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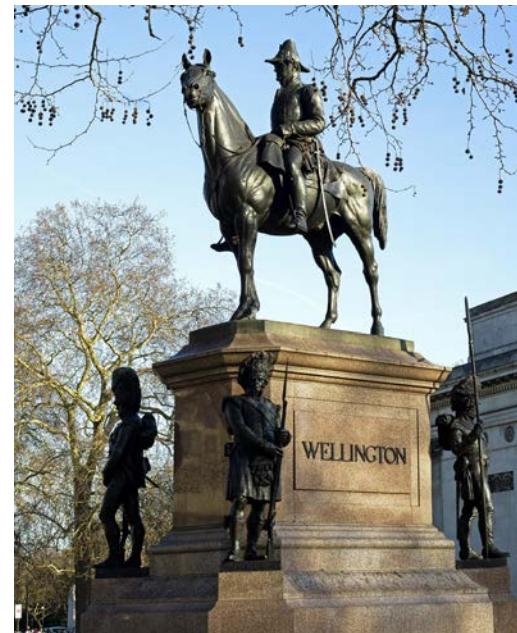
The Belgravia Society Magazine

Number 60 | May 2020

The only independent voice for Belgravia



CELEBRATING
5
years
60TH EDITION





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Welcome to The Belgravia Society Magazine covering all aspects of village life in Belgravia and beyond

Editor in Chief – Mary Regnier-Leigh
Chairman – George Waite

Graphic design by Fredd Design (www.fredd.co.uk)

Cover photo – Mary Regnier-Leigh

**A number of photographs in this magazine were taken
before social distancing regulations were applied.**

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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www.thebelgraviasociety.com



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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

Happy Birthday

I am so proud to announce that this is the 60th edition of The Belgravia Society Magazine. Five incredible years of dedication, and hard work by our Editor-in-Chief, Mary Regnier-Leigh and her team. Our Member of Parliament, Nickie Aiken, pays tribute to Mary's hard work in her article on page 8. Wonderful words and I must say that I am humbled by both ladies – they are totally fearless.

Embracing Change

One of my heroes, Winston Churchill, in addition to Nickie and Mary, has been quoted as saying, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

My concern is that we are fast approaching his 'perfect' scenario of constant change, and my fear is that many of us will not be able to adapt fast enough and we will need help. I am reminded of an email that I received from one of my dear neighbours recently. She explained that she can recall when 'R and R', stood for 'Rest and Relaxation', and it now refers to 'Rules and Regulations'. I can also well remember the original meaning but, unfortunately, I am beginning to understand that the new meaning is essential if we are to survive this constant change.

Sir Winston also wrote, "If you're going through hell, keep going", and I am sure that there are some in our community that are going through hell at this moment. However, perhaps these changes will help us to 'keep our community going':

Leader of WCC, Rachael Robathan writes that under her watch from the 19th floor of her head office, "the normal breakfast and lunch service has given way to an assembly line producing two meals a day for 900 people; the Council's rough sleeping team have secured hotel bedrooms to ensure rough sleepers have somewhere to stay; McDonalds is offering fresh food from all of its Westminster outlets which will be used in the meals for the homeless and by the foodbanks; London black cab drivers are ferrying rough sleepers to hotel placements".

Under local news in Grosvenor's Belgravia magazine, "The Berkeley Hotel has launched a drive-thru with a difference, offering complimentary coffee and a meal service for London's emergency service teams, and The Lanesborough delivered the hotel's limited-edition afternoon tea to NHS staff at St George's Hospital."

Taking another quote from my dear neighbour, I do hope that this message does not read like a letter from a misplaced Nancy Mitford novel! Perhaps my examples



of generosity have always been a part of our community, they were simply not so well reported. In fact, you have to really search the small print to find other examples of generosity, for example, “The Duke of Westminster has made a £2 million donation to help vulnerable people, and donated £10 million to the UK’s Coronavirus relief effort.”

My most sincere thanks to all those who continue to give so generously and to all those who risk their lives to help us through these changing times.

