

THE

ISSUE 75 | AUGUST 2021

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA

THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION

TAKES UP RESIDENCE
AT THE GARRISON CHAPEL

THE HIERARCHY OF TREES

AND HOW THEY
COMMUNICATE

BELGRAVIA IN BLOOM

STILL GREEN AND
LOOKING STUNNING





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

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

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

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VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



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

Belgravia has a unique position geographically, hence the Committee of the Belgravia Society undertakes to review ideas and plans for neighbouring projects which may potentially affect our boundaries or impact our quality of life in SW1.

We have commented on the Transport for London Penalty Charge Consultation. The proposals aim to boost safety and to reduce congestion along London's network of red routes by increasing the maximum fine for contravening the rules from £130 to £160. Fines will be reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days. Belgravia is surrounded by several red routes and the outcome will impact us. London's red routes make up 5% of the roads but carry 30% of the traffic. Any attempts to reduce traffic and improve air quality are strongly supported by the Belgravia Society. Many of our members will recall the Society was the amenity group who spearheaded the successful campaign to stop traffic from Grosvenor Place being redirected into our small residential streets.

We have engaged with the Royal Parks Events Communications Team about the rescheduling of the Hyde Park events for 2022. This is always a difficult balance to ensure that those who live around the park are not too inconvenienced by the events, to preserve the integrity and recovery of the lawns of the park and to open the space to

give performers a platform for their talents.

Suggestions put forward by local amenity groups which the organisers are currently reviewing are to better manage the sound direction, review the flows at the entrances and exits, update procedures for the cleansing and stewarding teams, and to reduce the impact of traffic along Park Lane in particular; a huge number of criteria to juggle for the management to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

The Belgravia Society will be supporting the Save Victoria Garden Campaign to prevent the building of a huge holocaust memorial and underground learning centre in the Grade II Listed riverside park next to Parliament. The committee and membership have mostly indicated that the memorial is appropriate, but that it should be placed in another location.

The Society has also partaken in the Living Streets surveys making London's streets better for walking. Their aim is "to make changes happen through local group successes at the grassroots to make changes to Government policies at a National level".

If you know someone who might like to join the Belgravia Society, please visit our website for membership details as well as our pages at the end of this Magazine. ▲



THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION

THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION
TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN THE
GARRISON CHAPEL,
CHELSEA BARRACKS

BY CHRIS MARTIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (DEVELOPMENT)
THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION

Photo by Clare Tollemache



In July of this year, The Prince's Foundation was proud to be officially taking up residence in The Garrison Chapel, Chelsea Barracks.

The Prince's Foundation, whose President is HRH The Prince of Wales, champions a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our communities. It runs a diverse programme of education and training for all ages and backgrounds, and regenerates and cares for places where communities can thrive and that visitors can enjoy.

The Chelsea Barracks development is one that The Prince's Foundation has taken a keen interest in for many years and it is now pleased to be calling its home alongside its other London addresses which are Charlotte Road in Shoreditch (the home of The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts) and Trinity Buoy Wharf in Docklands (home to its Foundation course, The Diploma Year).

The Foundation has already mounted and launched two major exhibitions in the space. The first was 'The School of Traditional Arts Degree Show', which was visited by His Royal Highness. The second was 'The Highgrove Florilegium: An exhibition depicting the flora of the Highgrove Gardens'. The show saw work by 72 artists from around the world, who captured the floral displays at the home of Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.



Photo by Clare Tollemache



In addition, a replica cast of a bronze sculpture of HRH The Prince of Wales, originally created to celebrate the 40th anniversary of another of his charities, The Prince's Trust, has been donated for permanent display by Sir Jack and Lady Petchey. It will temporarily sit alongside two other busts, one of HM The Queen and another of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. This will mark the first time all three busts have been publicly exhibited together.

In the coming months and years, the Foundation plans to mount a variety of exhibitions and events that demonstrate the scope of its work and the interests of its President. When exhibitions are in situ, the Chapel will be open from 11am to 4pm and will be free to enter.

