

THE

ISSUE 76 | SEPTEMBER 2021

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

THE RIFLES REGIMENT

OLIVER ORATORE EXPLAINS
THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN
THE INFANTRY, THE RIFLES
AND BELGRAVIA

CLARE TOLLEMARCHE
SHARES HER

JOY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

BELGRAVIA'S BUSINESSES

HELEN ORATORE WALKS US
THROUGH A DAY OUT IN SW1





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 IN CHIEF

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.

© 2021 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

SEPTEMBER 2021

VICE Chairman's Message	3
Nickie Aiken MP – Coming up in the House	4
Consultations – are they genuine and meaningful?	5
The Infantry, The Rifles and Belgravia Part 1	7
Joys of Photography by Clare Tollemarche	8
Dial 01 BEL for Belgravia by Joe Briggs	10
Christmas is Back as Hyde Park Winter Wonderland announces its 2021 Return	12
St Barnabas Primary School	14
Vertical Forests, Trees and Bus Shelters	16
A Word of Warning and One Way Forward in the 21st Century for Belgravians and Londoners	16
Henry 'CHIPS' CHANNON	17
Discover the Delights of Belgravia's Business Community	18
New Playground in Belgrave Square	19
Belgravia in Bloom – photos	20
Councillors' Surgeries and Contact Details	22
Membership Application	23

VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Helene Oratore
is our Vice Chairman
and a Committee
member of the Belgravia
Neighbourhood Forum.
This is Helene's message:

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

The Belgravia Society has always been keen to ensure that London's green spaces and, in particular, the Royal Parks can be enjoyed by all. Currently, the committee have been involved with discussions with the Royal Parks events team concerning their plans for the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland.

The aim has been to ensure a sensible balance between noise and additional traffic which residents will endure yet enable visitors to enjoy the funfair throughout the Christmas season. In addition, Hyde Park is host to the stunning Van Gogh Alive exhibition (positioned next to the Albert Memorial) which is a superb multi-sensory experience.

Bruce Peterson of Grande Experiences writes, "From the moment you enter the exhibition, a powerful and vibrant symphony of light, colour, sound and fragrance compels you to leave the world behind and immerse yourself in Van Gogh's paintings – an experience that is simultaneously enchanting, entertaining and educational."

This show is absolutely well worth a visit. The Society's mantra is "stay local, shop

local", so with that in mind, several of our Young Belgravians attended the opening of the Dorothea Stiegeman, Eden exhibition at Cassius&Co. Director, Fraser Brough commented that, "The paintings have at their heart a sense of longing for something lost, a yearning for a place that is ideal and innocent, before and beyond the complexities of man. The launch of Ganymede at the corner of Ebury Street and Elizabeth Street was a super event.

Since then, my family and I booked one of the tables for 8 for Sunday lunch and thoroughly enjoyed the pleasant ambience and deliciously cooked meals. The Elizabeth Street Fashion Show was a huge success and has helped to re-establish the street as a centre of retail excellence. Please continue to support all our local businesses during this difficult economic period.

The Belgravia Society continues its discussions with the Grosvenor team and is delighted to welcome the various changes to the children's playground in Belgrave Square. These upgrades have been implemented by Grosvenor and hugely improve the quality of the play area. ▲

COMING UP IN THE HOUSE

BY NICKIE AIKEN MP



Nickie Aiken MP

Over the summer, I hope many of you will have followed my #TourofTwoCities on social media, where I visited all four corners of the Cities of London and Westminster, including here in Belgravia. I listened and met with hundreds of local people and businesses, to make sure your voices are taken straight to the heart of Government.

The helicopter menace continues to have a huge impact on people living in Belgravia, and this summer we have seen more protests than ever, culminating with Extinction Rebellion bringing parts of our neighbourhoods to a standstill for hours on end.

I recently met with the Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner, Sir Stephen House, and senior officers from the Public Order Team to discuss how they would approach policing protests in the future, armed with messages and accounts from local people telling me the impact the helicopter is having on them.

My meeting was insightful, and I was assured by the Met it is progressing with drone technology, which I hope to be able to share more news on soon.

