

THE

ISSUE 81 | FEBRUARY 2022

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

A BEACON
FOR THE
MODERN
WOMAN

LICORICIA OF WINCHESTER
– EIGHT CENTURIES ON
AND STILL AN INSPIRATION

PLANTING FOR
THE FUTURE

SUSAN ANTONIA UPDATES US ON
REWILDING AND WAYS WE CAN
RECONNECT WITH NATURE

HAMILTON

VICTORIA
PALACE

THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY

PALACE

HAMILTON



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

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

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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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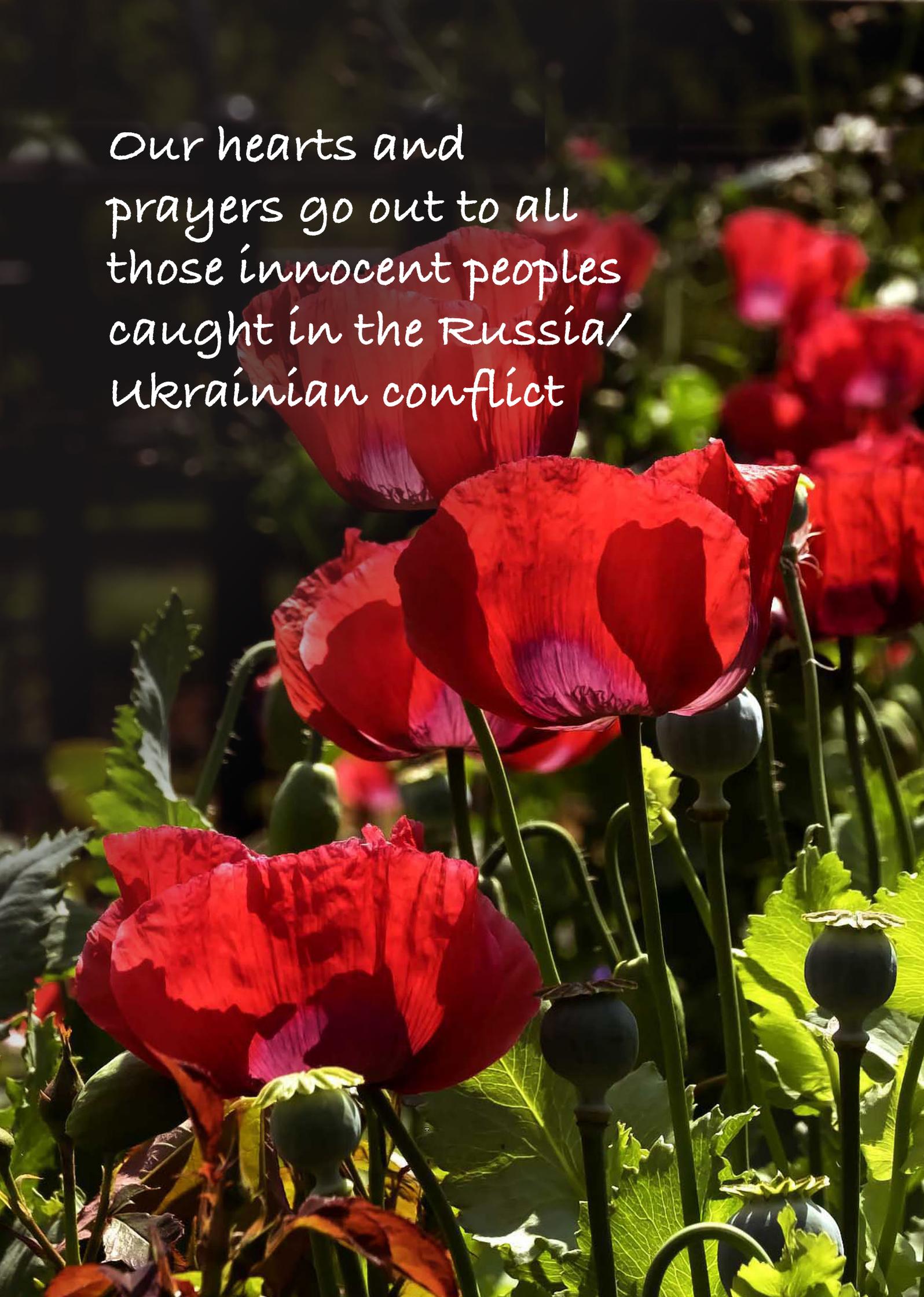
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Our hearts and
prayers go out to all
those innocent peoples
caught in the Russia/
Ukrainian conflict



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

The Decline in Biodiversity

“...Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. Without a wide range of animals, plants and micro organisms, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat...” (**The Royal Society**).