One thing is for sure, like it or not, we cannot return to our old ways, we must change.

Stay safe and why not join us at one of our monthly ‘virtual’ meetings? ■



Registered Charity No. 1168619

Building a strong community

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

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

JOIN US TODAY!

Benefits include:

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

[www.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 19 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
London SW1W 0NY

Remembering VE Day



8th May 2020 was the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. We have seen the amazing photographs and films of celebrations in the streets of London and cities all over the United Kingdom.

World War II gave us six years of austerity, uncertainty, loss and fear. It is incredible how such a small country could have survived after our army was defeated in France, but rescued by a fleet of small boats and ships, most of them civilian, creating what we called then and now the 'Dunkirk spirit'. This was followed by the Blitz and I cannot imagine how it must have seemed to be on the brink of invasion and occupation by one of the most evil regimes ever known.

Despite this, and with others who joined in the fight against the Nazis, eventually the war

was won. There followed many more years of austerity and shortages before the country recovered. Freedom, justice and democracy was the ultimate prize for the victory.

We should not forget the Channel Islands were occupied by the Nazis. Only on 8th May 1945, when news of the unconditional surrender came, were they liberated. Bunting and flags were put up in the streets, radios (which had been banned for years upon pain of imprisonment) were produced in public, connected to loudspeakers. The Islanders tuned in to the speech given by Winston Churchill at 3pm when they heard him say, as did the rest of the United Kingdom, "Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight tonight, but in the interests of saving lives the cease fire began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today."



Crowds massed in central London – over a million people were thought to have celebrated on that day. The crowds came into Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and along to Buckingham Palace. There, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth came out onto the balcony many times with their daughters, Princess Margaret Rose and Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II and the longest reigning monarch in English history). Winston Churchill joined them on the balcony to wave at the cheering crowds. During the evening, with their father's permission, the two princesses went out with friends into the crowds to celebrate with the people.

Looking at those happy faces now in the photographs and hearing the voice of Winston Churchill and King George VI, we can more fully understand dancing in the streets and the incredible joy. We have heard stories of death, bravery and survival and we rejoiced again in memory of the war now ended so many years ago and give our gratitude to those who laid down their lives that we may enjoy our freedom and their victory too. ■





True British spirit remains alive and kicking in Belgravia – and this magazine is playing its part

Nickie Aiken MP

It's an honour to be invited to write a piece for the Belgravia Society's Magazine's 60th edition. To produce a monthly magazine for five years is no easy feat. I have gone on record before to congratulate the Society, and specifically Mary Regnier-Leigh, for the dedication to publish this excellent magazine every month.

Coronavirus has drastically altered all our lives. We have all had to come to terms with the new circumstances that we find ourselves in. Spending most of the day inside, unable to have face-to-face contact with close friends and extended family; working from home; getting to grips with video conferencing; queuing to enter the supermarket or spending hours online waiting for a delivery slot to become available has almost become the norm. My children and I have even established a new game on our daily walks – guess how many people will be queuing outside Waitrose on West Halkin Street!

Changes like this have been more difficult for some of the more vulnerable members of our society. If there is one positive to take from where we are, it is that communities across the UK have pulled together to support them. And Belgravia is no exception. London, particularly central London, has a reputation of being a cold and unfriendly place where no one knows their neighbours. You and I know differently. Distinct in character from its neighbours Pimlico and Knightsbridge, Belgravia has always benefitted from a strong community and COVID-19 has done nothing

to dampen that spirit. Belgravia is working closely as a community to ensure that no one has been left behind during this pandemic. Belgravia's, and its fellow neighbourhoods', community spirit is one of the reasons why Westminster, in my humble opinion, is one of the best places to live in the UK.

