

THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME

MARY REGNIER-LEIGH
EXAMINES THE PRIME
MERIDIAN & GREENWICH

AFFECTIONATE NAMES IN BELGRAVIA

JOE BRIGGS LOOKS AT THE
HISTORY BEHIND OUR BUILDINGS

NEW LONDON MUSEUM

A WORLD-CLASS CULTURAL
DESTINATION COMING TO
SMITHFIELD





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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.

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

www.thebelgraviasociety.com

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VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

RETURN TO THE NEW NORMAL

On Tuesday 19th October The Belgravia Society was invited by Grosvenor to attend the launch of Belgravia's first dedicated forest school. The new outdoor classroom in Belgrave Square Gardens is designed to be used by local primary schools, residents and community groups.

Paul O'Grady, Grosvenor's Location Director, Belgravia, presented the project and explained that it was part of Grosvenor's effort to provide outside classrooms to help spread the story about biodiversity, environmental sustainability and the positive impact green spaces have on our wellbeing.

Councillor Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council, officially opened the classroom, along with pupils from St Banrabs School. Our Member of Parliament Nickie Aiken was also present.

The classroom has been built almost entirely from reclaimed, sustainable materials including a new beehive and bug hotel. Simon Lewis, Grosvenor's Landscape Manager was keen to explain that his team had built the classroom after working hours and during the weekends; a real labour of love.

The project is truly excellent and the enjoyment of the local school children, who attended the opening, was testimony to all the hard work. Well done, Grosvenor.



Whilst Grosvenor did ensure the safety of attendees and the event followed the relevant Government social distancing and hygiene guidelines, it is so easy to fall into old habits and not wear a mask (we were in the open) and shake hands. It was a very pleasant event. Mary, our editor, was active with her camera, the sun was shining and it was a great opportunity to meet old friends. After such a long time of only seeing each other virtually, we were back to normal.

However, the next day I received an email explaining that one of the attendees had tested positive for COVID-19 and some were tested to be on the safe side but there were no positive results. It was a reality check and made me understand how different the outcome could have been, and the fact that normal has changed. ▲

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

BY NICKIE AIKEN MP



The Online Safety Bill is about to begin its journey through Parliament. I certainly welcome the Bill and what it aims to do to hold social media companies to account for the content they allow on their platform. One area I would also like the Bill to cover is protection against online fraud, including scam and fraudulent messages.

I absolutely believe that life on the internet should be as safe as our lives offline and I recently met Damian Collins MP, Chair of the Committee on the Online Safety Bill, to discuss enhancing the Bill to include fraud and am delighted that he agreed to seriously consider my asks.

The National Cyber Security Centre and City of London Police, both of which are based in my constituency, lead the entire nation's fight against cybercrime. During my Tour of Two Cities over the summer, I visited both to see more of their work and I hope I can secure more powers and resources to continue tackling this abhorrent act.

Staggeringly, the City of London Police believe that £183.9 million was lost to cheque, plastic and online bank account fraud in the last year. A shocking figure, which has increased by 14% on the previous year.

UK Finance, meanwhile, reports during the first half of 2021, £355.3 million was lost to authorised push payment scams – a bank transfer scam.

Many Belgravia Society readers have got in touch regarding the fraudulent messages, emails and calls from individuals purporting to be from their bank or well-known companies such as Amazon, DPD, Royal Mail and even HMRC, where they ask you to click on a link which goes on to ask for your bank details. These messages are fraud, and I encourage everyone to forward scam texts to 7726 or forward phishing emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

Life on the internet should mirror what is and what is not acceptable offline. Our digital safety is just as important as our physical safety.

Across government, there is a growing realisation of the spread and depth of the harm caused by fraud. As the legislation progresses, I will continue to update you on this important matter. ▲

If I can help with any issue, please do not hesitate to email me at:
nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk

Follow me **@TwoCitiesNickie** on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

UPDATE FROM CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For most people their first daily contact with the council begins when they open the front door. Are the streets clean? Are they noisy? Is this a pleasant place to live? At City Hall, this is priority number one for us.

First, **noise**: I know car noise – particularly anti-social revving – can be an issue. To tackle this problem we have placed an acoustic camera on Exhibition Road at the junction with Prince Consort Road and a second is being installed at Waterloo Place. The Council has also just closed a consultation on obtaining a public space protection order which will give us more powers to enforce against the perpetrators.

Clean streets: we collect more than 180,000 tonnes of waste every year with crews out every day, and that collection will be cleaner than ever before with an ever expanding fleet of electric-powered vehicles. The Council will be charging those vehicles using the power generated from processing Westminster's household waste – so your rubbish will be the driving power behind our bin crews.

