increase their efficiency through retrofitting, and driving positive behaviour changes of our occupiers to reduce consumption. Despite challenges around improving listed buildings, which represent 40% of the portfolio, the programme has doubled the pace of retrofits in 2022 and has saved an estimated 1000 tonnes carbon over the last year.

Alongside this, our Green Leases are in place to provide occupiers with deep green renewable energy to assist in decarbonising the national grid, while improving the sustainability of waste management and providing opportunities for collaboration between landlords and businesses. Meanwhile, in our developments, best practice for sustainable projects is measured and assessed, and we have implemented steel recycling and material reuse to help contribute to a circular economy.

THINK ZERO

Continued

While we are extremely proud of our success so far, we recognise the pandemic lockdowns contributed to lower emissions than expected, and decarbonisation will likely get increasingly difficult as our largest opportunities for reduction are completed and we continue to develop buildings. It is therefore crucial we continue to innovate and work together to drive further reductions. This is shown in action through embedding an energy technology platform called Demand Logic, in which we are now an investor, while supporting our suppliers to set their own Science-Based emissions reductions targets through our SME Mentor Programme.

To find out more about our broader approach to carbon, biodiversity, waste and partnerships, as well as highlights of our progress, please go to www.grosvenor.com/environmentalleadership. ▲



Registered Charity No. 1168619

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

To celebrate the past, improve the present, and engage the future

The more members we have, the louder our collective voice will be.

JOIN US TODAY!

Benefits include:

- Monthly magazine
- Opportunity to join us at any of our monthly meetings
- Have your say on local matters
- Advice where possible on planning issues
- Invitation to our AGM and opportunity to vote

www.thebelgraviasociety.com/online-membership-form

Please fill in the online form by clicking on the link above. Alternatively, print the application form on page 19 and post your completed form to 63 Belgravia Court, 33 Ebury Street London SW1W 0NY

PLANNING ADVICE

If you get a notice of a planning application near you and you want advice, telephone our dedicated helpline:
07578 969509

THE CHELSEA BARRACKS SCULPTURE TRAIL



BELGRAVIA'S LATEST PUBLIC ART WALK AND OUTDOOR EXHIBITION

Chelsea Barracks' developer is supporting its community initiative by providing a space for the world to connect and appreciate art through its first Sculpture Trail. It runs until the end of August and presents works from world-renowned artists and sculptors, displayed throughout the development, highlighting the gardens, buildings and surrounding historic views. This is a first opportunity for visitors to take advantage of the beautiful public gardens of Chelsea Barracks. It is also the first time in 150 years, the Chelsea Barracks is accessible, to residents and visitors.

As part of Chelsea Barracks' continued commitment to public art, the Sculpture Trail was unveiled on-site during the Spring Fair: a three day celebration of the 'Best of British' to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. Following on from the existing Bicameral sculpture by RA Conrad Shawcross, the trail has been





curated by famed art advisor Marshall Murray, in which pieces by renowned sculptors have been displayed in a never-before-seen assembly of works. There are pieces by renowned sculptors Conrad Shawcross, Jason de Caires Taylor, Barbara Myers and Jill Berelowitz.

It is hoped that the Sculpture Trail at Chelsea Barracks is one that will bring the community together, encouraging visitors to interact in their shared appreciation of the art and surrounding development.

Judging by the concerts, exhibitions and gardens we can all already enjoy, it seems that this development is offering something to the community we did not expect.

We should be so grateful to Prince Charles whose involvement saved us from the inappropriate building which might otherwise have taken up the Chelsea Barracks site. Thanks also to all those locals residents and our members who supported the efforts to get the Chapel listed which now forms the centre of the community initiative. ▲

EDITOR'S NOTE

We understand that there is to be a new restaurant on the Chelsea Barracks site to be called The Campaner and is planned to open in the Winter. We also understand that Qatari Diar have planning consent to split the ground floor from two large commercial units to five commercial units in order to activate Garrison Square. Two of these will initially serve as an onsite sales and marketing area for Chelsea Barracks and two of the units are now occupied by Theo Fennell, iconic British jeweller. Qatar Diar are currently seeking a Tenant for the fifth unit.