In other news, the Online Safety Bill

comes back for further scrutiny, and I'm particularly interested in the fraud aspect of the Bill. I'm proud the City of London Police is the national lead for cyber-crime, and caught up with Ian Dyson QPM and Angela McLaren, the outgoing and new Commissioner of the City of London Police, to hear what more can be done to strengthen the Bill and ensure the Police have the powers they need to keep us all safe from online crime.

Lastly, over the coming weeks, there will be fresh opportunities to engage with colleagues from all parties on my mission to secure more powers, resources and services to end rough sleeping. I have already raised this with colleagues in Westminster Hall, and welcomed the £750 million fund this year to tackle rough sleeping and homelessness, including a £203 million investment in the Rough Sleeping Initiative, which is almost double last year's budget. I look forward to working with ministers to push the case to repeal the Act with a new vision that places the preservation of life at its core. ▲

As ever, if I can help in any way, please email me at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk.

Keep up to date on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [@TwoCitiesNickie](https://www.instagram.com/TwoCitiesNickie).



CONSULTATIONS – ARE THEY GENUINE AND MEANINGFUL?

Uniquely, in the last month we have been invited to respond to three consultations on outside dining and the laws and regulations to go with it. The consultations are by Central Government, Westminster City Council and Grosvenor.

It is all very well for us to say how nice Elizabeth Street looks, but what do the residents think? How are they affected? So we decided to ask local members who live and/or work in Elizabeth Street for their views. The general consensus was Grosvenor have provided very attractive containers with trees and shrubs; the outside dining looks very nice and the tables and chairs are well presented.

However, we also heard of the problems making life intolerable for the residents. For example, a right turn out of Ebury Mews is visually blocked by tables and planters. Dustbins outside Thomas Cubitt prevent traffic from the right being seen. Assurances have been given that the number of tables

would be reduced or removed, but it has not happened.

There are also delivery vans which congregate to collect and deliver goods. The large increase in outside tables has meant the suspension of parking and delivery bays and there is nowhere to stop. As a result, vans and cars block Elizabeth Street and Ebury Mews. Delivery vans arrive throughout the night to collect goods for delivery elsewhere. One restaurant regularly has customers dining and drinking outside until after midnight. Another restaurant has applied for licence to 11pm so extending the potential for constant noise all evening. *Continued overleaf >*

PLANNING ADVICE

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



Elizabeth Street itself is often blocked by the vans and cars trying to pass and the Express coaches from the Bus Station use the street and now large Clarks coaches are also using the route.

In other words, although it all looks very nice, this residential area is blighted for residents kept up late by diners, traffic jams during the day, blocked mews, constant vans vying for somewhere to park and unrelenting noise at night. This will apply to other such residential streets.

Our view now is that the alfresco dining must be limited, deliveries kept to working hours, and traffic redirected; outside consumption of alcohol limited to 9pm and policed.

Residents are entitled to the peace that most of us enjoy and we must fight for them. We will respond to the consultations accordingly and invite you to do the same. ▲



CAF
Charities Aid Foundation



ServiceMark
Accredited from Oct '18 to Oct '21
The Institute of Customer Service

IF YOU HAVE A CAF ACCOUNT, THAT 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@thebelgraviasociety.com

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

Our next video meeting is 5th October.

THE INFANTRY, THE RIFLES AND BELGRAVIA

PART 1
BY VINCENT ORATORE



*The Rifles'
Badge*

Belgravia has many associations with the military, from the Grenadier (previously the Officers' mess for the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards), through Seaford House (still in use today by the Royal College of Defence Studies), to the Rifle Brigade War Memorial. This article is concerned with the Rifle Brigade Memorial.

Wandering to the end of Hobart Place or to the top of Grosvenor Gardens, it is easy to miss the Rifle Brigade War Memorial on the corner. It was built in 1925 by the distinguished sculptor, John Tweed, to commemorate the War Dead of the Rifle Brigade in The First World War, and subsequently in World War 2. It was granted Listed status, Grade II, in 1970. The reasons for its listing say it all: 'an eloquent witness to the impact of world events on the country and the sacrifices it made in the conflicts of the 20th century...the combination of a contemporary figure and figural references to the proud history of the Regiment is compelling.'

