

**THE**

ISSUE 101 | OCTOBER 2023

# BELGRAVIA SOCIETY

## MAGAZINE

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT  
VOICE FOR BELGRAVIA

### HALLOWEEN

LEARN ABOUT THE MEANINGS  
BEHIND THIS FESTIVAL AND  
HOW IT HAS EVOLVED

### THE FUTURE OF ELIZABETH STREET

HAVE YOUR SAY AND COMPLETE  
THE ONLINE SURVEY





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## 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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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**George Waite**  
Chairman of  
The Belgravia Society  
and ESRA

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

## Consultation – Residents' Associations

**W**e often write regarding the need to engage in consultation and the importance of the number of responses to a consultation. As an example, our Editor writes in this edition on a current consultation with Westminster City Council (WCC) and Grosvenor regarding 'Elizabeth Street and its future'. Unfortunately, the meeting that she writes about was so poorly attended that it risks sending the wrong message to stakeholders and jeopardises the result.

I completely accept that many of us are simply too busy to attend meetings and all too often the timing and venue for meetings are not convenient. Therefore, as an alternative, provide us with your comments and questions so that we can raise matters on your behalf.

Residents' Association (RA) can be important stakeholders in consultations and can be set up by a small group of leaseholders who have been granted leases from the same landlord on similar terms that include the payment of a variable service charge. Formal recognition of a RA is more difficult and requires a prescribed constitution that is fair and democratic, and a membership of more than 60% of the block or development to ensure that it represents the majority of leaseholders' or homeowners' interests.

A recognised RA will be formally invited to attend consultations and can ultimately take on responsibilities for property management if transferred by the landlord under the Rights of First Refusal, or Right to Manage Legislation, or following the purchase by the residents of the landlord's interest collectively.

Eaton Square established its current Residents' Association (ESRA) in cooperation with the landlord (Grosvenor) to deal with the many issues arising from almost 350 properties, many of which are leasehold (a mix of long and short leaseholds) with others that are freehold. We agreed with Grosvenor to work on an informal basis as formal recognition would be unnecessarily complex and we wanted all residents to automatically be members of the RA. ESRA was subsequently formed as a sub-group of the Belgravia Society and remains so today.

Whether you are a member of a RA or this Society, it is important that your personal views are heard. We are all part of the Belgravia community and, with your support, this Society will make every effort to ensure that residents are informed of their rights under the law and, in particular, under the Landlord and Tenant related legislation, and that your views are heard." ▲



# THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY MUST BE TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES

**NICKIE AIKEN MP**

**T**he scenes of utter horror from Israel and the traumatic testimonies of the survivors cannot have failed to leave anyone sickened by the acts of terror rained down by Hamas terrorists on civilians. The victims: innocent men, women, children and babies murdered in their homes; hundreds of young people massacred at a music festival; others kidnapped and taken over the border to Gaza, including children without their parents, the elderly, the sick and Holocaust survivors. Whatever one's view on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, I cannot see how anyone could condone such acts against humanity.

The immediate priority must be to secure the release of the hostages. Thousands on both sides have died, and further loss of life must be avoided.

These acts of terrorism have deeply affected people in this country, particularly our Jewish community. Following the attacks, I convened a meeting with local Jewish leaders and the police where we discussed security concerns. I also stood with our Jewish community and was honoured to be invited to attend and address special services held in Central, West London and Western Marble Arch Synagogues.

Sadly though, antisemitic incidents have dramatically increased. This is unacceptable. I know that Belgravia and the Two Cities are incredibly welcoming, tolerant and cohesive

places and it is on all of us to ensure they continue to be so. The Government has provided £15 million for the Jewish Community Protection Security grant this year and has stepped forward with £3 million of extra funding to the Community Security Trust to protect schools, synagogues and other Jewish community buildings in the wake of Hamas' terrorist attacks.

Many of you may have seen reports of the demonstration that took place at The Cenotaph. I am clear that no demonstration, no matter the issue, should take place at The Cenotaph, and I am extremely worried that neither the Police nor the Council claim they gave permission for the rally to take place there. I've asked the Security Minister, Tom Tugendhat MP, to look into the matter and I have written to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, demanding a meeting as to why officers allowed it to take place.

