

THE

ISSUE 89 | OCTOBER 2022

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

CHANGING STREETScape

CHAIRMAN, GEORGE WAITE, ON
THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER
DURING TIMES OF CHANGE

MARY ROSE RESCUE

OCTOBER MARKED 40 YEARS
SINCE THE RAISING OF THE
FAMOUS TUDOR SHIP

ROYAL PARKS CLEAR UP

ROYAL TRIBUTES CONTINUE
TO BE A SOURCE OF LIFE





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

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

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

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

CHANGES TO THE BELGRAVIA STREETScape

Many will remember one such change, the Chelsea Barracks (CB) project, a large development on the boundaries of Belgravia and Chelsea. The original development aspirations (steel and glass skyscrapers) were a bitter disappointment, but no-one was listening to the local residents. WCC's planning brief did not consider architectural merit, and the investor's architect did not consider local opinion.

Matters were not helped by a planning brief that allowed the demolition of the Barracks' Victorian chapel, and a local association who failed to adequately research the matter and supported the brief's position that the chapel had no historical value.

It was a long and sometimes frustrating consultation. Fortunately, there were some unforgettable moments, including two of our more fearless residents chaining themselves to the railings of the construction site. I will recall them telling the local policeman who tried to persuade them to move on, that their friend had the key to the padlock, and she would not return until after the last race at Ascot!

We approached Quinlan Terry, the architect who designed the Margaret Thatcher Wing of the Royal Hospital. Quinlan is a well-known representative of New Classical architecture and the favourite architect of King Charles III. Quinlan agreed to work on a pro bono basis and quickly prepared a conceptual study that maintained housing density but dramatically reduced building heights. His design was truly new classical; it was quite magnificent, hand drawn, and painted in water colours. The general arrangement drawing was almost 2 metres in length.

It was such a close call, I remember attending WCC's offices on the day of the planning meeting to consider the original design. The Right Honourable Kit Malthouse MP (the then representative of Mayor Boris Johnson) was there to give support as was Philip Hammond (The Right Honourable The Lord Hammond of Runnymede PC). We were all greatly relieved when the news spread that the planning application had been withdrawn and subsequently discovered that one of our group had managed to bring the matter to the attention of the investor (Qatari Diar).

Qatari Diar then commissioned an extensive public consultation on a new masterplan and embarked on a complete redesign with an aim to engage with the local community. The result, including saving the Victorian chapel from demolition (we managed to get it listed), is a world-class development with full marks to Qatari Diar.

The CB project highlighted what could be achieved if the community and major stakeholders worked together. A small group of us felt that Belgravia needed representation that was more than an

amenity society or a residents' association and, in 2009 we established The Belgravia Society as a registered charity, and in 2012 we were recognised by WCC as an amenity society. The Society also accepts community associations as members, and we represent the Eaton Square Residents' Association (ESRA) which I have the privilege to Chair.

Then was a time of continuing change to the Belgravia streetscape, and the changes continue, as does the need for us to work together.

We believe that we need to honour the history of Belgravia and its unique character as a village, its architecture and gardens, to celebrate the past, improve the present and engage with the future.

All we need is a place at the consultation table, a transparent dialogue with stakeholders, and the support of you, our members. ▲

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



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.thebelgraviasociety.com/
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 23 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
London SW1W 0NY

NICKIE AIKEN MP

HELP FOR HOUSEHOLDS THIS WINTER



I know how many of you are worried about energy bills this winter and the cost of living. As the war in Ukraine continues to fuel the price of energy around the world, the Government has taken action to help with the cost of energy bills.

Energy bills were due to rise to over £6,000 but the Government's Energy Price Guarantee gives certainty over how much you will pay for energy until next April. This is in addition to the Energy Bills Support Scheme for all domestic energy customers, worth £400 and paid through your energy supplier, and other targeted measures to support low-income households.

Equally, following my extensive lobbying, households and families which receive energy from communal heating systems, or heat works, also benefit from Government support. I am relieved the Government listened to my calls and brought in protection which I know will benefit so many Belgravia Society readers.