While we do our best to keep the streets clean, waste dumping is an issue. Please let us know if a problem area comes to light, and we will sort it as soon as possible.



Rachael Robathan

Electric vehicles brings me neatly to our programme to roll out EV charging points. So far we have installed 1,000 with another 500 on the way – making us a UK leader in this technology.

A quick update on **al fresco dining**: can I thank all those who contributed to the consultation with strong support overall and also some really helpful suggestions on how the schemes can work even better. It's a basic pillar of our approach to al fresco dining that it doesn't continue unless local people are happy, so your feedback is invaluable.

Finally, it was my pleasure to open the new Forest School at Belgrave Square. Built by Grosvenor Britain and Ireland, this delightful area allows local schoolchildren to engage with nature – whether that's bees, bugs or worms. The green and clean action we take now will shape the world these children inherit, so this is playtime with a serious purpose. ▲

AFFECTIONATE NAMES IN BELGRAVIA

BY JOE BRIGGS



Seaford House

Seaford House at 37 Belgrave Square was previously known as “Sefton House”. It was built in 1842 for Charles Molyneux, 3rd Earl of Sefton, and designed by Philip Hardwick. The house was renamed Seaford House after it was acquired by Lord Howard de Walden, Baron Seaford, in 1902. The Seftons and the Seafords are long gone and it is now home to the Royal College of Defence Studies. Perhaps today it should be called “Defence House”?

Forbes House at 10 Halkin Street was previously known as “Mortimer House”. It was built by Edward Harley, 3rd Earl of Oxford and Earl Mortimer. It was renamed Forbes House after it was acquired by Bernard Forbes, 8th Earl of Granard. It might affectionately be known as “Doris House”, given that Doris Day sang “Que Sera Sera” in the ballroom of the house in Alfred Hitchcock’s 1956 film “The Man Who

Knew Too Much”. Perhaps today it should be called “Qatari House”?

The Lanesborough Hotel at Hyde Park Corner once housed the St George’s Hospital. Before that it was known as “Lanesborough House”, home to the Viscounts Lanesborough. The old “Lanesborough House” was itself built on the site of the original “Tattersalls” racehorse auctioneer, not far from the base for the Household Cavalry. Perhaps today the hotel should be called “Horse Lanes Hotel”?

The Spanish Embassy at 24 Belgrave Square was previously known as “Downshire House”. It was built in 1840 by Henry Kendall and it became the home of Lord Pirrie, a famous shipbuilder who helped Mr Ismay design HMS Titanic. Perhaps today it should be called “Titanic House”?

40 Grosvenor Place was redeveloped in 2001 and it became known as “Enron House” as it was the British HQ of the former American energy and commodities company. It was previously known as “Hobart House” when it was the HQ of the National Coal Board. Today it forms part of the new Cleveland Clinic. Perhaps this collection of buildings is destined to become affectionately known as “Cleveland Corner”?

One of the oldest rows of houses in Belgravia is 162 to 192 Ebury Street which used to be known as “Five Fields Row”. Today this row is affectionately known as “Mozart Terrace” as a tribute to Mozart, who lived at 180 Ebury Street for two months in 1764. In 1914, Edwin Lutyens combined numbers 180 and 182 into one house that became the home of the famous Sackville-West gardeners. Perhaps today the row should be called “Mozart Gardens”?

Just along from Mozart Terrace is Orange Square. It’s not very orange and it’s not very square, and it was previously known



A map showing the original Hobart House from 1950

as “Pimlico Green” before it was renamed after The Orange pub. The local Saturday farmers market is a reminder that this area was once an old village green. Perhaps old and new should merge and we should call it “Orange Green” (or simply “Brown”, for short)? ▲

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. ▲

THE GREENWICH MERIDIAN — WHY GREENWICH?

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

Long term readers of this magazine will recall from time to time (no pun intended) seeing articles on measurement of time and timepieces. This is because your editor is fascinated by the concept of time, how it is calculated, how long minutes and years are, etc. Time and its passage is fundamental to travel and communications.

Ships rely on charts and as trade increased so did the importance of calculating routes and time around the world. A universally agreed meridian was needed.

The Royal Observatory in Greenwich was first established in 1851. By 1888 over two thirds of all ships used the Greenwich Meridian on their charts and maps as the Prime Meridian for calculating position. The United States arranged an international Meridian Conference to agree that the Greenwich Meridian would become the Prime Meridian internationally recognised due to its already popular use. It was agreed by all except France which abstained from the vote and French maps continued to use the Paris Meridian for several decades.



*The Greenwich
Meridian Line*



The Prime Meridian is the starting point for calculating the world's time zones starting the internationally agreed Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) as well. This establishes the international dateline.