The Foundation also plans to host a range of events, classes and functions that are widely accessible for all to encourage connectivity in the community, ensuring that the Chapel continues to play a pivotal role in the neighbourhood and beyond.

The Prince's Foundation very much looks forward to being a part of the next stage of The Garrison Chapel's history. ▲

For more information please go to: princes-foundation.org/garrison-chapel.

UNLOCKING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

BY NICKIE AIKEN MP



Nickie Aiken MP

I know from my mailbag that the people of Belgravia love to travel to experience new cultures, countries or to catch up with family and friends. The pandemic has curtailed so many travel plans over the past 18 months. I appreciate how frustrating that is.

While travel abroad has been incredibly difficult, the hard work and sacrifices we have all made have allowed us to make enormous progress in tackling this pandemic, which made the first steps towards unlocking international travel possible. I am pleased the Government has made several changes to further progress the safe, sustainable and robust restart of international travel. Nearly 80% of adults have now received both doses and, to protect our vaccine success, the Government introduced a traffic light system to assess each country on their COVID risk and manage the steps on returning home. This will protect us all from variants of concern that could escape our incredibly safe and effective vaccines.

I welcome the work the Government is doing to open up travel, including moving to a three-weekly travel list update, working with our friends and neighbours to recognise the NHS Vaccine Certificates, and waiving quarantine and day 8 testing for double-jabbed returnees to England

from amber list countries.

I know, however, significant barriers to going abroad and visiting loved ones remain. The cost of testing is simply too high. I have taken your concerns straight to ministers, and I am pleased the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, cut the cost of NHS Test & Trace PCR tests for travelling by a fifth to galvanise other providers to follow suit.

While the Government continues to prioritise public health, I welcome that we are in a position to continue to safely reopen international travel this summer.

This year has been like no other. Many have still not had the opportunity to visit their children, friends, parents, grandparents or even see new born family members for the first time.

I will continue to do all I can to raise your concerns with ministers and build on the foundations for the safe return of international travel, whilst protecting our domestic vaccine rollout. ▲

As always, if there's anything I can help with, please email me at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk.

Keep up to date on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [@TwoCitiesNickie](#).



Registered Charity No. 1168619

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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

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louder our collective voice will be.

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

[www.thebelgraviasociety.com/
online-membership-form](http://www.thebelgraviasociety.com/online-membership-form)

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

Alternatively, print the application form on page 22 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
London SW1W 0NY



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
14th September 2021**

PLANNING ADVICE

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



WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO REPORT ANY DONATIONS YOU WISH TO MAKE TO THE BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAY BE DONE THROUGH THE CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION (CAF). OUR CHARITY NUMBER IS 1168619.

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.



BELGRAVIA CONTINUES TO BLOOM

BY HELENE ORATORE

The Committee fully embraces and encourages the green theme in Belgravia. The Belgravia Society is the only local amenity group which has fully supported the continuation of our garden squares as places of enjoyment for the residents. We have been active in resisting their commercialisation.

Now that it is easier to move about more freely, it is clear just how many of our large and active membership are also embracing our policy to support the local green theme. Several residents of various streets have joined together to contribute towards the Westminster City Council's hanging basket scheme as well as adding their own flavour of foliage on their front balconies. In my recent walk round Chester Square, I was amazed to see that

almost every house had large displays of flowers growing in pots and planters in the doorways.

Some residents have interpreted this policy by including small hedges around ground floor front railings and by displaying wonderfully decorated window boxes brimming over with each season's flowers. Sara Oliver has again been super active in promoting bees and birds into this unique part of London. The hotels too have a range of flowers outside to give wonderful colour to our streets.

In fact, we now have such a reputation for promoting the green theme that we have been approached to assist with other campaigns to save several mature trees in neighbouring areas.

CLEVELAND CLINIC UPDATE



The Society applauds Grosvenor for leading the way with their delightful green lampposts which add much needed colour to our historic streets. They also continue with their beehives in Grosvenor Street which we visited a while ago. They are providing and encouraging planters too.

