

THE

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 91 | DECEMBER 2022

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

**MORE CRIME
LESS POLICE**

CRIME STATISTICS DO
NOT REFLECT THE
LEVEL OF CRIME

THE PENNY BLACK

CONSIDERING THE HISTORY
AND THE FUTURE OF THE
POSTAGE STAMP

**PLANS VS
PEOPLE**

MARY REGNIER-LEIGH
HIGHLIGHTS THE CONSEQUENCES
THE PLANNERS DON'T CONSIDER



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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

DECEMBER 2022

Chairman's Message	3
Nickie Aiken MP – Working to make Belgravia an even better place to live, work and visit	5
More Crime – Less Police?	7
Baroness Couttie Remembered	8
The Colourful Story of our Christmas Robin	10
Penny Black and the Future	12
Thomas Cubitt – 1788-1855	14
Politicians, Planners and Property Developers vs the People	16
Belgravia Architectural Wonders Walk with Simone de Gale	18
Turkey for Christmas	20
Membership Application	23

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

At this time of the year many of us have been preoccupied with Christmas shopping and looking forward to enjoying time with family and friends. It is too easy to forget those in our community who are less fortunate, especially those who are homeless.

The following statistics are really quite shocking:

- The average age of death for people experiencing homelessness is 46 for men and 42 for women
- People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence
- More than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence whilst homeless
- Homeless people are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population.

Crisis is a registered national charity whose aim is to help people directly out of homelessness. It was formed in 1967 as an urgent response to the then growing homeless crisis and, whilst they have helped tens of thousands of people out of homelessness, the fight goes on.

It is not just a few rough sleepers sheltering under bridges or in shop doorways, the problem includes:

- the need for Government intervention to stop rogue landlords exploiting people who need housing and support
- the need for reconnection, the process whereby people experiencing homelessness who have a connection to another area (either in the UK or internationally) are offered support by a local authority or a charity to return to their country of origin as a route out of homelessness
- the need to work with the police, local authorities and other agencies to ensure that enforcement measures to address rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour (such as begging and street drinking) do not make life more difficult for rough sleepers and put them at greater risk of harm.

It is evident that there are no easy fixes; the problems that cause rough sleeping are complex and enforcement measures do not work without access to wider help. *Crisis's* research found that eight in ten rough sleepers' most recent experience of enforcement did not result in advice or support being administered. *Crisis* believes that any contact with someone rough sleeping is an opportunity to help them off the streets. The police, local authorities and homeless services should work together to provide rough sleepers with advice, accommodation and referrals to other services. If formal enforcement measures are used (2014 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act) they must always include accommodation and social care support.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Please take a moment to look at their website (www.crisis.org.uk) to better understand the scale of the problem, and to find ways to help by giving up some time or making a donation, and the next time you see someone in 'our community' sleeping rough, please remember they are part of 'our community'.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year. ▲

PS Please take a moment to read Cllr Robathan's article in memory of Baroness Coultie. Our deepest condolences go to her family. We are all fortunate to have known her.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many homeless people come to London as the facilities and opportunities for help are greater here. That particularly applies to Westminster who have teams to help the homeless and work with all the agencies locally to help find social care, homes, jobs and the benefits that can help turn lives around.

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.



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Alternatively, print the application form on page 23 and post your completed form to

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NICKIE AIKEN MP

WORKING TO MAKE BELGRAVIA AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT



Happy New Year! I hope you have a very happy and healthy 2023.

As we start the new year, I'm looking forward to continuing to work on your priorities and what 2023 will hold: the implementation of a registration scheme for short-term lets; passing the pedicabs licensing scheme through Parliament in the Transport Bill; continuing to champion employment rights for fertility treatment; and holding the Mayor to account on his damaging bus cut proposals, to name but a few.

On the Mayor's bus cuts, working together last year we forced the Mayor of London to cancel most of his planned cuts to our buses. We saved our buses, protecting vital routes like the 14 and 24. Thank you to everyone who signed my petition. Alongside petitions from Greg Hands MP, Felicity Buchan MP, and London Assembly Member, Tony Devenish, we secured over 10,000 signatures.

But the Mayor is ploughing ahead with cuts and changes to routes 11 and 211. Both of these routes are hugely important. Route 211 connects Belgravia to five hospitals: Charing Cross, Chelsea & Westminster, Royal Brompton, Royal Marsden and St Thomas' hospitals. Route 11 connects us to the City of London and makes it so easy to get around central London. Sign my new petition to save them both.