Grosvenor Estate recently published a paper describing their commitment, by 2030, to becoming a net zero carbon business; achieve 100% net gain in biodiversity in all communities where they operate; eradicating waste from buildings and developments, in their control, through reduce, reuse and recycling: www.grosvenorlondon.com/grosvenor/sustainability.

During a recent meeting with Simon Mantle, Grosvenor's Associate Director, Property Management, he provided examples of future biodiversity projects and explained how effective a relatively small area of garden or roof space can become if planted with wildflowers (wildflower meadow). Wildflower meadows (biodiversity patches) are areas of grass where wildflowers grow, providing a haven

for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife. Royal Botanical Garden Kew describe, “... wildflower meadows as one of the rarest habitats in the UK...we have lost 97% of our wildflower meadows since the 1930s...losing our wildflowers has a real impact on the food we eat...”.

How can we reverse the decline?

Our gardens used to be pollinator friendly, full of food, herbs and medicinal plants, but now we are more likely to have decorative plants in our gardens and less likely to leave long grasses and hedgerows.

We can work together to return wildflower meadows to the UK landscape. Grow Wild (Kew) is the UK's largest wildflower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native wildflowers and plants. It has also funded four large scale urban rejuvenation projects to transform previously unloved spaces into wildlife havens while bringing communities together. Please take a moment to visit the Grow Wild website: growwild.kew.org/championing-nature/wildflowers/how-to-grow-wildflowers.

We can also support Sarah Oliver (TBS Committee Member) and Susan Antonia who are passionate about enhancing what we already have, to encourage greater biodiversity. They are currently looking to team up with local communities to care for unloved patches of earth and bring more wildlife to our neighbourhood. Please take a moment to read Susan's article on 'Rewilding' in the December edition of our magazine and watch out for their new website. ▲

ELIZABETH STREET – HIJACKED

At the end of January, word reached us that Netflix was to film a scene from the latest episode of the Crown in Elizabeth Street. After further enquiries we understood the scene was to be that of photographers chasing after Princess Diana. Naturally, we sent out local intrepid photographers, Hazel O’Leary and Clare Tollemache to record the event. To say they were met with unhelpfulness and even hostility is somewhat understating the matter.

Perhaps when future film crews come to us, they should remember that these are public streets and local people should be treated with respect.

Your Editor gave up watching the Crown, when it became so fictionalised and far from reality that it did not reflect facts and thereby undermined the Royal Family and the characters of public figures represented – all of whom have no redress. ▲



DONATIONS REQUESTED

We hear from so many of our readers how much you enjoy our magazine. All our contributors are volunteers, however, we do pay our wonderful, professional Graphic Designer. Contributions towards our costs from our readers/members would be appreciated to continue to help publish the magazine.

As The Belgravia Society is a charity, the donation qualifies for Gift Aid. A Gift Aid form is on the last page of the magazine. Please send a cheque payable to “The Belgravia Society” to the address on the form. If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the form and return it with your cheque. Thank you.

TOGETHER LET'S TACKLE ROGUE LANDLORDS

BY NICKIE AIKEN MP



Nikki Aiken MP

For many leaseholders across the Two Cities, for the last four and half years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, short-term lets are where homeowners rent a property or room on a nightly basis, or over one or two days. Whilst many landlords are responsible, I am well aware of the misery that rogue short-let operators can cause for local people across the Cities of London and Westminster.