It's also so important that we separate the members of Hamas from the innocent Palestinian people. I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of a £10 million package of support for Palestinian civilians, funding essential relief items and services such as food, water and emergency shelter. But I remain very concerned for their safety and I have liaised with ministers over the need for humanitarian aid and for citizens to be allowed to travel to Egypt.



I visited Israel and the West Bank last year and spoke to politicians on both sides. I feared then that their views were nonretractable; I fear that even more so now. I believe a two-state solution is the right one, but it means that both sides will have to accept compromises. I am concerned that following the Hamas attacks, any solutions or compromises seem further away now than in the past 50 years.

If I can be of any help on any issue, local, national or international, please get in touch. Send me an email at [nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk) or write to me at: Nickie Aiken MP, House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA.

Keep up to date and be the first to know what I'm up to by following me on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube @TwoCitiesNickie. Also sign up to my community newsletter to get the latest community news directly to your inbox at [www.nickie.news/SignUp](http://www.nickie.news/SignUp). ▲



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## BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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

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

### JOIN US TODAY!

#### Benefits include:

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

**[www.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 23 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](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com). We can only accept a limited number, so first come, first served. Our next meeting is on 14th November.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:info@belgraviasociety.com)





# BRING THEM HOME

**O**n Sunday 22nd October the Jewish community held a Rally and Vigil in Trafalgar Square to remember the hostages taken on 7th October and to call for them to be released to come home.

They heard of the details of the tragic pogrom which had taken place in Israel. The crowd was addressed by the President of the Board of Deputies, the Chief Rabbi and relatives of the victims or survivors of the pogrom.

Michael Gove spoke with reassuring words about what had happened and about how the values of our society had been abused by

those who had walked our streets calling for violence against Israel and the Jewish people. He promised the Government would stand with Israel.

The crowds made no threats. There was no chanting for revenge. The response from the crowd was to ask for the hostages to be brought home.

The vigil concluded with Rabbi Charley Baginsky singing a psalm and with the singing of the Israeli National anthem to show solidarity with Israel. There was an air of great sadness but also of hope. ▲



# Autumn ROUNDUP



**BY SARA OLIVER**

**H**aving attended a Harvest Festival near our home, I was reminded about how grateful we should be for all the beauty that surrounds us, the blue skies, sunshine and refreshing rain, the wildlife, our gardens, green spaces with autumn tints; and for the peace and prosperity we share. We gave harvest festival goodies to our local church as donations for food banks to help those in need.

Autumn is a lovely time to visit the Royal Parks when there is a distinct chill in the air and dazzling displays of leaves all turning to red, brown, and gold. The parks provide a chance to get some fresh air, take a break and appreciate the natural environment. During the Great Plague of London in 1665-6, many Londoners sought refuge in The Royal Parks. The green spaces were used for the duration of the plague, as they were during COVID.

The Royal Parks encourage everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. Over the coming months, see the stark beauty of the parks; take a walk on a crisp, frosty morning in the soft sunlight; go out and engage with nature, whilst catching up with family and friends.

There are plenty of things to do, such as enjoying a steaming mug of chocolate or coffee at either the Colicci Serpentine Coffee House, or the Lodge in Hyde Park Corner, whilst admiring the trees as they change into autumn dress.

A visit to the Royal Parks shop which opened in July 2023 is a must, selling wonderful, seasonal and sustainable high quality gifts and products. Profits go towards investing in conservation and restoration projects. Open daily from 10am until 5pm, the shop is located at the Boat House on the Serpentine.



Finally, enjoy birdwatching and wildlife spotting. Visit the **Royal Parks** for more ideas and information.

Please be alert to professional beggars (those who live in comfortable homes but choose to panhandle to earn a living) during the ‘festivals of giving’ at this time. We do not condone begging in the streets and specifically ask that if you should come across any type of begging in our neighbourhood, not to be taken in by ‘aggressive panhandling’, and to report it.

As quoted in SEBRA 50TH EDITION\* (see sources below): *‘This may be done by vocal appeal – asking, requesting, coercing, badgering, sympathy appeals, harassment, threats, or demands, or by non-vocal appeal – usage of signs or other signals, gestures, postures, children, animals, or props such as toys and musical instruments.’*

If you do wish to help those caught up in circumstances beyond their control, then please send donations, or volunteer for a local charity such as St Mungo’s.