I have found myself recently thinking about this spirit. Why do Belgravia and central London's other communities have it in abundance? Neighbourhoods only survive because of their people working shoulder to shoulder with their local businesses to preserve aspects of their character, their history and their community – their home. Amenity societies, like The Belgravia Society, play an important part in bringing local people and businesses together. They allow people to exchange views on what matters to them in their vicinity and come together as a collective to shape it; to protect what they hold as important and precious to them and their unique place in the Capital. Without amenity societies central London's communities would be far poorer. Their work is invaluable. As the Member of Parliament that represents the Cities of London and Westminster, I am proud to work in partnership with The Belgravia Society and its fellow amenity societies to protect and enhance our special part of the world, ensuring it remains a fantastic place to live, work, run a business and raise a family.

Happy fifth birthday, Belgravia Society magazine! I look forward to marking your tenth. ■

Congratulations to The Belgravia Society!



On the 5th Birthday of our Magazine, we hear from our Councillors, Rachael Robathan, Elizabeth Hitchcock and Tony Devenish

We would like to congratulate The Belgravia Society on this, the 60th edition of their Magazine. It is a tremendous achievement, not only producing such an interesting and informative magazine month after month, but we also congratulate The Belgravia Society on its success as a thriving organisation made of concerned and committed volunteers who are bound by their interest in the community in which they live. This kind of activism is fundamental to ensuring that life and the surroundings of Belgravia are not only maintained but, hopefully, enhanced, now and long into the future.

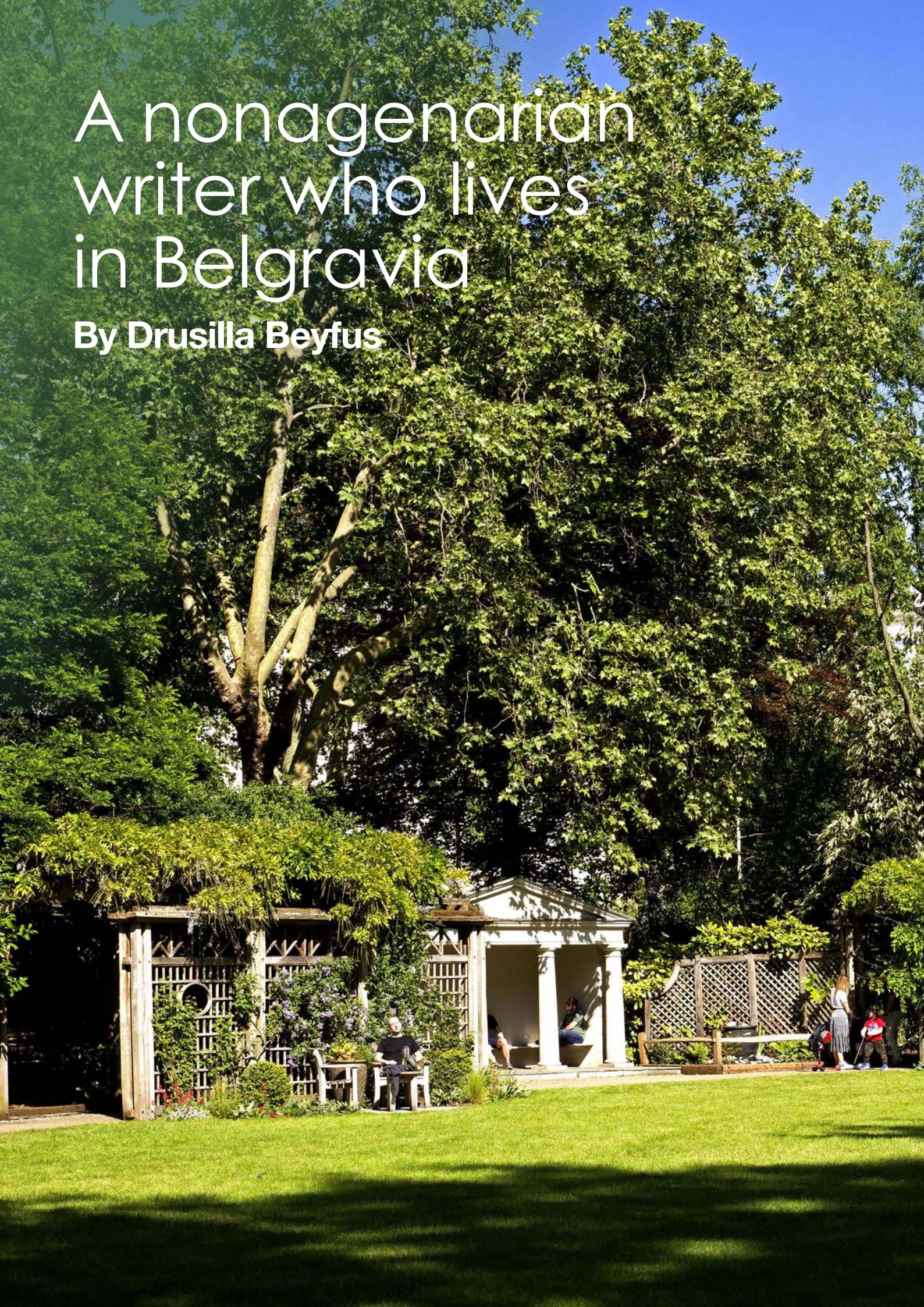
At the moment, the streets are largely still free from traffic, some of the shops remain closed until further instruction from the government, and there are fewer pedestrians out and about than as in normal times.

