

THE

# BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 84 | MAY 2022

THE ONLY  
INDEPENDENT  
VOICE FOR  
BELGRAVIA

## PLATINUM JUBILEE ISSUE

CELEBRATING HER MAJESTY THE  
QUEEN'S 70 YEARS OF SERVICE





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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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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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**George Waite**  
Chairman of  
The Belgravia Society  
and ESRA

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

I recently received the following message regarding Grosvenor's Annual Review from James Raynor, (Chief Executive):

*“Our cities are bouncing back, but we can't take their revival for granted – they need continual leadership and investment.*

*As a long-term business, we had the confidence in 2021 to see through ongoing restrictions to innovate and invest, enabling us to play a positive role in the recovery. And by focusing on our goals of sustainably supporting community success and environmental leadership, we also delivered better than expected results.*

*Across the year we worked to redefine what it means to partner with occupiers; backed the first of six businesses with our Tenant Investment Fund; confirmed a £1.4bn development pipeline to help the West End adapt and significantly expanded our regional portfolio. Looking ahead, we're on track to meet our net zero goals. In 2022 we're doubling our retrofit programme, will complete our first net zero development, and are expanding our sustainability agenda to encompass social as well as environmental goals.*

*Taken together, our actions show how we're supporting a recovery, intertwining environmental, social and commercial outcomes and innovating to find solutions to the challenges we all face.*

*This year's Annual Review combines Grosvenor's global property, food and agtech and rural estates businesses as well as our philanthropic activities for the first time. I hope this gives you a sense of our ambition, activities and impact.”*

James' positive message made me consider the underlying theme, the need for: continual leadership; long term vision; positive role models; sustainability; supporting community; to find solutions to the challenges we all face. All the qualities of a custodian. Well done, Grosvenor.

Which brings me to the main theme of this month's Magazine, celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 70 years of service, 70 years of being 'Our Custodian'.

There are many ways you can mark the occasion in Belgravia, including the Elizabeth Street Party on Sunday 5th June. Visit [belgravialdn.com](http://belgravialdn.com) to find out more. ▲

# Our Queen

## 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

It is difficult to believe the Queen has achieved a reign of 70 years. For most of us she has always been there. Born on 21st April 1926, she was not in direct line to the throne. She was simply the daughter of the Duke of York, brother of the future King Edward VIII.

The Queen was nicknamed Lilibet, a derivation of the name of Elizabeth, which she made up herself as her full name was too difficult to pronounce! The nickname stuck. Her grandfather was George V. He was a very formal man but was very fond of Lilibet, and she called him Grandpa England.

In 1936, George V died and was succeeded by his son, David who became King Edward VIII. But when he abdicated in order to marry an American divorcee, Elizabeth became heir apparent to the throne as her father, next in line to the throne, became King George VI.

At the age of 14, the Queen made her first radio broadcast and started taking on public appointments. She was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards by her father and she made her first public appearance inspecting troops in 1942. It is difficult for us to imagine that someone who started in public life so young, should still be so much engaged in it over 70 years later.

At the age of 21, the Queen declared that "My whole life, whether it be long or short,



shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong."

Life has changed so much, the very vision of our place in the world has altered, as has the place of other nations. Instead of having an Imperial family, the Queen is Head of a voluntary organisation of former colonies who work together for the benefit of their respective nations. Indeed, at least one member was never even a member part of the "Imperial family".



The Queen married Philip Mountbatten in 1947 and has had four children. She has 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Her Majesty has always travelled extensively to the former Empire, the Dominions, the Commonwealth countries of Canada and Australia, as well as foreign countries. She is respected and well-known everywhere she goes.

Part of her education included constitutional matters and her special tutor gave her a substantial grounding in it. The United Kingdom has no written constitution but glories in the ability to be flexible and to have bequeathed to its former Empire and Dominions English common law which is so well respected and guarantees us our freedoms. There are occasions when people will still look at those strictures of Magna Carta to see which might still apply.

The Queen has remained above politics. She is our Head of State and Queen to everyone whatever their background, whatever their faith, whatever their origins, and we should be so proud of her and our country.

We thank the Queen for her dedicated service and wish her the very best and look forward to the celebration with her, with the love and joy we feel at this Platinum Jubilee. ▲



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## BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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

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- Advice where possible on planning issues
- Invitation to our AGM and opportunity to vote

[www.thebelgraviasociety.com/  
online-membership-form](http://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 23 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@belgraviasociety.com](mailto:info@belgraviasociety.com)

# REMEMBERING THE ACCESSION OF THE QUEEN AND THE CORONATION



*The new Queen, Queen Mary and the Queen Mother at the King's funeral*

I remember 6th February 1952, the day the King died in Sandringham. Ancient procedures were followed which requires the Accession Council to meet as soon as is practical. On 8th February at 11am, a Proclamation was read at St James's Palace by Garter King of Arms of succession of Elizabeth II as Queen. He was accompanied by the Earl Marshall of England and a gun salute took place at the same time. The Heralds then travelled to the Mansion House in the City to read the Proclamation again in the Royal Exchange.

The reign of Elizabeth II had begun.

The Proclamation was read in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and other locations according to custom. I remember watching the newsreels of the funeral. A picture I will always remember is of the new Queen, the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary standing together in mourning dress awaiting the arrival of the coffin. The King lay in state in Westminster Hall and on 11th February his coffin was placed on the traditional gun carriage for its journey by train from London to Windsor for interment.

A carriage followed the gun carriage with the Queen, Queen Mother, Princess



*The newly crowned Queen in the Coronation Coach*

Margaret and the Princess Royal (Princess Mary, King George's sister). Following on foot were the Dukes of Edinburgh, Gloucester, Windsor and Kent. Behind them walked the Kings of Denmark, Greece and Sweden with the President of France. There followed 20 Heads of States from other countries. Many dignitaries followed as did the detachments of the Armed Services.

And so the ceremonies were performed as they always had been.