If you have a CAF account, IT is an easy way to donate to the Society.

Please do help us to maintain our work for Belgravia, and our community magazine.

30,000 MISSING PEOPLE



BY
**RACHAEL
ROBATHAN**

To many residents, the idea of a census being held every ten years may seem difficult to understand.

What is the significance of needing to register all of this information and why should we bother? In fact, the Census is absolutely critical because it forms a large part of the funding formula for local authorities. Based on this snapshot of each area's resident population on a specific date, the Government will decide how much funding the Council needs in order to pay for the services it delivers in that area – services such as social care for vulnerable adults and children, libraries, waste collection, street cleaning, etc; all the services which keep a local area running.

However, the 2021 Census couldn't have come at a worse time for a city like Westminster. Held during the third lockdown on 21st March 2021, it gave a skewed result of our population. Students were studying

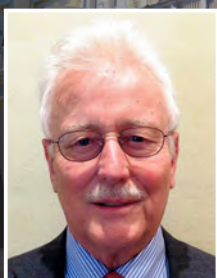
remotely from family homes elsewhere and, of course, many of our residents were staying with family or in second homes away from the City. Indeed, I remember Belgravia feeling eerily quiet as so many people moved to the country while the lockdown was ongoing. As a result, across Westminster, it is believed the Census under represents our population by as many as 30,000 people – almost 15% – which could mean that as much as £40m of funding for delivering vital services is at stake.

We may not agree with the new Labour administration of the Council on many things, but on this we are agreed: we need to do everything we can cross-party to alert the Office for National Statistics to the fact that the figures for Westminster don't reflect the true size of our population. This isn't the first time we've had to fight to ensure the correct funding for our residents. In 2011 the Conservative administration of Westminster Council ran a very successful campaign to make sure that the funding correctly reflected the size and need of the population. This needs to happen again, otherwise services will suffer. ▲

19

Parish or Township of		Administrative Division of		City or Borough of		Ward of		Parish of	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House		Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf or Dumb
1. Buckingham Palace		Her Majesty Queen Victoria	Wife	Mar.	41	The Queen		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Albert	Husband	Mar.	41	Prince Consort		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Edward	Son	Unm.	10	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Alfred	Son	Unm.	9	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Arthur	Son	Unm.	7	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince George	Son	Unm.	6	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Frederick	Son	Unm.	5	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Alexander	Son	Unm.	4	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince John	Son	Unm.	3	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince William	Son	Unm.	2	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
2. Buckingham Palace		Prince Edward	Son	Unm.	10	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Alfred	Son	Unm.	9	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Arthur	Son	Unm.	7	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince George	Son	Unm.	6	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
		Prince Frederick	Son	Unm.	5	Prince of Wales		Buckingham Palace	
Total of Persons						11	10		

Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum



**BY DENNIS
WHEATLAND
FORUM CHAIRMAN**

We are delighted to report that The Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan is now in its draft stage ready for public consultation. You can see it online at www.thebelgraviaforum.org. You can see it in hard copy at the Victoria Library in Buckingham Palace Road or at the Berkeley Hotel in Wilton Place.

Comments on the plan are sought up to the consultation closing deadline of 11pm on 2nd September 2022. Comments can be made via the online response form on the website by emailing chairman@thebelgraviaforum.org or writing to Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum, 25 South Eaton Place, SW1W 9EL.

This is not just a document that will be shelved and ignored. The Plan is important because, once completed and voted on by residents of Belgravia in a referendum, it will be 'made' by Westminster City Council and will have binding, statutory force.