Autumn is a time for reflection and winding down before the winter months arrive, so stay warm and well and, above all, keep your wits about you, as the days and months slowly darken. ▲

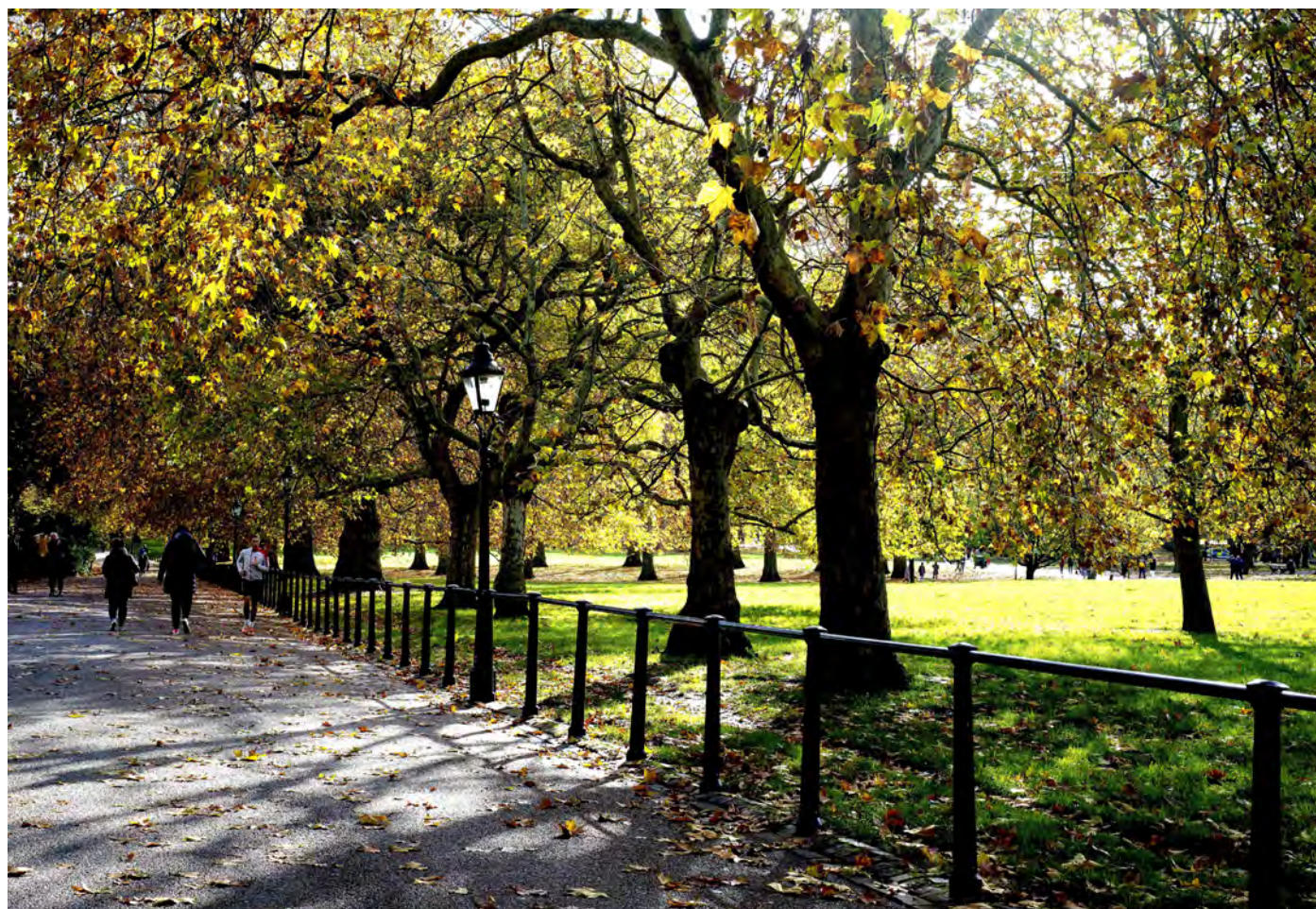
### Sources:

**Royal Parks** – [www.royalparks.org.uk](http://www.royalparks.org.uk)

**Royal Parks Shop** – [www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/hyde-park/royal-parks-shop](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/hyde-park/royal-parks-shop)

