

THE

ISSUE 95 | APRIL 2023

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

LOCAL LAWS

THE LAWS THAT LOCAL
AUTHORITIES HAVE NO
POWER TO CHANGE

DAME EDITH EVANS

REFLECTIONS ON THIS
IMMORTAL ACTRESS

SAVE VITAL BUS ROUTES

NICKIE AIKEN CONTINUES THE FIGHT
FOR BUS ROUTES 11 AND 211





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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

RICH PICKINGS

People lucky enough to live in London and also own an expensive SUV are having trouble finding affordable insurance. This is having a knock-on effect with insurance brokers refusing to insure certain vehicles or increasing rates by as much as double.

The affectionately named Chelsea Tractor (Range Rover) is the second most often stolen vehicle in the UK, with most thefts occurring in London. The UK's number one most frequently stolen car in 2022 was the Ford Fiesta. Although arguably Range Rovers aren't "easier" to steal than any other car with keyless entry, they are very desirable among car thieves. This means they are a bigger target than less expensive cars.

Statistics show that 94% of stolen cars have keyless entry, and whilst we do not all drive, and even less of us drive Chelsea Tractors, many of us do own a vehicle with keyless entry technology and this makes them vulnerable. Thieves have devised various methods of picking up the signal from the key in your home and then duplicating it, allowing them to enter the car and drive away, all without having access to the key.

I am personally losing track of how many of my neighbours have had their cars stolen and, despite the additional security provided by tracker systems and ghost immobilisers, the problem is getting worse.

I recently received the following advice from a professional security consultant:

- The easiest way to prevent your car key being duplicated is to store it in a 'faraday' pouch or box which blocks the signal emitted from the key. Faraday pouches cost less than £10, are available at most car accessory shops and online, but look for the ones that are police approved.
- A steering wheel lock (£10 to £100) is a simple yet effective tool to protect your vehicle. Whilst it does not take a professional thief more than a few minutes to remove a steering wheel lock, it is a visual deterrent that adds an extra layer of security.
- A ghost immobiliser (which can be fitted for around £500) has to be one of the best options to prevent your car from being stolen because, even if the thief duplicates your key, they will need to have access to your unique pin code before they can start the car.

This advice is not intended as a complete solution. Thieves are becoming more and more sophisticated. My insurer warned me to look out for 'signal blockers', a device readily available online that the thief uses to prevent you from locking your car. You think you have activated your key lock (and possibly secured it in your new faraday pouch), but the thief has jammed your signal and the car door remains unlocked. The only solution is to remain vigilant, follow the security advice, and report any suspicious activity to the police. ▲

NICKIE AIKEN MP

MY PLAN TO MAKE BELGRAVIA SAFER



Ensuring Belgravia and our neighbourhoods across the Two Cities are safer places to live, work and visit is a priority of mine. It's also the Prime Minister's priority and his Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan will go a long way to make Westminster a safer place. With a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of anti-social behaviour, a ban on nitrous oxide, and new tools to allow you to report incidents of anti-social behaviour, all backed up by the Government-funded recruitment of 3,217 officers for the Metropolitan Police, the Prime Minister's Plan will make our neighbourhoods safer.

But we must also have a local approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Thank you to every *Belgravia Society* reader who responded to my Policing and Crime Survey. Alongside local people from across our neighbourhoods, thousands of you had your say and told me your priorities for the police.

Based on what you told me, I've launched my Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Plan for Westminster. My Plan is to increase police visibility by ensuring the Government-funded recruits are out patrolling the streets, re-introduce estate wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour, enforce a zero-tolerance policy on cannabis smoking in public spaces, re-establish the Integrated Street Engagement Unit to support the most vulnerable people in our society, and create a single Borough Commander for Westminster to ensure our Borough

Commander can be laser-focused on tackling crime here.

I will deliver the Plan by working with local people, Westminster City Council, and the police. Read more about My Plan at [nickie.news/MyCrimePlan](https://www.nickie.news/MyCrimePlan) and if you haven't already, respond to my crime survey and tell me what matters to you.

Short-term, holiday style lets are continuing to cause havoc for many readers. Tackling the blight of short-term lets has been a long-term mission of mine and throughout my time in local and national politics, I've championed our campaign for a short-term lets registration scheme. Thanks to your support, we won the argument for the registration scheme and the Government is now consulting on a national short-term lets register as well as changes to short-lets with proposals for new lettings to require planning permission.

