

THE

ISSUE 90 | NOVEMBER 2022

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

LIFE IS SWEET

MARY REGNIER-LEIGH
TRIES SOME BELGRAVIA
HOUSE HONEY

MARY ROSE TRUST

ARTEFACTS FROM THE SHIP
AND THEIR PRESERVATION

LEST WE FORGET

CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN
REMEMBERS BELGRAVIA'S HEROS





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.

EDITOR

Mary Regnier-Leigh

CHAIRMAN

George Waite

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mary Regnier-Leigh

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fredd

www.fredd.co.uk

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

© 2022 Belgravia Society
All rights reserved

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

www.thebelgraviasociety.com

IN THIS ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2021

Chairman's Message	3
Nickie Aiken MP, Working to make Belgravia and the Two Cities safer	5
Belgravia's VC Heroes by Cllr Rachael Robathan	6
Belgrave House and Urban Bees	8
The Loss of the Mary Rose and The Mary Rose Trust	10
Vivien Leigh 1958-67: Belgrave Square	12
Original Gas Lamps in Westminster	14
All Change – New Bus Routes Revealed	16
To Build or Demolish – M&S Oxford Street	17
Enforcement	18
To Rake or Not to Rake the Leaves!	20
Christmas Events	22
Membership Application	23

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

PARK LANE CYCLE LANE CONSULTATION

Last month's edition of this Magazine included an article from Cllr Rachel Robathan entitled: *Last chance to tell Mayor Khan what you think of the Park Lane Cycle Lane* and encouraging us all to register for the consultation ([Haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/park-lane/survey_tools/park-lane-consultation-survey](https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/park-lane/survey_tools/park-lane-consultation-survey)) which closes on 4th December 2022.

Cllr Robathan's article acknowledges the need "...to improve the quality of air we breathe" and that "a large part of doing so requires ...making cycling or walking as well as public transport, an attractive and easy option for anyone..." and that "...integral to that is the issue of cycle lanes to ensure that people are just as safe whether they choose two wheels or four."

She emphasises the importance to "...work for all of our residents and that local residents' groups and people need to be involved and consulted to ensure the most sensible routes are chosen."

The point of her article is not for or against cycling, it is an acknowledgement that residents and local residents' groups were not consulted regarding the Park Lane Cycle

Lane and she surprisingly explains that the scheme was "imposed on Westminster with not a shred of consultation with local people or the Council".

I encourage you to read the full article which is available via our website (www.thebelgraviasociety.com) and to register for the consultation, which is clearly the way to go. Sadly, too much action is taken without proper consultations. The Park Lane imposition was not the only one and many more are carried out by other authorities, mayoral and local. I hope this consultation will and should include issues such as: the basis of the statistics that TFL relied upon before committing to such a huge expense, and alternative schemes including upgrading the original and existing cycle lanes in Hyde Park.

There is no question regarding the urgent need to improve safety for both cyclists and pedestrians and if the Park Lane Cycle Scheme has achieved this then it must be commended. The question that I struggle with is that surely the original and existing cycle lanes in Hyde Park provided better separation and safety between cyclist and motor vehicles. I hear the arguments regarding the park not being open 24/7 and not being well lit at night, but these seem to only require practical solutions rather than the radical restrictions caused by the current bus and cycle lanes along Park Lane, not to mention the added pollution caused by the rush hours' gridlock to Park Lane and the surrounding areas. ▲



Registered Charity No. 1168619

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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

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

JOIN US TODAY!

Benefits include:

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

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

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

Alternatively, print the application
form on page 23 and post your
completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
London SW1W 0NY

PLANNING ADVICE

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



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.

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

Our next meeting is on 12th December 2022

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

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

NICKIE AIKEN MP

WORKING TO MAKE BELGRAVIA AND THE TWO CITIES SAFER



I am hearing from increasing numbers of Belgravia residents concerned about growing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in and around the neighbourhood. I'm tackling this head on and convened a meeting with the Westminster Borough Commander, Owain Richards, and representatives from residents' associations across the Two Cities, including the Belgravia Society, to discuss the situation and urge for a larger police presence across the borough.

I followed up the meeting with a walkabout with Chief Superintendent Richards to show him several crime hotspots in the Two Cities and the need to see more officers on the street, night and day.