As many Belgravia Society readers know, I have been campaigning for a while for a short-lets registration scheme to be introduced to counter the rise of rogue landlords who use AirBnB and other sites to rent out their properties, ignoring the 90 night rules that apply in the capital. You've told me about the anti-social behaviour short-lets have brought to your building, and how visitors arrive at all times of the day and night, creating noise disturbances which are unwelcome and unwanted.

Whilst the pandemic brought a lull in activity, the likes of AirBnB, Booking.com and others are back in full swing. AirBnB is not shying away from their responsibility and are taking the lead in their industry. They have proposed their own policy for a registration scheme and I was pleased that they took my views on board when developing their policy, listening to what people from across the Two Cities had to say.

Currently, rules in London allow homeowners to let their property for up to 90

nights. However, it is clear that too many rogue landlords are exceeding this limit. Too many short-lets directly impacts the supply of rented properties and hikes up rents for families and young professionals hoping to settle here. Despite best efforts, Westminster City Council is incredibly limited in what action they can take.

In conjunction with Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council, we're calling for change. We are campaigning for a registration scheme which would require those renting their property to notify their local authority, in turn, empowering local authorities, such as Westminster City Council, to notify platforms about issues with listings in their area. We need to end the case where some residential areas have more rooms available to short-let than are available in major hotel brands across Westminster.

I have been listening to local people, and I believe a registration scheme is the way forward to tackle rogue landlords in the short-lets sector. If you agree or want to find out more, please visit www.nickie.news/ShortLets.

If I can help on any issue, please email me at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk and keep up to date on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @TwoCitiesNickie. ▲

WAY AHEAD FOR WESTMINSTER

BY **CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN**
LEADER OF WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL



Cllr Rachael Robathan

As you read this, the Government should just have lifted the last Covid restrictions on isolation. After nearly two years, it feels like the capital is at last emerging from the long shadow of Covid.

At City Hall we are putting the finishing touches to our plan – City for All – which launches next month and maps the way ahead for Westminster. The City’s 260,000 residents are as ever at its heart with practical plans for creating jobs, helping the vulnerable and providing more affordable housing.

Right now, I want to touch on three areas which I know concern residents: street cleaning and recycling; rough sleeping, and short-term lets.

First, street cleaning. We have launched a weekend rapid response cleansing service team which can tackle problems like nuisance, dumping or graffiti as they arise (this is of course on top of our seven-day-a-week cleaning operation). The bulky waste service has expanded to make it more convenient for residents to have larger items collected and waiting times for collection have been cut. Food waste recycling is being rolled out across Westminster this year - an important development when you consider a third of what we throw away is kitchen waste.

Anyone using our streets cannot fail to be moved by the presence of rough sleepers. The number of rough sleepers on Westminster’s streets has fallen from 187 in November to 119 in January this year. But this is not a story about statistics; these are heart-rending human stories of people who have fallen through the cracks. The

Council’s job is to help pick them up, and we do that by going out every night to offer accommodation, help with addiction and the chance of learning new skills.

Last year we helped 650 people away from the streets with some positive results. Former rough sleeper Lawrence has been helped by our jobs training scheme to become a railway engineer. Sammy, a 30-year-old refugee, is now in safe accommodation and studying to work in the security industry.

As the pandemic lifts, visitors from home and abroad are returning to Westminster. While this is great for the City, it can mean problems for residents when selfish short-term let guests behave badly. Almost one in three people living in the West End tell us irresponsible behaviour by short-term guests is a problem. This is an issue in Belgravia, and as a ward councillor I have had many instances raised of where irresponsible short term lets are causing real problems for neighbours.

The Council is currently investigating 2,000 potential breaches of rules, but this isn’t a problem we can tackle alone. The Government is about to launch a national consultation on the short term lets industry, and ahead of that I have called for a new registration scheme together with the power to fine property owners for offences like rubbish dumping. Short term lets are a great way to see a City, but residents shouldn’t have to clean up or pay up to subsidise this industry. ▲



**EDWARD THE CONFESSOR,
THE KING AND SAINT
NOT ALLOWED TO REST IN PEACE**

MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

On the death of King Edward the Confessor in 1065, he was buried at the newly completed Westminster Abbey and his posthumous reputation came to be revered. Sadly, for various reasons, his remains were exhumed many times in the following centuries. In 1098, Henry I and Matilda, Queen of Scotland, who was Edward's great niece, opened his tomb. The corpse was uncorrupted, and at the time was considered evidence of saintliness of Edward. History does not relate the reason for the exhumation.