The Coronation of a new Sovereign followed on 2nd June 1953. There had been a period of mourning and, of course, an enormous amount of preparation to organise the Coronation ceremony, which was essentially the same for nearly 1,000 years. It takes place at Westminster Abbey and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Sovereign takes the Coronation oath undertaking to rule in accordance with law, to exercise justice with mercy – symbolised by the four swords in the Coronation regalia – and to maintain the Church of England. Then the Sovereign is anointed, blessed and consecrated by the Archbishop.



*Coronation commemorative spoon*

As part of the celebrations, school children were taken to the cinema to see the film of the Conquest of Everest. Local authorities gave souvenirs too. I was given a Coronation Spoon and a red, white and blue pencil. I am not sure about the pencils, but I still have the spoon (see above photo).

I can remember the excitement generated for the Coronation. The same excitement is in the air now, celebrating the 70 years of the Queen's reign. There were great pageants then, the lighting of beacons across the country as well as the sounding of gun salutes. Street parties took place all over the land with all the attending celebrations. We will see them again in the next days as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen and her 70 years of her reign. ▲

THE BTA INVITES EVERYBODY TO A CELEBRATION OF

# THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Elizabeth Street, Ebury Street and Eccleston Yards  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June | 11am -5pm Street Party

**Entertainment, music**, a beautiful **horse and carriage**, a **photo booth** to take royal photographs and some wonderful **Chelsea Pensioners** are all going to be there on the day.

All the hospitality venues will be serving Jubilee food and drink, Eccleston Yards is turning into a food court for the day with a barbecue and more. The fabulous shops will be open and many are offering special royal discounts. Sit at trestle tables decorated with a local school child's prize winning design on napkins and enjoy the atmosphere!

The anthem will be sung by **Alicia Lowes** at **1.45pm**

The BTA is very grateful to our incredible sponsors,  
**The Cleveland Clinic, The Peninsula Hotel and Grosvenor.**

We hope that you can come along and celebrate with  
all the members of The Belgravia Traders Association



## PLATINUM JUBILEE

# Street Party

**BY ANGELA HAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BELGRAVIA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION  
AND HELENE ORATORE, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY**

**T**he Belgravia Traders' Association is very happy to be organising a fun and festive Platinum Jubilee Party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 11am until 6pm to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne. Westminster Council is kindly closing Elizabeth Street and part of Ebury Street up to the Eccleston Yards entrance to create space for trestle tables along the streets.

The sponsor of the main events was the Cleveland Clinic.

Chelsea Pensioners have been invited as honoured guests and the hospitality venues will be serving special Platinum Jubilee themed food. The national anthem will be sung at 1.45pm by Alicia Lowes who has performed at many prestigious events including Twickenham Stadium and the Paralympics Olympics.





*Outside Buckingham Palace during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations*

There will be an authentic 1954 coach named The Albion parked along Ebury Street and a horse and carriage will be trotting around the neighbouring area.

Eccleston Yards will be turned into a food area with a barbecue and more choices and there will be a selection of dishes which will compliment the other hospitality menus provided along Elizabeth Street and Ebury Street. The beautiful shops will be open and some will be giving discounts on the day. There will be music and other entertainment and the retailers really want everybody to come and celebrate together. The local schools are holding an art competition for a Platinum Jubilee design. The winning design will be printed on paper napkins and displayed on the trestle tables.

The retailers have been working closely with the residents and local residents groups represented by The Belgravia Society and other amenity associations. Together with the BTA they have all been

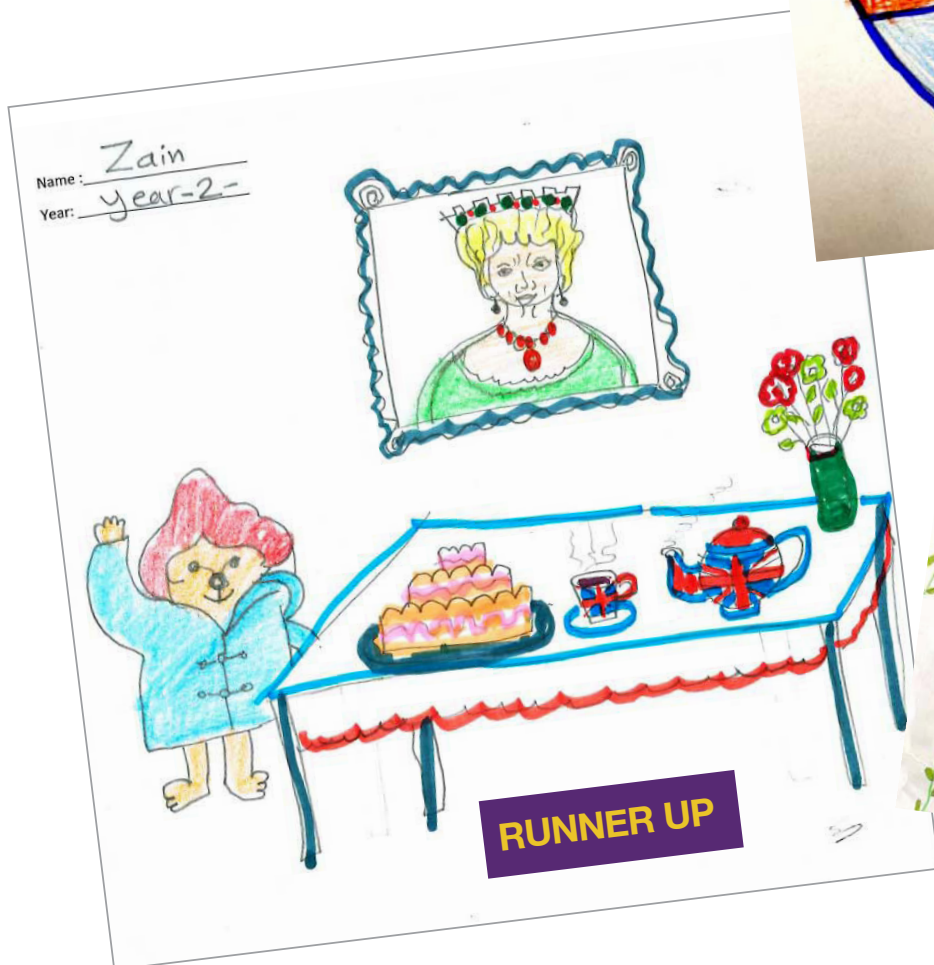
part of the organising committee and the retailers have been most grateful for their assistance.