Over time, the Rifle Brigade was merged with other infantry regiments, ultimately to form part of The Rifles on their formation on

1st February 2007. Two years later 2nd Battalion The Rifles, and then 3rd Battalion The Rifles defended Sangin as part of Operation HERRICK, fought to enable the Afghan people to rebuild that town from Taliban oppression. The Rifles suffered enormous casualties in that defence. In a microcosm of the events of July and August 2021, the Taliban recaptured Sangin in March 2017 from the Afghan Army (although at least in that case it took two months).

The Forming Regiments of The Rifles have a long legacy of involvement in Afghanistan, with antecedents having fought in the wars of 1838-42, 1878-80, 1919-21 and 2001-21; those battles being part of the reason why Afghanistan is known as the graveyard of empires! ▲

We are grateful to the Rifles regiment for their review and comments on this article.

Coming soon in Part 2 of this article:
Why the RIFLES move more swiftly than any other regiment in the army and the appropriate use of the French cannon.



Clare Tollemache
Photo by A Harrington

JOYS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

BY CLARE TOLLEMARCHE

Photography has been a part of my life since I was a child. My mother was extremely artistic and her love for the camera was very natural. My sister and I spent many happy hours posing as her models and later I too would discover the magic of the camera and what it can capture.

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and all our lives changed, my real passion for photography and the composition of a photograph developed. Each day I walked long distances through the eerily quiet streets and parks of London which had suddenly become all but deserted. I began to see things I had never fully noticed before, despite having lived in London all my life. One of the lessons I learnt is that when walking through the



streets one should always try to look up. It is astonishing the things one sees by doing that. During this time, I knew I was living and recording history and wanted others to see what I was experiencing. I hope my photographs of those strange days will enable others both to understand the challenging times we lived through, and to look more carefully at the structures that have been created in this remarkable city. I used Instagram and Facebook as platforms to show my photographs to friends and acquaintances and I received enormous encouragement to carry on posting.



The photograph of Albert Bridge was not only chosen by the Belgravia Society Magazine for its February 2021 edition but also won the Evening Standard Life in Lockdown 2021 competition. This has, in turn, led to an invitation to exhibit some of my photographs and a possible idea to publish a book. Let's see what happens!

Meanwhile I keep walking and taking photographs... ▲

DIAL 01 BEL FOR BELGRAVIA



BY JOE BRIGGS

Between the 1920s and 1970s, London operated under the director telephone system that was based on the Strowger switching system, originally developed by the American investor, Almon Strowger. To call someone in London you would first need to dial 01 and then enter a three-letter dialling code based on the names of various local London areas.

The first area to convert to this system was Holborn, where you would dial 01 HOL to reach the exchange. The Holborn exchange

had 9,400 lines and 222 directors, and at busy times each director could handle over 70 calls an hour.

To call someone in Paddington you would dial 01 PAD, however, you could also dial 01 AMB which stood for “Ambassador”, owing to the number of embassies around that area at the time.

For West Kensington you would dial 01 EMP, which stood for “Empress”, owing to Kensington Palace and Queen Victoria’s



connection to the area, or 01 NOB, which stood for “Noble”, presumably for similar reasons.

For Bloomsbury you would dial 01 MUS, which stood for “Museum”, due to the location of the British Museum. For Victoria, you could dial 01 VIC or 01 TAT, which stood for “Tate”, due to the location of the Tate Britain. For St John’s Wood you would dial 01 LOR, which stood for “Lords”, given the location of the cricket ground.

To call someone in Sloane Square, dial 01 SLO, and for Knightsbridge, 01 KNI. To call someone in Mayfair, you would dial 01 MAY, however, you could also dial 01 GRO, which stood for “Grosvenor”, or 01 HYD, which stood for Hyde Park, and to call someone in Belgravia, you would of course dial 01 BEL.

Below are some further examples of London area code names. See if you can guess the relevant areas from the three letters:

BAT, BER, BRI, CIT, COV,
CRY, EUS, PUT, TOT, TWI

For answers see page 21



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

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



CHRISTMAS IS BACK AS HYDE PARK WINTER WONDERLAND ANNOUNCES ITS 2021 RETURN

After a one-year hiatus, this year, friends and family can finally get together and ring in the season at London's Hyde Park Winter Wonderland starting 19th November 2021.

Open daily from 10am-10pm, Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is bringing back Christmas with a list of attractions, new themes and returning favourites including the UK's largest outdoor ice rink, new Magical Ice Kingdom and Bar Ice experiences, new Zippo's Christmas Circus and Cirque Berserk shows, the Giant Wheel, and more.