**SEBRA 50TH EDITION** ‘Spare Some Change’, \*quote article by Roger Harding page 14 – [www.sebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/sebra-news-autumn-2020-web.pdf](http://www.sebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/sebra-news-autumn-2020-web.pdf)

**St Mungo’s** – [www.mungos.org](http://www.mungos.org)







# Elizabeth Street

## AND ITS FUTURE

**W**estminster City Council, in partnership with Grosvenor, are now consulting on the future of Elizabeth Street. They are seeking local views. We do not know how local that will be as, the further away people live from Elizabeth Street, the less they care about the noise and antisocial behaviour and the things which upset the residents. It is vital that any consultation should give priority to those who live in Elizabeth Street, and that those who are most affected by it have the strongest say.

We know from discussions with members who live in Elizabeth Street that the noise, particularly in the evenings, is unacceptable. It disturbs their daily lives as well as their sleep. In responding to the consultation, we ask you to give your greatest consideration to those who are most affected by it – those who live there.

### WCC AND GROSVENOR ASK THE FOLLOWING:

“We are seeking views on proposed changes to the section of Elizabeth Street between Ebury Street and Chester Square. These proposals build on the successful elements of the outdoor dining and increased greening which were introduced to Elizabeth Street in 2020 on a temporary basis.”

Proposed improvements include:

- Reconfigured outdoor dining areas (small reduction), which match the existing pavement levels and materials, and preserve adequate space for pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with visual impairments
- minor alterations to parking and loading to better cater for servicing



- new high-quality planters and planting bespoke to Elizabeth Street
- improved additional lighting

WCC refer to the success of the outside dining, but they do not consider the complaints and requests from the residents to reduce the impact on their lives. What the consultation does not do is suggest that you may decide that you do not want any outside dining, or if you do, you think it is appropriate that terminal hours should be something in the region of 10pm.

When you are responding to WCC, they should be asked to take into account the points that we have made so that the residents, who were living in a quiet residential street with a mixture of different retail shops, could get the benefit of a much quieter environment.

Most of the retail shops have gone to be replaced by ubiquitous cafés and restaurants. The changes to the street evolved as a response to the COVID outbreak trying to

help the cafés and restaurants already there to recover some of the losses they had made when there was either lockdown or far fewer visitors. It was never intended to be permanent.

Whatever the outcome, we do hope to ensure that there is adequate space on pavements, perhaps 2m so that it “preserves adequate space for pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with visual impairments”. Do read through points of Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock who makes other vital points.

**The consultation ends on 7th November. Whatever your views, make sure you make them known to WCC and Grosvenor and give your postcode in your response. ▲**



**Have your say on Elizabeth Street by scanning the QR code:**



## Have your say on Elizabeth Street Public Realm Improvements











# Halloween

have wondered about this “festival” and we see increased interest in it, especially for children. The origin seems to be in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. On the day corresponding to 1st November, on contemporary calendars, the new year was believed to begin.

Halloween, a contraction of All Hallows’ Eve, became a holiday observed on 31st October, the evening before All Saints’ (or All Hallows’) Day. The celebration marks the day before the Western Christian feast of All Saints and initiates the season of Allhallowtide. In much of Europe and most of North America, observance of Halloween is largely non-religious.

During the Samhain festival the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes and those who had died during the year were believed to journey to the otherworld. People set bonfires on hilltops for re-lighting their hearth fires for the winter and to frighten away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other disguises to avoid being recognised by the ghosts thought to be present. It was in those ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be associated with the day.

The period was also thought to be favourable for divination on matters such as marriage, health, and death. When the Romans conquered the Celts in the 1st century,



*During the Samhain festival the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes*



they added their own festivals of Feralia, commemorating the passing of the dead, and of Pomona, the goddess of the harvest.

In the 7th century Pope Boniface IV established All Saints' Day, originally on 13th May and, in the following century, perhaps in an effort to supplant the pagan holiday with a Christian observance, it was moved to 1st November.

In Britain especially, Halloween continues to be celebrated as a secular holiday. In the United States, beginning in the mid 19th century, immigrants took their Halloween customs with them, and in the 20th century, Halloween

became one of the principal US holidays, particularly among children.

Halloween is associated with a number of activities: the practice of playing harmless pranks, mask wearing and costumes for parties and for trick-or-treating.