But what has not changed is that Belgravia remains one of the pre-eminent places in London to live, shop and work. This achievement is only possible by having this committed amenity society that will observe, question and suggest holding both local and national government to account to enhance the local area. An organisation like The Belgravia Society is invaluable in protecting local amenities, offering a wonderful service for its members and for the wider community at large.

It will be interesting to see how Belgravia will fare by the time the 120th edition of this magazine is published. Hopefully, COVID-19 and all its devastating affects, will be very much one for the history books and life in Belgravia will again resemble its usual state. And that usual state, is truly wonderful – very much made possible by the work of The Belgravia Society. ■

A nonagenarian writer who lives in Belgravia

By Drusilla Beyfus



As a local person self-isolating during the lockdown in Belgravia, it was tempting to believe that a spell had been cast over our familiar parish. Forces appeared to be at work transforming sights, sounds, places. The 'wedding cake' stucco facades of our Thomas Cubitt-designed residential blocks bore a different aspect. Numbers of windows facing the street were shut with closed blinds, suggesting no-one at home. Outside bars and restaurants, tables and chairs stood forlornly unoccupied in the sunshine.

Listen! What was once a roar of traffic from the area's main thoroughfares had become a low growl as the number of vehicles being driven decreased to a measured few. In the unaccustomed quiet, everyday street noise acquired a new resonance. A honking car horn seemed to possess a louder than normal honk. Trilling blackbirds, perched on the roofs, became divas.

Breathe in! Experiencing the less polluted air was a distinct plus to the scary downside of reality. Taking a deep breath became wonderfully aerating. Glance upwards! The sky perceived through cleaner air struck the eye as defiantly bluer than before. And the beauty of cloudscapes no longer compromised by a ceaseless flow of aeroplanes heading towards Heathrow.

Stay safe! Pedestrians developed a personal choreography for circumnavigating each other. As people walked by, the individual stroller would swerve their body and arms in an arc-like movement, thereby effectively creating social distance.

A sense of the need to respond to the changed world hit in different ways. Grosvenor's landlord, The Duke of Westminster, personally donated £10 million towards the Covid-19 relief effort. Thanks are due to the trusty elves in my patch for keeping going essential services: postmen, refuse collectors, block caretakers among them. My daily newspapers arrived at the



door. Along Elizabeth Street – my shopping beat – traders and suppliers devised systems that allowed customers controlled access to the shelves as well as offering delivery services. Walden's pharmacy, Jeroboam the wine merchant, Olivocarne the restaurant, the branch of Sainsbury's and nearby Daylesford grocery store were among local establishments that helped to mediate the discomfort of lockdown.

But what to do with stretches of leisure without freedom? I surprised myself with the answer. I have worked as a journalist alongside some of the world's leading photographers but never before been tempted to take my own pictures. However, on my one allowed-for daily outing, I took my iphone camera to the now largely unoccupied square garden close by my block. My mission, to record details of the garden in its delicious summer pomp. The best bit was forwarding my amateurish efforts to family and friends on Instagram.