The Government has given the Mayor over £6 billion in bailouts, so he does have the means to prevent further bus cuts. He chooses not to do so. If we all speak with one voice and show Sadiq Khan we are determined to save our important bus routes, we can save these essential services.

Sign my new petition to Save Our Buses at www.nickie.news/SaveOurBuses.

At the 2019 General Election, I committed to push for legislation to give local authorities stronger powers to deal with landlords who abuse the 90-night rule

Continued overleaf >

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

around short-term lets. Short-lets can be a fantastic way for tourists to visit our neighbourhoods, and boosts our local economy as they spend in our neighbourhoods. But I've heard repeatedly from local people about the misery rogue operators are causing, especially the anti-social behaviour, and unwanted noise from visitors arriving at all times of day and night. Too many short-lets also directly impacts the supply of rented properties and hikes up rents for families and young professionals hoping to settle here.

It's an issue you've told me again and again needs addressing, and since arriving in the House of Commons, I've lobbied Ministers and colleagues, petitioned Parliament, led debates, and worked with leading companies in the industry, like AirBnB, to build the case for a registration scheme. So I am delighted that the Government has listened to our calls and committed to a registration scheme for short-term lets. Another pledge secured to make the Two Cities an even better place to live, and means local authorities will soon be empowered to take action against problems caused by short-term lets.

Thank you to everyone who backed my calls, especially the Belgravia Society for their support. I look forward to working with Ministers ahead of the next public consultation and its subsequent implementation. ▲

If you have an issue you think I can help with, please send me an email at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk, and keep up to date on how I'm working for you @ TwoCitiesNickie on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

PLANNING ADVICE

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



If you have a CAF account, IT is an easy way to donate to the Society. Please do help us to maintain our work for Belgravia, and our community magazine.

INVITATION TO THE NEXT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Our next meeting is on 11th January 2023

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

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

MORE CRIME – LESS POLICE?

A meeting was held recently to discuss various issues raised around the problems of Elizabeth Street in response to residents' concerns.

Although initiated by Grosvenor, at their invitation and to ensure there was a neutral chairman, it was chaired by Cllr Rachael Robathan. It was attended by all three local Councillors, Grosvenor, the local police team, both amenity societies, the Neighbourhood Forum and representatives of local businesses and residents.

We talked about the problems of noise, al fresco dining, traffic, anti-social behaviour, rubbish collections, traffic and parking. One extremely important point was raised by PC Dave Alford: that the crime figures for our area did not seem to increase – not due to crime remaining stagnant, but to the lack of reporting.

Apparently, it is quite common for activity to be reported verbally to the police officers or not at all. This means that the crime

statistics do not reflect the level of crime, and this in turn reflects on decisions taken by the Mayor's office as to how many police officers are appropriate. In other words, we lose police officers, not because there is no crime, but because it is not reported. It is therefore absolutely vital, whether or not you think it worth reporting crime, that you do report it.

It is very important that anyone who witnesses, or is the victim of, a crime reports this **online or by calling 101. In an emergency always call 999.**

It is important that crimes are correctly registered so that the police can continue to argue the need for the current police resource and ensure we keep the Knightsbridge and Belgravia team. If the true numbers of crimes were reported, we may then be able to argue for more police locally.



BARONESS COUTTIE

REMEMBERED BY
CLLR RACHAEL
ROBATHAN



Phillipa Roe, Baroness Couttie

Photo courtesy of Chris McAndrew
(api.parliament.uk)

The news last week that Philippa Roe, Baroness Couttie, had lost her long battle with cancer was devastating for all of us who knew her. She was brave and kind, with an acute intelligence which enabled her to grasp the nub of an issue immediately and to identify innovative solutions. A long-time resident of Belgravia, in 2006 after a very successful career in the City, Philippa was elected to Westminster City Council for the ward of Knightsbridge

& Belgravia. Deeply committed to the area of Westminster in which she lived, Philippa campaigned tirelessly to improve planning controls around sub-basements, address rat running through quiet residential roads, and ensure that the streets and green areas which make this part of London so special were protected and well maintained. She was always ready to tackle problems and it was Philippa who was one of the first on the scene when a skip collapsed through



She was brave and kind, with an acute intelligence which enabled her to grasp the nub of an issue immediately and to identify innovative solutions.

the pavement on Chester Row, narrowly avoiding serious injuries, but sending shockwaves through the local residential community.