To ensure the safety and comfort of visitors, the event is introducing timed entry tickets which will help to manage guest numbers. The ticket system, similar to other Christmas destinations around the world, is designed to enhance the guest experience, providing visitors with more space and ensuring more time is spent on festive fun for as long as they want until closing at 10pm.

"We're so excited to be bringing the UK's largest festive event back this Christmas after a difficult 18 months for all, and a lonely Christmas for many in 2020," said Suzy Griffiths, Hyde Park Winter Wonderland's Event Director. "Importantly, the changes we're making this year, including reducing capacity and introducing timed entry tickets, will help us deliver the same magical experience for our visitors and allows us to adapt to new requirements if needed."

Alun Mainwaring, Head of Events, Filming and Commercial Development at The Royal Parks, said: "We are delighted to be back hosting events in the heart of London and are excited to showcase our new ticketed Hyde Park Winter Wonderland."



For those looking to get a head start on their festive plans and be certain of the Christmas experience at Winter Wonderland, tickets and pre-bookable attractions are on sale now. The event will be offering off-peak (free), standard (£5), and peak (£7.50) timed entry tickets to help manage the flow of the event during periods of higher and lower demand, with a number of mid-week morning entry tickets available to book for free. However, visitors who spend £20 on attractions, rides, food, drinks or games in advance of their visit will receive a free entrance ticket when booked in the same transaction. ▲

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:

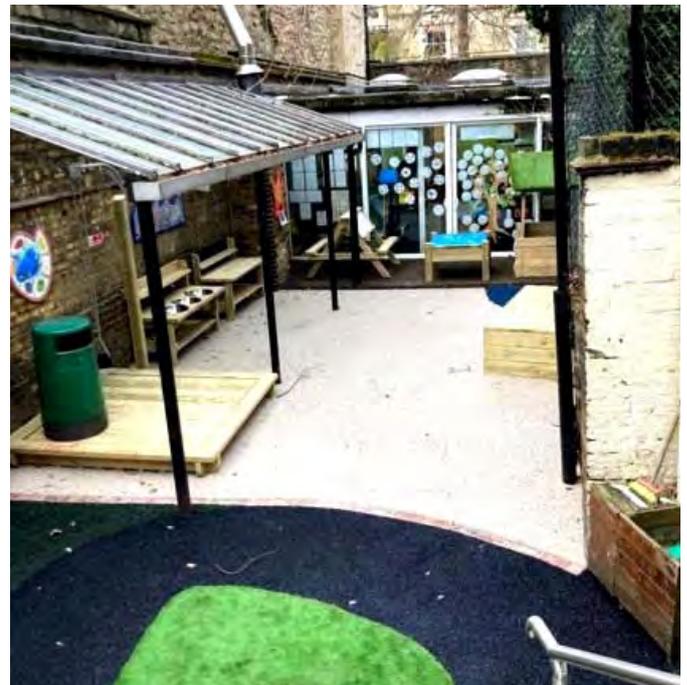
info@belgraviasociety.com



From the left: Nickie Aiken MP, Cllr Rachael Robathan, Kate McCarthy, Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson, Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock, Frances Blois and Cllr Tony Devenish all at the 'grand opening' of the interactive play space

As many of you know, St Barnabas' CE Primary & Nursery School was built in 1847 for "the instruction of 500 poor children and the maintenance of twelve orphan girls". We imagine the Victorians didn't have outside educational play high on their list of priorities! However, we know the importance of play and outdoor learning in children's Early Years' education and so embarked on an exciting project to raise the educational provision for the pupils in nursery and reception classes. The church hall was refurbished in 2018 to make a new nursery for the school and a new link was created from the Church hall into the Early Years' outdoor area.

Planning started in the Summer of 2020 to design the next stage of the development.



St Barnabas Nursery School Playground

The aim was to create an interactive outdoor area for the Early Years – this required a complete refurbishment of the space between the Church hall and the school.

The interactive outdoor space was funded through the Grosvenor Spacehive crowdfunding initiative during the Autumn of 2020. Local residents, parents, staff, Grosvenor, the Church, Westminster charities and Bouygues (Ebury Bridge Estate) all contributed. It was so successful that the school was also able to supply waterproof clothes and boots for pupils to use in the area. The construction work was completed during the February half term 2021 and has already had a positive impact on the Early Years curriculum at St Barnabas.