All countries and regions measure the time zones according to UTC. There are 24 time zones in the world. The longitude is made up of 360 individual lines spaced round the world. So the halfway point from the Prime Meridian is 180 longitude lines away and it is the line which is the International dateline. If you are going West, you add a day, or going East you subtract one. Those of us who watch New Year celebrations on television

Left: Standard time zones in the USA

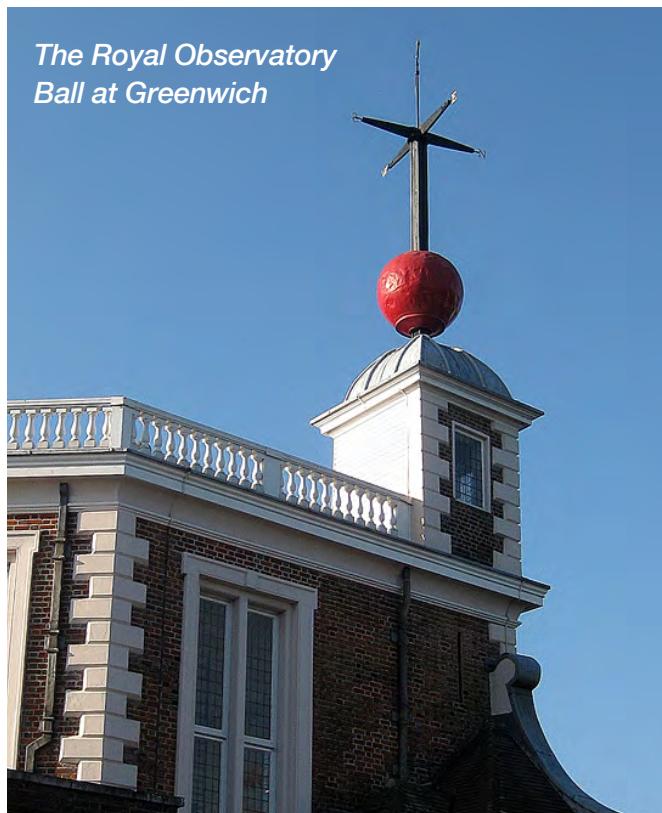
Above: World time zones

on New Year's Eve, watch midnight in New Zealand come to us via the Far East and Europe through the time zones.

You would think, that the lines of longitude to create 24 time zones would all be exactly following straight lines. In fact, they do not. For convenience of sovereign states, or very large countries, the actual time zone used means that the lines are a move one way or another to convenience the people who live in them.

The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich is to spend £4.5 million on a revamp of the Royal Observatory. The project is scheduled for completion by 2025 and will improve visitor facilities to see the historic astronomical and navigational complex. The Museum straddles the Prime Meridian and you can see its exact position in the photograph.

The bright red ball illustrated is one of the earliest public time indicators, signalling time to ships on the Thames and many Londoners. It rises to the top and, at 1pm exactly, the ball falls. ▲



CORRECTION

Your Editor apologises to Clare Tollemache for misspelling her name in our last issue in her article about photography. Do look at her website www.claretollemachephoto.com and enjoy some of her lovely pictures.

THE INFANTRY, THE RIFLES AND BELGRAVIA

PART 2
BY VINCENT ORATORE



Duchess of Cornwall is the Colonel in Chief of the Rifles

There are many interesting facts about the Rifles but given the limitations on the length of this article I would mention two.

The Regimental motto of today's RIFLES is 'Swift and Bold', coming from the latin Celer et Audax, taken from a quote by General James Wolf when referring to the actions of another RIFLES antecedent Regiment, the 60th Regiment later Kings Royal Rifle Corps. The swiftness is evidenced by the marching pace which is 140 paces to the minute instead of the army standard of 120. Famously General 'Black Bob' Craufurd's Light Brigade, (nucleus for the famous Light Division of the Peninsular War formed in 1811), marched to the Battle of Talavera (27-28 July 1809) covering 62 miles in 26 hours. As a feat of marching, this compares favourably with the endurance march forming part of today's special

forces selection, which is 64km (40 miles) in 20 hours. The Endurance test is individual effort, and does of course include Land Navigation, and whilst Craufurd's march was conducted on roads to Talavera, it involved the keeping together a formed body of troops some 4000 strong.

