



THE

ISSUE 69 | FEBRUARY 2021

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

WESTMINSTER IS
AUCTIONING ITS OLD
STREET SIGNS

TRAFFIC

ANDREW GEDDES EXAMINES
THE NEW LOW TRAFFIC
NEIGHBOURHOODS

BUILDING BRIDGES

*A look at the interesting history
of Albert Bridge*



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

IN THIS ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2021

Chairman's Message	3
Nickie Aiken MP	
An update from your local MP	4
Albert Bridge	6
An Unusual Auction	9
Local Street Names Part Two	10
Cundy Street development	12
38 Belgrave Square	13
Low Traffic Neighbourhoods	14
News from around Westminster	16
Party Wall matters	18
Foul Play on Our Streets	20
News from your Councillors	22
Membership Application	25
Councillors' Surgeries	26

**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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Cover photo of Albert Bridge
by Clare Tellemache

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

Some months ago, Mary Regnier-Leigh (our lead on Planning and Editor of this magazine) wrote about the City Plan to 2040 which is still under consideration. There were two very important issues which she raised as part of our objections to certain aspects of it. One was the height of buildings and the other was to ask for removal of certain designations to parts of Belgravia which were damaging to its future in terms of possible planning applications.

Our mantra for Belgravia is “to celebrate the past, improve the present and engage with the future”. We fight very hard to celebrate the past and to maintain the uniqueness of Belgravia; it is recognised for its unique Regency architecture. We do hope to improve the present, but when planning policies prevent that we feel that we’ve become powerless as some of the decisions taken without understanding of our area and without concern for the health or welfare of our residents.

While we accept without question the importance of new homes, we do not accept the concept of highly dense, very tall buildings in Belgravia. We would regard this as overdevelopment anywhere, but in the midst of a unique architectural area, we think it is just not acceptable.

Planning in WESTMINSTER

In the case of the Cundy Street development, the matter went to Committee a week ago. Despite all the objections and all the breaches of policies and standards (serious loss of light) set out in the actual report to the councillors, the officers recommended granting consent because of the public benefit which we did not agree with.

Now there is the case of 38 Belgrave Square. Belgrave Square is probably one of the finest examples of Regency architecture. To reinforce this, the houses in Belgrave Square are Grade I listed. Until the war, the houses were in private residential occupation, as they were built. However, when the war came, many of the occupants left central London or simply could not afford the costs of running their houses. Many became embassies and some offices. That applied to Grosvenor Crescent as well. In the latter case, you may remember the Red Cross offices and other offices along the whole length; now, they have all been restored to residential property. It now transpires that owners of 38 Belgrave Square wish to turn it into a commercial centre as a welfare facility. We will be opposing this vigorously and we know the local residents will be doing likewise.

We will do our best to try to preserve our precious heritage. We look to all of you to assist in the enterprise and, when it occurs, to join us and other residents in opposition. Make your voices heard; they really count.

For further information on Cundy Street and 38 Belgrave Square, see pages 12-13.

NICKIE AIKEN MP – AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL MP



Since last month's magazine, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout has continued at pace. The government successfully hit its target of administering a first vaccine dose to the 15 million most vulnerable adults by the middle of February.

Locally, the pace of vaccinations across Westminster should rise as new vaccination sites come online. The site at Marble Arch that I mentioned last month is now up and running. I've visited a couple of vaccine centres across the Two Cities, including the South Westminster Centre in Vincent Square. It was incredibly uplifting seeing the delight and relief of those receiving jabs.

In recent weeks, I have received a lot of correspondence about planning. Some of it has related to the government's proposed new Planning Bill. My thoughts on planning have always been driven by the principle that local authorities working with local people should shape how their areas look and feel, responding to local needs. Currently, I am lobbying the Planning Minister to ensure that the new Bill secures

the rights of councils and local people to have the final say on what goes where in their areas.

There is much to welcome in the Bill, such as embracing digitalisation. I will scrutinise what the government proposes once the Bill is finally tabled in the coming months.

Others have contacted me to express their views specifically about the redevelopment of Cundy Street. As you will now be aware, Westminster City Council deferred its decision on Grosvenor Estates' application to redevelop the area. Members of Parliament do not have a formal role in the planning process. However, I did make a representation to Westminster City Council before the Committee meeting, to ensure that the Council was aware of local concerns about the proposals.

I pay tribute to the excellent representations the Belgravia Society made on the application and those constituents who also made reasonable and eloquent comments about the proposals. Common sense seems to have been achieved and I hope and expect Grosvenor now to take the Committee's views on board.

Looking ahead, with vaccines being rolled out and the Prime Minister having announced the government's roadmap to reopening, I hope to be able to get out and about in the constituency in person as soon as we reach the appropriate stage.