Many shop and other premises are also decorating themselves with beautiful flower displays. We can also look forward to Belgravia in Bloom. ▲



Progress is being made and the planned construction activity over the coming months continues. Most of the existing façade of the building is being maintained and the original entrances to the building will be reinstated. 9th-13th August FM Conway, who undertake all Westminster City Council Highway works undertook day and night works to lift the paving along Grosvenor Place. The existing paving slabs were lifted by a small excavator, stockpiled and picked up by a grab lorry. As these works are located on a Red Route and therefore under TfL jurisdiction, the works will take place at night. 26th August an overnight mobile crane located on Grosvenor Place will be used to install the new MRI machinery. Cranes will have been removed as well as the scaffolding so that the building may now be seen. The stonework should be completed in September as will many of the interior final works. The construction work should finish in September. That will leave a clear view of the exterior Clinic finished, although internal fit out will continue. ▲



THE HIERARCHY OF TREES

BY MARINA KALOGHIROU

On a glorious London summer day, friends and family gathered in the garden in Belgrave square for the blessing of a tree planted in my father, George Z. Kaloghirou's memory (shown in the above photograph).

A young Platanus which, with much care from our talented gardeners, grew well and ten years later it stood tall at more than seven metres in height. But at the downburst of June 2017, when gale-force winds damaged many trees in London, trees in our gardens, too, were not spared. Two of them were particularly damaged. One at Eaton Square and the other, my Dad's plane tree, at Belgrave Square. It was a shocking sight to see a young, beautiful tree snapped in two and many of its branches broken. Tree surgeons from Kent were called to help and, indeed, their timely intervention brought us hope that not all was lost. "They'll recover

and, in time, thrive", we were reassured.

How absolutely right that was! To see these trees today it is a wonder how well they managed to resurrect themselves, even taking on a new shape to adapt for survival should a similar trauma fall upon them in the future.

But how did they manage to achieve this? With help from their tree friends, the neighbours that surround them. Since Darwin, mistakenly, we have thought of trees as striving, disconnected loners competing amongst themselves for the necessities to survive. That is not at all how it is. A substantial scientific body of work is now showing that trees, especially trees of the same species, are communal and form alliances with trees not only of their own kind but of other species also. That is especially true for the forest trees which have evolved to live in cooperative,



interdependent relationships that keep going by communication.

Much as those soaring columns of living wood draw our eye ever upward, the real action is taking place in their roots, in the soil under our feet. Scientists are calling it their mycorrhizal networks, others, their wood-wide-web. These are hair-like root tips of trees jointed with microscopic fungal filaments to form the basic links of a network that operates a symbiotic relationship between trees and fungi. Fungi consume some of the sugars trees produce through photosynthesis whilst the fungi scavenge the soil for nitrogen, phosphorus and other mineral nutrients needed and consumed by the trees.

There is an organised hierarchy in tree communities. It takes a system to survive to a truly old age, as trees do. As with all forms of life, time brings you experience and wisdom. The old trees know what needs to be done, the forces to be summoned to bring help to trees in distress. To communicate through the network, trees send electrical hormonal and slow pulsing chemical signals. They also communicate through air using pheromones and other scent signals. They detect scents through their leaves which, to many, qualifies as having a sense of smell.

From myths from ancient times in Greece of trees delivering prophecies to Medieval

Ireland, of trees delivering unreliable clues to Leprechaun gold, to Hollywood movies, like *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Lord of the Rings*, or *Avatar*, trees have been given anthropomorphic qualities.

Trees are such a vital part of our human existence. We have instinctively adapted to them as we recognise their importance to us and they have made us part of their co-operative which is necessary to their existence. We need each other. There's a thought to celebrate! ▲

POSTSCRIPT

The above article was written by Marina following the miraculous recovery of the tree, planted in Belgrave Square Garden on 11th July 2007, in memory of her father, George Z. Kaloghrou. The planting was blessed by His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira, Head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland.