The Regimental day of the Rifles is 22nd July, anniversary of the battle of Salamanca, 22nd July 1812. All forming Regiments of the Rifles, had antecedents who distinguished themselves at that battle, often referred to as Wellington's finest victory. The Rifle Brigade War Memorial was unveiled on 25th July 1925, no coincidence, as it was the nearest Saturday to Salamanca Day, Regimental Day of the Rifle Brigade. It is also no coincidence that the statue of Achilles at the other end of Grosvenor Place is cast in part from cannon captured at Salamanca on that fateful day, as it is a monument raised in honour of Wellington by a Grateful Nation which lists his victories, among them Salamanca.

So, when passing The Rifle Brigade Memorial, you may care to give it a glance and reflect on the sacrifices made by the soldiers of The Rifles and their forebears, and our continuing debt to them.

We are grateful to the RIFLES regiment for the review of, and comments on, this article. ▲

Editor's Note:

We inadvertently gave Vincent Oratore a first name of Oliver in our last Magazine for September. We unreservedly apologise for the error, now corrected.



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

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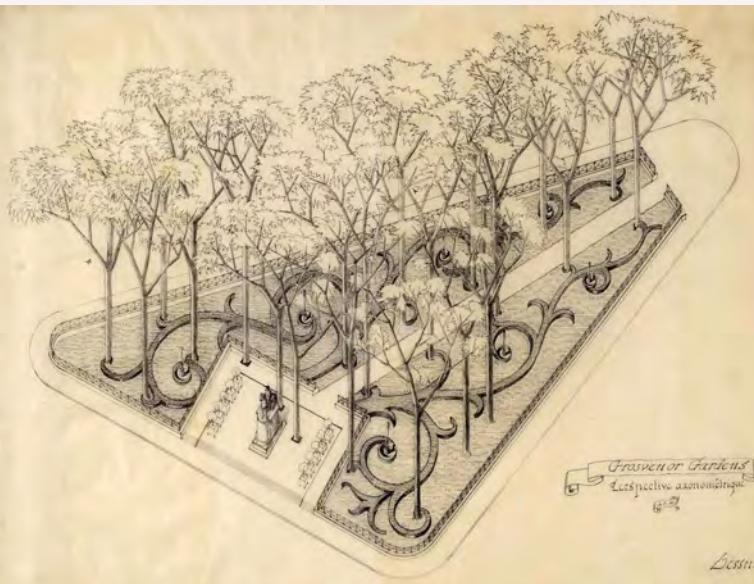
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London SW1W 0NY



The 'French garden'

BELGRAVANT-GARDE

BY PETER WEYTH



Victoria Station is not the place you might expect to find avant-garde French design. On the north side of Buckingham Palace Road, just within Belgravia borders, there is a statue to Marechal Foch, hero of the Great War, facing the station, and behind him is Grosvenor Gardens (South).

The triangular green space was in a poor state by the end of the Second War, when it had various sheds plonked on its grasses and, known as 'the French garden', the French embassy took up the idea of a full redesign, appointing Jean-Charles Moreux,

French architect and garden-designer. He began work on the design and the garden was reopened by the French Ambassador in 1952.

Moreux was born at the Chateau de Joncy in the Loire, studied at the Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Paris, organised 'The Art of French Gardens' exhibition, and was then commissioned to design the Square des Gobelins garden in Paris. In 1946 he was appointed Chief Architect of Civic Buildings and National Palaces, and numbered among his clients Robert de Rothschild, the couturiers Jacques Doucet and Raphael, the Princesse de Polignac, Vicomte Charles de Noailles, the novelist Colette, and the Louvre, and designed the interior of the French Institute library in South Kensington.

He became friends with the architect Jean Lurcat and his brother Andre, the tapestry-designer, and represented a rigorous and poetic 'New classicism', also drawing upon baroque and rococo style, as he was anxious to introduce elements of 'the marvellous' into design.

Moreux distinguished himself by designing public gardens that combined geometric structures influenced by Art Deco and the Industrial Revolution, with whimsical, illusionistic devices like oversize columns and mirrors.

To suggest the spirit of France, he chose an arabesque pattern set among the existing trees, symmetrically arranged along a central axis extending from the Foch statue to the opposite end of the site, curls reminiscent of Andre Lurcat's rejuvenation of French tapestry.

His original design the triangle of lawn was embroidered with a 'double palm' pattern of boxwood, terminated by jets of water. Those vertical accents created two perspective lines, emphasised by the



Jean-Charles Moreux

reducing height of the jets from base of the triangular site to its top.

To save costs, Moreux substituted conical yews for the jets of water, but neither option was carried out. Instead, flat circular flower beds rather weakened the intended optical illusion and the boxwood pattern became a paved path, which Moreux insisted contain only one type of flower 'in the spirit of Le Notre' (designer of the gardens at Versailles).