Technology has allowed continuing meetings with representatives from Resident Associations and Amenity Societies, including the Belgravia Society, which I have found incredibly helpful. Though nothing can replace meeting in person, which I am sure you all agree with! ▲

In the meantime, if you would like to contact me about any issue or concern, please do email or call me. You can also keep up to date with what I am doing as your MP by following me on social media – all details below:

Email:

nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 020 7219 4553

Follow at:

   @twocitiesnickie



Invitation to the next Belgravia 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
9th March 2021**



Registered Charity No. 1168619

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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

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

Please fill in the online form by clicking on the link above link.

Alternatively, print the application form on page 25 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
London SW1W 0NY

We are all familiar with Albert Bridge, but it has an interesting history. It was designed and built by Roland Mason Ordish in 1873 as an Ordish-Lefeuve system. However, it was very quickly found to be structurally unsound. Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the renowned engineer who designed and built the new sewerage system in London, was called in. After the “Great Stink”, he designed and supervised a safe long-term sewerage system for London, improving life and health.

Between 1884 and 1887 Bazalgette incorporated some design elements of a suspension bridge to make

Albert Bridge safe. It was not the complete answer as, over the years, more work had to be done to improve the safety of the bridge.

In 1973 two concrete piers were added which transformed the central span to a simple beam bridge. Unusually therefore, it is made up of three different design styles.

In 1975 English Heritage listed the bridge as a Grade II* listed building.

Albert Bridge was constructed as a toll bridge but was commercially unsuccessful. It passed into public ownership following the passing of the Metropolis Toll Bridges Act in 1877.

ALBERT BRIDGE

Photos by Clare Tellemache





Photo by Clare Tellemache

The Metropolitan Board of Works then bought all London bridges between Hammersmith and Waterloo, and they were then freed from tolls. The original toll booths at each end of Albert Bridge are still there and have been conserved and were themselves refurbished at the time of the 2010-2011 refurbishment. Twelve layers of paint were removed from them and they were stripped down to the bare metal. They were repaired and refurbished and received three new coats of paint. The bridge was also painted in several colours to increase its visibility to traffic on the river.

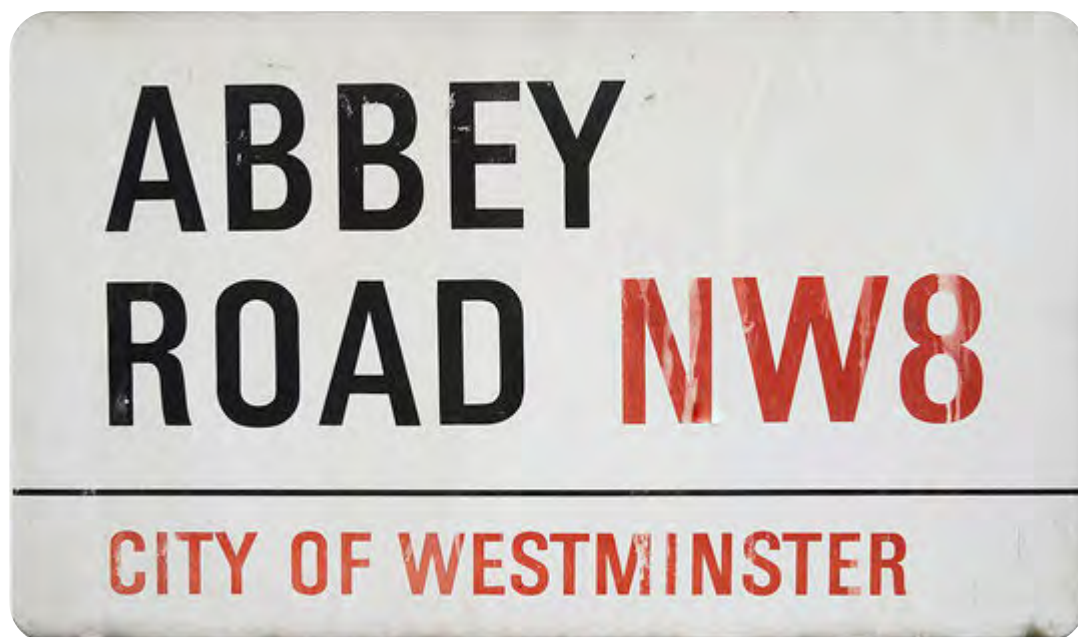
Albert Bridge is 41 feet wide and 210 feet long. The towers were made of cast iron at Battersea. It was nicknamed “The Trembling Lady” because it would vibrate when large numbers of people walked over it. Although the nearby Chelsea Barracks closed over ten years ago, there are still signs on the bridge advising soldiers marching across it to break step! Breaking step would have reduced the resonance which could have caused a catastrophic collapse.

Despite many calls for its demolition or pedestrianisation, Albert Bridge has remained open to vehicles throughout its existence, apart from when works were being carried out.

Strengthening work done by Bazalgette and the Greater London Council did not stop further deterioration of its structure. In the early days there was a weight restriction of five tons for vehicles crossing and that was reduced to two tons which remains today.