Some of the key planning policies contained in the plan are intended to:

- 1 Ensure new buildings harmonise with those existing in Belgravia by following Design Codes
- 2 Preserve the special atmosphere of character areas such as the Mews, Kinnerton Street and its yards, and the streets around St Barnabas church
- 3 Ensure that refurbishments and enlargements of properties are carried out in a way that minimises disruption to neighbours
- 4 Encourage the retrofitting of older buildings to improve energy efficiency rather than demolish and rebuild
- 5 Preserve local views of significance
- 6 Identify currently unlisted buildings which are of architectural or historical merit
- 7 Preserve the appearance of historic shopfronts

Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum

- 8 Encourage accessible open space and play space in new developments
- 9 Encourage the preservation of trees and the planting of new trees and other greenery to support biodiversity
- 10 Ensure that new developments respect the scale and character of the local built environment in terms of height, bulk and massing

The Plan covers other issues as well to enhance residential amenity, traffic, preservation of our historic pubs and garden squares.

This is really very important that we respond to the consultation and, when the time comes, vote in the referendum on the Plan. I would like to thank the members of the Forum who have given their time and worked so hard to prepare this document. ▲



EXPLORE BELGRAVIA THIS SUMMER FOR THE TWO CITIES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION!



This summer, I'm delighted to announce the return of my Two Cities Photography Competition. I encourage you to go out and about in Belgravia, or further afield across the Cities of London and Westminster, and take a photo of your favourite place or activity.

No fancy camera needed, just a device that can take a photo. 2021 saw hundreds of people enter, and I loved seeing every single image. You can see last year's winners by visiting www.nickie.news/SummerSnaps.

The competition is open to everyone aged four and above and runs until Sunday 4th September 2022. New for this year, I've introduced a public vote category. To take part, email up to six photos to summersnaps@nickieaiken.org.uk along with your name, postcode and age category: 4-8; 9-13; 14-17, or 18+. Post your photos onto Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, tag @TwoCitiesNickie and use the caption #TwoCitiesSummer or #TwoCitiesSummerSnaps. The photographer with the most likes, shares and retweets will win the public vote category. It really is that simple! I hope you agree, it's a great excuse to get out and enjoy what our neighbourhoods have to offer this summer.

Full details are available at www.nickie.news/SummerSnaps. Get snapping! ▲



The Earl of Halifax in 1947

EDWARD WOOD – FIRST LORD HALIFAX 1881-1959

BY PETER WYETH

Standing 6'5" tall, with a "Cecilian stoop and sympathetic kindly eyes" like a benevolent Prince of the Church, Halifax seemed constantly to wish to withdraw from public life, prevented only by his sense of duty. He hunted two days a week, and, as Education Minister, his aim was "a school to train them up to be servants and butlers". Despite his great wealth, he was notoriously mean with money, sending two out of four biscuits

back in a meeting, insisting the official not charge him for them. Possessing both charm and the natural authority of an aristocrat, "the highest kind of Englishman now in politics", whose "life and doctrine were in complete harmony with a very lofty moral principle, but who has no harsh judgement for men who err and go astray", he was a "strange and imposing figure—half unworldly saint, half cunning politician", but condemned as an appeaser.

Viceroy of India (1926-31) on the recommendation of George V, he found Gandhi "someone who had stepped off another planet". His "most important role in public life" was Ambassador to the United States (1941-46), helping to smooth an often fraught relationship.

In 1937 he met Hitler: "Nationalism and Racialism is a powerful force but I can't feel that it's either unnatural or immoral! I cannot myself doubt that these fellows are genuine haters of Communism, etc.! And I daresay if we were in their position we might feel the same!"

Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938 increased Halifax's commitment to rearmament, persuading the cabinet to refuse Hitler's demands, while defending Munich as the lesser of two evils rather than the triumph Chamberlain claimed, hoping a firmer line towards Germany, Italy and Japan would prevent them acting together.