Crime and policing visibility was also a theme I heard from local shopkeepers when I caught up with Angela Hay, Chair of the Belgravia Traders Association, and local councillor Elizabeth Hitchcock for a walkabout to hear about the local issues. I have taken their concerns to our Borough Commander as part of my campaign for a greater police presence in Belgravia, especially after some of the awful incidents we have seen in the neighbourhood in recent months.

The Government has recruited more than 2,950 additional officers to the Metropolitan Police Service since September 2019. I welcome this, but we need the Mayor of London, who is in charge of our police, to put them on our streets! Our neighbourhood police teams do an outstanding job and I know the Belgravia Society works with them to report crime hotspots and trends in criminal activity but this team is not on every day and they

must be supported by other teams who can patrol when Police Sergeant David Rowell and his team in Knightsbridge & Belgravia are not on duty. I will continue to lobby the police as well as the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Council Leader to ensure we see a zero tolerance towards all anti-social behaviour and crime.

I've launched my Policing and Crime Survey to hear about your experiences and to build a realistic picture of crime levels locally. Respond to my survey and share your thoughts with me. Working together, we will make the Two Cities a safer place to live. Respond at www.nickie.news/SaferStreets.

As we draw closer to the new year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year and my best wishes for 2023. If you have a local, national or international issue which you think I can help with, please get in touch and send me an email to nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk. Keep up to date with how I'm continuing to work for you on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube @TwoCitiesNickie.



BELGRAVIA'S VC HEROES BY CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN



I was most interested to read Peter Wyeth's excellent article in the last edition about Viscount Gort, VC, a distinguished Belgravia resident. After Westminster signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2011, I became the Council's Armed Forces champion, a role designed to build stronger links between the civilian and armed forces communities. As part of this role, I was responsible for commemorating the centenary of all Victoria Crosses awarded during the First World War to those born in Westminster – an initiative sponsored by the Government. Given that many families in those days would have chosen to be in London for the birth of a baby, Westminster has a rich

heritage with ten awards in total, including Frank de Pass, the first Jew ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross, William Rhodes-Moorhouse, the first airman, and Ferdinand West, the first from the newly formed RAF.

From my husband and son's regiment was John Vaughan Campbell, Coldstream Guards, known as the Tally-Ho VC because he used his hunting horn to rally his troops over the top. Also, devastatingly, two awarded posthumously on the same day – 31st July 1917 – at the Battle of Passchendaele to 2nd Lt Denis Hewitt (19 years old) and Capt. Thomas Colyer-Fergusson (21 years old) for unbelievable heroism.

As well as Viscount Gort, VC, one other recipient resided in my Ward of Knightsbridge & Belgravia – William Rhodes-Moorhouse, who was born at the family home, 15 Princes Gate.

As a member of the Royal Flying Corps, his squadron was ordered to bomb the railway junction at Courtrai. With astonishing courage, he descended to 300 feet in order to succeed, but this exposed him to ferocious fire. Severely wounded, he somehow managed to fly his aircraft back to base, but died 24 hours later. His posthumous Victoria Cross was the first

ever given for operations in the air.

In order to make a fitting memorial for these Westminster men and their incredible bravery and sacrifice, I managed to commandeer some land in Victoria Embankment Gardens outside the north entrance of the MoD. It is a beautiful contemplative space and I strongly urge readers to visit and spend some time there.

We must never forget these extraordinary men, born in Westminster, and their legacy of our freedom. ▲

Lest We Forget





BELGRAVE HOUSE AND URBAN BEES

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

Belgrave House in Buckingham Palace Road, opposite Victoria Station is a prime example of using its roof to help support bees and to improve biodiversity in central London. Planting flowers and shrubs for all types of bees and installing nesting structures for solitary bees is essential. It also raises awareness among tenants about the importance of bees and biodiversity and helping nature in cities.

Two beehives were installed in May 2017 by experienced contractors, Urban Bees, after a site visit. They assessed the location to be suitable for hives because it is away from people and the bees are close to a good source of forage just up the road in the Buckingham Place gardens.

Wind can be a problem for hives eight storeys high. Initially, the honey bees struggled to get to and from the hives. A trellis was installed against which 2ft high



Wind can be a problem for hives eight storeys high. Initially, the honey bees struggled to get to and from the hives.