In addition, to prevent all the heavy four-wheel-drive, and other large vehicles crossing the river which weighed more than the limit, access pillars have been placed on the bridge. They are sufficiently narrow to exclude the heavy vehicles.

Albert Bridge is one of the only two bridges in this central part of the Thames that has never actually been replaced. The other bridge is Tower Bridge. At night, Albert Bridge is illuminated and, like Tower Bridge, has achieved a landmark status and is readily recognisable. ▲



AN UNUSUAL AUCTION

When looking through the weekly information emails from Westminster City Council, we came across an invitation to “Grab a Piece of History”. Westminster is selling a collection of street signs. This would be a unique chance to own a piece of London’s history.

260 street signs are on offer and Catherine Southon Auctioneers are dealing with the sale. The money raised will be invested back into services for people in Westminster. The online auction started on 17th February and finishes on 3rd March.

Our curiosity took us to the auction site online where we found a list of all the available street signs. Each of the signs can be bid for electronically. Prices run from about £50 upwards but, of course, offers will

go up as the auction continues. We did note that the street sign for Abbey Road had reached a sky-high price of £5,000. It will be interesting to see what price it actually fetches. Other signs have been included which contain typing errors and were not used by WCC.

We do congratulate WCC for this particular enterprising way of disposing of old street signs and raising money too. ▲



LOCAL STREET NAMES

PART TWO
by Joe Briggs



Eaton Square



Orange Square used to be known as Pimlico Green before it was renamed after the pub on the corner. The pub was previously a brewery that was built on the site of Strumbelo House, and Strumbelo (presumably something to do with Stromboli, one of Italy's three active volcanoes along with Etna and Vesuvius) is the old name for part of what is now Pimlico Road. Ebury Street on the other side of Orange Square is named after a large farm that was located on the edge of the "five fields", the name by which the whole area of Belgravia was previously known. Back then, the oldest section of Ebury Street was known as Five Fields Row, and the word "Avery" (featured in the name of the tiny street that is now Avery Farm Row)

is a corruption of the word Ebury. A-very appropriate street name, if you ask me!

Other good pre-Grosvenor examples are the King's Road and Chapel Street. Before Eaton Square was built, the King's Road ran through the five fields all the way up to the crossroads where Hobart Place meets the track that is now Grosvenor Place. Further north along this same track there is Chapel Street named after Lock Chapel which formed part of Lock Hospital, London's first venereal disease clinic; somewhat conveniently located in an isolated position at the back of Buckingham House. ▲

The etymology of local place names, and the recycling and reinvention of history that goes with it is fascinating, and I would be thrilled to hear about your favourite local examples if you'd like to get in touch.
jra.briggs@outlook.com.

Scratch at the surface and you can still find traces of Belgravia's pre-Grosvenor streets, most of which congregated around what is now Orange Square and Grosvenor Place.

Mayfair lays claim to the ultimate pre-Grosvenor tribute in Davies Street, named after Mary Davies who married Sir Thomas Grosvenor, 3rd Baronet, in 1677 and inherited some five hundred acres of land that today makes up most of Mayfair and Belgravia.

In Belgravia, Bourne Street recalls the ancient stream that ran through this land and past Orange Square, and today the street still marks the boundary between the boroughs of Westminster and RBKC.

CUNDY STREET DEVELOPMENT



As mentioned by our Chairman in his message, councillors have approved the Cundy Street development. The final consent has been deferred pending further discussions with the developer relating to building heights that are adversely and very seriously affecting the light to houses in Mozart Terrace.

WCC is seeking to remove at least one floor, possibly more, reducing the height of the buildings immediately opposite. However, it was fairly obvious to us that the councillors simply did not understand the special area which Belgravia is or how it would be affected by very high buildings and the intense development.

Five of the buildings are over 30m high, the original limit set by WCC on building heights. One of the buildings is 48.8m high which is half as high again as anything in the area. We did not think the development would offer enough of public benefit to justify

giving consent; there are only an additional 12 homes on the site. Restaurants and bars offer little to an area already very well served with those facilities.

We considered the senior living on the site was inappropriate contributing 40% to its size. We were not satisfied that local people would have the benefit from it and the developers were unable to be very specific. We thought that there are other sites in Belgravia that could provide excellent accommodation for senior living which we would welcome.

Although the final decision to give consent has not yet been given, subject to the arrangements in relation to the loss of light, it is almost inevitable. A sad day for Belgravia especially after all the time and effort put into maintaining the special nature of Belgravia for more than two centuries, even to the extent of being granted a special Act of Parliament creating a scheme to ensure the future was protected. We will keep you informed when the matter is finalised. ▲

38 BELGRAVE SQUARE

The owners of this fabulous listed Grade I building situated in the Central Activity Zone (CAZ) have applied to change their “unoccupied” residence to a Wellness Clinic. Regulations require that development in the CAZ area, which is basically the whole of Belgrave Square, should be “1) strategic and 2) NOT COMPROMISING, the quality of the residential neighbours.”