Edward's coffin was once again exhumed and opened by Henry II and the King's robes were removed and the Pilgrim's ring, which he was wearing was appropriated by King Henry. Edward was canonised by Pope Alexander III in 1161.

Henry III was a great admirer of St Edward, now generally known as Edward the Confessor. This Henry rebuilt Westminster Abbey in the 13th century. Edward the Confessor's body was moved to a magnificent shrine which became the centrepiece of the new building. The King, along with his brother and two sons, helped carry the coffin to the splendid new tomb which was flanked by statues on pillars of St Edward and the Pilgrim. It was decorated with the figures of six kings, and with gold, and set with precious stones. In addition, there was in place a gold feretory (an ornate, often portable, bier for the relics of the saint).

The shrine was to become a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. A cult of St Edward grew but, after the death of Henry III, the cult witnessed a slow



Shrine of Edward the Confessor

decline and St George eventually became recognised as the Patron Saint of England.

The Shrine of St Edward was desecrated at the Dissolution of the Monasteries during the reign of King Henry VIII. The shrine itself was melted down and the jewel-encrusted offerings presented to Henry VIII. St Edward's body was buried in an obscure spot in the Abbey. It was restored in the reign of his devoutly Catholic daughter, Mary I, and the Purbeck base of the shrine was re-assembled. The Queen donated jewels to replace those which had been removed and the Saint's remains were returned to it.

Unintentionally, St Edward's tomb was disturbed again in 1685. Workmen were engaged in the removal of scaffolding used in the coronation of James II. A rafter fell, crashing into the coffin and a crucifix and chain were discovered under Edward's bones and were given to James II. During James's hasty flight from England in 1688, they were stolen by fishermen. There remains no motive for opening Edward's coffin again as anything of value had already been stolen. We must hope that Edward will now continue to rest in peace after his six disinterments. His saintly remains are there still to attest to his life. ▲

PREJUDICE, ENDEAVOUR AND THE FUTURE

There is now another story to be told about where Henry III's cash came from to lavish on Edward the Confessor's tomb.



Licoricia of Winchester

Some of you may have read about the statue just unveiled of Licoricia of Winchester. The statue is to promote tolerance and diversity and to inspire women. Licoricia, who lived in the 13th century, has been chosen because she is the best known Wintonian whose life encompassed much to inspire today, but which also reveals the roots of much modern prejudice, such as Jews and money, and blood libel. She was a most important Jewish woman in medieval England. She mixed with royalty, was widowed, and

ultimately murdered, and her surviving children were forced out of England in 1290 by Edward I's Edict of Expulsion.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson unveiled the statue which was to be unveiled by the Prince of Wales who was not able to preside as, on the morning of the unveiling, he was diagnosed with Covid.

Licoricia's achievements in business were only possible as she was not constrained as medieval Christian women were from

engaging in commerce. She is a beacon to all young women of succeeding generations as to what women can achieve if they have the opportunity. It is only some eight centuries later that the young women of today can reach the levels of acceptance and achievements of Licoricia.

To finish the story of the financing of Edward the Confessor's tomb, we need to know that, on the death of Licoricia's second husband, David of Oxford, the King had sent Licoricia to the Tower of London to force her to pay him a share of her husband's estate. She negotiated a settlement with the King of one third* of her late husband's estate. This was at a time when Jews were taxed at excessive rates when others were not.

Henry III wanted the vast sum of money to pay for the tomb of Edward the Confessor and so Licoricia was the source of the funding.

In her 70s, sadly, Licoricia, with her maid, was murdered, probably by thieves. Three men were arrested, but after difficulties getting a jury together, there were no convictions.