From the beginning of this term, the new Early Years framework focuses heavily on the importance of children being able to learn outside. The interactive space created now links all areas of learning for both classes in Early Years, and all aspects of teaching and learning can now be taught outside in all weathers. Already, the Early Years staff have noticed an impressive engagement by the children in the outdoor area.

The school will also be supplementing the Early Years curriculum by using the new Forest School created by Grosvenor Estates in Belgrave Square.

On 16th September there was a “grand opening” of the interactive play space so those who had supported and contributed to the scheme could see the finished article. The Chairman of Governors, Kate McCarthy, invited many of us to join the celebration. ▲

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. ▲

Complaints to Westminster City Council

If you have a complaint for
Westminster City Council, you can
Report it at

www.westminster.gov.uk

Failing that, you should telephone
020 7641 6000 and ask to speak
to the appropriate department.

Also, do contact your Councillor;
they are always there to help
(see page 22 for contact details).

You can check which Ward you are
in at the WCC website and click on
“Westminster’s Councillors”.

VERTICAL FORESTS, TREES AND BUS-SHELTERS



A WORD OF WARNING AND ONE WAY FORWARD IN THE 21ST CENTURY FOR BELGRAVIANS AND LONDONERS

BY SARA OLIVER

Did you know that, according to WWF's latest *Living Planet Report**, 68% of all vertebrate wildlife populations have been lost since 1970. That is over half gone in just 50 years. UK species have not fared any better as they have declined by 41% since 1970 in parallel with the rest of the planet. The world's population has more than doubled in the last century causing loss of habitat to other species, as we pack in ever more, and higher, buildings to accommodate the burgeoning human populous. This has given rise to a new age known by scientists as the Anthropocene.

A study in Germany found that flying insect populations (including pollinators) have fallen by three-quarters since 1989,

reflecting similar trends around the world. Lack of insect diversity and abundance is expected to provoke decreasing food sources and jeopardise the ecosystem.

Utrecht (in the Netherlands) is taking a lead in "greening" with a revolutionary project, to build a "vertical forest". They have installed hundreds of green bus stops covered in plants. Belgravia and London's skyline could be transformed if we follow their initiative in future developments. This could add thousands of plants of different species providing a boost to the ecosystem. Varying sizes of apartments nestled among the plants, could help to solve a problem of population growth, whilst also sticking to plans for the improvement of biodiversity.

Trees and shrubs in abundance are capable of absorbing tonnes of CO² every year, and greatly increase oxygen levels. Protection for our Belgravia birds and the wider area can connect residents with nature on their own balconies, gardens, green spaces and squares.

I believe green roofs on bus shelters, buildings and future developments should be an essential part of a plan to find eco-friendly solutions for London. These corridors and islands of foliage not only provide homes for small wildlife, they also capture fine particulates of air pollution, helping collect rainwater and provide an oasis for travelling species in summer.

I believe it is vital that we live in harmony with nature and take positive action for the sake of future generations of children and countless species of wildlife on our precious planet. True to that ethos, we should all want to improve the future and campaign for new developments to incorporate the above green credentials.

WCC and large landowners such as Grosvenor are already taking account of these issues, but they need to do more and more need to be engaged. Please contact me if you would like to contribute to this campaign. ▲

*Sources: Natural History Museum, Population Matters, [Euronews.com](https://www.euronews.com), [plos.org](https://www.plos.org), [mobilane.com](https://www.mobilane.com)

Editor's Note: Do go to the website of the WWF to read the Living Planet Report – www.wwf.org.uk/living-planet-report.



5 Belgrave Square was the home of Sir Henry 'Chips' Channon MP (1897-1968) and his wife, Lady Honor Guinness, the daughter of the extremely rich 2nd Earl of Iveagh. Channon is probably best remembered today for his diaries, the first edited and expurgated edition of diaries first published in 1967. However, the first edition of the unexpurgated diaries have recently been published by Simon Heffer with the second and third editions being released this year and in 2022. They reveal some intimate and scandalous details of life between the wars.

