

THE

ISSUE 82 | MARCH 2022

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

BRITISH HUNTERS GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

NICKIE AIKEN MP ON WHY
WE MUST BAN TROPHY
HUNTING IMPORTS

AT YOUR SERVICE

THE WINNER OF THIS
BELGRAVIA AWARD IS
ANNOUNCED

HELP FOR UKRAINE

INFORMATION ON
HOW YOU CAN HELP



THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY 000



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

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

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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.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

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

Local Changes in Belgravia – an Update

**PAUL O'GRADY, GROSVENOR'S
DIRECTOR FOR BELGRAVIA,
HAS KINDLY PROVIDED THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

PROPOSED WORKS AT 143 EBURY STREET

This is the old Il Convivio restaurant next to Bayley and Sage, which has been vacant for some time and the building is in need of considerable attention. Grosvenor are working up plans to fully refurbish the building, which would involve a combination of internal and external works.

They don't propose any changes to the uses of either the commercial unit or residential flat and have provided an overview of the works to this Society. Substantial work is needed to rebuild the rear elevation as well as some changes to the mansard to match others along the terrace. Grosvenor will formally consult and have advised that, subject

to any comments they receive from this Society and local neighbours, they would like to submit a planning application to Westminster City Council within the next few weeks, with works due to begin in Summer this year and complete by Summer 2023.

The project will adhere to Westminster's Code of Construction Practice to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum, with any noisy works communicated to surrounding stakeholders and kept within business hours.

If you have any questions about the development, please feel free to contact us and we will discuss them with the project team.

ECCLESTON YARDS COURTYARD – SUNDAY MARKET AND EVENTS

Grosvenor already run a Sunday market and have previously held other events in the courtyard. This has included the Wimbledon Screening, Wellness Festival, film screenings, croquet and flower arranging classes. Grosvenor will be submitting a planning application to formalise these activities so they can continue to run them in the same way. This would allow Grosvenor to continue the Sunday Market between 11am-5pm.

The plan for this year is 3rd April until 26th June, not including any Bank Holiday weekends, to resume again in October.

It would also mean that Grosvenor can continue to host events like the sports screenings and wellness activities listed above. They would be required to produce a Safety Management Plan and provide security for each event in line with the existing approach.

AMIE – POP-UP WINE SHOP AND BAR

Amie will replace OverGlam for a pop-up between June-September; potentially longer if it is successful. Amie is an online wine shop that sells French vegan wine and this would be its in-person store. You can find out more about Amie at drinkamie.com.

Amie is applying for a six-month premises license to allow them to sell alcohol and host activities such as wine tasting, cheese tasting, flower arranging, etc. The space would have a maximum capacity of 30 people and any events would take place at the weekends and during the early evening.

Lindsey Harper is Grosvenor's Marketing Manager for Eccleston Yards and she has kindly offered to provide any further information (lindsey.harper@grosvenor.com). ▲



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.



Registered Charity No. 1168619

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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

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

JOIN US TODAY!

Benefits include:

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

www.thebelgrviasociety.com/online-membership-form

Please fill in the online form by clicking on the link above. Alternatively, print the application form on page 21 and post your completed form to 63 Belgravia Court, 33 Ebury Street London SW1W 0NY

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

Do you enjoy writing? We would be delighted to receive articles & short stories about Belgravia/our neighbours/London & beyond – all voluntary, of course.

Discuss your ideas with us:
info@belgrviasociety.com



WHY WE **MUST** BAN TROPHY HUNTING

BY NICKIE AIKEN MP

Lions. Rhinos. Tigers. Elephants. I know how I prefer to see them, in the wild or in a documentary, living their life as they should, free. A minority of people, however, prefer to kill them for sport. This is known as trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting is the killing of an animal for sport or pleasure in order to display part or all of its body as a trophy. It's cruel, harmful and should be stopped.

Trophy hunters are not killing problem or surplus animals, instead murdering the animals with what they believe are the most impressive traits. Things like the largest tusks or the darkest manes places an animal at risk. The act causes immense suffering and severely disrupts our natural ecosystem.