Residents have contacted committee members of both the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum and the Belgravia Society pointing out that there are already several Wellness Centres within a 5 minute walk of this project. The gym at the Jumeirah, the Lanesborough, The Mandarin and the White Room in Ebury Street. Grace in West Halkin Street closed in part due to lack of demand. What would be the need for yet another similar business?

The Application is from 6am to midnight with a roof terrace being open from 8am to 11pm, serviced by light goods vehicles eight times a day and waste collection 3 to 5 times a week. The planning statement submitted with the Application confirms that up to 240 members and guests per day will be coming and going when at full capacity. That number every day from 6am till 12 midnight is totally unacceptable for residents and wholly inappropriate for a residential area as a whole. The building is on the corner of Chapel Street which means that coming and going will affect residents there as well.



This application would set two very dangerous precedents: The first precedent for residences to change to commercial enterprises. Historically, residents have, and continue to, campaign for residences to remain as residences. In addition, whenever possible, residents have lobbied hard to return businesses to residences. Recent examples to convert back to homes are the two pubs at either end of Little Chester Street and the Embassy at number 1 and 2 Upper Belgrave Street. The second precedent of extending business hours is of grave concern given the times suggested.

Please object urgently before a decision is taken. Go to the Westminster Planning application site and leave your comments for 38 Belgrave Square. You can see the plan and Object using the Application number 20/07236/Full. ▲

LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS

by Andrew Geddes

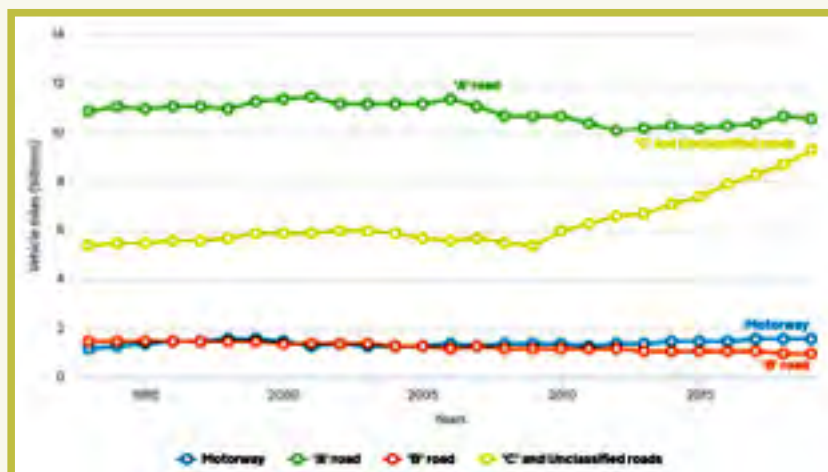


Traffic... I'm sure I don't need to highlight the problems of high volumes of traffic cutting through the streets of Belgravia. Not only does it bring the obvious noise and air pollution, it also makes our streets dangerous: a vehicle is twice as likely to kill or seriously injure a child on a residential road compared to a main road. Electric cars go part-way to solving the air quality problem (although they still emit a lot of particulates from brakes and tyres), but they do not solve the safety problem.

The problem has accelerated since the advent of electronic navigation aids. The graph opposite shows how, from 2010 onwards, as smartphones became prevalent, traffic has increased by 72% on minor roads.

We now have an answer to this problem, in the form of low traffic neighbourhoods, which allow traffic into an area but not through it. Many boroughs are rolling these out widely, although Westminster has been slow to start. One recently proposed for the Hyde Park Estate has been cancelled.

This graph shows the number of vehicle miles per year by type of road.



It's worth a quick summary of objective evidence:

1. Overall traffic in an area (including boundary roads) reduces. This seeming paradox is because some journeys previously undertaken by motor vehicle are now undertaken by other means. In Waltham Forest, traffic levels across the whole area dropped by 38%.
2. Traffic on boundary roads does not significantly change. In Hackney it was found to be unchanged; in Waltham Forest it increased by 3-11%.
3. Emergency response times are not affected. Analysis of 12 ambulance trusts found that no delays to emergency response times had been identified because of LTNs.
4. LTNs do not discriminate. A researcher for the University of Westminster analysed the demographics of those living on main roads and those living on side roads that benefitted from the schemes and found that across Inner London there are few differences by age group, income group, ethnic group, or disability status in those living on main roads or side roads.
5. Community improves. The results of a study by the University of the West of England found that residents on busy streets had less than one quarter the number of local friends compared to those living on similar streets with little traffic.
6. Air quality improves: a study found that the number of households in Waltham Forest exposed to more than the EU recommended maximum amount of nitrogen dioxide has dropped dramatically, from 58,000 in 2007 to just 6,300 in 2017. This hasn't been at the expense of those households on boundary roads, which has also improved slightly.
7. Crime is reduced. Another university study has found that the introduction of a low traffic neighbourhood was associated with a 10% decrease in total street crime.
8. Business improves. TFL research shows that footfall increases on quieter streets. Research also shows that most businesses vastly overestimate the number of their customers arriving by motor vehicle.