Ceanothus bushes act as a windbreak. This nature-based solution to the problem also provides extra bee food as the electric blue flowers provide masses of nectar and pollen in spring.

Since the windbreak was installed, William Ball, the Facilities Manager, has used technology to be able to track the Belgrave House honey bees to Buckingham Palace gardens. There they collect nectar from large, flowering horse chestnut and lime trees to turn into honey.

Once it was established that there was enough forage for all the bees and they were doing well on the roof and producing sufficient honey for themselves and the tenants, it was decided to install a third hive.

William's team all take great pride in the bees. They are one way to bring together the 21-strong team of cleaners, receptionists and engineers. The receptionists were very excited to be able to design the label for the honey!

The honey is given away to tenants at environmental awareness-raising days

throughout the year. William and his team have a stand in reception with a display of honey and bee leaflets, books and calendars to give away, produced by Urban Bees to showcase solitary bees and how we can help them.

The story of Belgrave House bees making honey on the roof in central London is a way to engage people in this bigger picture about nature and biodiversity across the globe and how we are all interconnected and can take simple steps to help.

To encourage this tenant engagement, William has installed a webcam of the Belgrave House bee hives to keep tenants up to date on the honeybees. He plans to have a screen in reception live streaming the three hives. And he hopes to introduce a small water feature on the roof for bees to drink from and other wildlife to visit. ▲

EDITORS NOTE

Your Editor lives in close proximity to Belgrave House, and was delighted to hear of the work with the bees. She was also delighted, as a close neighbour, to receive some honey, and says it is the best she has ever tasted!

THE LOSS OF THE MARY ROSE



AND THE MARY ROSE TRUST

*Last month we
promised more
information on the
Mary Rose Trust and
the work needed to
ensure the preservation
of the ship and her
artefacts.*

The Mary Rose represents a time capsule picture of not only the ship, but life in Tudor times. We see some 19,000 artefacts from the period ranging from leather shoes, water flasks, longbows, nit combs and the many necessities of ordinary life. It has been likened to Pompeii which was destroyed at a moment in time allowing us to look back in history to see what life was really like at the time. From the Mary Rose we can see musical instruments, navigation tools, carpentry tools as well as the weapons of war.

The Mary Rose Trust is a limited charitable trust based in Portsmouth and its primary aims are to preserve, display and spread knowledge of the Mary Rose which sank in the Solent on 19th July 1545 and was salvaged by the Trust in October 1982.

A committee had handled the small-scale diving operations and underwater surveys of the Mary Rose wreck site until 1979, when it was decided that the remnants of the ship should be fully excavated and salvaged. This required considerable finance and a considerably larger organisation, leading to the foundation of the Mary Rose Trust.



*Artefacts from the Mary Rose:
a row of leather shoes (above), and two jugs (below).*

The King, then the Prince of Wales, acted as its president and Margaret Rule was the archaeological director in charge of excavating and preparing the wreck of the Mary Rose for salvage.

Some 500 people were on the Mary Rose when she sank. Skeletons of over 100 have been found. With modern technology it has been possible to learn from their skeletal remains where they came from, what their state of health was and even what the individuals did by way of work on the ship. It has been possible to identify archers and those who had been responsible for the guns the ship carried. Some facial reconstruction has been done so we can see their faces too. About 60% were not English at all.

There is the inevitable question: why did the Mary Rose sink? The ship had already seen much action. She was built some 34 years before. Nothing is certain but there are a number of factors. The ship was turning at the time of sinking. The gun portholes of the lowest layer of guns were open. Extra guns had been taken on board for the expected battle with the French.



On the deck and forecastle there were soldiers and archers, perhaps as many as over 150 and maybe even more waiting to fight the French as they engaged the battle, so the ship was top heavy and then a breeze blew as the ship turned.

All these factors meant the Mary Rose took on water as the vessel's guns ports fell below the water line. It took only six minutes to sink, taking it all but 35 of the men on board.

The wreck of the Mary Rose is not just helping us understand Tudor times, it has also furthered knowledge that is helping with other historic wreck sites around the world. ▲



VIVIEN LEIGH

1958-67: EATON SQUARE

BY PETER WYETH

Vivien Leigh was famous for playing Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), and for her marriage to Laurence Olivier. She lived the last decade of her life in Eaton Square.