I am sickened by the photographs “hunters” post on social media, posing atop of an animal they have just shot and killed for fun. It is appalling that there is now a tradition for hunters from the UK to travel abroad to legally shoot animals and, with the right paperwork, they can then bring trophies, such as stuffed heads or horns, back to the UK.

We must do all we can to prevent this incomprehensible ‘sport’.

That’s why I’m lobbying the Government to bring forward its ban on trophy hunting imports.

The public also supports a ban with 86% of respondents to the Government's consultation in 2019 responding positively to tighter restrictions.

We led the world in 2018 by introducing the Ivory Act which brought a near-total ban on the import, export and dealing of items containing elephant ivory in the UK. The Landmark Act is helping to protect the world's elephants through the banning of sales in ivory that may contribute to poaching. We must also do more to protect other species.

As it stands, under current proposals, the Government's ban will again be one of the toughest in the world, protecting nearly 7,000 species that are either near-threatened or threatened by international trade. The last 50 years have brought a 60% decline in wildlife globally and a ban on trophy imports will help reduce the threats that many species are facing. I welcome the proposals which will be included in the forthcoming Animals Abroad Bill and I'm lobbying the Government to implement the ban without delay.

Let me know your views, and register your displeasure of the abhorrent practice of trophy hunting at nickie.news/TrophyHunting. ▲



INVITATION TO THE NEXT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

We would be delighted for you to join our video meeting. Please let us know by email if you wish to be linked in:

info@thebelgrviasociety.com

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

**Our next video meeting is
12th April 2022**

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

**BY CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN
LEADER OF WESTMINSTER CITY
COUNCIL**



Cllr Rachael Robathan

As I write this, Spring appears to be well on its way, life is returning to normal and the streets are getting busier.

That's great for the businesses and bars of Belgravia – but also sets the authority a challenge to keep the streets clean as people return. The council typically collects around 500 tonnes of waste in Westminster every day – about 1 million collections every single week. We prioritise this because we know that the cleanliness and tidiness of our streets has a huge impact on every single one of us every day. We, along with everyone who lives here, take pride in our City and it shows.

That's why we have also added extra street cleaning resource. The council has just launched an additional weekend rapid response street cleaning service for residential areas which consists of five

mobile council officers on electric bikes who can be sent straight to trouble spots.

The response has been really encouraging – with residents’ associations and amenity groups using their local networks to help us identify problems. While most London councils clean shopping streets at weekends, I’m not aware of any other boroughs providing weekend street cleansing – so I’m pretty pleased with this Westminster ‘first’. In Belgravia, specifically, we as ward Councillors, have also recently used part of our ward budget to deep clean some of our streets so that as the weather improves, the area is looking its best.

The bulky waste service has expanded its hours to make it more convenient for residents to have larger items collected and the waiting times for collections have been cut. Food waste recycling is now being rolled out across the whole of Westminster – a significant milestone given nearly a third of everything we throw away is kitchen waste. Most exciting, we are on track to have a fully electric domestic waste fleet by the autumn and this will be powered by incinerating our own waste – so not only will we be keeping our streets clean but also helping to improve the quality of air we breathe as well.

With travel restrictions lifting, visitors from the UK and abroad are back. While that’s good for the economy, it is sometimes not so good when people using short-term lets behave badly and we have had many instances of real disruption to residents across Belgravia from this. I have called on Government for there to be a full registration scheme so that councils will be able to identify those which have breached the number of nights they can let for. In addition, we are asking to have the power to fine property owners when guests dump rubbish and to “zone out” specific areas from short term lets when they are over-saturated with rental properties.

With travel restrictions lifting visitors from the UK and abroad are back

We all recognise that short term lets are a useful and affordable part of the accommodation offer, but we need the powers to manage the problem areas.