So the more we can do to stop or reduce the rat-running the better. ▲

Read more about low traffic neighbourhoods at:
westminsterstreets.org.uk

NEWS FROM AROUND WESTMINSTER

MARBLE ARCH HILL



I expect many of you read about the proposed hill built next to Marble Arch which will be a temporary visitor attraction. It will require planning permission. It will include a viewing platform which allows visitors an opportunity to look over the area from a new perspective as WCC and its partners start to transform the district of Oxford Street and its environs. You will see from the photograph that only the front half will be seen as a hill and the rest will be a flat supporting structure. We are told that, once dismantled, the trees from the landscape will be relocated to other parts of the district and local community. More information about the planning application will be made available soon.

OXFORD STREET

There is a project for a temporary scheme including footway widening. Included in the locations are Marble Arch Islands, Bird Street junction, Davis Street junction outside Selfridge's, Great Titchfield Street/ marketplace, Winsley Street junction, Old Cavendish Street junction, Holles Street junction, Newman Street junction, Rathbone Place junction and Soho Square.

We are told that the proposed works are likely to impact traffic flow on Oxford Street between Regent Street and Marble Arch. The work is likely to take place in March.

We are told WCC has a vision for a greener, smarter future for the Oxford Street District; it will be reinvented as the centre of a world-leading, forward-facing, urban district. The figures for people visiting the area (we assume pre-COVID) are 200 million visitors, 38,000 residents, 155,000 people employed and 70% arriving by underground which is estimated to increase by 16 million once the long-awaited Elizabeth Line opens.

You can find more information at:
osd.london/framework

WESTMINSTER: NUMBER ONE IN LONDON FOR BROADBAND



The pandemic has thrown up numerous challenges and issues, but during this time, we have realised how important good digital connectivity is to all of us.

With more people working from home, now more than ever, many businesses are switching to an online model, and children are relying on broadband to be able to fully participate in lessons during this latest lockdown. It is fantastic news that Westminster has been named the most connected borough in London.

According to the recently released Connected Nations 2020 data, the City of Westminster has a full fibre connectivity rate of 56.1%, putting it top of all London boroughs and amongst the best-connected local authorities in the country. This is an impressive statistic, considering that as recently as five years ago, Westminster ranked near the bottom of broadband league tables.

Visit OFCOM's website to check whether fibre broadband is available in your area.

If you are offered the opportunity of getting superfast broadband, do take it up. It really is 21st Century connectivity and speedy.

THE CHARLTON PUBLIC HOUSE – A CAUTIONARY TALE



An historic Maida Vale public house was illegally demolished in 2015. It was built in the early 1920s and was being considered for listing when it was unexpectedly demolished by the owner. This was obviously to avoid the requirements of dealing with listed buildings.

The manager had been led to believe the pub would be closed on Easter Monday so an inventory could be taken. When the manager returned two days later she found the building had been demolished.

Various legal actions followed culminating in a requirement to rebuild the pub within a limited time.

Although well overdue in terms of completion, the council has insured the reconstruction and it is set to return to its rightful role at the heart of the community.

It is truly a cautionary tale that developers who ignore the law, in Westminster and other authorities, cannot elude their legal responsibilities and vandalise well loved and valued buildings. We imagine that rebuilding the pub would have cost a very great deal of money and we can only congratulate WCC for their actions. ▲



PARTY WALL MATTERS

by Helene Oratore



Helene Oratore

I have now written three articles about party wall matters and have since received a number of questions from our membership. I will attempt to answer a few of those queries in this article. The answers are my personal opinion through my experiences with party wall agreements and NOT given as formal advice. Formal advice should be sought from a party wall expert.

HOW DO I PROVE WHAT CONDITION MY HOME IS IN BEFORE MY NEIGHBOUR BEGINS HIS WORK?

The party wall surveyors prepare a conditions schedule for each property involved in the various party wall agreements. This is a detailed, dated, written document with photographs to show the exact condition of your home before work commences. It is agreed by the party wall surveyors.

If any damage occurs to your home during the build, this is the document which is updated to reflect any changes. This is the main document at the end of the work upon which compensation will be calculated.

IF THE ORIGINAL PARTY WALL AGREEMENT IS SIGNED BY OWNERS AND THEN A PROPERTY IS SOLD, DO NEW PARTY WALL AGREEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE?

Absolutely. Every change of owner will need to be involved in the party wall process.

WHAT ARE WESTMINSTER'S HOURS OF WORK AND IS THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SITE OUTSIDE OF THESE HOURS?

In Westminster permitted hours of work are Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm and Saturday 8am-1pm.

This allows the contractors to make building noise during these hours. Outside of these hours NO NOISY work is permitted.