Lawrence Olivier and Vivien Leigh began an affair while acting as lovers in *Fire Over England*. Despite her inexperience, Leigh was then cast as Ophelia to Olivier's Hamlet. One night her mood transformed when she was about to go onstage. She began screaming at him, before suddenly becoming silent and staring into space. She performed without mishap, and the next day returned to normal with no recollection of the event.

Leigh read *Gone with the Wind*, and had her American agent recommend her to David Selznick for the film version. She "stunned us all" asserting Olivier "won't play Rhett Butler, but I shall play Scarlett O'Hara. Wait and see".

Leigh read a scene for Selznick, who organised a screen test, revealing her "incredible wildness", and she secured the role.

Filming was sometimes seven days a week, late into the night. She missed Olivier, working in New York, declaring, "Puss, my puss, how I hate film acting! Hate, hate, and never want to do another film again!". However, Vivien was "impeccably professional, impeccably disciplined, doing her best work in an extremely difficult role." She won an Oscar and immediate fame but felt, "I'm not a film star—I'm an actress. Being a film star is such a false life, fake values and publicity."

*"I'm not a film star—I'm an actress.
Being a film star is such a false life,
fake values and publicity."*

Vivien Leigh

Leigh fell ill with cough and fevers, diagnosed with tuberculosis, and spent several weeks in hospital. After a miscarriage she suffered deep depression, falling to the floor, sobbing in an hysterical fit, the first of many what we would now see as bipolar breakdowns. Olivier learned her symptoms: days of hyperactivity followed by depression and explosive breakdown, then no memory of it all.

On *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Elia Kazan first thought, "she had a small talent", but soon became "full of admiration" for "the greatest determination to excel of any actress I've known. She'd have crawled over broken glass if she thought it would help her performance." She won a second Oscar. Tennessee Williams saw "everything that I intended, and much that I had never dreamed of", but Leigh felt playing Blanche DuBois "tipped me over into madness" for "one of the greatest performances ever put on film".

Serious and often inspired, Leigh had frequent outbursts against Olivier. "Throughout her possession by that uncannily evil monster, manic depression, with its deadly ever-tightening spirals, she retained her own individual canniness – an ability to disguise her true mental condition



from almost all except me".

By 1967, tuberculosis resurfaced and proved fatal, at only 53. Olivier "stood and prayed for forgiveness for all the evils that had sprung up between us", until her body was removed from the Belgravia flat.

Garson Kanin said, "Great beauties are infrequently great actresses – they don't need to be. Vivien was different: ambitious, persevering, serious, inspired. A stunner whose ravishing beauty...obscured her staggering achievements as an actress". ▲



ORIGINAL GAS LAMPS IN WESTMINSTER

We have already mentioned the possibility of losing original listed gas lamps as a result of the WCC wishing to replace them with LED lights. After a very wide public consultation, WCC has accepted that the public, both residents and residents' groups, want to retain 174 original gas lights, including 36 non-listed but which are in prominent places across the city. This includes the original lanterns.



The remaining 94 non-listed gas lamps will be replaced although we are told they will be fitted with the latest LED lighting developed by specialist manufacturers which should replicate the soft lighting, which will include the replica mantels, piping and clocks.

The gas lamps to be retained are in the following streets:

Listed Gas Lamps

Albany Courtyard, Bedford Street, Buckingham Palace Road, Carlton Gardens, Carlton House Terrace, Carting Lane, Catherine Street, Chandos Place, Churton Place, St Paul's – Covent Garden, Dean Bradley Street, Dean Stanley Street, Dean's Yard, Goodwin's Court, Henrietta Street, King Street, Little College Street, New Row, The Sanctuary, Smith Square, St James's Place, Tavistock Street, Trevor Square, Warwick Street

Unlisted Gas Lamps

Barton Street, Blue Ball Yard, Buckingham Mews, Carlton Gardens, Cecil Court, Cowley Street, Grosvenor Gardens Mews West, Inigo Place, Old Palace Yard, Rutland Gardens, Strand Junction Carting Lane ▲





ALL CHANGE...

NEW BUS ROUTES REVEALED

TfL have published their review of bus routes. They say that they had 21,528 responses, 21,270 from members of the public. The proposal was for 71 changes to bus routes including night buses; some routes are to go altogether. The routes which serve Belgravia are North London and East London.