My Cost of Living Help Hub puts in one place up to date information, help and advice on what support Government, organisations, businesses, charities, banks and building societies have available to you. Please do not suffer in silence. Find out what support you may be eligible for at www.nickie.news/CostOfLiving and if you have a question that my Help Hub doesn't answer, please do get in touch.

HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE TWO CITIES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a photo to the Two Cities Photography Competition over the summer. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing what the Two Cities meant to you and the entries were once again outstanding.

The judges have chosen the winner of this year's competition. The only category left is the People's Choice category. Please let me know your favourite of the shortlisted entries at www.nickie.news/SummerSnaps or send me an email to nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk.

If I can be of help on any local, national or international issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Send me an email and keep up to date on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube @TwoCitiesNickie.





BATTERSEA POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT – AT LAST

We all grew up with Battersea Power Station and wondered at the building that comprised two power stations, built in two stages, in a single building with its iconic chimneys. Battersea A Power Station was built in the 1930s and Battersea B Power Station, to its east, in the 1950s. They were built to a near-identical design, providing the four-chimney structure. Heat generated was used to heat Council flats across the river.

Located on the south bank of the Thames, the Power Station was decommissioned between 1975 and 1983 and remained empty until 2014. It was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1980.

In 2007 its listed status was upgraded to Grade II*. The building was one of the world's largest brick buildings and had original Art Deco interior fittings and décor. There were a number of schemes to develop the site but these were either rejected or withdrawn. By 2008, English Heritage described its condition as "very bad".

Finally, in September 2012, a sale was completed to a Malaysian consortium. The London Underground's Northern Line has been extended to serve Nine Elms and the Power Station, branching off at Kennington and the two stations, Nine Elms Station and Battersea Power Station, opened on 20th September 2021.

The Power Station development itself officially opened on 12th October 2022. Now open for business, the Power Station describes itself as having always something new to explore and one of the most exciting and innovative mixed-use neighbourhoods in the world.

Phase 1 was completed in 2017, with the Northern Line extension and its new Battersea Power Station terminus completed in 2021. Circus West Village now has over 1500 residents and over 23 restaurants, cafés and retailers now open. Retail brands set to open outlets inside the Power Station include Hugo Boss, Jo Malone London, Uniqlo, Mac Cosmetics, Space NK and Watches of Switzerland.

386 affordable homes are being built at New Mansion Square as part of the Battersea Power Station masterplan in partnership with housing association, Peabody.

The actual number of non-affordable homes that will be built in all is not clear. We see the ambition is to have some 25,000 people living and working on the site.

Across the 42-acre site a new 24/7 community will be formed with over 250 shops, cafés and restaurants, theatre, hotel, medical centre and 19 acres of public space, including 450 metres of river frontage and a six acre public park. ▲



Artist's impression of residential apartments



THE ROYAL PARKS

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

Following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, the Royal Parks set up dedicated gardens where people could come together and leave floral tributes to The Queen. Over the following weeks hundreds of thousands of people visited the gardens, creating a poignant carpet of flowers.

If you visited Green Park in the week after the Queen's death you will have seen the incredible carpet of flowers and the many poignant tributes left for Her Majesty, a moving testament to how much she meant to so many people. The Royal Parks have

The wonderful and generous floral tributes to the late Queen will continue to be a source of joy and life in the Royal Parks



said that they were incredibly proud to have hosted many ceremonial events in the Royal Parks over the years with The Queen as the focal point. The impact Her Majesty had on people's lives could not be underestimated, as was evidenced by the huge outpouring of grief and admiration across the globe.

The Royal Parks set up the special gardens where floral tributes could be left over several weeks. A week after the funeral the flowers began to be cleared away and, with the help of many volunteers, are now cleared. Packaging had been carefully removed from bouquets, before being transported and loaded with help

from a pair of Shire horses, Heath and Nobby. They drew the flowers on carts to Kensington Gardens where they have been responsibly composted. This ensured that the floral tributes will help new life flourish by supporting the growth of flowers, shrubs, trees and wildlife, creating a lasting tribute in the Royal Parks. They will be used across the Parks in the coming year.