This is a huge step forward in our campaign and I encourage every *Belgravia Society* reader to take part in both consultations. Read more at [nickie.news/ShortLets](https://www.nickie.news/ShortLets).

If I can be of help on any issue, please send me an email at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at Nickie Aiken MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Keep up to date with how I'm working for you at www.nickieaiken.org.uk or on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube at @TwoCitiesNickie. ▲

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

The Chelsea Physic Garden was initially established as the Apothecaries' Garden in London in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries to grow plants to be used as medicines. The garden was leased by Sir John Danvers. In 1713 Dr Hans Sloane purchased from Charles Cheyne the adjacent Manor of Chelsea, about 4 acres (1.6 ha), which he leased in 1722 to the Society of Apothecaries for £5 a year in perpetuity, requiring only that the garden supply the Royal Society, of which he was a principal, with 50 good herbarium samples per year, up to a total of 2,000 plants.

It is the oldest garden in London, and only surpassed in age, in England, by Oxford Botanic Garden.

Under the direction of Philip Miller (1722–1770), it became the world's most richly stocked botanic garden. Its seed-exchange programme was established following a visit in 1682 from Paul Hermann, a Dutch botanist who was connected with the Hortus Botanicus Leiden. That connection lasted until the present day. The seed exchange programme enables the most progressive action to spread plants around the world. Some can change lives for the



better by introducing new sources of food or crops to be sold to generate income to sustain communities.

Chelsea Physic Garden is home to a unique living collection of around 5,000 different edible, useful, medicinal and historical plants contained within its sheltering walls. The Garden's warm micro-climate means that many tender plants flourish here including a number of rare and endangered species.

The Garden's unique microclimate and location has allowed many of our gardeners throughout our history to grow plants not



Chelsea Physic Garden

frequently found outside in the UK, including the UK's largest fruiting olive tree. In 1976 the head gardener collected a record crop of 7lb of ripe olives, which is a London crop record!

From pomegranates to ginkgoes, mulberries to eucalyptus, there are over 100 different species of tree in the Garden, many of which are rare in Britain. While Chelsea is no longer a village, it has been a huge factor in its success to this day. The largest outdoor fruiting olive tree in Britain and the world's most northerly outdoor grapefruit tree flourish there.

The wall constructed around Chelsea Physic Garden in 1676-7 has and does provide its microclimate. Its first glasshouse was built in the garden in 1680-1, heated by a stove.

At the moment new glasshouses are in the process of being installed.

The mission of the Chelsea Physic Garden, in their own words, is "To demonstrate the medicinal, economic, cultural and environmental importance of plants to the survival and well-being of humankind".

Sir Hans Sloane gifted the land Chelsea Physic Garden is on to the Apothecaries. The Garden was protected for future generations providing it maintains and grows "good and useful plants". It is now a charity. The Garden is provided with many benches on which to sit and enjoy the plants and the beauty of the garden. It has a shop and there is a café and no matter how many times you go, you will always want to go again. ▲

BETTY BOOTHROYD



BARONESS, HOLDER OF THE ORDER OF MERIT, DANCER, ACTIVIST, POLITICIAN AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Betty Boothroyd was born on 8th October 1929 in Dewsbury, Yorkshire. Her parents were mill workers and her father was a committed trade unionist.

Betty was educated at local schools in Dewsbury and went on to study at Dewsbury College of Commerce and Art. From 1946 to 1952, she worked as a dancer, as a member of the Tiller Girls appearing at the London Palladium. Some of us reading this article will remember *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* on the TV and the Tiller Girls who danced there. Would any of us have thought that one of them would become the Speaker of the House of Commons?

Betty failed her 11+ (as did your Editor) but always said that you did not know what someone is capable of until you give them

the opportunity to show you. It was a foot infection that brought an end to Betty's dancing career and she chose to enter politics.

Betty was a member of the Labour Party and in the 1950s, worked as secretary for Labour MPs. In 1960 she went to the United States to see the Kennedy campaign and subsequently worked in Washington. She returned to London in 1962 where she continued her work as a secretary and political assistant to various Labour politicians. She ran for Parliament on four occasions unsuccessfully, but finally won the seat of West Bromwich in a by-election. She remained its MP for the next 27 years until she retired in 2000.

Betty had many jobs in Parliament as an MP and became Deputy Speaker in 1987.



She won a contested election to become Speaker in 1992, the first and, so far, the only woman to do so.