The BTA wants to showcase all their businesses and the historic area in which they work and live. The BTA members work to engage with the community as much as possible. They believe that a harmonious relationship adds hugely to Belgravia, the community and the local vicinity.

The Platinum Jubilee itself is momentous and the BTA is proud to be hosting the nearest major street party to the Palace. Come along with your friends and family and really be a part of this special day.

An enormous thank you to the sponsors of the main event, The Cleveland Clinic, The Peninsula Hotel and Grosvenor Estates. The series of articles in the Pimlico Eye have been sponsored by the Belgravia Society. ▲

# CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION



## FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

**B**elgravia Traders' Association, as you know, took the lead in organising the Street Party (see page 8). It also went a step further to make sure the children enjoyed the celebrations with a very special competition with a Platinum Jubilee theme. Maria from LondonCryo in Eccleston Place, and our own Vice Chairman, Helene Oratore organised a children's competition with the support of St Peter's School and St Barnabas School.

**Previous page:**

**Top:** Mary – Winner  
Year 2, St Peter's School

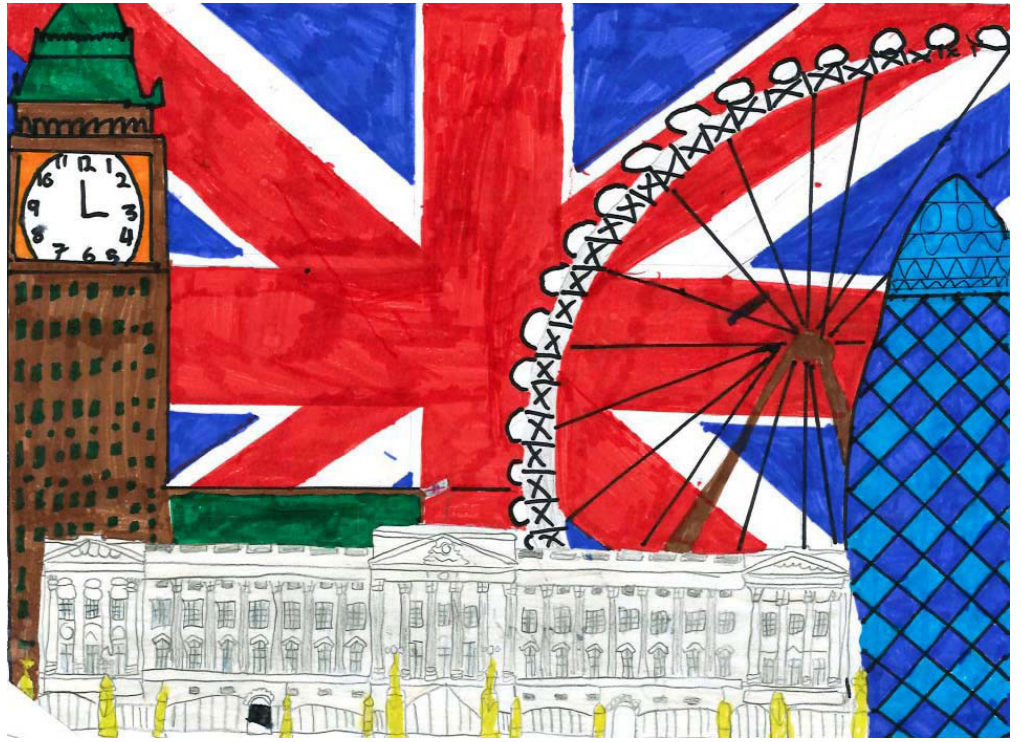
**Left:** Zain – Runner up  
Year 2, St Barnabas School

**Right:** Phoebe – Runner up  
Year 5, St Peter's School

**This page:**

**Right:** Yusra – Runner up  
Year 5, St Barnabas School

**Below:** Hillary – Runner up  
Year 4, St Barnabas School



**RUNNER UP**



**RUNNER UP**

The children were asked to design something which reflected part of the Jubilee celebrations. The winner receives a book, as do the runners-up. In addition, the winner will have a chance to ride in the coach which is to be in the area on the day of the party.

The winning design will also be printed on paper napkins which will be handed out by the various stalls on the day.

Here, we show the winning entry (top of previous page) and the runners-up. Your editor has had the privilege of looking at all the entries and is amazed at the quality of work that these youngsters have done. It is a pity that they cannot all win.

Hopefully, it will give them all a special memory of the celebrations and perhaps, in 70 years' time, they will tell younger generations about it. ▲



# NICKIE AIKEN MP: PEDICAB REGULATION AND TACKLING SUPERCAR NOISE

**W**hen I stood for Parliament in 2019, I was determined to secure a pedicab licensing scheme. Having lived in the Two Cities for 25 years and, as a former Westminster Council Leader, Cabinet Member for Public Protection & Licensing and Westminster City Councillor, I fully understood the immense challenges a minority of pedicab riders caused with blaring music, rip-off fares and antisocial behaviour.

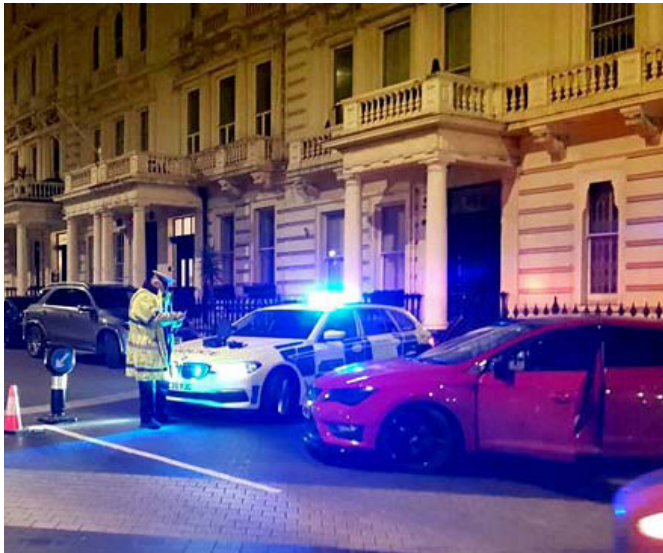
I am, therefore, delighted that after my campaign, the Government confirmed legislation for a pedicab licensing scheme will be included in the forthcoming Transport Bill.