His aim was a curving foliage pattern seen through a filigreed fence as suitable backdrop to the Foch statue, and representing 'the vigour and beauty of French gardens across past centuries', in line with the belief that there was no modernity without tradition.

Lacking green space, it would be great to gain support from BID Victoria, Westminster Council and particularly the French Embassy, to finally install Moreux's full and most ambitious design. ▲

PLANNING ADVICE

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



NEW MUSEUM OF LONDON

The possibility of having a new world class London museum has been under discussion for some years. It was first discussed in 2015. The City of London Corporation asked the Mayor's office to consider whether the market buildings at the western end of Smithfield might make an appropriate site for the new museum. An appraisal concluded it would.

In 2016 an international architectural competition was held to choose the architect for the design. Architects have been chosen and it is hoped their melding of sympathetic approach to the buildings with their ideas will deliver an exciting and contemporary intervention in keeping with the Smithfield conservation area and Poultry Market's Grade II listing.



Continued from page 14

It is amazing that although this great city of ours already has a museum with a huge collection, incredibly, the access is not even at street level; it is not easy to get to. No doubt it is now going through de-colonialization and memorial/statue removal too, so the “snowflakes” amongst us will not be offended by what we see or hear. Hopefully, not too much of our history – good and bad – will be removed.

The new proposed sites will offer so much more apart from giving it street level access. The space will be much improved offering the opportunity to create new galleries, exhibitions and events. The accessibility and transport will be hugely better when the Elizabeth line opens and will carry many more visitors. The area will become a destination for locals and tourists alike. The Museum of London wants to see a world-class cultural destination in West Smithfield.

The Corporation of London has made an investment into the project of £197m of the £337 million needed to deliver the scheme. A contribution capped at £70 million was also announced by the Mayor of London in January 2017. Other funding has been promised. We understand that there was a planning application in 2019. Given the timing, it seems the ambitious plan has been delayed owing to the pandemic. We now must await events. The current museum does not really offer the experience or knowledge of this great city. How long we have to wait for the new museum remains an open question. The issue of finance available will also have to be considered and updated. ▲



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.

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

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”.

COUNCILLORS' CORNER

**OUR COUNCILLORS FROM KNIGHTSBRIDGE & BELGRAVIA AND
WARWICK WARDS HAVE BEEN KEEPING US FULLY INFORMED ABOUT
WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN WESTMINSTER**

KENSINGTON & BELGRAVIA WARD



Elizabeth Hitchcock



Rachael Robathan



Tony Devenish

WARWICK WARD



Christabel Flight



Jacqui Wilkinson



Nickie Aiken

Supercars – We have heard many residents complaining about the noise made by brainless drivers of super cars. A real step forward has been taken in the effort to crack down on super cars and other noisy vehicles with the introduction of acoustic cameras in key locations, including Exhibition Road. Consultation has just concluded which should enable enforcement to start shortly.

On the cameras, Cllr Rachael Robathan said, “Noisy vehicles in our residential areas have long been a problem disrupting life for local people. I hope this will prove a really effective way of enabling us to tackle this going forward.”

Street waste – Our Councillors tell us that keeping Westminster's streets clean is a huge undertaking. Refuse teams are out 24 hours a day, removing in the region of 450 tonnes of refuse from our City's streets.

Unlike our neighbouring boroughs, WCC have maintained at least three bin collections a week – one recycling and

two general waste – with far more in a number of areas. Let us know about any street problems in Westminster, such as fly tipping, potholes, abandoned vehicles or graffiti by clicking on the ‘Report It’ button below:

REPORT IT

Improving Air Quality – For many years Westminster City Council has made improving air quality a top priority. WCC has more electric vehicle charging points than any other London Borough and the Council launched its #DontBeldle campaign to discourage drivers from engine idling.

Currently, the Council is also calling on the Department of Transport to make replacing the diesel trains that operate out of Marylebone Station with hybrid ones a stipulation of Chiltern Trains' new contract to run the line. Council Leader Cllr Rachael Robathan (pictured) met with local air quality activists in Marylebone earlier this month.