The wonderful and generous floral tributes to the late Queen will continue to be a source of joy and life in the Royal Parks, not just next year but in the years to come. They will remind us of the late Queen and the cycle of life that embraces us all across the earth. ▲

THE MARY ROSE



Tog Mor raising the Mary Rose with excavation vessel Sleipner on right.

©The Mary Rose

The Mary Rose sank in the Solent in 1545. Some people think it was the ship's maiden voyage but that is wrong as the ship was built for Henry VIII in 1511. It is thought that Henry named the ship Mary Rose after the Virgin Mary, or it may have been named for his sister, Mary.

No one is sure what caused the catastrophe of the sinking of the Mary Rose. It was potentially under fire from the

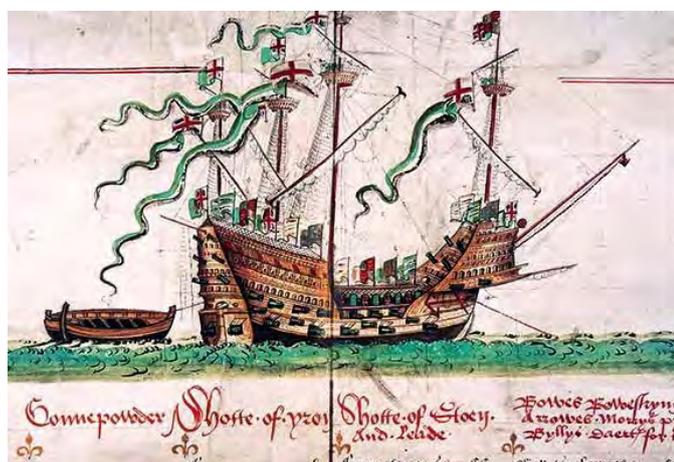
French Navy, and was turning when it sank, however, that theory of French damage has been more or less dismissed, as a French ship was too far away. The Mary Rose took on water almost certainly through open gun ports and went down in about six minutes.

The ship had become top heavy with guns and soldiers, waiting on the decks for hand-to-hand combat. Whatever the cause, some 500 souls were lost and only

about 35 survived. The skeletons of about a third of the compliment on board were found.

Although warships were strong, a part of battle was to board opposing ships in order to take part in hand-to-hand combat. To try to avoid the enemy entering the ship, anti-climb netting was used to cover the upper deck. Whilst this stopped enemies entering the ship, it also prevented the crew from escaping, and this is the most likely reason for the huge loss of life.

Attempts to find and raise the Mary Rose failed in 1546 and 1836. In 1965 the search for the Mary Rose began again. Substantial amounts of mud anomalies were found using sonar on the sea bed. The search team could not see the wreck and it was not identified until the winter of 1970-71. It was the find of a bronze gun which confirmed to the team that they had found the Mary Rose.



Viewing the Mary Rose from Main Deck.
© Johnny Black

The intervening years were spent on planning, excavations using new techniques including their own inventions, and getting together the necessary equipment. This included the use of an enormous underwater lifting frame that would be placed over the wreck, with supports dug into the seabed.

On 11th October 1982, the fragile wooden frame of the Mary Rose was brought up from the seabed. This was the culmination of over 17 years hard work by divers, archaeologists, Royal Engineers (loaned to the team to help) and scientists.

The loss of the Mary Rose was a great tragedy, however, it has given us an immense knowledge of a Tudor ship. We can see a vast number of artifacts from cooking ovens to syringes, as well as weapons, and the general items in day-to-day use by the crew. ▲

EDITORS NOTE

Next month we will tell the story of the Mary Rose Trust and the work needed to protect the Mary Rose and ensure her preservation as well as the artefacts found.