Despite the damage, what you see today is a healthy and robust tree. The tree itself is located immediately behind the "Homage to Leonardo." If you look at the picture of the tree at the beginning of this article you will see in front the support for the memorial plaque for Marina's father. It was part of the broken trunk. We can be sure that the support of the many surrounding trees contributed to tree's recovery.

BOUNDARIES IN BELGRAVIA

BY JOE BRIGGS

“WHERE IN LONDON ARE YOU?”

It is no surprise that Londoners get a bit confused when formulating a response to this seemingly simple question. Wherever you are in London today, you will find yourself in one of two “ceremonial counties” (the City of London or Greater London); one (or two) of three “cities” (the City of London, the City of Westminster and/or the global capital “city” that is London); one of four “Church of England dioceses” (the Diocese of London, Southwark, Chelmsford or Rochester); one of five “historic counties” (the City of London, Middlesex, Surrey, Essex or Kent); one of 14 “assembly constituencies”; one of 33 “local authority districts” (the City of London or one of London’s 32 local boroughs); one of 73 “parliamentary constituencies”; one of 196 “historic civil parishes”; one of the hundreds of “Church of England parishes”; and one of the countless “electoral wards” formed within each local authority district.

Sitting down for a coffee at Motcombs in Belgravia, the boundaries unfold as follows:

1. **Ceremonial county:** Greater London
2. **City:** City of Westminster and the global capital “city” that is London
3. **Church of England diocese:** Diocese of London

4. **Historic County:** Middlesex
5. **London assembly constituency:** West Central
6. **Local authority district:** City of Westminster
7. **Parliamentary constituency:** Cities of London and Westminster
8. **Historic civil parish:** St George’s Hanover Square
9. **Church of England parish:** St Paul’s Wilton Place Knightsbridge
10. **Electoral ward:** Knightsbridge & Belgravia

Next time you surface from the tube, exit your uber, or head out for a walk in London, why not see how many of these ten boundaries you can correctly identify? For example, you could cross the road from Motcombs and sit down at EL&N on Lowndes Street to contemplate the fact that you are no longer in the City of Westminster, or technically even Belgravia, with the final five boundaries changing quite dramatically as follows:

1. **Local authority district:** Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
2. **Parliamentary constituency:** Kensington
3. **Historic civil parish:** Chelsea
4. **Church of England parish:** Holy Trinity with St Saviour, Upper Chelsea
5. **Electoral ward:** Brompton & Hans Town ▲

EDITOR’S NOTE:

The boundaries of Belgravia itself are fascinating. Do have look at our website www.thebelgraviasociety.com under the tab “Belgravia Identified” to see what is actually Belgravia and learn a little of the history too – even how Knightsbridge got its name.