Continued from page 16

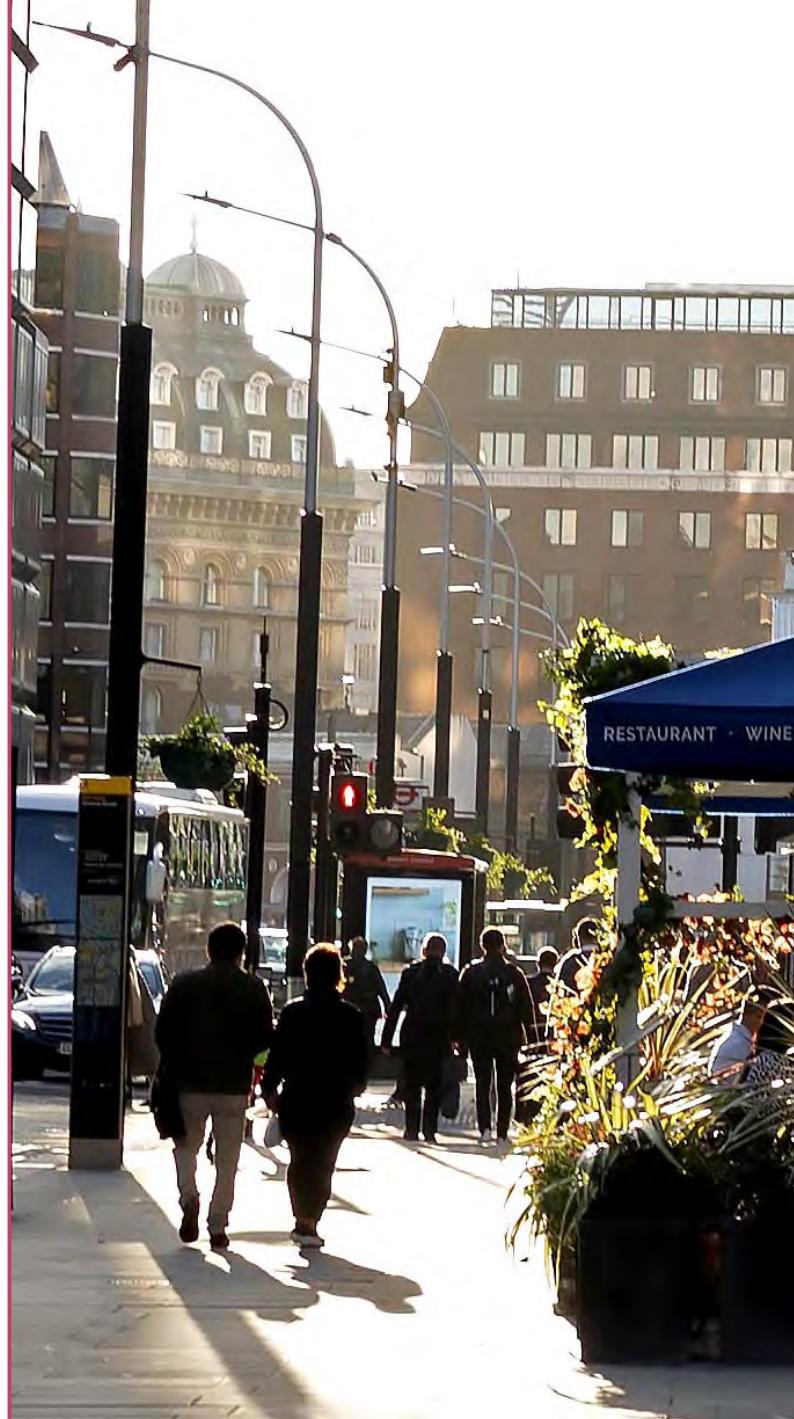
PIMLICO/CHURCHILL WARD

Cllr Gassanly is in the process of visiting all households in the Ward, going door-to-door and picking up concerns to help to address them as soon as possible. He is also carrying out weekly walkabouts around south Pimlico to identify outstanding communal repairs, incidents of fly-tipping and dumping, and reporting them to the Council.

CHURCHILL GARDENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 70TH ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST



Cllr Gassanly invited the outgoing Lord Mayor Cllr Jonathan Glanz and Lady Mayoress (all pictured above) to the celebrations of the Anniversary. It was a wonderful community event which included a summer fête, music and food festival, children's entertainment, and much more. Many local community groups took part. ▲



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
9th November**



In 2012, Westminster Cllr Christabel Flight and local charity the Sir Simon Milton Foundation launched Silver Sunday. Silver Sunday has since grown to become a nationwide annual event.

Christabel set up Silver Sunday in 2012 following a report which found that more than a third of people aged over 75 said they were lonely. In 2019 well over 1,200 free events took place across the country ranging from walking, sports tournaments, dances, art classes, metal workshops, yoga, boat trips, cultural experiences, dementia-friendly concerts and activities for the house-bound. This year they held a range of events that were safely socially distanced and used technology for at home or virtual activities.

The day celebrates the value that older people bring to communities across the UK. This year's event was on Sunday 3rd October. Throughout the day elderly people across the City as well as around the country enjoyed a range of fun and free activities.

Silver Sunday is part of the ethos of Westminster.