In Westminster, we continue to offer excellent services for children, vulnerable adults and those sleeping rough to make sure that we can help to support them. We also spend more on libraries per resident than any other Council. Yet we also charge the lowest council tax in the country. This is important because Council tax hits those on lower incomes disproportionately harder so, at a time when people are facing rising energy bills and inflationary pressures, we want to make sure that we continue to offer the best services for the lowest tax. ▲

Planning Advice

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



INCIDENT IN *Belgrave Square*

MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

I turned on my radio as usual in the morning and heard there was an incident in Belgrave Square. It turned out that virtue signalling squatters had broken into a house there, belonging to oligarch, Oleg Deripaska. The squatters gave themselves a name, but it is not the name I would have used for them! A banner hanging above the portico stated “this property has been liberated”. There was also a Ukrainian flag dangling from one window. However, I very much doubt that these individuals care much about Ukraine, its people, or

anyone else but themselves. They rely on being able to say to their comrades in other anarchistic communes how good they were.

There were two other banners: one so vulgar the police removed it when they managed to gain access to the property, and the other was still there when I went to see what was happening. You will be pleased to know that there are a great many oligarchs in the United Kingdom as identified by these virtue signalling

squatters. That banner read, “Power breeds parasites. All Tories are oligarchs.” This tells you all you need to know about these people. They were more interested in mob rule and anarchy than the tragedy of Ukraine.

If they really cared, they would have volunteered with refugee organisations to give practical and real help. They would be working to improve the conditions for potential refugees and finding homes for them, and work. Breaking into an oligarch’s home was just self glorifying and, given the nature of their messages, undermined any possible sympathy for their claimed case.

Not only were they meaningless in terms of their rude messages, but also wasted a huge amount of police time and energy. Between 20 and 30 police officers were present, maybe more. There were police vehicles too and the area was cordoned off. Only the press were allowed inside the cordon to take photographs. There were a great many of them as you will see in the photograph that I took (*previous page*). I will have to admit, I sneaked in amongst them. They were to be from many organisations and quite a few foreign press. I spoke to one reporter and cameraman from Canada.



Carrying out this occupation in the name of the people of Ukraine was crass, showing mindlessness, lack of intelligence or sensitivity. People of Ukraine deserve better. They are being murdered in their homes and in their cities and the infrastructure of Ukraine is being destroyed for no reason that any rational person could possibly understand.



Apparently, the owning oligarch has accused the British government of colluding with people who raided his home and failed to uphold basic laws of private property.

Tell that to the people of Ukraine. ▲



A VISIT TO

Buckingham Palace Garden

Some friends suggested getting a party together and visiting the garden at Buckingham Palace, which is open to the public. The charge is £16.50.

Those of us who live in Belgravia are very familiar with the Palace garden wall. Inside there is a 39 acre garden which boasts 325 wild plant species, 30 species of breeding birds, and over a thousand trees including 98 plane trees and 85 different species of oak.

On the way through to the garden, we were able to see the indoor riding school designed by John Nash.

One of the main features of the garden is the lake, created in the 19th century.

Originally the water was overflow from the Serpentine in Hyde Park. However, today it has its own self-regulating eco system fed from its own borehole. Natural growth of plants support the lakeside environment to flourish and offers nesting sites to a variety of waterbirds. It is home to some native birds rarely seen in London, including the common piper, sedge warbler and whitethroat.

There is a rose garden, wildflower meadow, a huge herbaceous border, many different planting beds and various garden



Mandy, our super guide

structures: the Waterloo vase, made for King George IV in Italy, is on show.

The garden was established by James I with a mulberry plantation for rearing silkworms on the site. Unfortunately, the wrong type of mulberry bush was chosen and the scheme failed. However, now the garden is home to 45 different types of mulberry trees, and it holds the National Collection of mulberries.

The building was originally the London home of the Duke of Buckingham. It was bought by George III in 1761 as a private residence. The garden was home to a collection of exotic animals including an elephant and a zebra.

It was George IV who converted the house into the Buckingham Palace that we know today. That conversion started in 1825. George appointed William Townsend Ayton from Kew Gardens to oversee the remodelling of the grounds.

Over the years, changes have been made to the garden. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth cleared many of the dense Victorian shrubberies and introduced a wide selection of decorative flowering trees and scented shrubs. Commemorative specimens have been planted by members of the Royal Family. Plantings are constantly added to by today's team of gardeners, to introduce new areas of interest and enhance historic landscaping.

We had an excellent guide who gave much information on the planting and, indeed, gardening tips.