*She is a beacon to
all young women
of succeeding
generations as to what
women can achieve
if they have the
opportunity*

Licoricia leaves a legacy today setting her remarkable life in the wider context of the city of Winchester and the experiences of England's thirteenth century Jewish community as a whole, and aspirations of all women today which now can be met. ▲

** Today, the State does better than Henry III's 33.3% and takes 40% of everybody's estate who leaves over £325K.*



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 video meeting is 8th March 2022



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.

GAS LIGHTS GOING OR STAYING?

As you know from our December magazine, Westminster City Council proposed to replace some of the 300 remaining gas lamps left in Westminster. Local residents and the Victorian Society are opposing the measure. They said gas lamps, with their soft and gentle light, create a unique atmosphere, enhancing period features on the buildings and streets they illuminate that harsh and white LED lighting could never imitate. This is especially so where so many Victorian buildings remain, and the lamps are a vital part of the area's history and architecture.

WCC has listened and, having to date installed 30 LED lamps, have halted the work pending a year-long consultation. It is now proposed that they talk to residents and local groups to ensure proposed electric replacements reflect the City's heritage. This is not quite the same as not replacing them at all having regard to the nature of the objections. There is also some discrepancy between whether there will actually be any saving or merit in terms of climate change.

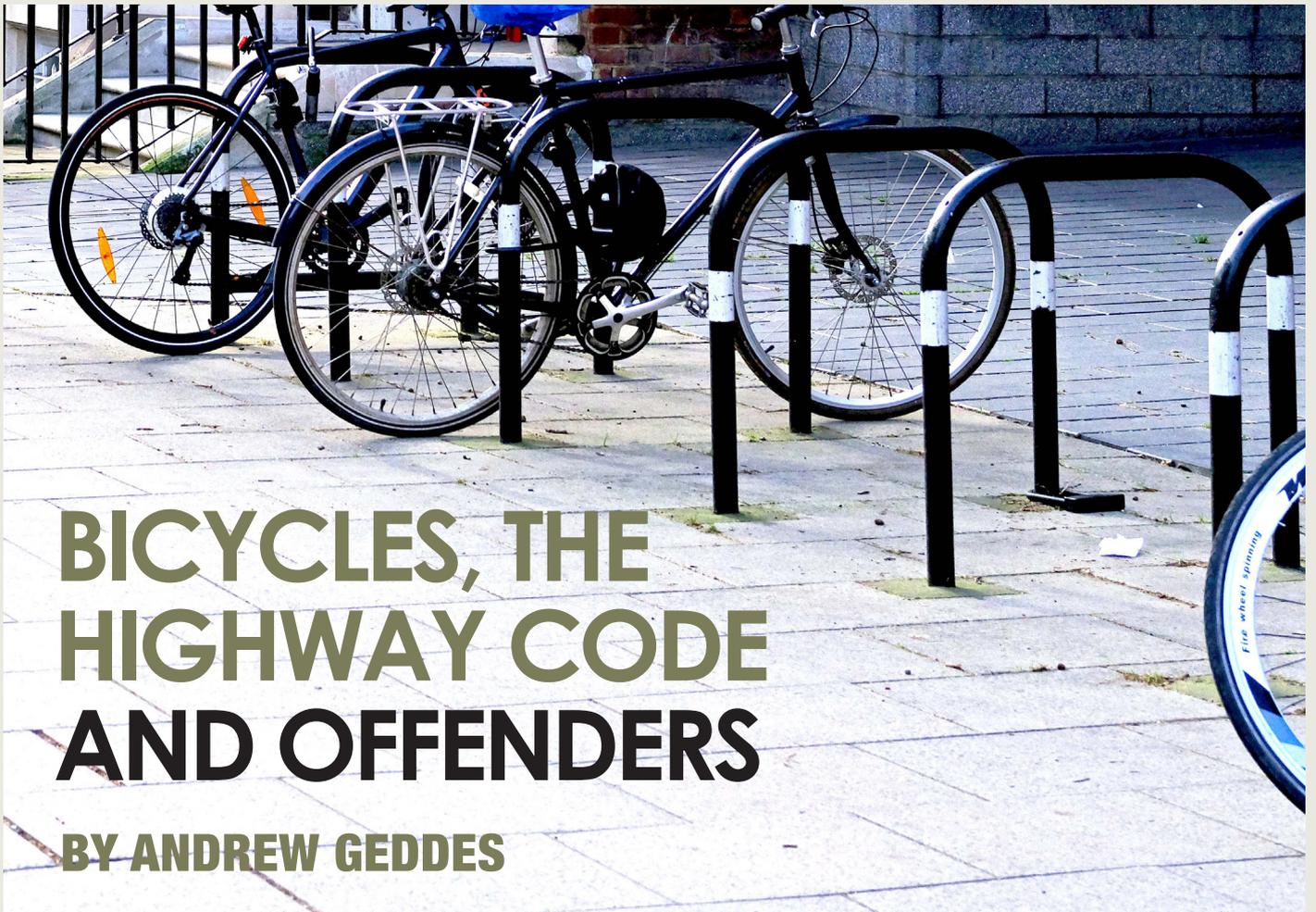
WCC is also consulting Historic England. The lampposts themselves are part of the historic record of their coming into use. They carry the monogram of the reigning monarch at the time of their erection. Their history goes back to the beginning of the 19th century and so a number of different monograms appear on them.