The Albert Memorial with the Albert Hall in the background

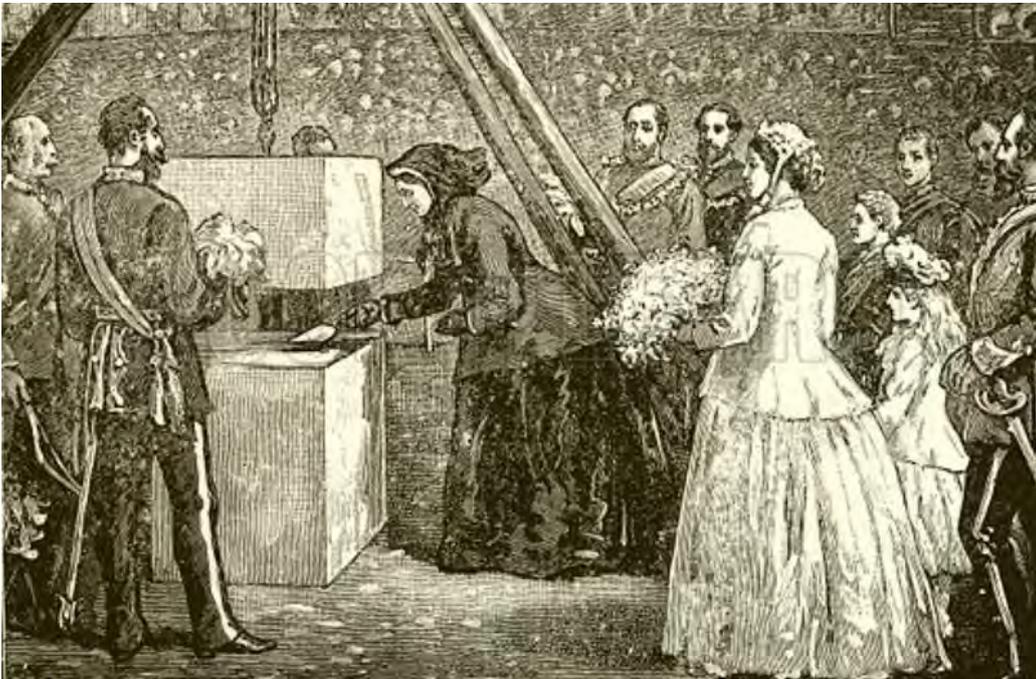
ROYAL ALBERT HALL CELEBRATES ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

Originally, the Albert Hall was to be known as the Central Hall. It was the vision of Prince Albert to be used for the understanding and appreciation of sciences and arts, and was to be developed from the profits of the great exhibition of 1851. Sadly, when Prince Albert died in 1861, the project was put on hold.

Henry Cole who had collaborated with the Prince on the Great Exhibition rekindled the scheme.



The design was inspired by Cole's visit to ruined Roman Amphitheatres. Incredibly, it was originally intended to accommodate 30,000 people. That was reduced to 7,000 people for practical reasons. Today, the maximum number of people is approximately 5,300.



Queen Victoria laying the foundation stone at the opening ceremony 29th March 1871.

Work started on the building in 1867 and was opened by Queen Victoria on 29th March 1871. She renamed the hall in Prince Albert's memory as the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences. The Queen was so overcome by emotion at the opening ceremony, the Prince of Wales spoke in her place.

An important feature is the frieze running round the building. As funds were running low, the frieze was added to the building as a flat mosaic. The frieze is 800 feet long and above it, there is an inscription in 12 inch high terracotta letters which give historical facts about the building, and finishes with a biblical quotation.

The dome forming the roof was made of wrought iron and glazed. To make sure that it would fit on the building there was a trial assembly of the dome's iron framework in Manchester. It was then taken apart and transported to London by horse and cart. It is said that when the dome's supporting structure was removed after reassembly, only volunteers remained on the site in case the structure collapsed. Amazingly, with the benefit of Victorian engineering, it did not drop but moved only by 5/16th of an inch!

The oldest amongst us will remember the problems with the acoustics of the auditorium. Those became apparent after the first concert. Engineers suspended a canvas awning below the dome. This did help a little and also sheltered concert goers from the sun. The canvas awning was removed in 1949 and fluted aluminium panels placed below the glass roof. However, the acoustics were not satisfactorily tackled until 1969 when large fibreglass acoustic diffusing discs were installed below the ceiling.

All sorts of performances have taken place there, from the giant rally celebrating the British Empire in 1936, to the Eurovision Song Contest in 1968. It has been the venue for tennis tournaments, world championship tennis and many other events.

The Royal Albert Hall is in the City of Westminster Council boundary and will remain so after the reorganisation which takes effect in May next year. Strangely, it is also in the same Ward as Belgravia, which is itself combined with Knightsbridge.

Here's to the next 150 years of the Royal Albert Hall. ▲



SILVER SUNDAY
CELEBRATING OLDER PEOPLE

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2021



Cllr Christabel Flight of Warwick Ward

Held on the first Sunday in October, Silver Sunday celebrates the contributions of older people to society and aims to tackle loneliness among older people.