Betty was a great defender of

Parliamentary tradition, something which led to some friction with the incoming Blair government in 1997. She deplored the New Labour culture of spin and what she saw as a growing tendency for ministers to bypass the House and leak statements to the media. She made it clear she felt MPs had a duty to give such time to the House as was needed to carry out the business of Parliament and, if that meant long hours, so be it.

After her retirement as Speaker, Betty took her seat as a crossbench peer in 2001. She received many honorary degrees. Her personal interests centred on her role as Chancellor of the Open University. It was a post she was invited to accept because of her support for the universal right to adult education. She campaigned successfully for a memorial to be erected in Whitehall to commemorate the role of the women of Britain in the Second World War.

Many of us will remember that she lived in Cundy Street for some years after her retirement and was often to be seen locally in the shops or on the buses here. At the end of her life, Baroness Boothroyd lived in the village of Thriplow in Cambridgeshire and died aged 93 on 26th February 2023.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The OM – Order of Merit – is restricted to 24 members and is in the personal gift of the Monarch. ▲



Opera Prelude

Supporting Professional Development
for Early-Career Opera Singers

Lecture Recital Patrick Alexander Keefe

Baritone

La vie en Grandiose:
The Baryton-noble entices Verdi.

with Jong Sun Woo on piano

23rd May 2023

11am-1pm

The Chelsea Theatre
World's End
Chelsea
SW10

LECTURE RECITAL

23RD MAY 2023

11AM-1PM

In this lecture, **Patrick Alexander Keefe** explores the repertoire of the baritone that is neither simply lyric or dramatic. Often classified as the kavalier-baritone in the German repertoire, or 'baryton-noble' in the French, this voice of opera's lords and aristocrats was the starting point of many of the 20th century's great Verdi baritones.

TICKETS

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OR 020 7183 7323



*Sisters and Matron (Isla Stewart) 1902-1908
courtesy of the St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives*

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

While St Bartholomew's Hospital is not in Belgravia, or even in Westminster, it is in the same Parliamentary constituency, referred to as the Two Cities, being the City of Westminster and the City of London. The hospital is usually referred to by the familiar name of Bart's.

In March 2023 it became 900 years since the hospital was founded. The archives at the hospital include deeds from the Middle Ages, governors' minutes from the 16th century onwards, case notes on actual patients, and paintings, equipment and uniforms that tell the hospital's story over 900 years.

Before the Reformation and before much was known in terms of medical study, the

cloisters were used for patients. It was not so much the treatment they received, but the care and support. In 1180 a foundation book was published in which can be found names of patients from that time. In the 17th century there was substantial rebuilding. Its cloisters were repurposed as an open space and buildings were built round it to provide facilities and make use of the advanced knowledge by then available as providing the best care for patients as well as treatments for them. In the 19th and early 20th centuries leading matrons from the hospital were pioneers in supporting the registration of nurses.

Training was always important, but it was not until the 19th century that a formal medical school was opened. It is known that there were students there before



St Barts' interior

the opening of the medical school, as the archives give a record their misdemeanours around the hospital! These show that there were students in Barts from at least the 17th century.

There have been threats against Bart's continued existence. The first serious one was after the dissolution of the monasteries and the future funding of the hospital would not be available from the Church in the future as it had been in the past. Henry VIII received petitions from residents of London saying how important the survival of the hospital was. He refounded it and its first governors were Aldermen and Councillors of the City.

There were also dangers to the hospital from the Fire of London in 1666 and, of course, in the 20th century from the Second World War when London was bombed. Shrapnel marks can be seen in the walls of the hospital today. In 1992 significant changes were proposed which would have included removing the hospital from the site where it



had been for well in excess of 800 years. There followed local campaigns to save the hospital which thankfully succeeded.

Bart's today is the largest heart treatment centre in Europe and the second largest cancer treatment centre. Bart's Health serves a community of 2½ million which is incredibly diverse. Bart's not only looks after its own community but spreads the knowledge it is gaining through its work to other communities, both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Bart's is internationally renowned as a teaching hospital and still remains on the same site where it was founded 900 years ago. ▲



Greg Hands MP and Nickie Aiken MP

SAVE BUSES 11 AND 211

Our MP has been campaigning on our behalf to save the routes of the 11 and 211 buses. A petition has been handed in to TfL containing 5,000 signatures by Nickie Aiken supported by Greg Hands MP for Chelsea & Fulham who has also been campaigning.

The 211 connects Westminster to five hospitals. Whilst a temporary reprieve has been given, the Mayor's decision could soon mean our hospital bus is scrapped from Westminster entirely.