On reflection, it does seem to us that the loss of gas lights which form part of the Victorian heritage should not be sacrificed for a very small gain. We could certainly build many more homes if we were to demolish streets, create more space for residential buildings, many of them being very tall like those proposed for the Cundy Street development. This would be pure vandalism and, of course, we would not contemplate it. The Cundy Street development appears to have bypassed this view, both by Grosvenor and WCC, as the flats there were not listed.

However, the question is, should we allow changes to listed lampposts and lighting, or indeed allow the non-listed ones to be "vandalised"?

Your editor will put the issue on our Committee's agenda for discussion. Please let us know your views so that we take them into account and can pass them on to WCC. Email us at info@thebelgraviasociety.com.



BICYCLES, THE HIGHWAY CODE AND OFFENDERS

BY ANDREW GEDDES

Bike recycling: If you have an old bike that has seen better days and you no longer have need of it, there is a unit that will gladly accept it at 41-45 Church Street, NW8 (www.westminsterwheels.co.uk). They were set up with support from Westminster Council and take on a number of apprentices to train them in the refurb and maintenance of bikes. Their boss, Barny Stutter (barny@cycleconfident.com) says they process about 70-75 bikes per month which are then put up for sale at prices which are a lot less than new. Barny adds that they run a full repair service and stock accessories which is good news bearing in mind how many bike shops have closed in the last few years.

Cycle Confident (www.cycleconfident.com) also runs free bike training courses for one-on-one, or for groups and schools.

In the same theme, there is Dr Bike which operates in the afternoons on various announced days to fix minor things on your bike, many of such events being in Belgravia. For anything more serious they can point you in the right direction and give a rough idea of what it might cost to get fixed. It is simple to check their website (www.cycleconfident.com/courses/dr-bike) for the next event.

SO WHAT NEXT FOR THE RED LIGHT JUMPERS?

So far it has been pilot projects further north but, presumably, if successful, we will be seeing implementation in London as well. New traffic cameras which use special infra-red technology and APNR to catch motorists jumping red lights or speeding over the junction are being trialled in the UK.



**MOTORISTS WILL BE HIT IN THE
POCKET WITH FIXED PENALTY
NOTICES FOR FAILING TO STOP
AT RED LIGHTS OR SPEEDING
THROUGH ON GREEN...**

The cameras are being rolled out in Lancashire and have already been deployed in nearby Blackburn and Darwen and are regularly capturing as many as 70 offences a day. Motorists will be hit in the pocket with fixed penalty notices for failing to stop at red lights or speeding through on green, but the hope amongst Highways bosses is that the cameras will help combat driving styles that could be altogether more costly than any fine.

So far, information does not say if this will also catch cyclists who anticipate the change from red to green at the beginning of the light-cycle. But it will certainly catch

motorists who cross at the end of the cycle when it has already passed green and is red. So it is time to be even more careful about how many points you accumulate on your licence.