Whilst pedicab riders are not often found vying for business in Belgravia, I have heard countless examples from local people, businesses, residents associations, amenity societies and councillors from across Belgravia and the Two Cities about their awful experiences involving pedicab riders as they're out and about in central London.

It's the blaring music on a walk through Soho, Covent Garden and Leicester Square. It's the repeated headlines of extortionate pricing, leaving a dreadful impression on those who visit our special corner of London. This will end under the pedicab licensing scheme.

The Belgravia Society has played a pivotal role in supporting my calls, arming me with evidence ahead of meetings with ministers and officials and keeping me updated about the on-the-ground reality in Belgravia and the issues faced by local people. I believe this support has been instrumental in securing Government support for the licensing scheme.

My thanks must also go to the Prime Minister for his personal commitment to giving Government time to secure a pedicab licensing scheme. Answering my question at Prime Minister's Questions in February and in a private meeting with me, Boris Johnson agreed for Government time should my Bill fall. He has seen through that commitment.



Another local nuisance I'm pressing for action over is the noise of supercars, fast cars, noisy cars and motorbikes. I've heard from people in Belgravia about how these vehicles plague their neighbourhood. The loud and often screeching noise they create as they race one another up and down Belgravia's roads with their loud and vibrating exhausts, or revving their engines late into the night. It cannot go on.

The Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps MP, has launched a trial for noise cameras to crack down on this anti-social behaviour. They've worked really well in places like Sloane Street, Chelsea or in notorious "meet up" hotspots, Exhibition Road, South Kensington and Waterloo Place, Westminster.

I'm making the case for more acoustic cameras in our streets in the Two Cities, so if you are plagued by these supercars and noisy cars and motorbikes, let me know at [nickie.news/supercars](https://www.nickie.news/supercars) and email me any evidence you have.

If you have any local, national or international issues you think I can help with, please send me an email to [nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk) and keep up-to-date on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube @TwoCitiesNickie. ▲



## 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](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com)

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

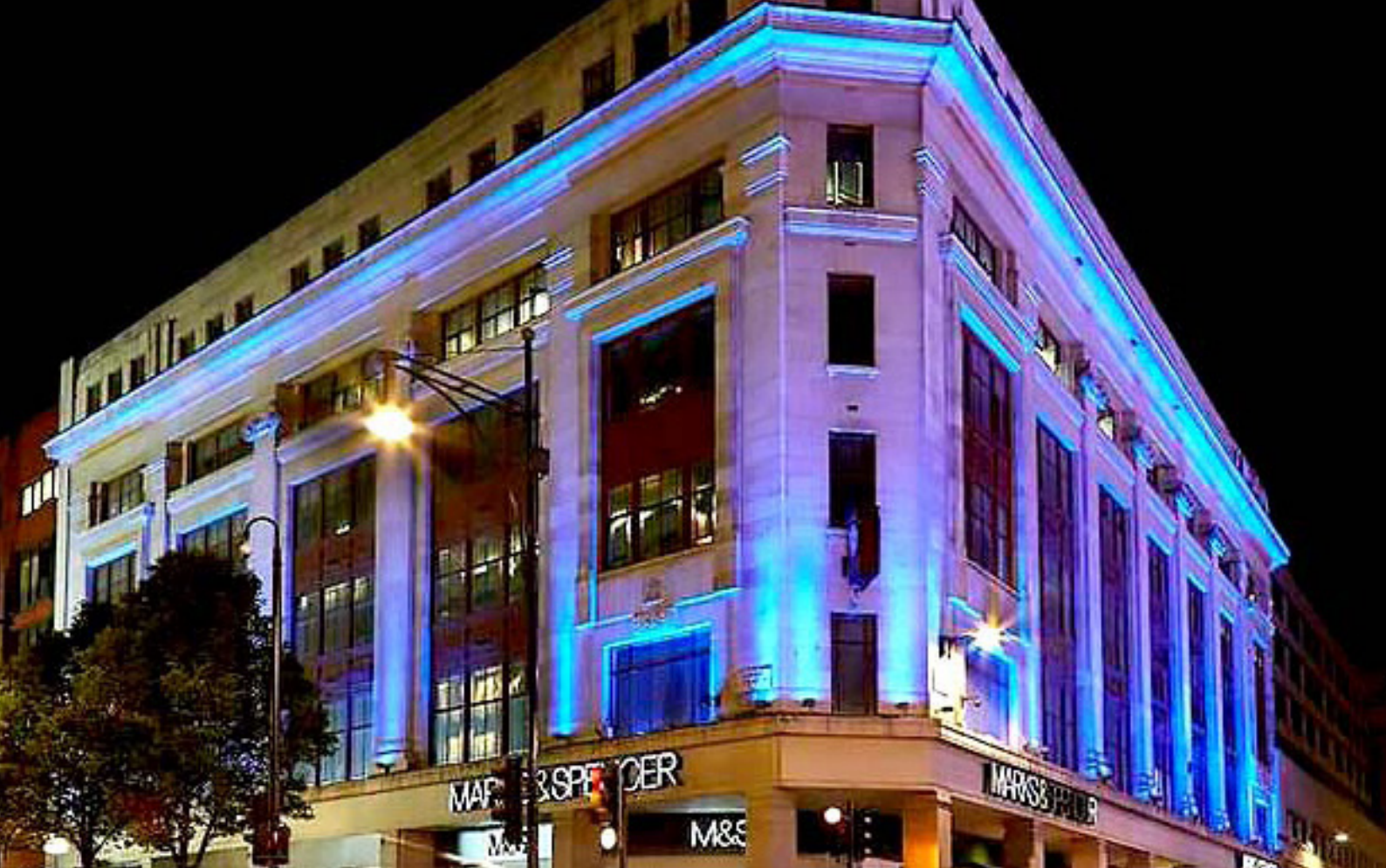
**Our next meeting is on  
14th June 2022**



**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.**

## Planning Advice

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



*The beautiful Art Deco architecture of the current M&S building*

# OXFORD STREET M&S – TO DEMOLISH OR NOT



*Proposed new M&S Building*

**M**ost of us are familiar with the Marks & Spencer's flagship store in Oxford Street. Some of you may know that it is proposed to bulldoze the important Art Deco building and replace it with a 10 story retail and office block.