Christabel, a Councillor for Warwick Ward and old peoples' champion for many years, has been honoured with a Points of Light Award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers – people who are making a change in their community. It is given for volunteers throughout the Commonwealth.

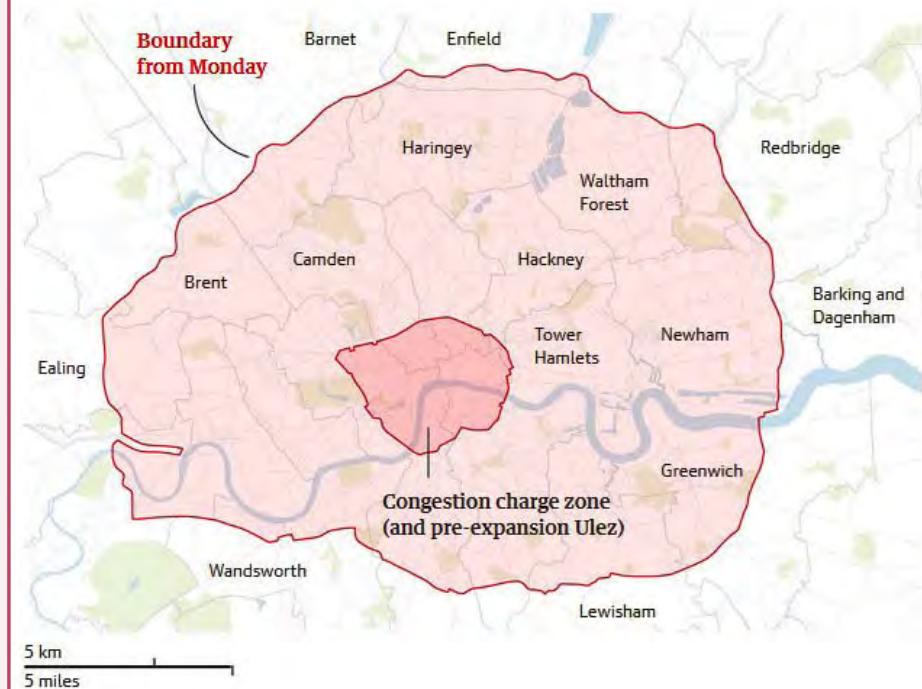
Our own committee member, Marina Kaloghirou, reports from the event in Eaton Square: "I have a special date in my diary for the first Sunday of October being Silver Sunday. In each year, for the past several years, with much anticipation, I arranged a tea party in the memory of my mother, Galateia Kaloghirou. This year the celebrations were particularly poignant, coming out of restrictions, compliments of the pandemic.

The delight on people's faces was palpable, meeting with their old friends again and making new ones on the day. Crossing the generations, youngsters joined in the party as well. From the youngest, Tatiana Bromet, age two, who came with her mother, Eloise, and grandmother, Dame Antoinette Sibley, to the very popular Valentina and Alexander, each one nine years of age, who generously were handing out to the guests chocolates and goody bags with Floris scent. It was all so very enjoyable and we hope to meet again celebrating it next year." ▲

ULEZ

Do not forget that the expanded ULEZ zone established by TfL and the London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, came into effect Monday 25th October. Vehicles to be hit by the ULEZ charge of £12.50/day are likely to be petrol cars prior to 2005 and diesel prior to 2015. Buses and HGVs will have to pay £100/day. See the plan of the area which now covers the whole of London up to, but not including the North and South Circular roads themselves. ▲

London's ultra-low emission zone will extend to the North Circular and South Circular roads from Monday



E-CARGOBIKES

These are bicycles powered by the rider with an electric motor as well and come in all sizes. They can take small or relatively large loads and have the huge advantage of being eco friendly, not adding emissions to the atmosphere and polluting our streets.

£400,000 has been made available by the Department for Transport in 2021/22 for the purchase of eCargo bikes, to support businesses switching to a sustainable transport solution. See [energysavingtrust.org.uk](https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).

Funds are available subject to various conditions and limits. Belgravia retailers who have not yet put in any applications may have missed the bus. This would be a pity when some drastic action needs to be taken within Belgravia to improve air quality. There was a previous round of financing being offered in late 2019 but this was for Public Authorities only and the application



by Westminster Council was not successful. There is clearly a strong interest and demand for this since the Energy Saving Trust has just made an additional entry on their website saying:

“Due to the high volume of applications we are currently processing, the eCargo Bike Grant Fund 2021/22 application portal is temporarily closed. Applicants can still access the portal to check their application status and new users can still sign up to register interest. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.”