Philippa's abilities saw her progress very rapidly in the Council. Promoted to the Cabinet first in 2008 with the Housing portfolio, where she developed innovative ways to deliver the much needed regeneration of our Housing stock, she then took on Strategic Finance in 2011. In this role her acute grasp and understanding of financial detail helped ensure the financial stability of the Council which was one of her key legacies. She was elected Leader of the Council in 2012, a role she held until she was elevated to the House of Lords in 2016. Her passions were helping young people to have the right opportunities and improving employment and growth – both areas where she achieved a huge amount. Collegiate in style, she was particularly good at involving all colleagues in the workings of the Council and bringing together all spectrums of opinion.

While Leader, she also played a key role in London-wide politics where she demonstrated her ability to work with people of all political persuasions and backgrounds in order to deliver the best

outcomes for London and Westminster specifically.

A woman of great charm and style, Philippa nevertheless had a steely determination which meant that she invariably succeeded in what she set out to do. She was also one of the finest orators the Westminster Council chamber has seen and few of us will forget a particularly rousing performance when she set out her vision for ensuring our housing estates were fit for the future and supported the communities living there.

Tony Devenish and I were both fortunate to have served as fellow ward Councillors with Philippa. As a colleague she was a joy to work with, never losing her cool at even the most stressful times, always supportive and with a sharp sense of humour as well as a ferocious work ethic. Most important of all, was her strong determination to make sure that her family came first and she fiercely guarded her time with her young twins – even when it meant that she had to go back to work after putting them to bed.

Our deepest condolences go to her husband, Stephen, and her children. She was a class act and we are all fortunate to have known her. ▲

THE COLOURFUL STORY OF OUR CHRISTMAS ROBIN

BY SARA OLIVER



Who can resist the charm of the endearing Robin Red Breast (scientific name: *Erithacus rubecula*, European Robin), voted UK's favourite bird? Robins can be seen all year round, singing in woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens. Talking about the early bird catching the worm, robins tend to be among the earliest birds to start the dawn chorus and one of the last to stop in the evening.

When it comes to Christmas, have you wondered why robins are so strongly associated with this time of year?

During Victorian times, the postman was nicknamed "robin" because of his red-breasted coloured uniform, and that is how the robin on the Christmas card came to represent the postman who delivered the card.

As legend has it, the robin's red breast provides a direct link to Christianity. Whilst Christ was on the cross it sang to relieve his suffering; a robin plucked a thorn from his crown; and from there it is said Christ's blood created the robin's red breast.

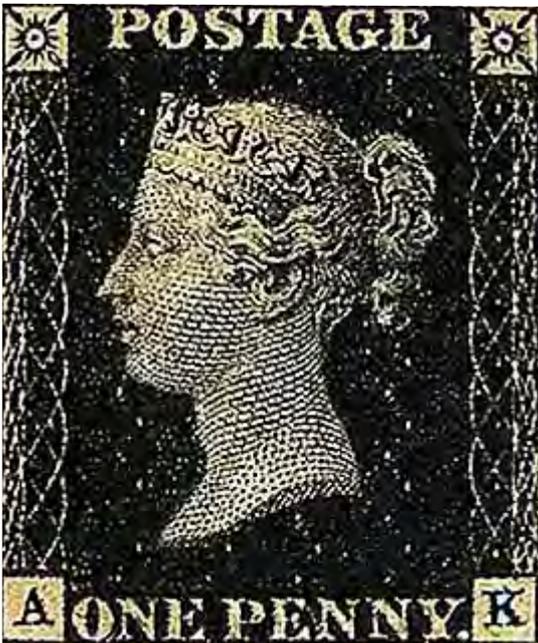
Another story that goes down in folklore: when the baby Jesus was in his manger in a stable, the fire which had been lit to keep him warm started to blaze. A brown robin, noticing that Mary had been distracted by the inn-keeper's wife, placed himself between the fire and baby Jesus's face. The robin fluffed out its feathers to protect the baby, but in so doing its breast was scorched by the fire. This red plumage was then passed onto future generations of robins.

Did you realise that a robin's red breast is orange? The bird was named before the English language had a word for the colour orange. Orange was once known as a certain shade of red, despite the fact that the word 'orange' existed, as in the fruit. The colour orange was not named as a colour in English until the 16th century, and the name for the colour derives from the fruit.