CUNDY STREET DEVELOPMENT

Grosvenor held a liaison meeting on 17th October. We can only reflect on the years of disruption and inconvenience to the residents of Belgravia, to say nothing of the introduction of the whole development not appropriate to a residential area. The few additional homes to be provided do not justify the height of the buildings on the site being an affront to the area and its residents and businesses.

The following quote is interesting relating to Belgravia:

“Pressures for development and change increase year by year and the very affluence that can promote conservation can also militate against it: opportunistic developers strive to maximise profit whilst individual new owners aspire to make their mark.”

Both often act without due regard either to the interests of neighbours or to the effect on the area as a whole.”

This quote is from Grosvenor itself issued as part of a leaflet in 2008 justifying the scheme they have for the management of the properties to protect the integrity of Belgravia against properties which have been enfranchised. Grosvenor wanted to protect the integrity of Belgravia and it has certainly helped. However, what they mean is, “do as I say, not as I do”.

The following is a report of the matters mentioned at the liaison Meeting:

- 1 Demolition is to start in January 2023 and be completed by the end May 2023.



The long delay in starting works has been down to Grosvenor needing to discuss their 106 agreements with WCC. There was also some asbestos to be removed.

2 Grosvenor apologised for the lack of any liaison group meetings since January of this year and confirmed that they would take place quarterly from now on.

3 The demolition contractor is J F Hunt, and they will be holding a drop-in session at St Barnabas on Tuesday 25th, 4-7pm, for anyone interested (NB this is only about demolition). Please visit if you can.

4 The buildings will be demolished 'brick by brick' from the top down and the waste carted away via trucks accessing a site entrance in Pimlico Road.

5 There will be an office manned by J F Hunt at 20a Pimlico Road, open to the public Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9am-12pm, if you have any further queries or issues.

6 Details of the demolition contractor are available.

7 To contact the Grosvenor Project Manager, email: David.Swainsbury@grosvenor.com. More info on their website cundystreetquarter.co.uk/demolition-and-construction.

8 They stated that windows of neighbours would be cleaned as necessary. Anyone affected, contact the demolition contractor directly when this is required. Project Manager: 07377 545887.

9 Construction proper will not start till mid 2023. It will start with the construction of the 'new Walden House', ie, the social housing block which will be next to the existing Coleshill Flats. Completion is scheduled for 2026 when the tenants of the existing Walden House will move across and the old building demolished.

10 A building contractor has yet to be formally appointed. The contract may go to a single contractor, or a different one for each phase.

11 Completion of the whole project will be by 2029. ▲

PLANNING ADVICE

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



AN AUTUMN STROLL – ST JAMES PARK

BY SARA OLIVER

The Royal Parks look splendid and well worth a walk as the trees turn into glorious colour before dying down for the winter.

St James's Park, one of my favourites, together with Victoria Tower Gardens, looks particularly lovely at this time of year. The trees seen in St James's Park are unlikely to be older than John Nash's re-landscaping from around 1827. Most consist of Plane

trees but species also include Scarlet Oak Tree (*Quercus coccinea*) and Black Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*).

St James's Park was originally created in 1660. It is believed that Charles I walked the park just prior to his execution, therefore being his last walk. When entering the park from the south side, if you are walking from Belgravia or Knightsbridge via Rubens Hotel, The Birdcage Walk takes you straight into the park. The name derives from what was once believed to have been a private boulevard for the Royal Family with caged exotic birds lining the road. Do look out for the beautiful autumn leaves everywhere, as the park transforms into a spectacle of fiery colours with oranges, yellows, auburns and red tints.

St James's Palace is in front of Buckingham Palace behind the Victoria Memorial, and it is hard to miss. Once you have strolled through the park, finally finishing at



Whitehall, or further still in Trafalgar Square, do make sure you stop for a relaxing break in the delightful river café overlooking the beautiful lake and close to the central island full of wildlife.

The lake is home to six pelicans which were first introduced to the park in 1664. The shrubberies and secluded woodlands on the islands are important refuges for birds. These include the Mallard duck which can be seen all year. Other species seen on the lake are Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Common Pochard and Goldeneye.