Notwithstanding a slightly cold, dull day, it was a very enjoyable visit. It represents a wonderful oasis in the middle of a city. The visit provides a huge incentive to go back to the garden to see it in the Summer when it will be at its glorious best, which I look forward to. ▲



CONDUCTING LA TRAVIATA

Tuesday 5th April 11am-1pm

Renato Balsadonna, conductor and pianist, talks about Verdi's masterpiece which he is conducting this month at the Royal Opera House. The talk is illustrated with many beautiful arias from the opera sung by Opera Prelude's young artists.

Renato Balsadonna is an Italian symphonic and operatic conductor. He is also recognised as the most highly regarded chorus director of his generation. Born in Venice, he first worked as a répétiteur at La Fenice, Venice and Teatro Verdi, Trieste, before moving on to the post of Assistant Chorus Master in Basel. He assisted Norbert Balatsch at the Bayreuth Festival (1999/2000). Balsadonna then enjoyed a long working relationship with Sir Antonio Pappano, who appointed him Chorus Director at Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in 1997. He later joined Pappano at The Royal Opera House where he was their celebrated Chorus Director from 2004-2016. Recognised for his considerable gifts as an orchestral conductor, Balsadonna conducted a number of main stage productions at The Royal Opera House, including *I due Foscari*, *The Minotaur* and *Nabucco*.

SONG IN BLOOM

Tuesday 24 May 2022 11am-1pm

Join soprano Milly Forrest and mezzo-soprano Joanna Harries as they unfurl the beauty of flowers in song: flowers growing wild, blooming colourfully, wreathed in hair, given to lovers or perfuming the night air.

Gardens have always been an inspiration to composers, whether as locations for secret rendezvous or tranquil sanctuaries of nature and solace. With songs, arias and duets by Mozart, Handel, Schubert, Strauss, Fauré, Stenhammar, Bernstein ...and of course Delibes' famous Flower Duet from his opera *Lakmé*.

All performances are at Garrison Chapel,
Chelsea Barracks, 1 Mulberry Square,
London SW1W 8DS

Tickets £35 from Opera Prelude

www.operaprelude.org

Phone 020 7183 7323

Email events@operaprelude.org



The BTA Presents The Belgravia Jubilee Street Party

Elizabeth Street - Ebury Street - Eccleston Yards

Sunday 5th June
11am - 6pm

Closest Street Party to
Buckingham Palace

The Belgravia Traders' Association has been delighted to announce their plans for residents and visitors to spend an amazing day in Belgravia. Current sponsors include Grosvenor Estate and Roche. The Pimlico Eye and The Belgravia Society are delighted to support this event. The Committee, which comprises Angela Hay (Chairman of the BTA), Hubert Beatson-Hird (owner of the Lunar Pub Company), Helene Oratore (Vice Chairman of the Belgravia Society) and representatives from Joanna Wood, London Cryo, Atis Food, Xavier China and other local amenity groups have commenced preparations to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the grandest of styles by hosting an exceptional Street Party.

The internationally renowned interior designer, Joanne Wood and her team will be in charge of creating the look and design of the party. This will be the closest major street party to Buckingham Palace and Westminster City Council have agreed to

close some of the neighbouring streets to create an extensive pedestrianised area to enhance the experience.

Due to the anticipated popularity of the Street Party there will be a joint collaboration between Elizabeth Street, Ebury Street and Eccleston Yards. Visitors will be able to purchase specially created dishes and drinks from some of Belgravia's finest local retailers and dine at beautifully dressed trestle tables.

There will be something for everyone including music throughout the day and endless activities for children such as a fancy dress competition and face painting. Before the day, local schools will be invited to join an artwork competition celebrating the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The winners from each age group will have their creations printed on napkins.

This will be an extraordinary occasion not to be missed. **Please ensure that you save the date – Sunday 5th June.**

GROSVENOR GARDENS HOUSE



Expect many others have watched Grosvenor Gardens House slowly losing its shops and cafés and the offices becoming deserted. It has just had hoarding put around it and we now know that CIT has acquired the building. CIT is an independent private equity real estate business founded in 1995. It has been involved in a series of significant projects around London.