Christabel Flight, a Westminster Councillor for Warwick Ward, 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, in light of the pandemic, volunteers across the country are holding a range of events that are both safely socially-distanced and use technology for at home or virtual activities.

Silver Sunday is coming to Belgravia as usual. Do put the date in your diary. ▲

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

– amazon smile

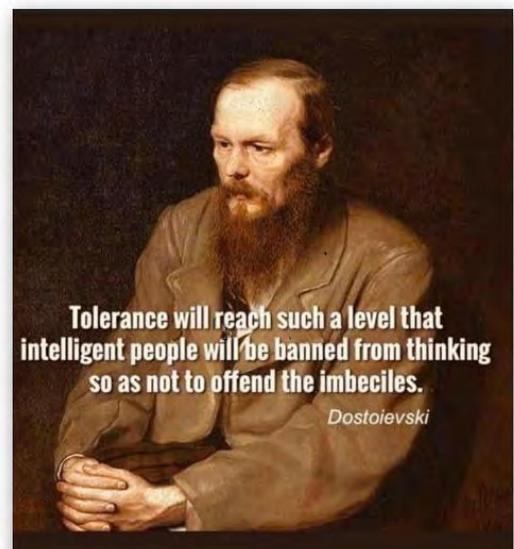
If any of our readers are Amazon customers and have not signed up yet to their charitable “Smile” scheme you should note that The Belgravia Society is now a member.

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. ▲

THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN





**JOSS GRAHAM
TEXTILES AND
WORKS OF ART
– A SHOP FOR
DISCOVERY**

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

I have passed the shop many times. In July the window was graced by a wonderful fabric with a vase of peonies on a table. The light was perfect. I took a photograph and you can see it here.

I was drawn to visit the shop for the first time and found the interior a positive cornucopia of amazing items. I spoke to the owner, Joss Graham. His shop has been in Eccleston Street for 41 years. He specialises in items which are hand made, hand woven and hand spun. The sales generate a livelihood for the highly skilled artisan craftsmen and women in the countries where they are made. They also help keep the skills alive and passed on to the generations that follow. There are many fabrics and items of jewellery, all hand crafted, as well as many other items as you will see from our photographs.

Textiles are a major interest for Joss Graham. Mostly they come from India and Joss works with the Craft Council in Delhi. The textiles are individual and are not the sort of things to be bought online; they have to be seen and handled. Joss loves the location of the shop. Customers are not only local but also come from far and wide to visit the shop having the benefit of nearby Victoria Station. Joss also has international customers. Some just visit to see the individual textiles or the other wonderful items available.



Joss also sells Chik Blinds from India. Having bought some blinds himself for the shop, customers wanted to buy them. Joss saw that he could support the artisan crafts people by adding them to his comprehensive stock and now sells them. They are custom handmade to order, from bamboo and ecru cotton. The string lattice which holds the slats form different patterns and the customer can choose one. They are elegant and relatively inexpensive, low maintenance and have long life qualities. There is a very interesting leaflet available from the shop about these blinds with illustrations.

The shop staff work in rotation. Mostly there are three staff, but they rotate through the week with others as well. They are experts on the various items in the shop. I met Jordan Quill, who is writing a PhD on the subject of textiles. The staff delight in telling you about the items you see. The stock extends to a basement as well.

Like all businesses, Joss appreciates the help given by WCC and Grosvenor to local businesses in these difficult times.

This is a very special and individual shop. We always encourage you to “shop local” and we definitely recommend a visit to 10 Eccleston Street (see www.jossgraham.com). ▲

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Pimlico (Warwick Edition)

Trial of new-look black bins



Local people may be surprised to see some of our black bins looking much more decorative than usual. This is the result of the Council being selected for the Local Government Association's Behavioural Insights Programme, which provides funding to encourage people to make better choices. The aim of this four week trial is to reduce abandoned rubbish around our communal waste facilities. The interventions are deliberately designed to move away from our traditional approach to tackling this issue.