Although bats are about to hibernate for the winter, they can be seen together with foxes, wood mice and brown rats, largely active at night. The grey squirrel is a common and entertaining sight during the day.

I hope you manage to get out and enjoy an autumn stroll through St James's Park soon. ▲

RESOURCES

Inspired by The Royal Parks – St James's Park: www.royalparks.org.uk

Rewildingbelgravialondon.com

Hello@rewildingbelgravialondon.com

EVERY LITTLE HELPS – amazon smile

If any of our readers are Amazon customers and have not signed up yet to their charitable “Smile” scheme you should note that The Belgravia Society is now a member. Amazon will contribute 0.5% out of any purchase you make. It may not be a lot on its own, but little sums add up and we need donations to fund our magazine and other activities.

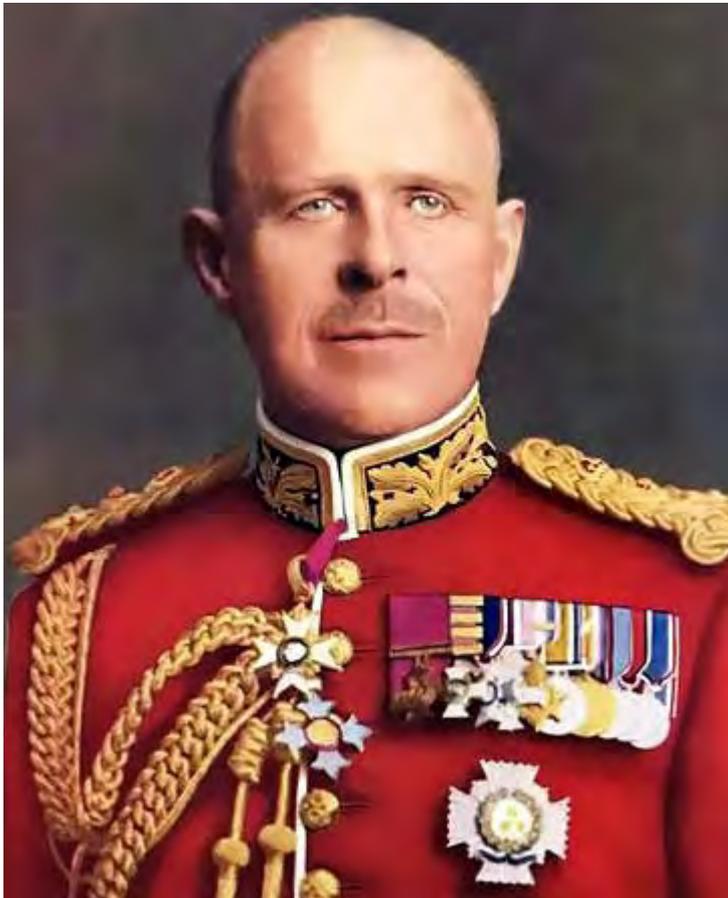
All you need to do to join the scheme is go to smile.amazon.co.uk. You can then put our full name – “The Belgravia Society” – in the search box and confirm. That's all there is to it. When you next go into Amazon, type in “smile.amazon” instead of just “Amazon”, then just carry on as normal. Nothing else is necessary. The donation is automatic on completion of any purchase.

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 8th November 2022



VISCOUNT GORT VC

34 BELGRAVE SQUARE: 1920-26

BY PETER WYETH

General Lord Gort won his VC in the First World War. Under heavy artillery and machine gunfire he fearlessly led his battalion and, wounded, directed a flanking attack. Under terrific fire and now severely wounded, he crossed open ground to commandeer a tank. Despite considerable loss of blood, he launched another attack, defending the captured position until he collapsed, only leaving the field when the final objective was won. “Tiger” Gort won a second Bar to a DSO, and was mentioned in dispatches eight times.