Finally, in 1960, our affection for the robin was cemented, when it was voted our national bird. Christmas robins will forever be commemorated on Christmas cards so let us hope they remain a common sight in our parks and gardens for future generations to appreciate their colourful history. ▲

Sources: *RSPB.org* | *Wikipedia*





PENNY BLACK AND THE FUTURE

Before stamps were invented, only the wealthy could afford to send letters through the post and it was the recipient, not the sender who had to pay the fee. Hand-stamps and ink were used. Postmarks had been invented in 1661 at the London General Post Office.

People were charged by the weight of the letter and the distance it had to travel. Senders simply folded the letters with the message inside and wrote the address on the outer sheet of paper. Envelopes were not used as these would have added to the weight and increased the cost. When the letter arrived, the recipient would pay the postage cost or a few would simply refuse to pay the cost, rejecting the letter. Postal reforms were necessary.

In 1837, British postal rates were high, complex and anomalous. To simplify matters, Sir Rowland Hill proposed an adhesive stamp to indicate pre-payment of postage. The new system allowed letters of up to 1/2 ounce (14 grams) to be delivered at a flat rate of one penny, regardless of distance.

The Penny Black was the world's first adhesive postage stamp used in a public postal system.

The new system started in May 1840 using the stamp which was embellished with a portrait of Queen Victoria, then being just 21 years old. This portrait of Victoria remained on British stamps until her death in 1901, although by then she was 81 years old.

After the stamp was circulating, it became obvious that black was not a good choice of stamp colour, since any cancellation marks were hard to see. So, from 1841, the stamps were printed in a brick-red colour.

The idea of the postal stamps became used in many countries and arrangements were made between them to deliver the letters from other countries subject to their own letters being delivered on the same basis. Countries entered into treaties to give effect to reciprocal arrangements.

Then, in 1874, the use of postage stamps was so widespread across the world that the Universal Postage Union came into being, probably the oldest international agency. Countries joined and became part of the arrangement so that international letters could be delivered without further agreements between all its members, now numbering 192.

Sir Rowland Hill



It will be interesting to see the development of postal services in the future, especially when a first class stamp costs 95p, but email is free.

However, the UK remains the only country in the world to not be required to have its name on postage stamps so long as the Monarch's image appears on it. All British stamps bear a portrait or silhouette of the Monarch somewhere on the design.

The size of UK stamps (apart from special issues) has remained virtually the same until now. In February 2022, new barcoded stamps were introduced. The codes, unique to each stamp, use a trademarked coding designed to prevent counterfeiting and to enable tracking of letters, and to enable correspondents to link digital content to their stamps. The old design will no longer be valid after 31st July 2023.

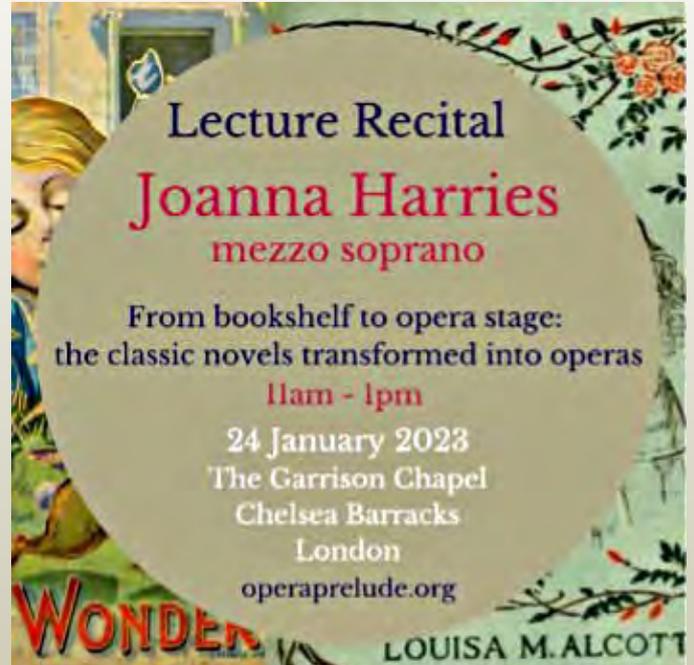
It will be interesting to see the development of postal services in the future, especially when a first class stamp costs 95p, but email is free. ▲

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THOMAS CUBITT

1788-1855

**Master-builder who developed
Belgravia, Pimlico and Bloomsbury**

BY PETER WYETH

Son of a Norfolk carpenter, Thomas Cubitt travelled to India as ship's carpenter, from which he earned sufficient funds to start his own building firm in 1810 on Gray's Inn Road, London. There he developed a new system, directly employing workmen of all the building trades, instead of negotiating with master-craftsmen. He employed dozens of men, from brickmakers and masons to plasterers and painters, an innovation for speculative house-building on a large scale which made Cubitt's name.