We have seen a number of decorations for Halloween in Belgravia this year as before and, whatever their origin, they offer interesting decoration in these autumn days as the evenings draw in.

We now look forward to the more cheerful and colourful Christmas decorations. ▲

# CHAMBER RECITAL: FAUST IN SONG

**TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2023 | 7PM-9PM**

**Christ Church, Christchurch Street, London SW3**



An evening revisiting the Faust legend in music. Some of the best loved songs in the repertoire draw on this unforgettable story which captivated 19th century composers, writers and artists alike. This recital serves as a wonderful introduction to the theme and features favourite songs by Schubert, Beethoven, Liszt and Verdi alongside some familiar arias and a couple of forgotten gems including music hall parodies! The story will be explained during the course of the evening.

Anna Cavaliero | soprano      Margo Arsane | mezzo soprano  
Jolyon Loy | baritone      Mark Austin | piano

To book: [www.operaprelude.org](http://www.operaprelude.org) | 020 7183 7323



Congratulations on your 100th issue of this wonderful magazine! I love that the back issues are also available too. There are fascinating articles, not just of local interest but also of wider historical interest. In browsing through previous issues I particularly enjoyed reading about Christopher Columbus, and the coverage of the Coronation was detailed and illustrated with beautiful photographs; indeed, there are so many intriguing features. Bravo Team Belgravia!

**Sarah Barry**  
**Audience Communications**

## **Editor's Note:**

*We thank Sarah Barry for marking our 100th Edition on behalf of Opera Prelude.*



# Silver Sunday



**M**arina Kaloghirou, our member, supported *Silver Sunday* in Belgrave Square as she does each year in memory of her mother. Grosvenor helps too.

*Silver Sunday* initially launched as a local campaign to tackle loneliness and isolation by former Westminster Councillor, Christabel Flight. That first Sunday started with a tea dance and within a few short years it has turned into a national campaign to tackle the blight of loneliness that affects so many older people. *Silver Sunday* is a day in the national calendar, the first Sunday in October. It became a flagship initiative of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation and is now a national day for people of all ages to come together to celebrate the older generation and host fun and free activities for them. This year it was held in the beautiful surroundings of Eaton Square Gardens on 1st October. There was the usual music and refreshments.

*Silver Sunday* also provides an opportunity for local authorities, charities, community groups and private, voluntary and public organisations to promote what they already do to relieve social isolation and loneliness among older people. ▲







# BELGRAVIA POLICE STATION – PLANNING APPLICATION NOW IN FOR THE OTHER HOUSE

**T**he application describes that what is to happen is a part demolition, part retention (of existing basement and structural frame) and redevelopment to create a building basement, ground floor and eight upper storeys with a rooftop plant and a two storey building to the courtyard. I think when many of us understood alterations were to take place, we did not realise the extent. The building will provide a new hotel with ancillary uses, cycle parking, a landscaped courtyard and associated works. We need to look at it as a new building for a new purpose.

The development is being carried out by The Other House. They tell us the design scheme for the building incorporates the design codes as compiled by the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum. They have adjusted the height to be below 30m with a further reduction of 1.5m in

overall height. They propose to incorporate the landscaping for maximum public benefit ensuring inclusive access to food and beverage areas.

The building work is as described above. The Other House tell us that guests are part of the neighbourhood and the neighbourhood is part of The Other House.

We are assured that during construction measures will be taken to mitigate disturbance and the construction works will be under the Considerate Constructors scheme. The construction programme is yet to be confirmed, however, retaining a large portion of the existing structure ground floor and basement level and not excavating any additional basement floors will reduce the programme compared with a new build.



*We understand that all these facilities will be available to local residents and the proprietors hope that the site will be regenerated reducing environmental impact and breathing new life into the neighbourhood.*



During construction, measures will be taken to mitigate disturbance such as dust control through monarflex scaffolding.

We are promised open communication with the residents and surrounding stakeholders to ensure that the local communities are engaged with the project as it progresses.