There are two aspects to the trial: Firstly, 'Floral' – research suggests that if an area looks 'unloved', it gives users the moral licence to not care about how they

behave around it. Research suggests that exposure to symbols of natural sights encourages pro-social behaviour.

Secondly, Trashtalk – There is significant research that indicates that if we can get users to interact with the bins in a different way, they are likely to behave better around them. So the bins are 'redesigned' to have cheeky messages, to get people's attention.

Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson explains: "This is an interesting approach in dealing with the misuse of our black bin sites which can look a mess, despite being cleared several times a day."

Dog Event in Pimlico

Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson joined the Westminster City Council Animal Welfare Team and nearly 50 local people for their first dog event in two years, which was held at the dog park in St George's Square.

Luckily, the park was well shaded and a paddling pool was provided to keep our four legged friends cool. There were treats for the dogs and a canine photographer to take portraits of owners and pets as well as advice from the Mayhew Animal Hospital.

There will be further events during the summer throughout Westminster, culminating in our first ever dog show on 'Silver Sunday' on 3rd October. This is the special day with fun activities for older people in our community.



Cllr Jackie Wilkinson at the Animal Welfare event

Cllr Christabel Flight, founder of Silver Sunday and Older People’s Champion, says: “As a dog owner, I am very excited about the plans for this very special event.”

More information will be provided in the Autumn Edition of ‘Westminster Plus’, the Council’s magazine for older residents.

Knightsbridge & Belgravia



Elizabeth Hitchcock

Rachael Robathan

Tony Devenish

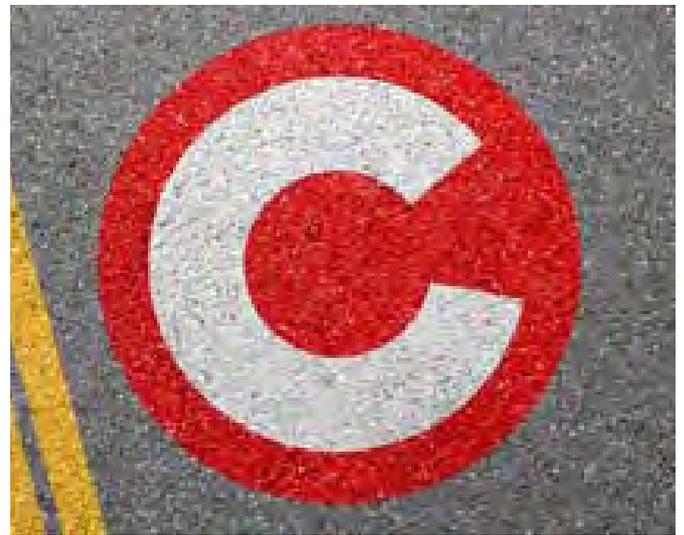
Council secures funding for most vulnerable

Westminster City Council has bid successfully for £3.3m of funding to help people experiencing multiple disadvantages. Westminster is the only London local authority to be chosen as one of 15 national pilot schemes on a programme funded by the Government and the National Lottery Fund. The Council will work with partners over three years to extend its innovative work for troubled

young people, adults facing domestic abuse, those rough sleeping and families struggling to navigate the system.

Cllr Heather Acton, responsible for Communities and Regeneration explains: “This funding will help to transform the lives of the most vulnerable individuals and communities in Westminster, helping to make Westminster a happy place in which to reside.”

Congestion Charge – have your say!



The Mayor of London promised that the hours for the Congestion Charge, the fee and the exemptions would revert to their pre-pandemic levels this September. TfL has now launched a consultation which, if confirmed, will mean from 28th February 2022, the charge will stay in force from noon until 6pm at weekends and the increase to £15 will be retained. It is disappointing that the Mayor proposes to keep the Charge at weekends. Plans to re-introduce the residents’ discount after withdrawing it to new applicants in August 2020 will be welcomed by many. For more information on the proposals, you can visit the TfL consultation page. The consultation will run until Wednesday 6th October. ▲



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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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.

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**





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