Promoted to Major, he moved to Belgrave Square in 1920. As Lieutenant-Colonel, he

was at the Army Staff College until 1923. Gort’s marriage, to his second cousin, ended in divorce in 1925. Their elder son, a Lieutenant with the Grenadier Guards, committed suicide in 1941. A second son died before his second birthday, but a daughter survived. Promoted to Colonel, Gort left Belgrave Square in 1926.

By 1937, Gort worked for the War Minister, Leslie Hore-Belisha, who purged senior officers and made Gort Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Gort wanted to build a land army to defend France and the Low Countries when France admitted she was unable to defend herself against German attack. In 1938 Gort reported that, as a

As Governor of Malta (1942-44), Gort's courage and leadership during the siege was applauded.

result of the decision to create a “general purpose” army, Britain lacked forces to defend France, claiming the Maginot Line would be broken.

On the outbreak of war, Gort was appointed by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain as Commander of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France, but then was part of a political manoeuvre that led to the dismissal of Hore Belisha, who described Gort as, “Utterly brainless and unable to grasp the simplest problem.”

Gort dismissed his subordinates' critiques of the Allied plans, including the correct prediction that it would allow the Wehrmacht to outflank the Allied forces.

When that happened, Gort unilaterally abandoned Government orders for an attack to support the French Army and retreated to the coast, retiring to the British Isles after the Battle of Dunkirk and the Dunkirk evacuation. The chaotic route of the BEF under his command convinced Churchill, now Prime Minister,



against Gort as a Field Commander, and he was sidelined to non-combatant posts such as Advisor to George VI.

As Governor of Malta (1942-44), Gort's courage and leadership during the siege was applauded. He extended the airfield against British Government advice, but was later thanked when it proved vital to the British Mediterranean campaign. The King gave Gort his Field Marshal's baton on 20th June 1943 at Malta where, together with General Dwight D. Eisenhower, he witnessed the Italian surrender.

Gort ended the war as High Commissioner for Palestine, cultivating good relations with both Jews and Arabs, and was greatly admired and respected by both communities. “No High Commissioner in the twenty-five years of British rule in Palestine enjoyed greater popular trust and none repaid it with greater personal kindness.”

In 1946, he was created Viscount, shortly before dying at the age of 59. ▲

LAST CHANCE TO TELL MAYOR KHAN WHAT YOU THINK OF THE HYDE PARK CYCLE LANE



BY CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN



I know that everyone living in Belgravia shares a wish to improve the quality of the air we breathe and also enable people to move around our City safely. A large part of that is making cycling or walking, as well as public transport, an attractive and easy option for anyone.

Of course, integral to that is the issue of cycle lanes to ensure people are just as safe whether they choose two wheels or four. Your Councillors, including most recently in my administration as Leader of the Council, have always recognised their importance but have felt, first and

foremost, that these need to work for all of our residents and that local residents' groups and people need to be involved and consulted to ensure that the most sensible routes are chosen. Unfortunately, for over two years, we have been living with a major cycle scheme imposed on Westminster with not a shred of consultation with local people or the Council, and it simply doesn't work. I'm talking, of course, about the Hyde Park cycle lane.

Back in June 2020, during the pandemic, the Department of Transport gave London boroughs and the Mayor of London the right to make emergency changes to London's roads without the usual consultation in response to the lockdown. While there was logic to the Mayor being able to act quickly to respond to the pandemic, Sadiq Khan used the opportunity to force through some very ill thought through schemes, of which this is a prime example.

Right from the beginning, we pointed out the obvious issues with the scheme – reducing three lanes of traffic to only one overnight on a key arterial route south to north, with one for bicycles and one for buses. As a result, traffic is frequently gridlocked around Hyde Park corner and backing up into Belgravia, Victoria and Knightsbridge with the inevitable increase in emissions from all the congestion. Furthermore, this is a serious problem for people having to add on significant amounts of time to make their journey.

Of course, this might be worth it if the cycle lane was well used, but all



too often, it is completely empty. Moreover, I have frequently been asked why on earth there should be a cycle lane on Park Lane when there is already a cycle route running parallel to it just metres away in Hyde Park on the Broadwalk.