Another bright spot co-incident with lockdown's difficult days has been the publication of my daughter, Alexandra Shulman's new memoir, *Clothes and Other Things that Matter*. One upshot is that it has enabled me to sign off this piece as I am described in a recent interview with Alexandra in *The Times* newspaper. ■



Messrs C Hoare & Co



No overseas visitor to Belgravia strolling past the discreet 32 Lowndes Street entrance to the bank of C Hoare and Co could guess at this bank's place in English history. Its main branch is at 37 Fleet Street.

"Hoare's Bank has been part of my family's life for nearly 350 years," says one of its partners, Simon Hoare, Chairman of the Museum Committee, whose task it is to preserve and celebrate his family bank's illustrious history.

Older than the Bank of England and all but two private banks in Italy, the family has retained ownership for centuries. In his unassuming foreword to the second volume of *Through the Years: Tales from the Hoare's Bank Archive*, Simon notes his responsibility to the Hoare ancestors and to the bank's customers.

"Founder Richard Hoare, my eight times great grandfather, started his apprenticeship in 1665, just days before Pepys noted the plague's arrival in London, and a year before the Great Fire devastated much of the city."

Said eight times great grandfather was apprenticed by his father as a 15-year old, to goldsmith, Richard Moore of Cheapside, following the outbreak of the Anglo-Dutch War and the depressing state of the economy. Samuel Pepys was soon reporting a recovery following the English fleet's victory at the Battle of Lowestoft.

Part of the bank's success is the ability of its partners to analyse and weigh the trends and to act on them before others. As it is run by a small group, decisions are easily arrived at, for example, the installation of its first computer in the 1970s which took up an entire room, has led in 2020 to the bank being sufficiently on trend technologically that the majority of bank staff were able to work from home before the COVID-19 pandemic reached our shores, and still deliver the superior personal service much appreciated by its clients.

Its archives reveal some interesting facts regarding its illustrious clientele, from famous writers and artists to members of the royal family. This book, *Through the Years*, explores the bank's connection with a particularly colourful writer: poet, Lord Byron.

The archive records a memo relating to Lord Byron's loan application, 1813.

"Byron's first great narrative poem, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, was published in March 1812. So immediate was its success that Byron "awoke one morning and found myself famous." Months later the poet opened an account at Hoare's Bank. Although of short duration – four years – this account covered a tumultuous period in Byron's life. George Gordon Byron was born in 1788, the son of a spendthrift army captain known as 'Mad Jack' Byron and a Scottish heiress, Catherine Gordon. At the age of ten he succeeded his great-uncle as 6th Baron Byron of Rochdale. The title though came with few material benefits; the accompanying estates were mired in debt and there was little ready cash.

Jane Austin is now a well-known customer from 1816-1818, but her mother's family had banked with C Hoare & Co since the 1690s. The archive book reveals that she was one of eight children who had written drafts of both *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* before her 21st birthday. Her name was not given as author, it merely recorded that it was written "by a lady."

Later we learn about HMS Beagle's epic voyage from her Captain, Robert Fitz Roy, and discover how the bank sought to protect its eighteenth-century customers from the ever-present risk of fraud.

The bank continues in the 21st Century to have a limited clientele in order to be able to offer them its impeccable service and security. ■

Planning Advice

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



Invitation to the next Belgravia 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 to the meeting:

info@thebelgraviasociety.com

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

Our next (video) meeting is on
Tuesday 9th June 2020

Complaints to Westminster City Council

If you have a complaint for Westminster City Council, you can "Report it" at

www.westminster.gov.uk

Failing that, you should telephone 020 7641 6000 and ask to speak to the appropriate department.

Also, do contact your Councillor; they are always there to help (see page 20 for contact details).

If you are not sure which Ward you are in, go to the WCC website and click on "Westminster's Councillors". Then either type in the relevant information or click on "Find the Ward you live in". Then put in your address for the result.