Leading figures in the architectural world urged Michael Gove to call in the planning proposals for the building. SAVE Britain's Heritage and the Architectural Journal have initiated more opposition to the proposals. Michael Gove has already suspended Westminster Council's planning approval pending his review.

The arguments run around two main issues. The first issue is the carbon emissions caused by a rebuild. The second issue is the loss of fine Art Deco building. Issues are being raised as to whether retrofit could still be better in terms of climate change. These objectors though, argue the existing building's life could be extended by another hundred years or more with design ingenuity being applied to a substantial retrofit.

There are a number of stores being either closed or changing their mode of trading in Oxford Street. Most are looking at refurbishment/retrofit. The former department stores of House of Fraser, Topshop and Debenhams, will be refurbished for office and retail use. John Lewis will be partially repurposed. Surely, such a solution could be found for M&S.

The objectors believe that proposals for the site are wrong and environmentally wasteful. They say that adaptations are better than pulling a building down. A report from an expert suggests proposals are not compliant with government's zero commitments or the GLA policy to prioritise retrofit. Mayor Khan approved the scheme. After ordering a review, despite the officials not reviewing the report, they would not stop the proposed demolition.

There is no doubt there is an argument for both sides on the issue of carbon emissions, and although the balance is tipped in favour of a retrofit, much depends on the quality of the building. Despite the refusal of listing status, it would be a great loss to Oxford Street to see the building go. ▲



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**Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7-9pm**

**Tickets £50** includes a glass of sparkling wine

All performances are at Garrison Chapel,  
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[www.operaprelude.org](http://www.operaprelude.org)

Tel 020 7183 7323

Email [events@operaprelude.org](mailto:events@operaprelude.org)

# MATHEMATICS, COMPUTERS AND STAMPS

**C**harles Babbage was born in 1791. As part of his education, he had access to a splendid library that prompted his love of mathematics. He studied with private tutors and eventually was accepted to Cambridge University.

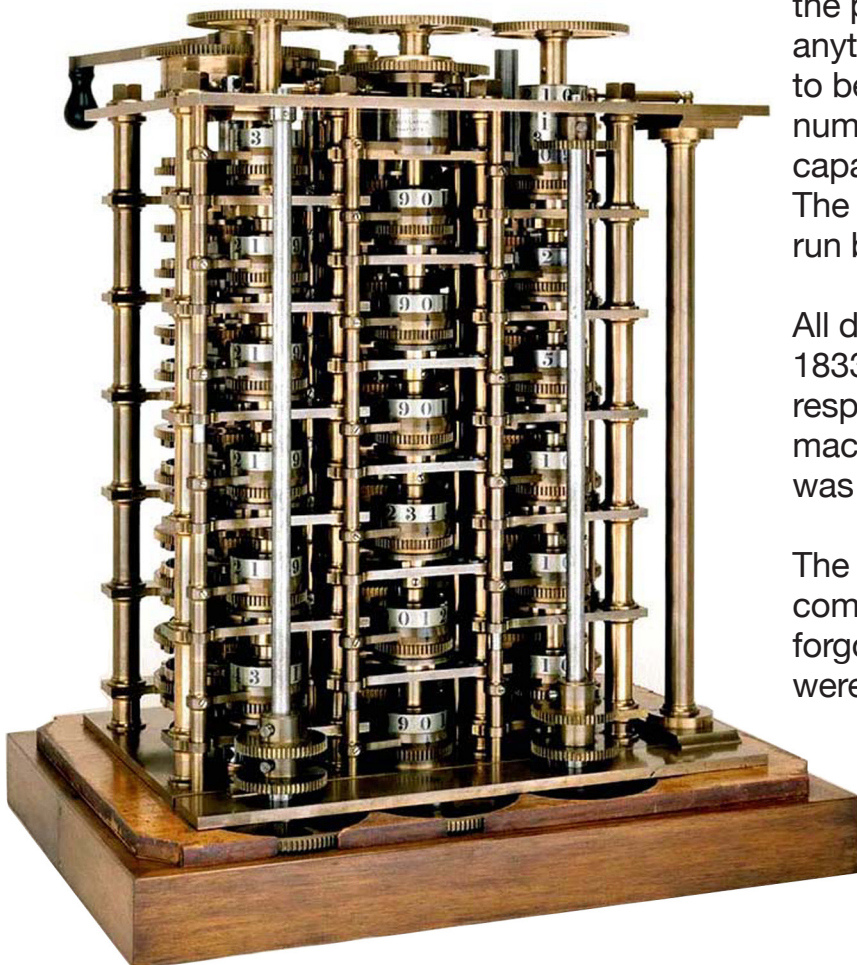
The idea of mechanically calculating mathematical tables first came to Charles Babbage in 1812 or 1813. Later he made a small calculator that could perform certain mathematical computations to eight decimals. Then, in 1823, he obtained government support for the design of

a projected machine, the Difference Engine, with a 20-decimal capacity and it had storage where data could be held temporarily for later processing.

During the mid-1830s, Babbage developed plans for the Analytical Engine, the forerunner of the modern digital computer. In that device he envisioned the capability of performing any arithmetical operation on the basis of instructions from punch cards, a memory unit in which to store numbers, sequential control, and most of the other basic elements of the present-day computer. As with the Difference Engine, the project was far more complex than anything built before. The memory unit was to be large enough to hold 1,000 50-digit numbers; this was larger than the storage capacity of any computer built before 1960. The machine was to be steam-driven and run by one attendant.