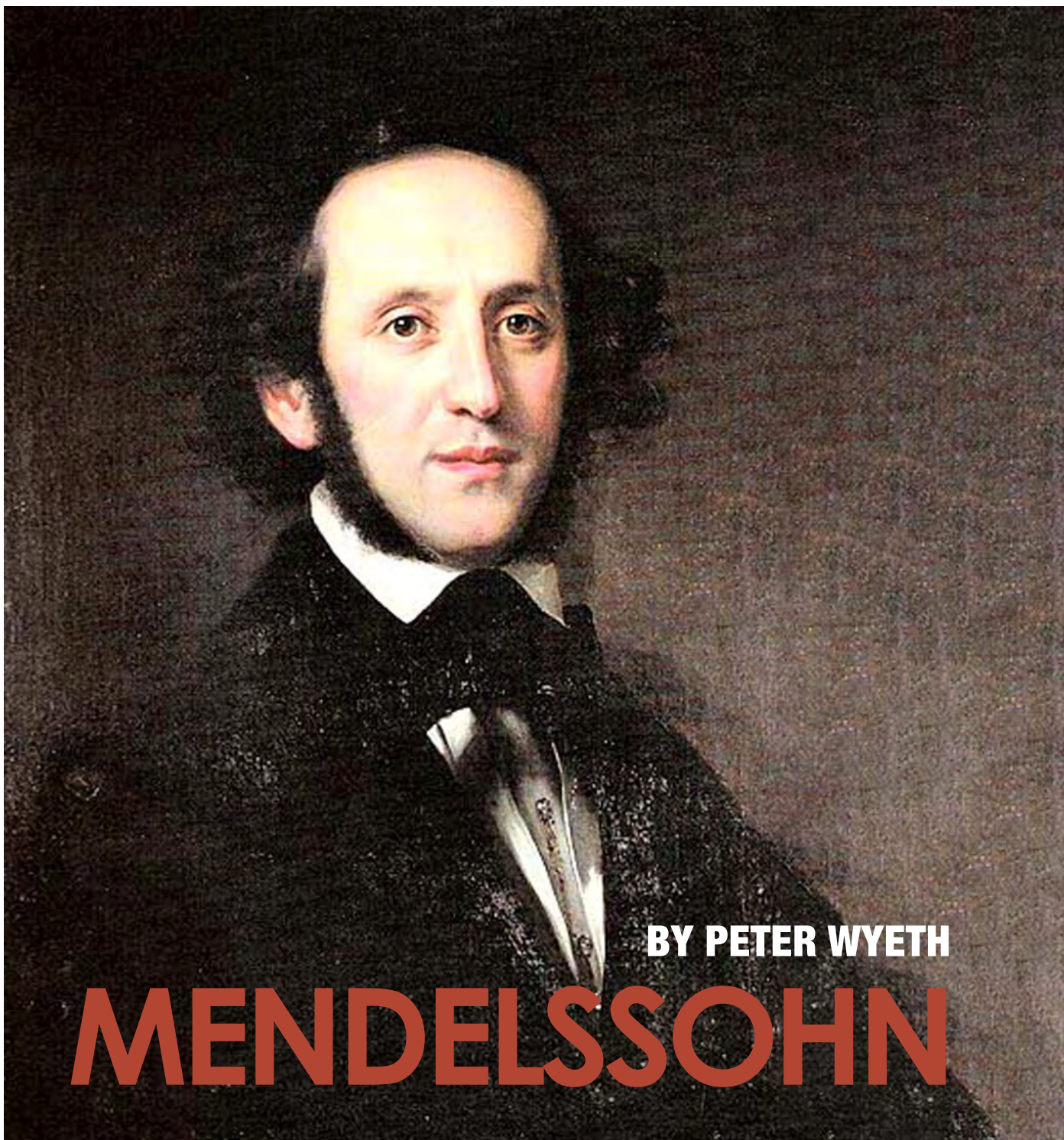
There will be offerings including a local all-day café, a signature cocktail bar, dining rooms and meeting rooms for hire as well as the spa focusing on fitness and well-being. They tell us they are trying to create a social hub. The concept is that when guests are away from home, they will come to the building treating it as a second home, or their 'other house'.

We understand that all these facilities will be available to local residents and the proprietors hope that the site will be regenerated reducing environmental impact and breathing new life into the neighbourhood. We trust these aspirations will be achieved.

Whatever our view about the loss of the police station, we cannot fault this developer for lack of consultation. We have no information yet on when the work will start or how long it will take.