Councillor Rachael Robathan on Local Shopping

I'm keen that we should do everything we can to promote the local shopping offer – those businesses staying open or offering a delivery or takeaway service. The government has relaxed planning rules so that businesses only need to inform us if they want to start a delivery or collection offer.

Also, I am introducing a Westminster Connects – Local Shopping function on our website. It's a way of providing free publicity

for local businesses at this time, but also letting residents know what's available in their area.

Any information on opening hours, or detail of the offer should be sent to Emerson Forde at eforde@westminster.gov.uk.

I'm really keen that we do all we can to promote these local businesses which mean so much to our residents.

The following are details of local shops that are available to serve you:

A Moore & Co

25e Lowndes Street

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Sat 9-1.30pm

Belgravia Food Fayre

65 Eaton Terrace | Delivery: 020 7881 0977

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-9pm

Sat-Sun 8am-9pm

Charles of Belgravia

27 Lower Belgrave Street | 020 7730 7193

Green's Pharmacy

29-31 Ebury Bridge Road | 020 7730 1080

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6.30pm

Keencare Pharmacy

6 Lower Belgrave Street

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Sat 9am-1pm

Sainsbury's

14-20 Elizabeth Street

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7am-11pm

Waitrose

27 Motcomb Street

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7.30am-9pm

Sun 11am-5pm

The following restaurants and food shops are offering their fare through Deliveroo or Ubereats as follows:

Baker and Spice

Elizabeth Street | 020 7730 5524

UNI

Ebury Street | 020 7730 9267

Olivocarne

Elizabeth Street by phone for kerbside collection or free local delivery

Olivogelo and Olivino

020 7730 7997

Dominique Ansel Bakery

Elizabeth Street | 020 7324 7705

Daylesford

Pimlico Road | 020 7591 1510

or email delivered@daylesford.com to place your order

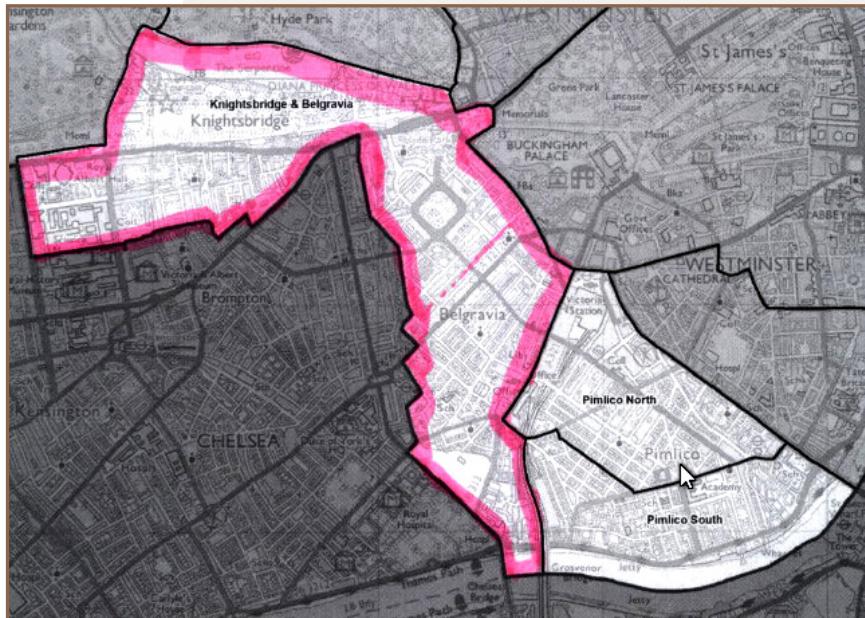
The Good Life Eatery

Motcomb Street | 020 7052 9388

L'ETO Caffe

Motcomb Street

Final recommendations of the Boundary Commission on Belgravia Wards



The local government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for Westminster's wards. It published its findings on 12th May.