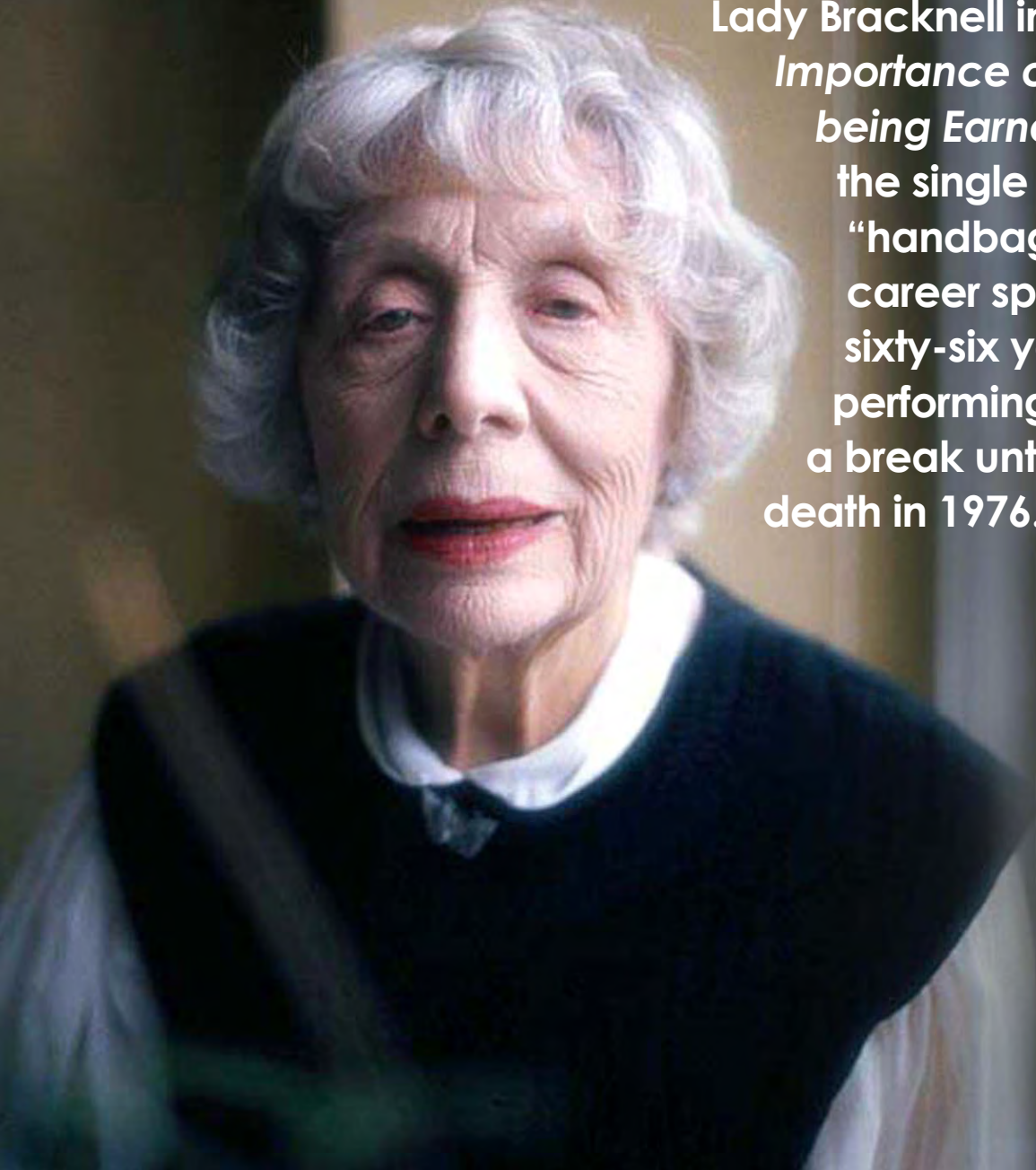
The 11, currently running between Fulham Broadway and Liverpool Street, will no longer serve stops between Parliament Square and Liverpool Street. It will not stop at Trafalgar Square or Aldwych or Charing Cross, City Thameslink or Bank stations.

The current service has served the Two Cities of Westminster and London for over 100 years, but should the Mayor plough ahead with his ill thought out plan, by the time you read this, the iconic route will be axed from the City of London hugely reducing the ease of travel across Central London for our citizens and visitors.