A good deal more information can be obtained by visiting the WCC Planning application number 23/06489/FULL. Let us know your views. ▲





BY PETER WYETH

# MENDELSSOHN

*German Romantic composer, pianist and conductor, Felix Mendelssohn, wrote the Overture to a 'Midsummer Night's Dream' and founded the Leipzig Conservatory of Music*

**F**elix Mendelssohn was “the Mozart of the nineteenth century, the most brilliant musician, the one who most clearly sees through the contradictions of the age and for the first time reconciles them”. He was also “the greatest composing prodigy in the history of Western classical music”, whose command at age 16 surpassed that of Mozart or Chopin at 19; the possessor at an early age of a “control of large-scale structure unsurpassed by any composer of his generation”.



Goethe, in his seventies, was greatly impressed by the child: 'Musical prodigies ... are probably no longer so rare; but what this little man can do in extemporizing and playing at sight borders the miraculous, and I could not have believed it possible at so early an age... and bears the same relation to the Mozart of that time that the cultivated talk of a grown-up person bears to the prattle of a child.'

Mendelssohn enjoyed early success in Germany, and revived interest in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, notably with his performance of the *St Matthew Passion* in 1829, the central event in the revival of Bach's music in Germany and, eventually, throughout Europe.

It earned Mendelssohn widespread acclaim at the age of 20, and led to one of the few explicit references Mendelssohn himself made to his origins: 'To think that it took a Jew's son to revive the greatest Christian music for the world!' His fugues and chorales especially reflect a tonal clarity and use of counterpoint reminiscent of Bach, to which he added a 'profound' comprehension of Beethoven.

His essentially conservative musical tastes set him apart from more adventurous musical contemporaries such as Liszt, Wagner and Berlioz, and the Leipzig Conservatory, which he founded, became a bastion of the anti-radical outlook.

After a long period of relative denigration due to changing musical tastes and antisemitism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, his creative originality has been re-evaluated, putting him among the most popular composers of the Romantic era.



Following his Bach triumph, Mendelssohn travelled widely. His first visit to England was in 1829, and during the 1830s visited Vienna, Florence, Milan, Rome and Naples. These years proved the germination for some of his most famous works, including the Hebrides Overture and Scottish and Italian symphonies.

He made ten visits to Britain, a total in all of 20 months, winning a strong following, and making a big impression on British musical life. He composed and performed, and also edited for British publishers the first critical editions of oratorios of Handel and of the organ music of J. S. Bach. Scotland inspired two of his most famous works: the overture *The Hebrides* (also known as *Fingal's Cave*); and the *Scottish Symphony* (Symphony No. 3). An English Heritage blue plaque commemorates Mendelssohn's residence at 4 Hobart Place, Belgravia.

On his last, 1847, visit, Mendelssohn was the soloist for a Beethoven Piano Concerto and conducted his *Scottish Symphony* before two admirers, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. ▲



# 100 YEARS IN BELGRAVIA

**BY CHARLES OLIVER**

**M**y family have lived in Belgravia on and off for 100 years. In 1923 my great uncle Allan Cyprian Bourne Webb, a successful Chancery Barrister and his wife, Rachel Augusta Erskine, a Scottish aristocrat, moved to 21 Chester Square where he lived until his death in January 1955. Uncle Cyprian was the son of Allan Webb, former Bishop of Bloemfontein and Eliza Bourne who came from ancient Worcestershire landed gentry. Allan Webb became Dean of Salisbury where there is a stained glass window dedicated to him.

My great uncle was a shy man who always said, 'I cannot entertain because one of my seven servants has the day off'.

When my parents visited the house after his death they inspected the wine cellar. The wine had either gone off or been drunk by Uncle Cyprian's valet, Andrew. It was quite common in those days for servants to drink their master's wine.

They did, however, entertain some interesting and prominent individuals who appear in the visitors book, such as Daniel MacMillan the publisher brother of PM, Harold MacMillan, also residents of Chester Square, and Edward Lord Halifax who became Foreign Secretary and his wife Dorothy (Lady Dorothy Onslow).

George VI preferred Halifax to Churchill as PM in 1940. Halifax favoured peace with Germany like many members of the upper classes who had lost many eldest sons as well as having to pay higher taxes. They also had difficulty in the inter-war period getting good staff which was known as 'the servant problem'. Not

surprisingly, many people preferred to work in a factory rather than work as a servant in a grand or not so grand household where the pay was low and the working hours were long, even if they got free board and lodging.