The whole site is formed from Eaton Lane in the North with Buckingham Palace Road to the East, Grosvenor Gardens to the South and Beeston Place to the West. It is a grade II listed building built in the latter half of the 19th century and designed by Thomas Cundy. It was designed as a block of serviced flats and had shops at street level. The building was built in a French Renaissance style, and became a hotel in

the 1920s. It has been gradually vacated and the last of the occupants have now gone.

The CIT Project are planning to deliver a residential block of 42 flats with retail uses on its ground floor. The new private flats will have underground parking for them in the basement. The façade is to be refurbished facing onto Grosvenor Gardens. Shops and retail premises will be on the ground floor and there will be improvements to the public realm at Eaton Lane and Grosvenor Gardens.

The contractors are Ardmore Group and work has now started. It will take almost two years to complete with practical completion expected in early 2024. It will be great to have this beautiful building restored and occupied. ▲



Battersea Power Station

– NEW MINI TOWN

This iconic power station was built from 1929 onwards and, at its peak, supplied one-fifth of London's electricity. I can remember that it also supplied the heating to council properties on the other side of the Thames. It was decommissioned partly in 1975 and then completely in 1983 and laid derelict for many years. It is a Grade II listed building. The station is one of the world's largest brick buildings, and is notable for its art deco design.

The building was unused for the best part of 30 years and English Heritage listed it on its 'At Risk' register. There were schemes for developing it that failed, mostly for financial reasons. The writer can recall that it was used intermittently by various companies for commercial projects. One including hiring out part of the building for entertainment parties.

For more information and history on its intermediate use, there is great deal on Wikipedia.

Successive owners had proposals for the building but most failed, and it remained empty into 2014.

In 2012, administrators entered into an exclusivity agreement with Malaysia's SP Setia and Sime Darby to develop the site. The plans were approved and redevelopment commenced a few years later.

The overall project is divided into eight phases, with each designed by a range of specialist architects. The first chapter of the development, Circus West Village, was completed in 2017 and is now home to over 1,800 residents, as well as an eclectic mix of bars, restaurants and leisure facilities, including a cinema and theatre.

The development is now in its second phase and will open to the public later this year. Battersea Power Station's announcement of the first wave of eateries has been made and tells us from September 2022 visitors can enjoy a mix of British and international cuisine.



The Power Station will deliver 254 residential flats as well as over a hundred retail shops (it is not entirely clear from information available whether this is just phase 2 only). There will be office and new event spaces and one special addition to the activities – a lift to the top of the Power Station’s north-west chimney to deliver the “Chimney Lift Experience” offering 360° views some 350 ft (109 m) at the top of the chimney. There will also be 19 acres of public space.

The new offerings of eateries will complement the 14 bars and restaurants at Circus West Village, including the authentic Malaysian restaurant, Roti King. Following the opening of Street Pizza in Circus West Village at the foot of the Power Station, Gordon Ramsay will be opening a Bread Street Kitchen & Bar outside the building. Battersea Power Station’s food and drink offering will be located in the Turbine Halls and Boilerhouse. There will be a 20,000 ft² food hall offering all-day dining and opening in the Boilerhouse, and well-known retailers will be opening their doors in 2023 in Turbine Hall B.

The development will be serviced by a Zone 1 extension to the London Underground Northern line.

It may have taken many years to get as far as this and there is still much to be done, however, it does seem that this is the most suitable site and the proposals are entirely in keeping with the 21st century and the creation of more homes, offices, retail shops and jobs. ▲

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.

BELGRAVIA AWARDS REPORT

FROM MARINA KALOGHIROU

The winner of

~ *At Your Service* ~

DENNIS MYRIE



Beverly Williams and Dennis Myrie

I met Dennis Myrie more than thirty years ago when he first started to work as the Royal Mail postman in our part of Belgravia. He'd often say he felt privileged to serve our community because he found people here respected him, appreciated the service he provided and always had a smile on their faces when greeting him and saying "good morning".

Dennis speaks well of our community, about all of us, his customers. It's because his cheerful and kind manner inspires us to reciprocate in the same way. Not only is he respectful and friendly towards us, but

above all he discharges his responsibilities as our postman with admirable efficiency.

His valued service has passed the test of time and I would wholeheartedly say, that the "At Your Service" Award 2022 could not have been given to a more worthy deserving nominee.