TfL boasts that "every journey matters". However, sadly, people are not considered. ▲

REFLECTION ON DAME EDITH EVANS

BY PETER WYETH

A close-up portrait of Dame Edith Evans, an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair. She is wearing a dark blue or black vest over a white collared shirt. Her expression is calm and thoughtful, looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus interior setting with warm tones.

Edith Evans, 'a glorious star', was best-known as Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of being Earnest*, for the single word, "handbag?". Her career spanned sixty-six years, performing without a break until her death in 1976.

Born in Ebury Square in 1888, she lived with her parents at 109 Ebury Street until 1912. Next door, the young Noël Coward's mother ran a boarding-house, and Edith's mother followed suit, "a hell of a hard job". Author George Moore lived at number 121 from 1911 and, smitten, secured Edith a year's engagement at the Royalty in Soho: "In the very small part Miss Edith Evans made the success of the afternoon, putting more into her few minutes than most 'stars' manage in main parts".

She first achieved public fame in 1924 as Millamant in *The Way of the World*: "The main pleasure of the evening is Miss Edith Evans, (who) imposes herself upon the audience. She has the art and wit that give us the great lady, the coquette, the rogue, and the lover, all in one".

Arnold Bennett thought it the finest comedy performance ever seen. Gielgud recalled: "She took the town by storm, a unique and exquisite performance. She purred and challenged, mocked and melted, showing her changing moods by subtly shifting the angles of her head, neck and shoulders. Poised and cool, like a porcelain figure in a vitrine, she used her fan – which she never opened – in the great love scene, as an instrument for attack or defence, now coquettishly pointing it upwards beneath her chin, now resting it languidly against her cheek. Her words flowed on, phrasing and diction balanced in perfect cadences, as she smiled and pouted in delivering her delicious sallies".



No other leading actress had such single-minded application, playing over 150 roles. Her voice was a highly individual instrument, often imitated but never surpassed. Unaware of the extraordinary effect on her audiences, she set great store by clear diction, later criticising the slovenly standards of speech that had taken over the theatre. Never classically good looking, but great

enough to "convey beauty without being conventionally beautiful".

On Lady Macbeth: "I could never impersonate a woman who had such a peculiar notion of hospitality", but for Lady Bracknell: "I know those sort of women. They ring the bell and tell you to put a lump of coal on the fire".

Always a leading player: "God was very good to me, he never let me go on tour", the complete actress, always professional, sublimating her life to the theatre, curiously untouched by fame, she would retire to her Elizabethan manor house in Kent to tend her garden, "recharge my batteries", and watch football on television.

Imposing severe disciplines on herself, she had complete control of her audiences, but always kept them at a distance, remaining remote and finally a very lonely figure. "Never has there been a more versatile actress", wrote James Agate, and her unique acting "must place her among the immortals". ▲

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dame Edith married George Booth, an engineer, in 1925 who sadly died 10 years later. They had no children.

THE LAWS THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NO POWER TO CHANGE



Often residents dislike and want to object to a planning application, or an application for a liquor licence. However, although the local councils administer these applications, they are bound by strict law and the rules in Acts of Parliament. There is a judicial input and they are bound by the law and precedents arising out of it. They cannot develop their own policies which conflict with the law. Doing so can involve the Local Authority in an expensive Appeal by Applicants which they cannot win and leave large costs to be paid by the Council and effectively the local residents through their Council Tax.

It can be very grim for Councillors to be asked why a particular Application was granted, or why many objections have been ignored. The simple answer is that the Council has no choice.

Both planning and liquor license applications are assumed automatically granted unless current laws or regulations

are not complied with. In a recent planning application, we supported the applicant as we thought it was a good one. The Councillors refused the Application and, as an observer, I thought the Council was unlikely to win an Appeal if one was lodged because the reason for refusal was not supported by the evidence when taking into account other relevant matters. In fact, the Appeal succeeded as there were insufficient grounds for refusal, whatever the Councillors thought. The same principles apply to liquor licences.

Liquor licenses must be granted if applicants are present themselves as complying with the licensing objectives. The following are the four objectives required by law:

- to prevent crime and disorder
- to promote public safety
- to prevent public nuisance and
- to protect children from harm.



You may think that if a particular applicant has a bad reputation for the way they run things in a different area that they will not succeed. However, if an application meets the criteria, the licence will be granted. This is because Councillors cannot assume that an Applicant will not meet the objectives in future. Only if they do fail can action be taken.