Born in Chicago, USA to a wealthy family, Channon came to England and attended Oxford in 1920 and 1921 where he gained the sobriquet "Chips", which remained with him thereafter. He met and befriended a number of high profile figures like Prince Paul of Yugoslavia, and was also supposed to have had a relationship with Peter Coats, the eminent landscape designer. When he lived in Belgrave Square he became friendly with the Duke and Duchess of Kent (Princess Marina of Greece) through whom he met the Duke of Windsor. The Duke of Kent was killed in an air crash in WW2. Channon also met Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Channon became an MP and aspired to cabinet office and a peerage, but was only knighted. However, his son, the MP the late Paul Channon, did get a life peerage. His reputation is somewhat mixed amongst his contemporaries – both high and low. I am one of the many who will read the publication of more of his diaries with great interest. ▲

DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF BELGRAVIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

BY HELENE ORATORE

Although the Belgravia Society is predominantly a residents' association, we fully support our local business community. Recently, the Society has been working with Westminster City Council, Grosvenor Estates' representatives and the Belgravia Traders' Association to improve some of the current difficulties which our local retailers face in this extremely volatile economic climate.

The Belgravia Society's mantra is 'Stay local, shop local'. As the largest amenity group in Belgravia, we actively encourage our members to support our local businesses.

There really is something for everyone, so consider an imaginary day of shopping in SW1; meet your friends and family and enjoy a journey through the streets of our historic village. Why not start your day in Lower Belgrave Street? Drop off your dry cleaning at Belgrave Drycleaners, collect your medication from Keencare Pharmacy, and order your food shopping from Charles of Belgravia. Then wander over to Grosvenor's popular Eccleston Yards for a quick session at the Hotpod Yoga Centre or Barry's Bootcamp whilst purchasing a snazzy outfit for your pampered pooch from Over Glam,

followed by a visit to SK Hair and Beauty Salon in Ebury Street.

Moving on to Elizabeth Street, purchase your new shoes from Stivaleria Cavallin, consider selecting a new outfit from Beulah, or investing in a truly sensational millinery creation from Philip Treacy. Complete the look with a piece of jewellery from VickiSarge. You might wish to invest in a super-slick pair of shoes for your little ones from Papouelli. Then, you will be spoilt for choice for a luncheon venue – The Thomas Cubitt, Oliveto or Olivocarne.

Next, visit Cassius&Co in Kinnerton Street for a sampling of culture. Their next exhibition is based on works by Dorothea Stiegemann. Finally, enter Motcomb Street and purchase a wonderful selection of fabulous cheeses from The Cheese Co and then indulge at one of the superb restaurants – Amaya, Petrus, The Alfred Tennyson, Motcombs or Sakaya at the Pantechnicon.

I apologise as it is impossible to mention all our retailers in one article, but I will endeavour to mention other businesses in future articles. Please consider supporting your local shops. ▲



Brewers Decorators Merchant who hold a Royal Warrant from HM The Queen



Best Gapp – Estate Agents



NEW PLAYGROUND IN BELGRAVE SQUARE

We have received a letter from the assistant property manager of Grosvenor relating to Belgrave Square Garden's children's play area. On 6th September they began an installation process for the new playground.

Grosvenor had a great deal of feedback following the proposals, and changes were made to the initial ones. They have swapped the swings, gravity bowl, seesaw and mirror panel for the following:

Team Swing – this is very popular and gives children a chance to play together using teamwork to make the swing go higher and higher.

Rota Rock – this is a highly durable playground which requires teamwork to create an exciting rocking and rotating action.

Customised Quad Rider – four-way action requiring teamwork and coordination on the quad rider.

Burma Bridge – children can imagine they are balancing on a tightrope high in the sky on the Burma Bridge as balance and coordination are put to the test.

Grosvenor hope the new space will develop a sense of togetherness and overall well-being. The current playground has been a great success and Grosvenor want the new one to be even better and more inclusive. Grosvenor have chosen a new supplier who are one of the few British manufacturing companies in children's outdoor playground equipment. The playground is expected to be closed for about three or four weeks.