The builders would be allowed to arrive earlier and enter the site in order to get themselves organised for the day, provided that they are not creating building noise.

Several of you have commented upon the early arrival of skips. These are not permitted to be dropped off before 8am due to the level of noise the delivery operation exerts.

If a site breaches these conditions, report the incident to the Westminster noise team with audio and video evidence if possible.▲



The national Census 2021 campaign has been officially launched. TV, radio and newspapers are all talking about the Census 2021. Run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the census – taking place on 21st March – is the once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all people and households in England and Wales.

We will publish more information on the Census and its history next month. Everyone must complete this compulsory survey – don't forget to complete yours.

FOUL PLAY ON OUR STREETS

by Monica Lucas

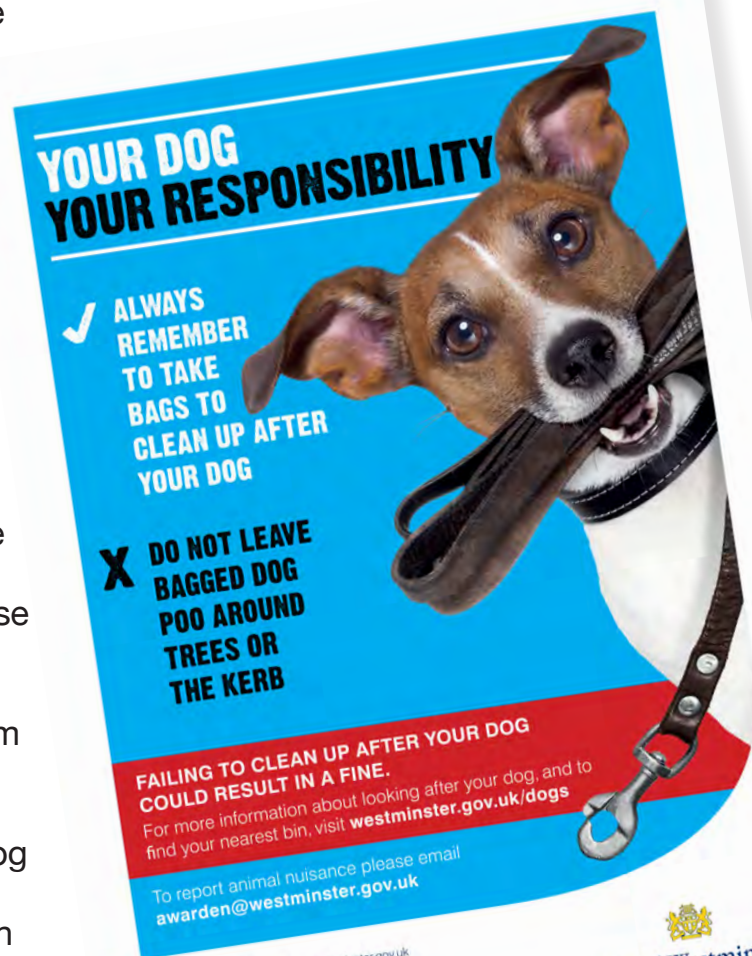
As a regular pedestrian around all parts of Belgravia I have recently been shocked and disgusted by the growing incidents of dog excrement on our pavements. Not only has there been an increase in people leaving freshly-filled poo bags here, there and everywhere – sometimes even artfully balanced on utility boxes or hung on railings – but a disgraceful number of “deposits” are now to be found on pavements.