We are told that the following will change:

North London area-Edgware Road
Bus routes 6 (24hr), 16, N16, and 23 (24hr)
and new route N32 and

East London area-Fleet Street
Bus routes 11, N11, 26, N26, 211 and 507

Four buses are cancelled including the N16.
Route 332 will be renumbered as route 16.

Route 16 will follow the route of the 332 between Paddington and Brent Park, via Cricklewood. At night, the N16 will be directly replaced by new route N32.

The information given is bewildering. Without route maps, we cannot follow the changes. 211, the bus we most rely on to access hospitals, will still run on a changed route but we do not know where. We think that the two most distant hospitals will require bus changes on the route.

TfL says that, following the changes, there will be enough capacity on buses to meet demand. Customers will still be able to make the same journeys, with additional interchanges in some instances, in which case they will benefit from the Mayor's Hopper Fare.



That simply ignores the difficulties of those less able to manage changing buses. No thought has been given to families too, especially with young children. There may be a long wait for the next bus. Getting on and off buses can be a significant challenge to elderly or disabled persons.

Mayor Khan has received millions of taxpayers' money and yet the most vulnerable are ignored in favour of grandiose schemes for increasing travel congestion on London roads. Public consultation takes place, but the Mayor proceeds regardless, knowing the public does not want the plans to be enacted.

We will follow this through and try to bring some sensible information to you. ▲

TO BUILD OR DEMOLISH

MARKS & SPENCER OXFORD STREET



Plans by Marks & Spencer to demolish and rebuild its flagship Oxford Street store have continued the public row over the role of embodied carbon in construction and the case for a retrofit-first approach. Now a planning inquiry is set to hear both sides of the story.

M&S says by demolishing the building and replacing it with an office block, they can sustainably cut emissions by 2045.

Those campaigning against the demolition say if House of Fraser, Topshop and Debenhams can all be refurbished for office and retail use, why can't M&S follow suit?

They decry the loss of an exceptional Art Deco building which can be repurposed and made more green.

The Public Enquiry is being heard at the moment. We will report on the outcome. Watch this space. ▲



ENFORCEMENT

The idea of rules is to provide civil autonomy. We, as members of society, should be able to go about our lives without having to suffer wrongdoing. That could be a crime, failure to follow rules which will adversely affect us, or some other form of interference with our daily lives that we do not expect. As a community, we should be working together to improve our daily lives in the little ways communities can.

Just now one of our members is complaining about coaches using Elizabeth Street to transverse Belgravia. We all know the street well. The residents must already put up with the noise from restaurants into

the late evening, often ignoring terminal licensing hours. The resident sent me photographs of some 10 coaches which went up Elizabeth Street. These overweight vehicles are prohibited, and there is no enforcement. The coaches and breach of licensing hours/restrictions continue, and represent a case for the appalling lack of enforcement.

Enforcement does not just apply to coaches in Elizabeth Street. We read in the last few weeks about police forces not attending burglaries. Someone rang the police when there was a man in their home with a knife, but the police did not come. The police failed the victims of the bombing

The coaches and breach of licensing hours and restrictions continue, and represent a case for the appalling lack of enforcement.

at the Manchester Arena, as did the other public services including the NHS and the Fire Brigade. You will remember the dreadful Stephen Port murders where the police had to be reinvestigated over their failures to recognise what, it has to be said, was an obvious case in plain sight of a serial killer at work.

As a community, how far do we have to go to ensure enforcement of law and proper regulations to feel secure? We must work together.

Grosvenor convened a meeting for the residents of Elizabeth Street. The meeting was chaired by Rachael Robathan, and our two other Cllrs Elizabeth Hitchcock and Tony Devenish were there with residents from Elizabeth Street. The Police were represented by our three local

constables, PC Dave Alford, PC Alex Kaye and PCSO Zack Slaney.

The discussion largely related to enforcement of the issues of noise from outside dining, traffic violations from coaches, etc, parking in the mews, rubbish collection at unsocial hours, drug use, bike hazard and security. Various things which could be done were discussed. Simon Mantle, Associate Director, Property Management Grosvenor, said he would deal with some of the issues directly with occupiers.

This brings us to learning from each other. Having a joint meeting as we did, and hope to do again, enables us to understand what we can do for ourselves in terms of enforcement. If more than one of us complains, the more likely something will happen. Basically, if many of us complain about these real problems, the more likely the complaint is to be addressed.