We can only hope that this will give all our traders who can benefit the opportunity of applying if they have not already. We would all welcome a reduction in the pollution of our streets. ▲



NICKIE AIKEN MP

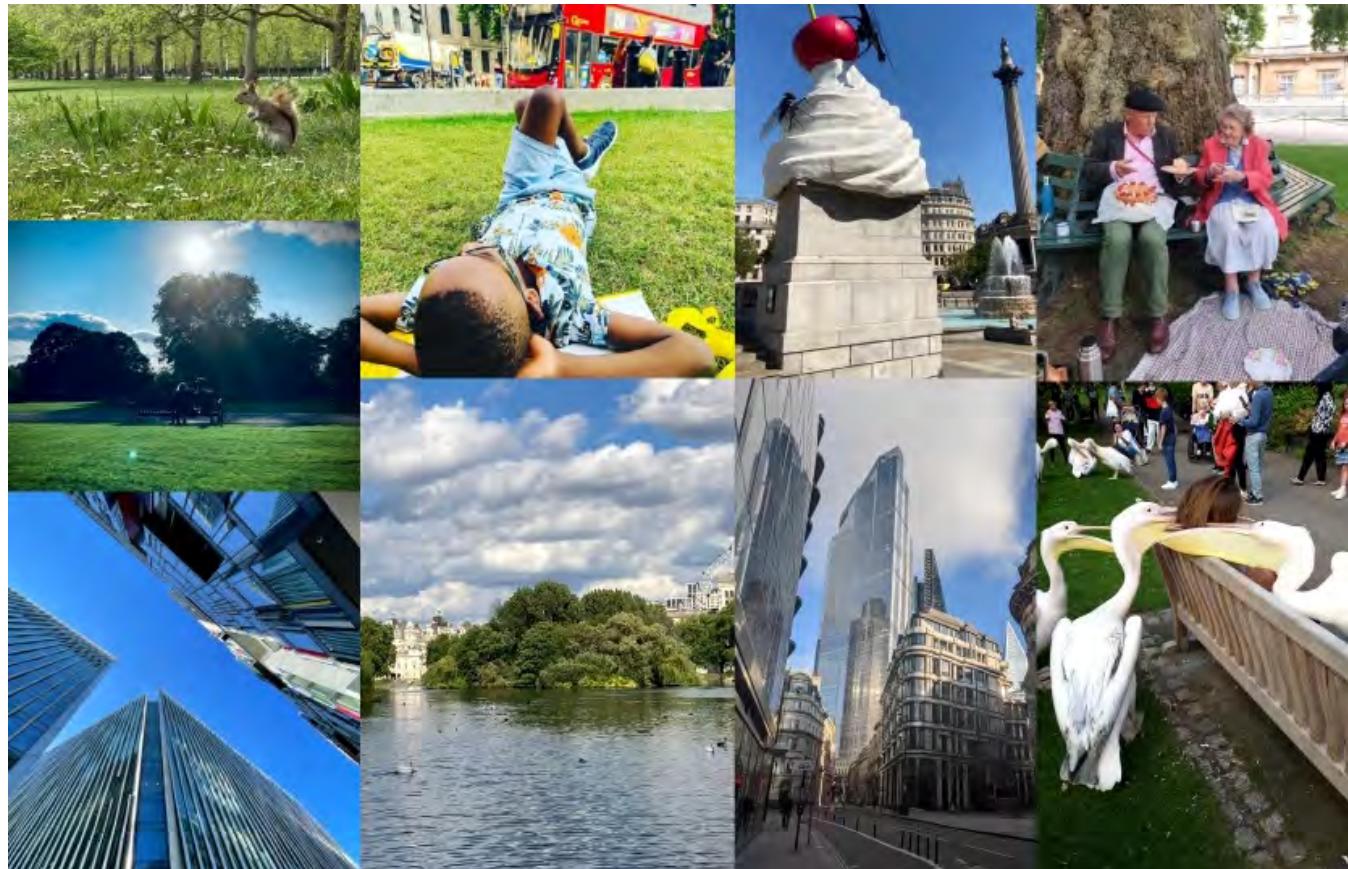
TWO CITIES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The results are in! Thank you to everyone who entered my first Two Cities Photography Competition in memory of Neil Jolley.

I was blown away by the local interest in this competition, and I'm proud that so many of you took part. For the first year, the standard of photographs was extraordinary and I thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the entries.

After deliberations from the judges: Rachel Akehurst, Dominic Lawson, Gemma Levine and myself, I'm delighted to share the results! I have contacted the winners, so please check your email and I look forward to holding an award ceremony in the near future.

After the success of this year's competition, my Two Cities Photography Competition will be back for the summer of 2022! More information will be coming later next year. ▲



FIND OUT MORE at www.nickieaiken.org.uk





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
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