On the map of the new Knightsbridge and Belgravia Ward, you will see that we have marked the boundary across the map. The object of the Boundary Commission was to equalise, as far as possible, the number of electors to Ward Councillors. The outer boundaries for our Ward meant that the electors as the population of registered voters had fallen. The electoral commission has therefore added the rest of Belgravia Ward and the little from Churchill Ward, which no longer exists to the remaining part, which in the last consultation showed the Wards of Pimlico and Riverside.

These have changed slightly and the names of the new Wards are now Pimlico North and Pimlico South.

The Boundary Commission received 29 submissions following their draft recommendations; 22 of them were supportive and that included our own.

The Ebury Bridge area had six objections arguing it had close social and demographic ties east of the railway line. The Boundary Commission say they were sympathetic, but the draft recommendations in the report would create poor electoral equality in both Wards. They said that they have concluded there was no alternative warding pattern that would ensure good electoral equality which is an important facet of the democratic process.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, implementation of the new arrangements are likely to take place in the election due in May 2022. ■

Belgravia's Village



The above image was taken before social distancing regulations were applied.



You will recall the letter we published last month from the Chairman of the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum mentioning further consultations. The Forum tell us that they believe that the “village feel” is what residents, workers and businesses value most. This is certainly our view. Belgravia is a village albeit in central London and has all the attributes of a village with very much a village community to support it.

In order to prioritise the elements that contribute to our village, they are doing a very short survey. The Belgravia Society believe that it is extremely important that we support the Forum to make sure it is understood how important we consider our village to be.

You can complete the survey, which takes just a few minutes, at the following link:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/235GSF9

Your responses will be very helpful to the Forum to prepare their plan which we hope will include all the necessary measures to ensure Belgravia remains the village it is. ■

“On yer bike”

By Andrew Geddes



Many people now seem to be singing from the same hymn sheet as far as cycling is concerned, sparked by the COVID-19 outbreak and already under consideration. Understandably, there will be many who will be reluctant to use public transport, so walking or cycling is a good solution. Boris recently stated, “this should be a new golden age for cycling,” bearing in mind that a BMI of 30 or over seems to increase the problems if you get hit by the virus.

Oxford Research (Centre of Research into Energy Demand Solutions – CREDS) says, “the government has not yet realised the strategic importance of eBikes.” This enables a wider range of people able to use them and makes distances of 5-10 miles much easier. “There is much more capacity for people to change than we thought.” If you like the idea it is easy to try out by hiring an eBike on the street such as those from Lime, Bird, Spin, Scoot, Uber..., or try a local bike shop.

The government is now running a public consultation on eScooters which closes on 2nd June.



London cycle journeys are up 400% in the last 20 years. More recently, bike sales in March and April of this year are up as much as 677% year-on-year!

Finance for bikes

For a long time there has been the Bike-to-Work scheme whereby a new bike can be paid for from pre-tax salary by means of salary-sacrifice, thereby saving 25-40% on the purchase price. It can be arranged with large cycle shop chains such as Halfords and Evans Cycles, as well as others.

Where will all the new bikes hitting the roads and paths be locked at work? Where will they be stored at home? The Council installed a batch of 14 cycle hangars in summer 2019 covering most residential areas of the borough, but with none in the West End, St John's Wood or Knightsbridge and Belgravia. The Council recently consulted on proposals to bring a second batch of up to 29 cycle hangars to the West End and St John's Wood, and boost coverage elsewhere. Cycle hangars typically cost about £70 per bike/year and have space for six bikes, using about half the space of a parked car. Most existing cycle hangars are full and have a waiting list – you can email the Council on