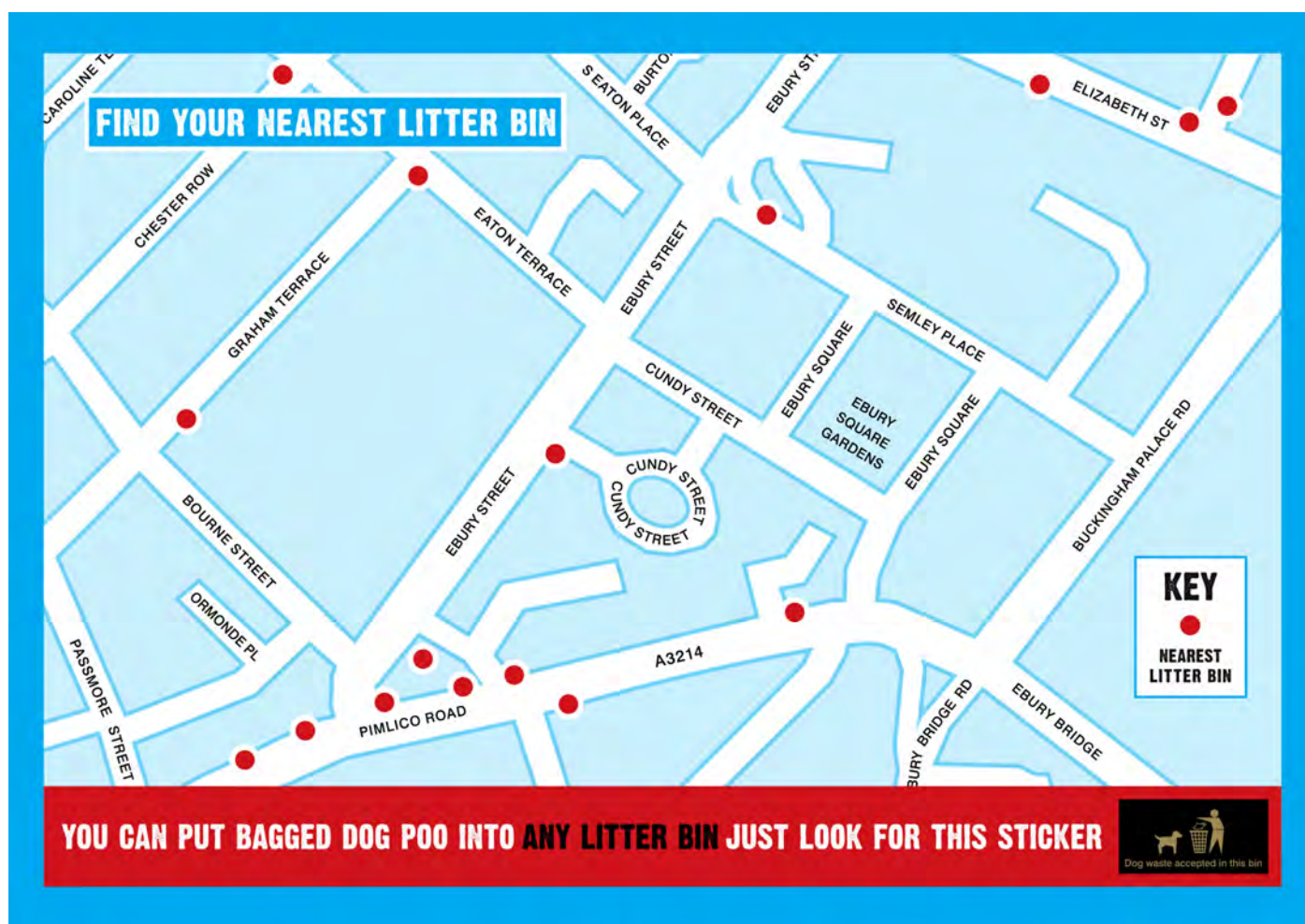
How can we explain this? I have taken the issue up with our councillors who in turn have liaised with Veolia, their street cleaning contractors. They assure me that the cleaning protocols and schedules remain as before and that the increase is simply down to irresponsible dog walkers. It is not the dogs who are responsible but their owners that I am addressing.

I do not need to tell you, but I will: dog fouling is anti-social and nasty; dog excrement carries a number of health hazards including E. coli, hookworm, ringworm and – most dangerous of all – the parasite, Toxocara Canis which

causes asthma, epilepsy and blindness and is of particular risk to children and toddlers.

The average dog produces around 75kg of poo per year. One single gram of this contains 20 million E. coli bacteria.





Dog urine is almost as bad. Not only does it smell but, as we all know, once one dog has cocked its leg, others will rush to add to it. A favourite stopping place is basement railings and steps, and woe betide those who have put plant pots out.

It is against the law for dog owners to allow their pet to foul the pavements and make no attempt to clean it up. According to the law, failure to clean up can result in a £100 fixed penalty fine or prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

So why are dog owners, and frequently also their deputised dog walkers, so flagrant about this matter? Unfortunately, most of the culprits are sneaky and

not easy to catch in the act. Some, disgracefully, simply don't care!

Bagged dog poo can be put in any bin displaying the black "Dog waste accepted in this bin" sticker. The map above from the Council shows some of the bins available – there are plenty around Belgravia. There is absolutely no excuse for leaving it lying around for someone else to deal with.

Dog owners: PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE. Respect neighbours' properties and the common pavement we all share. Encourage your dog to pee in the roadway not against houses, and pick up all solids to help to keep Belgravia the beautiful neighbourhood it is. ▲