As part of the Objections, you may suggest conditions which may help to contain the possible problems. The Councillors may be able to add them to the licence so long as they do comply with the objectives. For example, ensuring that there is no noise which might cause a nuisance, or door security, and many more.

Planning and licensing is based on one size fits all in England decreed by the law. What suits one area does not suit another. A small town in the Midlands would not have the same problems that we see in Westminster. Your Councillors do their best, but are restricted in what they can do. ▲



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TRANSPORT – E-SCOOTERS AND CORONATION ARRANGEMENTS



**BY
RACHAEL
ROBATHAN**

E-SCOOTERS

The news that Parisians have voted overwhelmingly to ban rental e-scooters from their City should serve as a warning to operators and users alike. There is no doubt that e-scooters represent a significant part of the move towards greener and cleaner active travel. Easy to use and emission-free, it's no wonder they have risen so sharply in popularity and are now ubiquitous. However, the behaviour of the minority is seriously denting public perception of them. We hear frequent concerns from residents who have nearly been knocked flying by riders not only on the pavement, but also going far too fast. The problem of scooters left abandoned blocking pavements and other access is also a problem, particularly those for whom walking is more of a challenge.

There is no doubt that this will be an ongoing debate. It is good news that the Government's forthcoming Transport Bill will include legislation governing the use of e-scooters. In the meantime, Local Councils need to do everything they can to work with operators to curb



the behaviour of the few lest the wider population decides to press for the Parisian model.

CORONATION EVENTS, ARRANGEMENTS FOR STREET CLOSURES LOCALLY AND FESTIVAL IN JUNE IN GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD

The Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III on 6th May is rapidly approaching. A letter outlining street closures has just been sent to all residents in affected streets by DCMS (*see link at the end of this article*). However, its useful for all residents to be aware as clearly there will be some wider disruption for residents and businesses.



Also, please make sure you have in your diary The Great Exhibition Road Festival on the weekend of 17th and 18th June.

A fabulous, free weekend-long festival of science and the arts, with a theme this year of 'Awe and Wonder'. A great event and a reminder of the benefits of having such cutting edge institutions as our neighbours.

With this in mind, we continue to receive reports of waste dumping across the Ward. Please use the Report It function to make the Council aware and also let us know if you believe any residential or business premises is a persistent offender. With summer approaching, we want our streets to look their best.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please click on the PDF icon below for a copy of the 5-page letter. It has all the details of events and closures during the Coronation events, with helpful maps.



INVITATION TO THE NEXT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

We would be delighted for you to join our video meeting. Please let us know by email if you wish to be linked in info@thebelgraviasociety.com. We can only accept a limited number, so first come, first served.

Our next meeting is on
9th May 2023

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

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

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.

FUTURE PLANS FOR NATURE

BY SARA OLIVER



The Basingstoke Canal

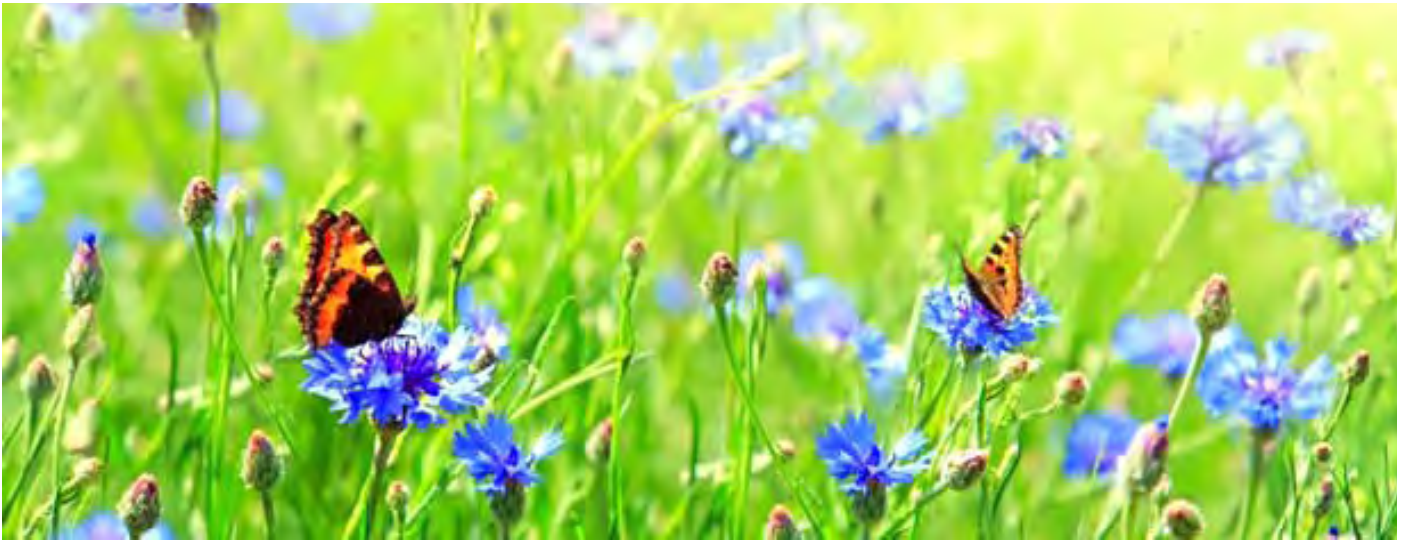
A *National Conversation* took place last year from 30th September until 30th October, where members of the public from across the UK contributed nearly 30,000 responses to an open call for ideas and stories. The first phase opened with the following questions:

- What do you love about nature?
- What would you miss if it disappeared?
- Imagine it's 2050 and nature in the UK is thriving. What is different from now?
- What exciting examples have you seen of people working together to restore and protect nature in the UK?

The second phase brought together *The People's Assembly for Nature* where a cross

section of people took part, reflecting on the future of nature and the changes needed. Topics discussed included the food industry; farming; nature conservation; health; community engagement, and so on. From this Assembly, members implemented *Calls for Action* crafted for national and local governments, charities, businesses, communities and individuals. *Vision Statements* for the future of nature in the UK were also produced. The plan is part of an ambitious programme to build on the *Save Our Wild Isles Project*.

The UK is home to some of the most amazing species – from puffins to orcas, beavers and butterflies. Human actions are driving nature to the brink. The UK is now



one of the most nature depleted countries globally. Three of the UK's leading conservation charities – the RSPB, WWF, and the National Trust – are working with communities to co-create a *People's Plan for Nature* to protect and renew UK nature.

Nature is in crisis and requires bold new thinking to tackle this huge challenge. *The People's Plan* created a “RAPID Democracy” process, developed and inspired by the RAPID framework for corporate decision-making.

The five phases of the process are: Input, Recommend, Decide, Agree and Perform

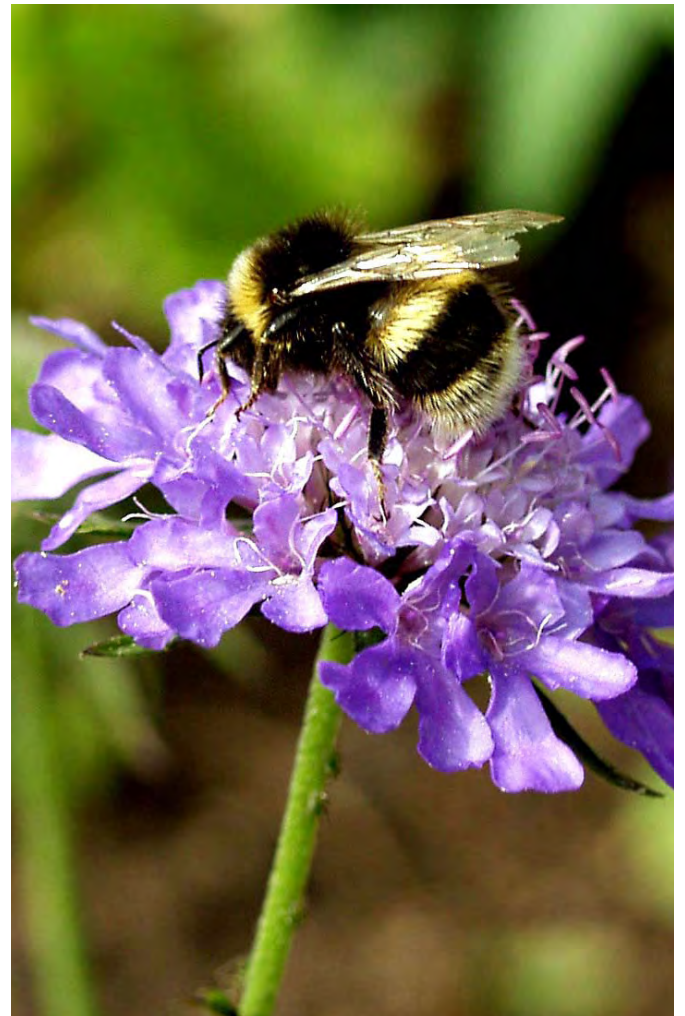
Those who took part agreed the overall experience was a positive one and their views were valued. The Assembly genuinely accounted for diversity of perspectives and experiences; its recommendations truly reflecting the breadth of views in the UK today.