Well done, Dennis. Congratulations. ▲

And from Dennis Myrie:

Thank you very much, Marina, for nominating me. Just a smile and a thank you would have been enough. BUT to receive an award - WOW!

An even BIGGER thank you to the Belgravia community for recognising me. Whilst I have always enjoyed my job, having this award will make it more enjoyable.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

*Your Postman,
DENNIS*

HELP FOR UKRAINE



Following feedback from local residents, Grosvenor has linked up with the Ukrainian Social Club opposite the Ukrainian Embassy in Holland Park. Grosvenor has checked with them to see what are the needs of Ukraine and offer their support.

We are very supportive of this initiative and hope that our members and subscribers will offer their help too. Seeing the news reports of the destruction, injury and death of so many civilians as well as the brave Ukrainian combatants in the unjustified war, we cannot stand by and do nothing.

If you would like to donate an item from the list below, please drop it off at St Paul's Knightsbridge, 32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH between 9am-5pm, Monday-Sunday. You can deliver items here from Monday 28th March to Wednesday 13th April.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Food (canned, cereals, pasta, dry mixtures, long-lasting baby food)
- Medicine (stretchers, antibiotics, medical spirit, hydrogen peroxide, patches, cotton wool, medical harnesses, tourniquets; see more medical equipment below)

- Baby nappies, baby wipes, women pads, sudocream, cotton nappies
- New or used military clothing and (military boots, helmets, body armour, fire resistant clothes and gloves, big army backpacks)
- Batteries, power banks, adapter cords, torches, flashlights, headlights, generators
- Sleeping bags, camping/yoga mats, warm blankets
- No more clothes and shoes (other than military clothing as listed)

OTHER MEDICAL DONATIONS:

- Hemostatic tourniquet
- Bandages: wrist, shoulder, thigh, ankle, elbow of different sizes and
- Different sizes and width bandages
- Surgical post-operative patches
- Sterile gloves
- Celox
- Immobilisation plates for structures
- Post-operative belts
- Shank and other collars
- Tutors (gypsum)
- Corsets on the lumbosacral region
- Water purification tablets
- Revision desert locust for army



If you are not able to donate any of the items requested, then do donate money. There are many charities who have appeals.

A major charity is the Disasters Emergency Committee – Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, who have all the expertise in distributing funds. You will find their details and many more on the internet.

This war is not simply about Ukraine. If Putin succeeds in destroying a sovereign independent state, it will not be the last. ▲



NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL AND OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA WARD



Elizabeth
Hitchcock



Rachael
Robathan



Tony
Devenish

PIMLICO NORTH TEAM



Jim Glen



Ed Pitt Ford



Cllr Jacqui
Wilkinson

STREET CLEANING



Wards throughout Westminster have an annual ward budget and funds from it are used to carry out extra work or provide extra services in a particular ward. You may have noticed some extra cleaning taking place around Knightsbridge and Belgravia. This Spring cleaning of our streets is paid for by the ward budget which all Councillors have approved. Councillor Rachael Robathan said, "We know the cleanliness of our streets is extremely important. Covering many streets from Montpeliers and Trevors to Ebury Street, this will be a good start to the Spring."

MONITORING DEVELOPMENT (NOISE)



Noting all the problems that we have when developments take place, especially noise as well as non-compliance with delivery requirements, dust and pollution, Knightsbridge and Belgravia has a dedicated officer. She is Rishma Sangha and will ensure protection for residents from developers and contractors who are not obeying the rules and also to ensure that planning consent conditions are complied with. Cllr Hitchcock tells us, "Rishma is incredibly responsive and quick to pick up on any breaches of planning conditions and she has been out meeting local people and hearing their concerns about nearby construction."

WCC recognises how important it is to engage with the local community and listen to our views and benefit from the insight. WCC has launched a new planning guidance when it comes to early community engagement. It is aimed at setting out what WCC expect from applicants and developers at an early stage promoting best practise.