In the 1970s I lived at 17 Chesham Place on the corner of Pont Street where my flatmate and I entertained a number of beautiful debs of the period. It was a most enjoyable time and I also held several election parties there, in particular, when Margaret Thatcher became PM in 1979. This heralded the end of the high taxation under Labour where a number of my wealthier friends and acquaintances were banished to tax havens like Monaco.

Under the new Tory era with Nigel Lawson as Chancellor, most of these people returned to the UK, such as Lord Rothermere (the owner of *The Daily Mail*) and the exchequer actually received higher revenues.

There is definitely a lesson for current occupants of that office to be learnt from this tale which is also demonstrated by the LAFA curve proving lowering taxes results in higher tax payments.

On 1st May 1997 my wife, Sara and I and our daughter Caroline moved to Ebury Street which, by sheer coincidence was the day that Tony Blair won a landslide election for New Labour and became PM.

We have enjoyed our years in Belgravia with its pleasant white stucco buildings garden squares and excellent restaurants and look forward to a future in Belgravia. ▲





# CONSULTATIONS

BY ELIZABETH HITCHCOCK

*Consultations work best when there is a lot of engagement with the process. It is very important to make your thoughts known about the proposals.*

**T**he direction of travel in Government is to be as inclusive as possible, and one of those ways is to solicit the views of residents via consultations. We, as residents, have been asked for a very long time about our views on planning applications, and *The Belgravia Society* has been excellent in taking an active role with both written representations, and over the past few years, oral representations in front of planning committees. By doing this, the concerns of those who will be affected by development will be able to express those views. This forms part of the process so the correct decision can be reached.

The same principles apply to public consultations. Westminster City Council consults on a variety of issues and proposals. Currently, views are being sought on topics as diverse as flooding, housing compensation, a cycleway, a night-time plan for the City, and Pimlico Gardens. They can all be found at [westminster.commonplace.is](https://westminster.commonplace.is).

But the consultation that will affect most readers of this magazine is the one concerning the Elizabeth Street public realm improvements.

The proposals include the retention of outdoor

dining, alterations to on-street parking and loading, making outdoor dining areas at the same level as existing pavement levels, bespoke Elizabeth Street fixed planters with plants that are tolerant to drought and will minimise water usage and additional lighting to the area.

Consultations work best when there is a lot of engagement with the process. There will be a drop-in briefing on 1st November from 12-2pm in Eccleston Yards and an online briefing on 2nd November from 6-7pm. Register for this briefing at [bit.ly/ElizabethStreetBelgravia](https://bit.ly/ElizabethStreetBelgravia).

But following these sessions, it is very important to make your thoughts known about the proposals by completing the online survey. The deadline to make a representation is 7th November. The proposals may or may not change the feel and workings of Elizabeth Street, but as Belgravia residents there is no group better placed to help decide the street's future. Many of you have been living in the area for a very long time and have seen numerous changes over the years. Here is your opportunity to have a say on these proposals so that we can come to the best decision for Elizabeth Street to ensure it thrives and remains at the heart of Belgravia for a very long time to come. ▲

# VISIT ECCLESTON YARDS



**H**ave an experienced mechanic check over your bike at a **Dr Bike session**. The Dr Bike sessions are taking place from 8.30am to 12.30pm on 15th November.

During Dr Bike sessions, experienced mechanics check everything on your bike, from wheels, brakes, gears and tyre pressure to lights, racks, pedals, saddles and more.

Any minor adjustments that they can make to the bike will be done there and then at Eccleston Yards. If there's anything that can't be fixed on site, the mechanic will let you know exactly what needs doing and will share a rough guide as to what it should cost at a bike shop.

All of Dr Bike mechanics are friendly and approachable and have a wealth of cycling knowledge, so feel free to pick their brains about cycle training or other cycling activities. ▲

**To find out more about Dr Bike sessions [click here](#).**





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](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com)  
OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**

## Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

☐ Today ☐ In the past 4 years ☐ In the future



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

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

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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 FORM TO: [info@thebelgraviasociety.com](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com) OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT, 33 EBURY STREET, SW1W 0NY**



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