In 1824 Richard Grosvenor, 2nd Marquess of Westminster, commissioned Cubitt to create a great swathe of building on 19 acres known as ‘the Five Fields’, centred on Belgrave Square and Pimlico, his greatest achievement in London.

The north and west sides of Eaton Square exemplify Cubitt’s style of building and design, and the Belgrave Square houses were designed by George Basevi (pupil of John Soane). Cubitt’s enormous mansions in Albert Gate were nicknamed ‘Malta’ and ‘Gibraltar’, because ‘they would never be taken’.

He developed a comprehensive integrated building works at Thames Bank, producing much of the materials used on his developments, joinery and steel girders, and cement and plasterwork. He had a brickworks on the Medway, with the most up-to-date machinery, otherwise buying direct: Portland stone stairs from Dorset, and slates from Penrhyn. When Thames Bank was destroyed by fire, he declared,

“Tell the men they shall be at work within a week, and I will subscribe £600 towards buying them new tools.”

The principal houses in Lyall Street, where his blue plaque is located, were completed in 1847, and nos. 3-4 was Cubitt’s last headquarters during the completion of the Belgravia estate.

The plan followed a relatively new pattern for London estates, with a diagonal grid radiating from garden squares, interspersed with crescents, triangular greens and mews.

He was approached by Prince Albert to alter Osborne House in the Isle of Wight, Queen Victoria’s marine residence. His collaboration with the enthusiastic Prince was so successful that ‘our Cubitt’ was given the contract to build the extensions to Buckingham Palace, and is credited with bringing the Great Exhibition project to Prince Albert’s attention.

He married in 1821 and had at least twelve children, including Thomas who, through his son George, is a great-great-great-grandfather of Camilla, Queen Consort.

Cubitt personally funded nearly a kilometre of the Thames Embankment; was an organiser of Battersea Park; was concerned with the campaign for smoke abatement; and the failings of the London sewage system, publishing a pamphlet in 1843 with views anticipating the improvements of the next decade.

Cubitt died in 1855 and left property worth over £1 million, with one of the longest wills then on record. Upon his death, Queen Victoria wrote in her diary: ‘I have been much grieved by the death of that excellent and worthy man, Mr Thomas Cubitt... He is a real national loss. A better, kinder hearted or more simple, unassuming man never breathed.’ ▲

POLITICIANS, PLANNERS AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS VS THE PEOPLE



Talking to colleagues in other amenity societies in Westminster, I realised that our similar problems are caused by third parties, the politicians in Government, or local councils; planners with ideas who want to change our environment, and property developers who want to ratchet up more revenue usually in the guise of “improving” things.

These problems are universal. They do not consider the consequences. In some cases, they seek more revenue or recognition for some architectural scheme. Where does that leave us the residents and businesses – the people who should matter most? They do not ask us with any genuine interest in our views.

Consider Elizabeth Street as a case in point. 20 years ago the street was principally retail. There were a couple of restaurants and a good mixture of shops. Then law changed, allowing shops to become restaurants without planning permission. No thought by politicians was given as to how this could disrupt shopping areas and change the nature of a local street.

During the pandemic the WCC did its best to help local businesses and the restaurants and allowed outside dining. More restaurants ensued as other businesses left. Many locals loved the new outside dining, as do visitors. However, when they went home, they did not think about the noise that is generated or of the residents suffering it.



Those choosing to change traffic flows and streets, for safety or pollution reasons, did not think of the vast majority, particularly commercial vehicles, that still wanted to go somewhere. Elizabeth Street can count about 10 large coaches daily. This causes traffic to be held up while they try to pass each other on a street not intended for big vehicles. In turn, the pollution and danger to diners and pedestrians has been moved to Elizabeth Street from somewhere else.

The residents of Elizabeth Street managed to persuade Grosvenor not to allow the John D Wood shop to become a restaurant. However, Grosvenor have now turned their attention to the lower part of Eccleston Street.

They have already put a scheme into the Council to reduce the road from two lanes into one and widen the pavements. They have indicated that they want to turn Sotheby's office into a restaurant. There is no doubt that outside dining will become a more regular and intrusive activity in this part of Belgravia – another Elizabeth Street. Nobody seems to have considered the coaches which go to the Victoria Coach Station from Eccleston Bridge into Eccleston Street and then turn left into Eccleston Place.