We are the starting point. Complaint on its own is not sufficient, you need to have facts to follow. If the local wine bar near you is breaching hours or making a lot of noise, keep a note of the date, time and the number of people involved. That applies to the parking, buses, and all the other breaches. From that base of evidence, action can be taken. Without that evidence, authorities can do nothing.

We can learn from each other and meeting together helps us to do it. ▲



TO RAKE OR NOT TO RAKE THE LEAVES!



BY SARA OLIVER

Experts say that it is good for the planet to let the leaves lie where they fall. It is said that compost at the base of a tree or a shrub, directly above its root zone is where the nutrients return, so the plant can recycle and reuse next spring.

Eindhoven council in the Netherlands, says, 'Allowing autumn leaves in parks and gardens to decompose boosts insect and soil health'. They are encouraging their citizens to abandon the blowers and the rakes.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PROS AND CONS OF RAKING AUTUMN LEAVES:

PROS:

A lawn needs sunlight even in Autumn, to store energy in its roots. A few scattered leaves on the lawn won't harm it. Rake leaves, compost them in a compost pile. They can be mulched around perennials over the winter, assuming the leaves are not carrying any diseases. Leaves provide a home for bugs, from earthworms to salamanders and hedgehogs. There's an entire ecosystem living there! The bugs living in these leaves are also a vital food source for birds.

CONS:

Heavy layers of leaves left over winter prevent sunlight from reaching grass, which can inhibit healthy growth, becoming wet

and compacted, further damaging the lawn and creating a messy appearance. Raking them up in the Autumn, may reduce the diseases you encounter the following Spring and Summer.

Fallen leaves often harbour disease, which can overwinter when the leaves are left on the ground. Raking leaves can create environmental issues; if leaves are removed from the garden and raked into the street, for example. The leaves might end up in gutters, flowing eventually into streams and rivers where they release nitrogen and phosphorus, encouraging algae growth. Excessive algae growth depletes the water of oxygen and kills fish and other aquatic life.

My own take is that the Royal Parks, streets and gardens should leave the leaves where they fall. The beautiful carpets of leaves should be left for as long as possible.

If you own a garden, and the leaves look untidy, and you cannot tolerate the sight of them anymore, then by Jove, rake! ▲



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



A number of local organisations have told us about their Christmas arrangements. Unfortunately, a number are holding events on 1st December and, given our publication of this magazine at the end of November, we have omitted them as it would not have given you the opportunity to attend.

We are still able to tell of a number of events:

CHELSEA BARRACKS CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF THE FESTIVE SEASON

After its successful Spring Fair and Sculpture Trails, the Belgravia neighbourhood will transform its public spaces yet again to celebrate the festive season, putting on a series of Christmas events to be enjoyed by the local community. Christmas from day to night at Chelsea Barracks, through their illuminating Winter Light Trail. Curated around the theme of sustainability and environmental responsibility, this public art walk and free outdoor exhibition in the heart of London is the perfect event for all ages.

JOSS GRAHAM GALLERY

The business at 10 Eccleston Street invites their friends and customers to join them

on 6th December from 6pm-9pm for their Christmas party. Do look at their presence on the internet.

GROSVENOR

There are many items on the internet as we would expect, however, we thought the following was of special interest:

The Gingerbread City Returns

Everyone's favourite Christmas exhibition is returning to Motcomb Street from 3rd December. This year the Gingerbread City has been crafted by over 100 architects and depicts five edible cities across different climate zones. Make sure to book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

ELIZABETH STREET TRADERS

Angela Hay tells us they are hoping to have choirs along Elizabeth Street, and Father Christmas has promised to be in attendance and will be providing fun and small gifts for the children.

The shops will be mostly open and they hope to make it a fun and festive atmosphere for some Christmas shopping and dining. They ask us to please tell everyone to come along and get into the seasonal spirit! ▲



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name email

Second name (if any) email

Address.....

Telephone: Home..... Work

Mobile Date

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

Signature(s):

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

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

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

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



giftaid it

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

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

SIGNATURE(S) DATE

ADDRESS

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

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

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

PLEASE EMAIL THIS APPLICATION FORM TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**



THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

The only independent voice for Belgravia

**NUMBER 90
NOVEMBER 2022**



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1168619

www.thebelgrviasociety.com