Finally, an apology and correction to the new Highway Code hierarchy of priorities. Top of the list should have been pedestrians, after which come riders on horseback, then cyclists, then motorists. The first two were the wrong way around in our January issue, but it is not that we see a lot of people with horses in Belgravia unless you are up very early in the morning to see the household cavalry exercising. ▲

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

BY SUSAN ANTONIA

In December I wrote about rewilding, which means connecting with nature, and trusting in its wisdom. When we allow nature to run a bit wild with colours, thickets and variety, it can bring much buzzing and singing to our doorsteps. This helped inspire the exciting Rewilding Belgravia initiative that Sara Oliver and I will launch in Spring. Our project is about spreading the love of nature, one small patch at a time.

We will shortly be launching our own website. This will contain a news section for upcoming events which will include an opportunity for us to look at possible sites together and also meet over coffee. We will be able to discuss creating micro meadows, bee bus shelters, and green walls. We're excited for you to join us! Please keep in touch with us via the email address shown at the end on this article, until we launch the website. We will continually add new ways to make our environment a more pleasant place to live for both humanity and nature.

Our aim is to grow from small beginnings, sowing colour and new habitats in empty patches and corners of our neighbourhood and to bring more and more of these small patches to life with flowers, bees, butterflies and even birds.

We hope to inspire the community to join in and help this patchwork grow, armed with the love of nature, wildflower seeds and a trowel!



Bird box in tree in Chester Square

In the meantime, we'd love to hear about your memories and experiences of wildlife in Belgravia, both past and present. We'd like to pool these memories and sightings for the benefit of everyone, including photos, if you have any.

Wildlife numbers have dwindled slowly over time, making their loss barely perceptible. This is why learning about the past can be interesting and inspirational. It can also reveal possibilities for the future that we might never have imagined.

Sharing modern stories can be exciting too, as we realise how much wildlife is still thriving around us if we look and listen closely... there is so much to discover! Building on what we already have, such as wildflowers, ponds and hedges, we can make our neighbourhood a better home for our feathered, furry and buzzing friends.

To share a story, please email hello@rewildingbelgravialondon.com. You might enjoy reading 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree (www.isabellatree.com).

TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE

– ENERGY COSTS



**BY JOHN O'CONNELL
& ANDREW GEDDES**

John O'Connell

This month's news that energy bills are set to rise by £693 on average from April was a shock to all bill payers. Although it will hit everyone, it will fall on those with the lowest incomes hardest. It is not too late for the government to support households feeling the pinch.

Energy has become expensive in 2022 for various reasons. A cold European winter used up gas supplies in 2021 and greater energy demand in Asia made gas scarcer here. There is the Ukraine crisis which is pushing up the global wholesale price of gas. Germany's halting the approval of its Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline has alone seen UK gas increase 9%.

These dramatic changes have made it difficult for suppliers to maintain a viable business. However, there are self-inflicted domestic policies which are exacerbating energy costs. To start with, there's the energy price cap. Introduced in 2017 by Theresa May, it means suppliers cannot set their prices for units of energy above a stated level. It may seem like a good idea, preventing energy companies from arbitrarily increasing prices to squeeze more profits from consumers. Actually, it means they cannot survive by passing on increasing costs to customers.

As a result, since August 2021, 26 energy suppliers in the UK have gone bust forcing the government to step in. The potential £1.7bn taxpayer bailout of Bulb Energy sets a dangerous precedent, whereby the government regularly uses public funds to keep the energy industry afloat. While politicians may think the price cap is saving customers money, in the long run government has to pay for energy bailouts.

Let's not forget other green levies paid by households on energy bills. These hit the poorest hardest as consumption of energy in these households is disproportionately high compared to their income.

On a household basis, these levies account for 15.3% of the standard dual fuel bill. With so much of the bill going on green levies, it's unsurprising the green tax burden will reach a record high this year of £12.5bn. Suspending these levies is one easy way for the government to help out.

Utilising the UK's vast onshore supply of natural gas and oil is another option. A key contributor to increasing prices is the lack of supply. By increasing our domestic energy production we could reduce the price volatility in the wholesale market, lowering costs for companies and thus consumers.