It sounds very exciting and we only wish we were young enough to participate! ▲

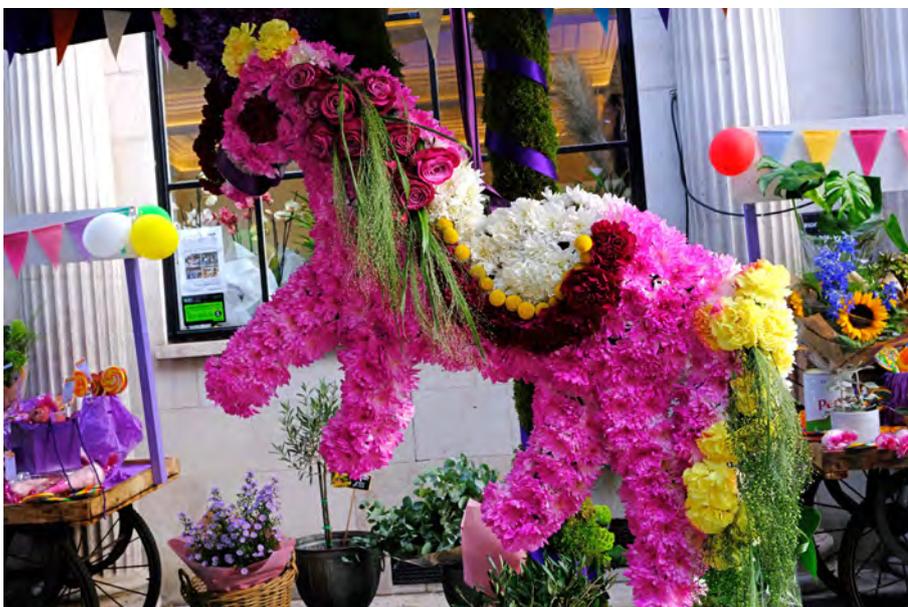
55-91 Knightsbridge

We have had it confirmed to us that the development phase of the building is now complete. Sir Robert McAlpine received Practical Completion on 3rd September. They started on site in June 2018 and the new structure is now ready for the internal fit out works. Blue Sky Building are the principal contractors for the internal fit out and APML has taken over the management of the remainder of the building. It is good to see these developments completed and the street landscape return to normal with a new building in place. ▲

BELGRAVIA IN BLOOM

Over 30 floral installations were part of the Belgravia Bloom displays this year. We include some photographs of some of the highlights, including the floral carousel in the Harkin Arcade, helter-skelter in Ecclestone Yards, and a wonderful elephant from Motcomb Street.

Many shops, hotels and restaurants have their own display. We invite you to enjoy the photographs as much as we have the originals.





GANYMEDE

A new restaurant has opened where the Ebury Wine Bar was. Although we were all sad to see it go, we should welcome the “new kid on the block” to our unique village.

The menu suggests a gourmet chef. Try it. Our Vice-Chairman recommends it – see her message (*page 3*).



ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 11

BAT (Battersea), BER (Bermondsey), BRI (Brixton), CIT (City), COV (Covent Garden), CRY (Crystal Palace), EUS (Euston), PUT (Putney), TOT (Tottenham), TWI (Twickenham)



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD

Cllr Rachel Robathan (Con)	leader@westminster.gov.uk
Cllr Tony Devenish (Con)	tony.devenish@london.gov.uk
Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock (Con)	ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no for all	020 7641 3411

Surgeries by telephone only for the time being. Please telephone 020 7641 3411.

WARWICK WARD

Cllr Christabel Flight (Con)	cflight@westminster.gov.uk
Cllr Nickie Aiken (Con)	nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk
Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson (Con)	jwilkinson@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no for Cllr Aiken	020 7641 3255
Tel no for Cllrs Flight and Wilkinson	020 7641 3411

Surgeries by telephone only until further notice. For the time being, please use telephone number 020 7641 5377.

CHURCHILL WARD

Cllr Murad Gassanly (Con)	mgassanly@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no	020 7641 5377

If you require help and/or support with a problem, email Councillor Gassanly or call at the above telephone number. Councillor Gassanly's monthly drop-in advice surgeries (City of Westminster Housing South Area Advice Centre, 137 Lupus Street, London SW1V 3HE) are currently on hold. Call or email for information.

Cllr Shamim Talukder (Lab)	stalukder@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no	020 7641 4299

Surgeries, usually held on the second Thursday of the month, 7-8pm, are currently on hold. Please call or email for updates.

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



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 76
SEPTEMBER 2021



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1168619
www.thebelgraviasociety.com