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD



*Elizabeth
Hitchcock*



*Rachael
Robathan*



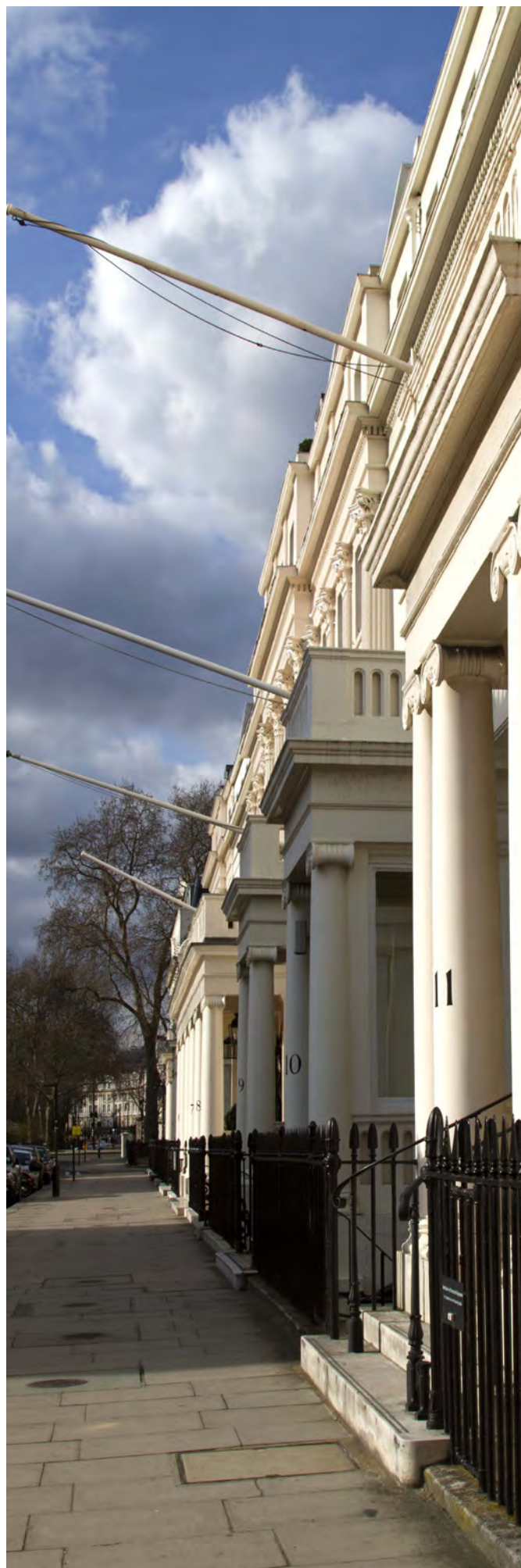
*Tony
Devenish*

HELP AND ADVICE

As we continue to face restrictions on our daily lives, we want to let you know that your local Councillors are still here to provide support as your circumstances change.

For many people – especially those who are vulnerable – information, support and advice is needed and the Council's Westminster Connects service is available to help.

You can get in touch by email or by calling 020 7641 1222 from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.



WARWICK WARD



*Christabel
Flight*

*Jacqui
Wilkinson*

Nikki Aiken

Stallholders in Tachbrook Market were concerned to learn that the Council was looking to close it for ten weeks to carry out much needed electrical works.

Warwick Ward Councillors joined forces with their Tachbrook colleagues to lobby the Council to allow the stalls to move temporarily to Upper Tachbrook Street while the works are undertaken. Nickie Aiken explains, "It's important that we all support these small family businesses who have served the local community tirelessly during lockdown. We are delighted that the Council has agreed and the market remains open."

The one-way traffic system was set up on Warwick Way and Longmoore Street in late summer last year to help promote local hospitality businesses.

The scheme was retained for the winter months although little use was being made of the available outdoor space due to the cold weather. The scheme had been generally welcomed but, unfortunately, it was having a detrimental effect on the residents in Longmoore Street. For both these reasons, Westminster City Council has decided to revert to a two-way system during the current lockdown.

A review will now be carried out on future plans for the centre of Pimlico in association with Pimlico Councillors,

"We are delighted that the Council has agreed and the [Tachbrook] market remains open."

residents' associations and the Pimlico Neighbourhood Forum. Cllr Christabel Flight says, "These are difficult times. It is vital that we work together to produce a way forward to strengthen our local community in Pimlico."

Recycling of Demolition Material Ebury Bridge Estate

We know from our correspondence that there is a continuing interest in what is happening with the major regeneration project at the Ebury Bridge Estate. Some former residents are living in Pimlico before being moved back when the work is completed.

All but one block on the Estate are being demolished. Managing the demolition material has provided a massive challenge for the contractor. Rather than taking debris away, it was decided to crush the material on site and reuse it. By doing this, the project has saved approximately 1200 HGV journeys!

Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson says, "This innovative approach to dealing with and recycling demolition material is a massive benefit for all of us living in Pimlico." ▲



*Photograph of frozen fountain in
Ebury Square © Andrew Geddes*

A

lthough the weather has changed very much for the better, we thought it would be a good reminder of what it was like just a few weeks ago. This photograph of the frozen fountain in Ebury Square was taken by Andrew Geddes.



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**



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD

Cllr Rachel Robathan (Con)	leader@westminster.gov.uk
Cllr Tony Devenish (Con)	tony.devenish@london.gov.uk
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

Cllr Christabel Flight (Con)	cflight@westminster.gov.uk
Cllr Nickie Aiken (Con)	nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk
Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson (Con)	jwilkinson@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no for Cllr Aiken	020 7641 3255
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 Andrea Mann (Lab)	amann@westminster.gov.uk
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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