First the government must open the door for companies to access our underground supply.

Then there's customers themselves. It has been possible to fix the price of gas and electricity from certain providers. What's more, those who wish can select an option for green electricity and choose to have an off-peak period. Better information for customers wishing to exercise more control over their bills will help, too.

Rather than short-term policies like handing out repayable loans, politicians from all parties have to think long-term about the big questions. That will mean secure, sustainable and more affordable energy for consumers. ▲

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.



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online-membership-form](http://www.thebelgrviasociety.com/online-membership-form)

Please fill in the online form by clicking on the link above. Alternatively, print the application form on page 21 and post your completed form to 63 Belgravia Court, 33 Ebury Street London SW1W 0NY

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

Do you enjoy writing? We would be delighted to receive articles & short stories about Belgravia/our neighbours/London & beyond – all voluntary, of course.

Discuss your ideas with us:
info@belgrviasociety.com

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL AND OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD



Elizabeth
Hitchcock



Rachael
Robathan



Tony
Devenish

PIMLICO NORTH TEAM



Jim Glen



Ed Pitt Ford



Cllr Jacqui
Wilkinson

NEW TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE



To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, WCC has planted a new elm tree at the John Aird Court estate in Little Venice as

part of the Queen's Green Canopy programme – a nationwide tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne. The trees will enhance the natural environment, making our green spaces more pleasant and creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

THE WCC NOW MAKE 1,800 HOMES DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

In response to the city's ageing population and growing number of people with dementia, WCC has successfully converted 1,800 properties to make them dementia friendly.



Steps the Council has taken include:

- Good, clear signage on blocks
- Taps clearly marked hot and cold and appropriately coloured
- Only plain flooring: any kind of linoleum, carpet or vinyl with large speckles is being avoided as people with dementia may attempt to pick up the specks
- Locks positioned above or below the handle for ease of use
- Increased lighting in the home
- Bath grips and non-slip base in bath
- Installation of anti-slip flooring in both the kitchen and bathroom

WCC have also delivered on their commitment of opening a state-of-the-art, 84 bed, dementia friendly care home in Maida Vale, Beachcroft House.



WCC IS SUPPORTING THE CITY'S RECOVERY

WCC has announced a new £1 million fund open to businesses of all sizes to support staff training across a number of roles, from restaurant front of house to barista and sommelier to sous chef. The fund is thought to be the first of its kind to be run by a local authority in the UK. You can find out more about the grant and other support that the Council is providing to local businesses here.

Of the fund, Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council, said: "Hospitality is a big employer in Westminster supporting around 80,000 jobs, with more restaurants, bars and pubs than any other local authority. The £1m training fund we have announced gives young people growing up in Westminster a chance to enter the jobs market with the right skills for hospitality – from front of house in a big hotel, to the pace of a busy kitchen. I hope this fund will help our young people find roles." ▲



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD

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Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock (Con)	ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no for all	020 7641 3411

Surgeries by telephone only for the time being. Please telephone 020 7641 3411.

WARWICK WARD

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Cllr Nickie Aiken (Con)	nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk
Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson (Con)	jwilkinson@westminster.gov.uk
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Tel no for Cllrs Flight and Wilkinson	020 7641 3411

Surgeries by telephone only until further notice. For the time being, please use telephone number 020 7641 5377.

CHURCHILL WARD

Cllr Murad Gassanly (Con)	mgassanly@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no	020 7641 5377

If you require help and/or support with a problem, email Councillor Gassanly or call at the above telephone number. Councillor Gassanly's monthly drop-in advice surgeries (City of Westminster Housing South Area Advice Centre, 137 Lupus Street, London SW1V 3HE) are currently on hold. Call or email for information.

Cllr Shamim Talukder (Lab)	stalukder@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no	020 7641 4299

Surgeries, usually held on the second Thursday of the month, 7-8pm, are currently on hold. Please call or email for updates.

Postal address for all Councillors:	Westminster City Hall 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP
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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



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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
OR POST TO: 63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY



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