Having sat by the window on the corner, I can say that in the 40 minutes I was there, at least 10 coaches turned into Eccleston Place. Can you imagine what will happen with a single lane of traffic going into Eccleston Street all day? What about the residents? Will they too now have to suffer the noise and pollution?

Actions have consequences. Not enough people understand what those consequences are or, in some cases, even care. If it does not affect them, so be it – never mind the residents. ▲





BELGRAVIA ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS WALK WITH SIMONE DE GALE

On 16th December, a chilly Friday afternoon, Simone de Gale Architects (SGA), in collaboration with Harry's London, hosted its first Belgravia Architectural Wonders Walk. Members of The Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum and The Belgravia Society, along with local businesses, were able to enjoy Belgravia's architecture with its history. The styles were from Georgian to mid-century Art Moderne; Victorian, Greek-Revival to Regency.

The focus was on businesses and how they fitted in and supplemented the design of the Belgravia buildings. Beginning The Walk at Harry's London flagship store, they followed the path through Motcomb Street with stops at the Greek revival-styled Pantechnicon, the (then) 1960s tallest building in London Carlton Tower Jumeirah, Anya Hindmarch Design, The Orange Square, Georgian and Victorian terraces that give Belgravia its unique character.

The first Belgravia Architectural Wonders Walk focused on businesses and how they fitted in and supplemented the design of the Belgravia buildings.

The Belgravia Architectural Wonders Walk celebrated the champions of Belgravia including the Thomas Cubitt envisioned spaces, from the Regency-styled Lanesborough and industrial contemporary Eccleston Yards to charming world-class boutiques on the south side: Philip Treacy Milliner, Peggy Porschen Cakes, Michael Reeves Furniture and Anna Monich Interior Design.

Exciting facts about Belgravia, like 180 Ebury Street being the home to Mozart and the inception of his 1st Symphony, or the fact that Belgravia used to be a swamp and thief's paradise before being transformed from the five fields into the marvel it is today. This ensured that The Walk was educational and informative.

A special thank you to Anna Monich Interiors and Michael Reeves Furniture for hosting a champagne reception towards the end of The Walk.

Simone de Gale Architects would like to extend a big thank you to The Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum, The Belgravia Society, and Belgravia Traders' Association for their support.

Getting to know Belgravia as a community housed in an eclectic mix of spaces and buildings through the ages, so much being listed, is a joy! In the coming months, look out for our physical map which you can pick up in local Belgravia businesses, in hotels around Belgravia and some select businesses like Waitrose, The Carlton Jumeirah and many more to come. ▲



EDITORS NOTE

Simone de Gale Architects (SGA), has been based in Belgravia for over a decade, including having completed international masterplan projects, residential and commercial design. Their office is on 21 Knightsbridge, where they are a growing architectural practice. Taking the opportunity to support the relationship between small businesses, big businesses and residents, SGA decided it was time to host an architectural walking tour.

The architectural firm collaborated with Harry's London.

TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH



At first the shops thought there would not be enough to go round and then there seemed to be too many! Anything between 10 and 20 million turkeys were expected to be eaten at Christmas. Personally, considering the total UK population, I think 10 million is closer to the actual figure. But how did turkey become our traditional choice for Christmas dinner?

A turkey was recognised in Mesopotamia about 2,000 years ago but they are not believed to be related to the modern turkey. Modern turkeys originated in South America and the Spanish brought them to Europe. The birds became known as “turkeys” because Turkish ships brought them to Europe.

Henry VIII is known to have eaten turkey. At that time it was an exotic delicacy. No doubt the King might have favoured it due to its size and his! The flavour was better than that of other exotic birds. On the whole, turkey was eaten by the wealthier in society until

after World War 2, when they became more universally available at a price that could be afforded.

East Anglia had become (and remains) the place for rearing them. You will often come across references as to how the birds were brought to London for sale in the markets. In the 18th century there were no convenient vehicles or railways for the journey to London, so they walked. It could take up to two months. The turkeys had to be watered and fed en-route. To be in the best condition, they also had to have their feet protected as they were not designed for walking. Small covers like little boots were the order of the day.

It is also thought that the Charles Dickens story of *A Christmas Carol* popularised turkey as it ends with Scrooge sending the largest turkey in his local butcher’s shop to Bob Cratchit and his family.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and enjoyed the festivities. ▲



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PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT TO YOU OR EMAIL TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
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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.

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 91
DECEMBER 2022



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1168619
www.thebelgrviasociety.com