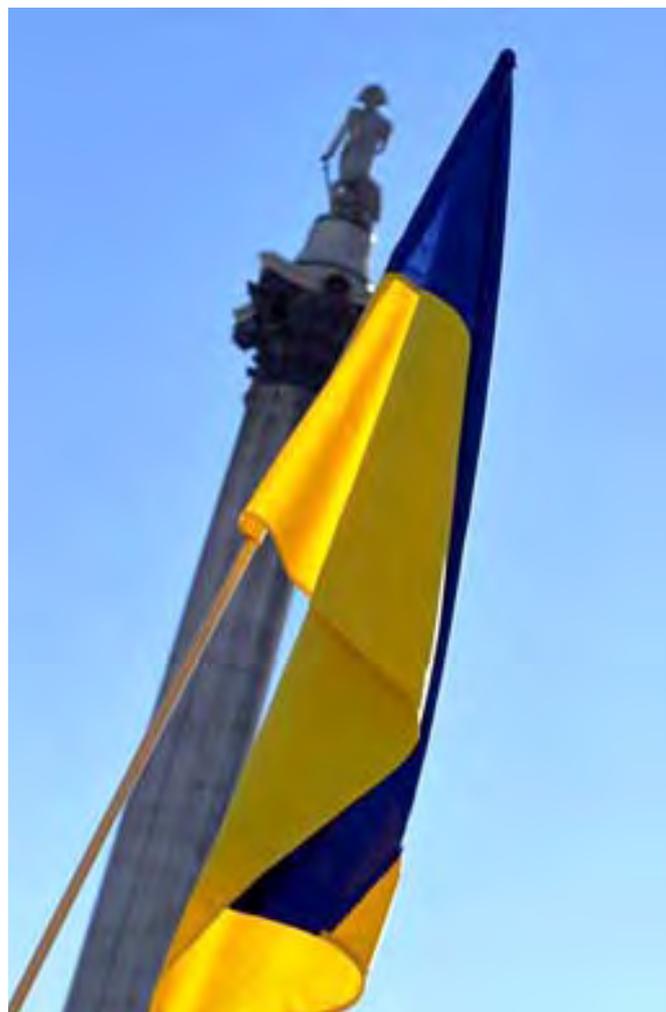
SUPPORTING THOSE ON LOW INCOMES

We understand that WCC recognises the difficult times ahead and how much the cost of living crisis causing difficulties for some families. Westminster has some of the most generous council tax support in the country. 14% of people in Westminster pay no council tax at all. The amount of support given depends on individual circumstances. This can apply even when the property is owned by the taxpayer. In some cases, no council tax is payable at all. However, this relief does not cover the Mayor of London's precept which has gone up over 8% this coming year. Westminster has frozen the actual council tax itself this year. An incredible figure of 43% has been added to the Mayor's demand since he was elected in 2016.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

At the last full council of the current council cycle, Westminster's City Councillors came together to show their support for the people of Ukraine. At the start of the meeting, Westminster's Lord Mayor read out the following statement:

"Tonight, this Council is of one mind. Westminster City Councillors, cross party, are united in condemning the invasion of Ukraine, and in expressing our deepest sympathies and solidarity for the people of Ukraine.



We share the global outrage sparked by this attack on democracy, on a peaceful nation, which has already caused senseless deaths and may yet cost many more lives. This undermining of a sovereign nation state shatters the security and peace that the Ukrainian people worked so hard to build.

We, in Westminster, together across the political divide, unreservedly condemn the invasion of Ukraine. To our Ukrainian residents in Westminster we say: this Council is here for you during these difficult times. We will do all we can to provide support wherever possible, to keep you informed, and to join you in praying that a sovereign and independent Ukraine may very soon be restored." ▲



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.

Cllr Liza Begum (Lab)	lbegum@westminster.gov.uk
Tel no	020 7641 5377

Cllr Begum invites you to follow her on [Twitter](#). She can also be found on Facebook.

Postal address for all Councillors:	Westminster City Hall 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP
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Registered Charity No: 1168619
An amenity society recognised by the City of Westminster

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name email

Second name (if any) email

Address.....

.....

Telephone: Home..... Work

Mobile Date

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

Signature(s):

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

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

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

- Today In the past 4 years In the future



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

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

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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 82
MARCH 2022



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1168619

www.thebelgraviasociety.com