It is simply not right that the people most affected by this – those who live the closest – have had no opportunity to voice their opinions and be heard. However, finally, after two years of strong representations by both your Councillors and our GLA member, Tony Devenish, we are at last being offered a consultation which closes on 4th December 2022.

Local people must have their say on local schemes and whether these work for them, so this is your chance.

In order to register for the consultation go to [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). ▲

FAIRER WESTMINSTER

Under the title, “Fairer Westminster”, the Council offered a survey for residents to complete. It stated:

“You may be aware of ‘Report It’, our online webpage that lets residents and businesses inform us about problems in the streets of Westminster. Reports range from illegally parked vehicles to licensing issues, to missed waste collections. As part of our Fairer Westminster strategy, we are hoping to streamline this service to make it more efficient and user-friendly. To do that, we need to hear from you.

I appreciate that we have received some feedback on Report It, however many of you have indicated that you would prefer to see a more systematic approach to improving the service. To help with this, we have launched a survey that will enable residents, businesses and colleagues to tell us where the current system can be improved and to make suggestions for further development.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this survey among your colleagues and encourage their participation.”

Your Editor though it was a good idea and decided do the survey so it could be recommended to you. I carefully answered the questions. It seemed to offer hope that a way could be found to help us residents to have an opportunity of reporting problems, knowing they will be dealt with and we will enjoy feedback.

I got to the end and pressed the button to be confronted with “This Survey closed” (see screen shot). Maybe the software had become overloaded or perhaps it does not work at the weekend (Saturday at 5.15pm) or maybe it was working from home but had gone out.

I should perhaps say the email inviting a response was received on 19th October and the “closed” response was on 22nd October. ▲



Screenshot



Opera Prelude

Supporting Professional Development
for Early-Career Opera Singers

Acclaimed soprano Lucy Crowe works with Opera Prelude young artists



Born in Staffordshire, Lucy Crowe studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where she is a Fellow. With repertoire ranging from Purcell, Handel and Mozart to Donizetti's *Adina* and Verdi's *Gilda*, she has sung with opera companies and orchestras throughout the world, including at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Glyndebourne Festival, the Deutsche Opera Berlin and Metropolitan Opera New York.

Lucy has a vast discography receiving a Grammy nomination in 2021 for Best Opera Recording for Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* with the London Symphony Orchestra/ Sir Simon Rattle.

Tickets £35

Booking www.operaprelude.org



SILVER SUNDAY'S OCTOBER RENDEZ-VOUS

BY MARINA KALOGHIROU

In our previous, September issue, we announced our Belgravia community's participation in the Silver Sunday celebrations. Each year, our committee member, Marina Kaloghirou, in memory of her late mother, Galateia Kaloghirou, hosts a garden tea party at Eaton Square. She has been doing so since Silver Sunday's inception.

Silver Sunday, founded by The Lady Christabel Flight, who is now a Trustee of Silver Sunday, in its creation said, "Our ambition has always been to create a day in the nation's heart where older people feel valued and are given new opportunities to get out of the house, learn new skills, make new friends and connect with the communities and generations around them. If we can have a Father's Day and a Mothering Sunday, why not a day for older people?!" Now it is celebrated all across the country: the first Silver Sunday was in 2012, and in 2019 over 1200 events took place. Now the figures are growing again post-pandemic.



Simon Davie, Helene Oratore and Marina Kaloghirou

We are proud to be one of the very earliest participants in celebrating Silver Sunday with our garden tea parties at one of the beautiful Belgravia gardens. We are happy to know that our guests look forward to our event with much anticipation. It is one of the highlights in their calendar, they tell us. We look forward to receiving them all again each year with equal joy and anticipation. It is in their honour that the garden is prepared to look its best and we line up refreshments to delight them, music and dancing to entertain them. The joyous atmosphere and the fun that is had leave us all with a big smile on our face and a promise to "see you again next year!" ▲



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**

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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 89
OCTOBER 2022



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1168619

www.thebelgrviasociety.com