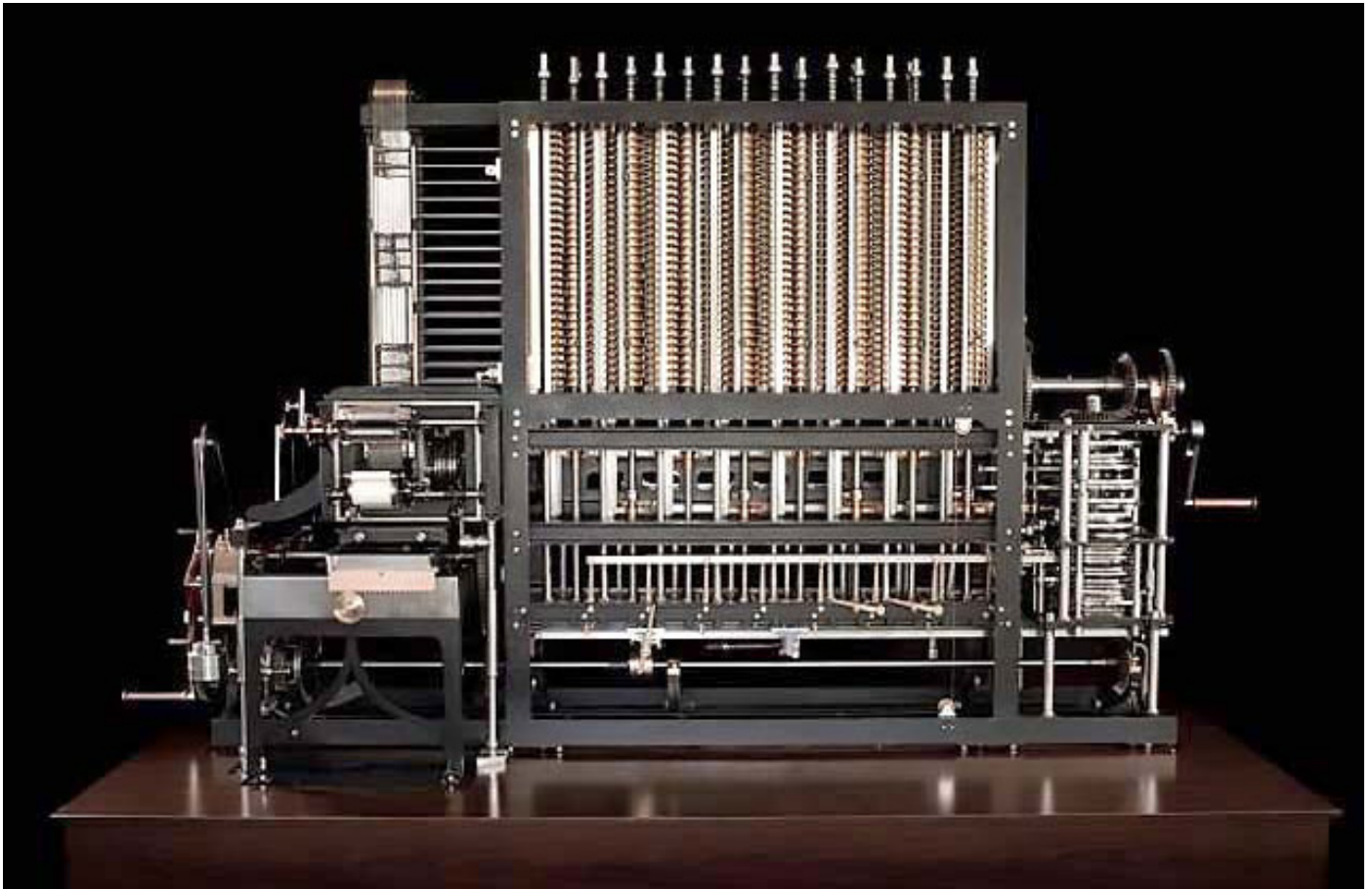
All design and construction ceased in 1833 when Joseph Clement, the machinist responsible for actually building the machine, refused to continue unless he was prepaid.

The Analytical Engine was never completed. Babbage's design was forgotten until his unpublished notebooks were discovered in 1937. In 1991 British scientists built the Difference Engine No. 2 – accurate to 31 digits – to Babbage's specifications, and in 2000 the printer for the Difference Engine was also built.



*The Difference Engine*





*The Difference Engine No. 2*

The concept of the computer was firmly established by Babbage arising out of his work. Another mathematician perceived the concept of programming computers to do different things. More on that next month.

Babbage himself had founded the Analytical Society in 1812, the object of which was to introduce developments from the European continent into English mathematics. In 1816 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society and was instrumental in founding the Royal Astronomical Society in 1820, and the Statistical Society in 1834.

He compiled the first reliable actuarial tables, and invented a type of speedometer and locomotive cowcatcher. He made

other contributions in other areas too, by assisting in establishing the modern postal system in England.

It is worth noting that the uniform Penny Post system was introduced in 1840. As confirmation that the penny postage had been paid, the stamp was fixed to the letter. As Britain was the first country to issue prepaid postage stamps, when the Universal Postage Union came in to regulate international postage, the UK was not required to put the name of the country on the stamp so long as it carried the portrait of the Monarch.

Charles Babbage created the concept of the computer we know today and is thought of as the father of computing. ▲



# MURDER AND ROMANCE IN VICTORIA

BY PETER WYETH

The New Victoria Cinema (now the Apollo Victoria, home of *Wicked*) has been described as the most important example of cinema architecture in Britain. Opened in 1930 and seating 2,860, it was an Art Deco 'Super Cinema', by the architect W E Trent.

Almost unnoticed by most passers-by, it has a frieze either side of the Wilton Road entrance, by the sculptor, Newbury Abbot Trent (1885-1953), cousin of the architect, and mainly known for a series of War Memorials and the Edward VII 'Peace Statue' in Brighton.