REFERENCES

You can read the full report by clicking on the link below, or by copying and pasting it into your browser:

https://wild-isles.cdn.prismic.io/wild-isles/6d07f66b-312c-4b4c-9f1e-b8b11370af32_PPFN-Report-Final+%28new%29.pdf

You can also support *People's Plan for Nature* by visiting this link: www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/peoples-plan-for-nature?pc=VFF004011&utm_campaign=wwfuk-awareness&utm_content=ppfnsignup&utm_medium=email&utm_source=wwf-email



NEWS AROUND BELGRAVIA

LORD ROBERTS OF BELGRAVIA



Andrew Roberts, and long-term resident in Belgravia has become Lord Roberts of Belgravia. We do congratulate him and look forward to him adding some additional representation to us in Parliament.

THE BERKELEY AND ITS NEW ADDITIONAL HOTEL



The hotel continues its work to guarantee its superb ambience. I always tell ladies that they must not miss the amazing ladies' loo! The standard achieved by the hotel is outstanding. When we recently attended a

liaison meeting, we learned of the Company's new adventure for the site. Over the existing building they have consent to add two floors that will provide 34 suites and all accompanying amenities. This will be a separate hotel with its own entrances. There will be one person in overall charge, but each hotel will have its own manager. The proposed opening date is September. However, these dates have a habit of slipping.

THE PENINSULA HOTEL

There is still no date for first opening which was due last month. The area around the Grosvenor Place entrance looks tidier. We await the removal of the blindfolds from the marble lions. Watch this space.

BELGRAVIA IN BLOOM



Belgravia in Bloom is coming back in May with a wild theme. We understand that from the 22nd to 29th May you will be able to see the floral innovative installations across

Belgravia, including stunning peacocks and pandas on Elizabeth Street, and much more. This will be the eighth year of the festival.

A WALK TO CELEBRATE THE BELGRAVIA IN BLOOM FESTIVAL.



The guided walk will start at the north end of Belgravia and finish in Eccleston Yards.

There will be a Guide to talk about the history of this elegant part of town and you will hear about some of the famous characters who have left their mark.

Full details of starting location will be given on booking.

The tours are taking place on the following days:

Thursday 25th May from 6pm-7.45pm
Saturday 27th May from 11am-1.30pm
Saturday 27th May from 2.30pm-4.15pm
Sunday 28th May from 2.30pm-4.15pm

To book your space **CLICK HERE**.
Places are limited!

BELGRAVIA BOOKS



Do not forget our local bookshop in Eccleston Street. They are promoting *Me vs Brain* by award-winning comedian Hayley Morris which gives an intimate and insightful account of modern life; self-help has never been this funny! They can be found at 12 Eccleston Street. ▲

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD

COUNCILLORS' STREET SURGERIES



Street Surgeries will be held by your Ward Councillors, **Rachael Robathan**, **Elizabeth Hitchcock** and **Tony Devenish** as follows:

Wednesday 17th May at 11am

in front of Sainsbury's, 1 Gatcliff Road, London SW1W 8DT

Wednesday 24th May at 2pm

Ebury Square next to Fountain Court

Your three local councillors will be there along with our City Inspector, Planning Enforcement Officer and Housing Officer. Do go along and meet them and raise any issues you may have.

OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY YOUR COUNCILLORS:

They tell us that they continue to receive reports of waste dumping across our area. With Spring now here and the Coronation around the corner, they want to ensure that our streets are looking their best.

Do please report any dumped waste to the Council and let them know if you believe a residential or business premises is a persistent offender.

Also report any crime you are aware of to ensure that the statistics of local crime are fully understood by the Police and so there will be no excuse to withdraw officers

13-17 MONTPELIER STREET - NAMMOS LICENSE



Your Councillors are working very closely with the Knightsbridge Association, the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum, and other groups and individuals to fight the recent licensing applications made by Nammos for the site at 13-17 Montpelier Street. A huge amount of engagement is ongoing for this unprecedented series of planning and licensing applications.

Note: See page 14 for the legal constraints on Councillors.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

By email:

ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk

rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk

tony@tonydevenish.com



020 7730 8181



'Like' their Facebook community page to stay up to date about our area.



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



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