Where his Russian opposite, Litvinov, had a "tremendous understanding" of the era, Halifax completely misread Hitler. He thought an alliance with Russia would make Hitler think Britain weak, however, a British/French/Russian alliance was Hitler's main worry. Halifax and Chamberlain were defeated when Poland was invaded, and war was declared on September 3rd 1939.

By May 1940, Chamberlain was on the point of resigning. "Chamberlain wanted Halifax, Labour wanted Halifax, The Lords wanted Halifax, The King wanted Halifax", but alongside his "inner self-doubt", Halifax assessed Churchill's energy and leadership skills as far above his own, "the most significant act of his long career".

Less than two weeks after Churchill took over, the Germans were at the Channel. Halifax doubted Germany could be defeated and proposed peace negotiations. Churchill passionately



believed "nations which went down fighting rose again, but those which surrendered tamely were finished", and won the day.

By the end of 1940 Halifax was the last man in the cabinet linked with appeasement, and Churchill sent him to America. Unlike Halifax, Churchill saw Hitler as an implacable enemy, futile to appease, and who must be defeated, but he was a lone voice and handicapped by a widespread bad reputation for his many flaws, poor judgement and political opportunism. ▲

EDITOR'S NOTE

This the first in a series of in-depth articles on Belgravia Blue Plaques. If you would like to suggest other people commemorated by a Blue Plaque in the area, please let us know.



The Earl of Halifax and Winston Churchill in 1938

WELCOMING BELGRAVIA BUTTERFLIES ... BUTTERFLIES MATTER!

BY SARA OLIVER



Last month I wrote about summer wildlife and welcoming butterflies. This time I am welcoming Belgravia Butterflies. Butterfly Conservation is working hard to connect nature with people by accessing and creating 100,000 wild spaces across the UK. They are particularly interested in creating urban areas and to provide opportunities to connect and get involved with nature on our doorsteps. In order to do so, they need to collect and monitor data to see how much of an impact the environment is having on butterflies and moths.

This is where we can all help. From 15th July to 7th August, if you have not already done so, please submit your sightings of butterflies to the Big Butterfly Count at: bigbutterflycount.butterflyconservation.org/map

and identify butterfly here: butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly

We ask Grosvenor and Westminster to continue to find ways to increase biodiversity for butterflies and moths in London. Planting more mini meadows in squares and on roofs; lining our streets with beautiful micro-habitats. Restaurants, businesses, schools,

community spaces, shops, offices can all work together to sponsor a mini habitat in their area and encourage these wonderful creatures back into the fold and to reverse their decline. Residents can plant seeds in neglected patches or on their balconies, gardens and terraces to help welcome back Belgravia's Butterfly population.

Join a planting session and get started with helping wildlife flourish in Belgravia and beyond; let's create a brighter London for butterflies. Spread the love of butterfly-friendly meadow seedballs in neglected areas.

Do join our meetups: please email us at hello@rewildingbelgravialondon.com and we will notify you personally when we next meet. Bring yourself for an hour, armed with a spoon/fork or a small trowel, a bottle of water and we will provide you with some seeds to plant. All we ask is that you keep us informed of your rewilding journey. Join our movement; visit the website to find out what we are doing; glean resources for your community, school and business.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our future meet ups! ▲



Registered Charity No: 1168619
An amenity society recognised by the City of Westminster

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to residents and non-residents and is free

Name email

Second name (if any) email

Address.....

Telephone: Home..... Work

Mobile Date

By signing this Application I CONSENT and AGREE to The Belgravia Society sending emails to me until I unsubscribe or resign from the Society.

Signature(s):

Please let us know if you have any special interests, concerns or queries:

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT TO YOU OR EMAIL TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

☐ Today ☐ In the past 4 years ☐ In the future



giftaid it

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

SIGNATURE(S) DATE

ADDRESS

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

☐ Want to cancel this declaration ☐ Change your name or home address ☐ No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

PLEASE EMAIL THIS APPLICATION FORM TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
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