Trent's early style was Edwardian but developed into Art Deco, including a number of cinemas, the most notable beside the Victoria frieze was for the Gaumont, Doncaster in 1934, saved from demolition after a long campaign, now an outside exhibit over 30 feet long.

Trent's studio was at 1 Beaufort Street by Battersea Bridge. The son of a builder, his precocious talent saw him adopted aged eleven by the painter, Thomas Armstrong, a friend of Whistler and Gertrude Jekyll, whose son of a similar age had recently died.

Trent also designed reliefs at 3 St James's Square, on the Adelphi building, the Gaumont Cinema, King's Road and the Gaumont, Hammersmith (now the Apollo).

Hidden to the side of the two Victoria reliefs is a small, modern, concrete figure – Trent's abstract version of Charlie Chaplin, the world's first movie superstar, from just over the river. The Victoria friezes both feature an audience of unusual figures watching a film – on the right a murder story with a knife about to be plunged into a woman's back, on the left (sadly in need of restoration) a romance featuring an affectionate couple.



**Previous page:** Trent's Victoria freize, right side

**Top left:** Trent's Brighton Memorial

**Below left:** Trent's abstract concrete version of Charlie Chaplin

Trent's audience has twenty one figures on the left and twenty on the right. They share many common figures, but at the far left of the right-hand relief, three women look away from the stabbing tragedy, whereas the romance on the left side attracts a tall, slim woman with short hair next to a seated, portly, middle-aged man, and next to him a standing woman looks at the screen, but on the right-hand relief, she shies away from the violence. Perhaps the portly gentleman was the architect, holding before him a lorgnette for a clearer view of the romantic couple?

Both reliefs feature a naked boy standing alone, a naked girl with her mother, who stares at the romance but turns away from the murder, and a naked young woman watching the couple on screen, but turns away from the knife scene towards the passer-by. Half the stabbing scene audience can't look, and one man adopts a boxer's pose, but all the romantic scene audience face the screen, except for a blasé smoker blowing smoke rings, with his arms up exultantly for the murder.

Next time you pass that way it's worth a look, and one hopes the *Wicked* management might be encouraged to restore the damaged side as the cracks get bigger by the year. ▲



## EVERY LITTLE HELPS –

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](https://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.

# Rewilding

## FIRST MEET-UP

BY SARA OLIVER, REWILDING BELGRAVIA



**A**t our recent meeting we enjoyed a conversation over a cup of tea at Baker and Spice about all things rewilding, from a yacht in the Med named after a bee, to a beautiful plane tree planted in honour of one of my guest's father in Belgrave Square, surrounded by a lovely purple haze meadow; stumperies for insects and lots of wilding in the square together with lovely birdsong being very noticeable.

We all agreed that the Grosvenor Gardeners are doing a fantastic job on their Rewilding Belgravia journey. We also thought that there is much more to be done. We discussed prospects of softening Eccleston Yards:

- cover concrete walls with vertical greenery;
- add micro meadows to the flat roofs;
- a water butt for wildlife, a fountain, bird baths;
- a couple more bird boxes amongst the green ivy fences;
- feeders for the birds;
- water bowls for the many resident dogs frequenting the area.

Another suggestion was made regarding the Green Lamp Posts (Green Corridor) in Ebury Street. We thought they were ticking all the right boxes and that they were successful. I wrote about a Belgravia Bee a couple of years back, enjoying the late afternoon sunshine on my windowsill directly above one of these lamp posts. We agreed it was about time they extended them to connect with Grosvenor Square Gardens, Buckingham Palace Gardens, and the Parks beyond.

There was mention of the Hyde Park Estate experimenting with Pop-Up Planting. Rain gardens were another example of extending the green credentials to the streets, providing soak-aways and green verges to absorb rainwater and reduce flooding on the roads, and overwhelming the drainage systems.

Finally, I thanked my guests and gave them some urban flower meadow seedballs (<https://seedball.co.uk>) to plant in their gardens and window boxes. We rounded up our meeting with a short walk to see the Nature Triangle in Ebury Street, next to the Ebury Street Coach Station entrance, still going strong and looking lush. ▲

**2022 Meet Ups!**  
Visit website for details:  
[www.rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com](http://www.rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com)  
[www.rewildingwestminster.com](http://www.rewildingwestminster.com)

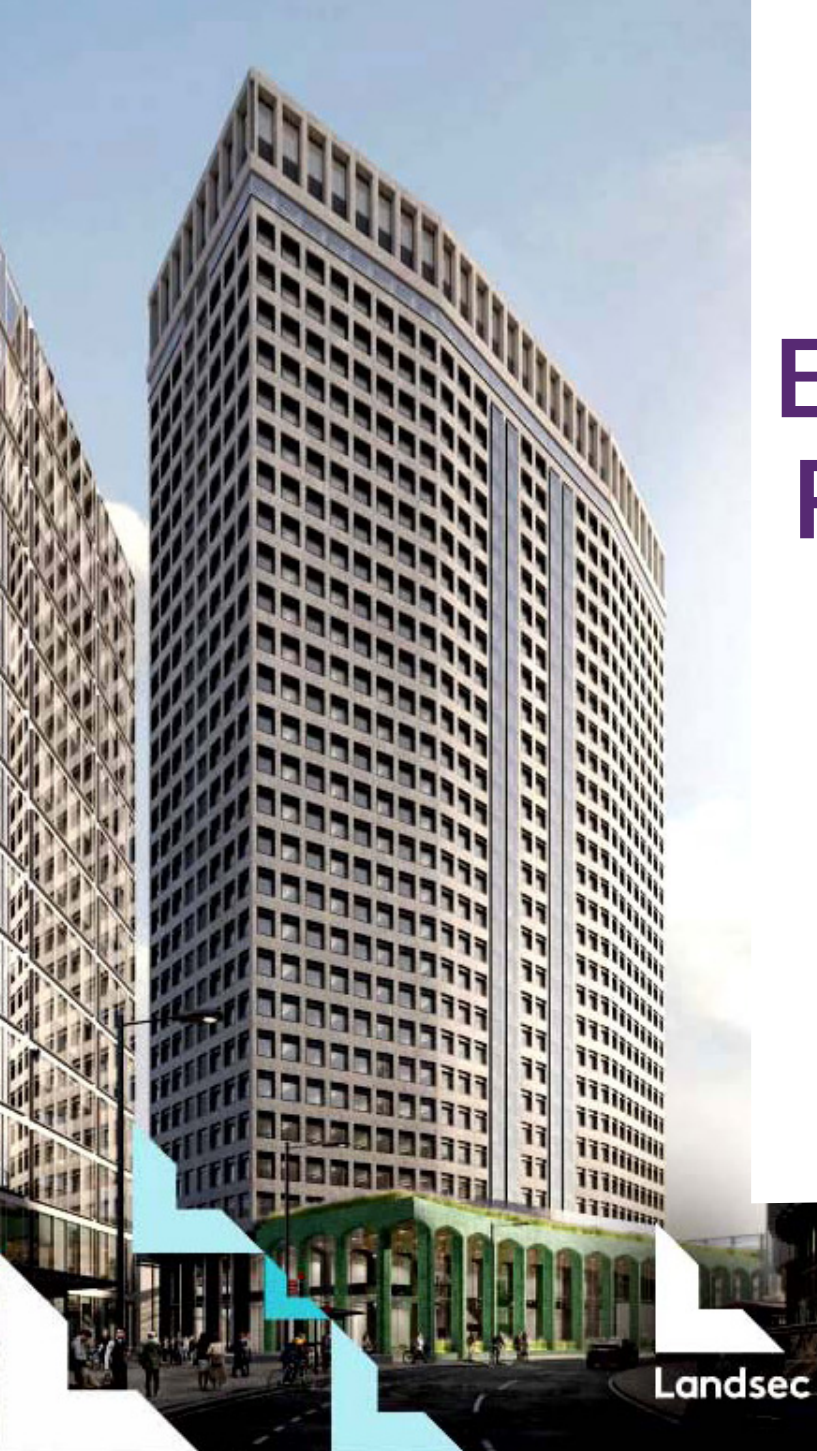
**Planting for Wildlife**  
Belgravia Rewilding gardening group  
Find out about the group at  
[www.rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com](http://www.rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com)  
[www.rewildingwestminster.com](http://www.rewildingwestminster.com)  
Email [hello@rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com](mailto:hello@rewildingbelgraviainlondon.com)  
to say you'll join, and we'll save you a seat!

**Announcing the second meet up of the group on 8th June at Jones Family Kitchen at 3:45 pm** The group is open to all ages and gardening abilities, an interest in wildlife is all you need.

- Wildlife gardening
- Links to activity guides
- creating a (small or big) pond
- Wildflower meadows
- Where to find British plants & meadow seeds
- Ideas for families
- children & teachers
- Connecting with nature
- Wildlife rescue

Sign up to the website to share your nature stories and photos. We as a community can do our bit to make our neighbourhood a better place for nature.

**Join us to share ideas and a love of wildlife, no matter how much space you have!**



# PORTLAND HOUSE AND BRESSENDEN PLACE – NEW PROPOSALS

and inviting frontage that improves the surrounding public realm. They also plan to undertake some remodelling at roof level.

Land Securities will be holding a public exhibition in the entrance lobby of Portland House on the following dates:

**31st May between 4.30pm and 7.30pm**  
**8th June between 12pm and 3pm**

You can also view the plans and give your thoughts at the email address below. Feedback will run from 31st May to 15th June 2022.

This does seem a very good opportunity to look at the plans for the future of the building as there is to be such a change in the proposals for it. You can receive a paper copy of information and/or raise questions at **Portlandhouse@kandaconsulting.co.uk** or phone 020 3900 3676. ▲

**L**and Securities are considering new proposals for the building. Previous planning permission had been given for extensive repositioning and remodelling and change of use to all or part of it.

The review of the plans are in response to changes in the market and sustainability issues. The new proposals look to refurbish the existing building with an emphasis on retention. The design introduces a two-storey extension onto the Bressenden Place façade. It is proposed to introduce an active

# KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD

## COUNSELLORS, CONTACT DETAILS, INFORMATION AND NEWS



This includes:

- Working with our senior city inspector to make sure the streets of Knightsbridge & Belgravia are always clean and in good order.
- Working hard with residents to improve the repairs service in all council owned properties.
- Working to reduce coach movements on Elizabeth Street. Rachael had further meetings with local residents about this very recently and has already followed up with officers.
- Continue to roll out electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including fast charger hubs in sensible but convenient locations, and to accommodate the people who are choosing to switch to electric vehicles.
- Building on the success of the acoustic cameras installed on Exhibition Road to crack down on the menace of noisy and anti-social cars.
- Continuing to support the businesses of Elizabeth, Motcomb, Eccleston and Ebury Streets to ensure they continue to thrive, post-pandemic, at the same time minimising noise and retaining the village feel.
- To work with the Brompton Road BID (Business Improvement District) to further improve the north side and east end of Brompton Road, making it an attractive shopping, dining and leisure area for our residents and visitors alike.

Please do contact us about any concerns. We hold regular surgeries and are also happy to meet informally, so get in touch! ▲

**Cllrs Devenish, Rowbotham and Hitchcock**

**W**e are delighted to have been re-elected as your local councillors for the next four years. We will continue to work hard for everyone living in Knightsbridge & Belgravia, whoever you voted for. We are determined to champion the needs of everyone who lives here and deliver for our community.

Over the last few years, we have been working hard with colleagues on a wide variety of initiatives across Knightsbridge & Belgravia. We will continue to push for these schemes under the new leadership of the Council.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Cllr Rachael Robathan (Con)

[rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk)

Cllr Tony Devenish (Con)

[tony.devenish@london.gov.uk](mailto:tony.devenish@london.gov.uk)

Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock (Con)

[ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk)

Telephone number for all:

020 7730 8181

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



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](mailto: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](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com)  
OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**



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The only independent voice for Belgravia

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[www.thebelgrviasociety.com](http://www.thebelgrviasociety.com)