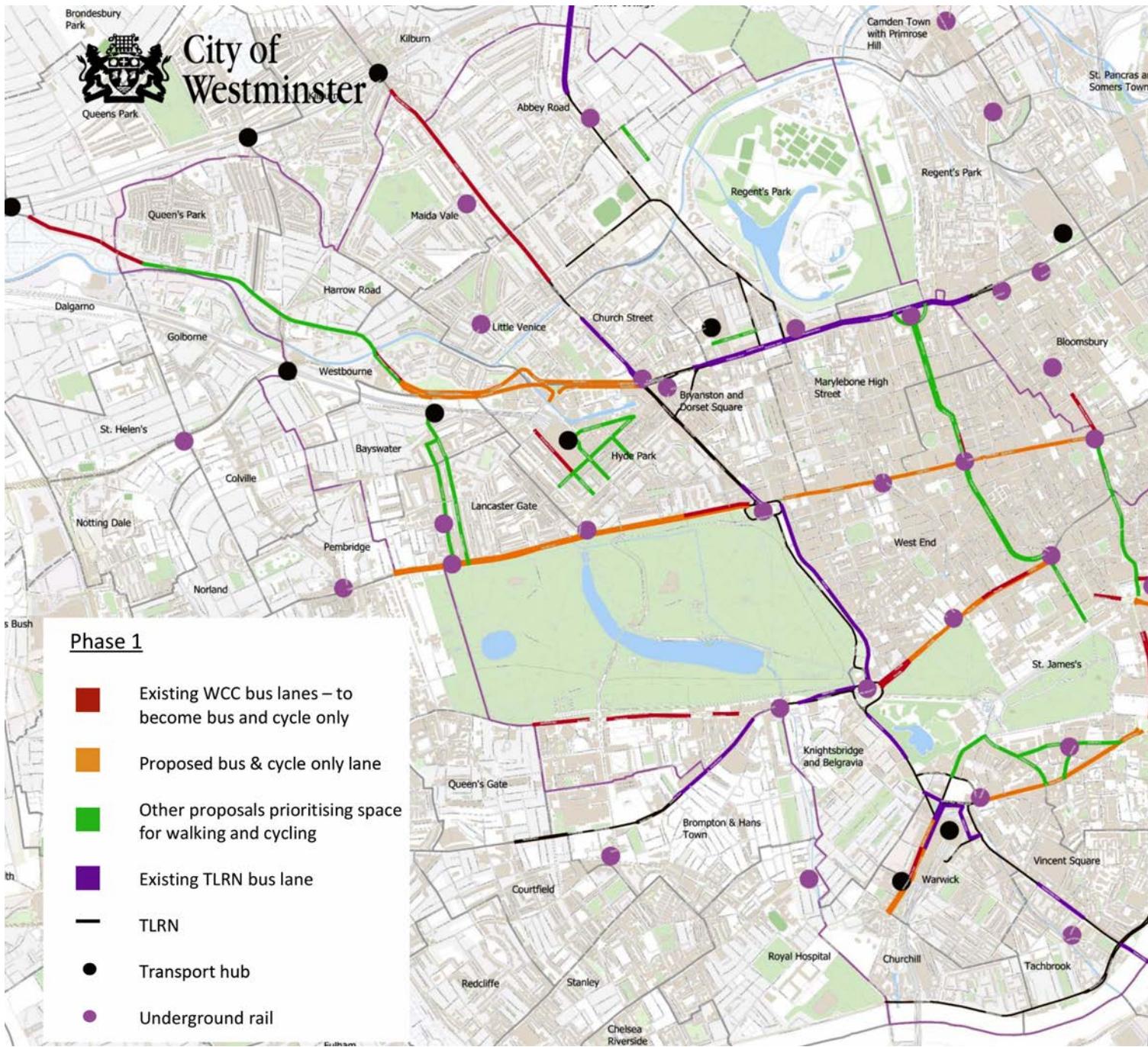
cycling@westminster.gov.uk. Why not cc your three councillors to show them that there's a real local resident behind your request? For information, go to The London Cycling Campaign website (<https://lcc.org.uk>), or our own Westminster sub-group of the LCC (<https://lcc.org.uk/boroughs/westminster>) that covers local meetings and relaxed rides around our part of London (very interesting and no lycra or racing bikes necessary!).

Time to get on your bike? If you do then make sure you have a good lock. A "D" lock is excellent since chain or cable is too easy to cut. Then lock your bike to something, not just to itself. Good luck! ■

**Do you want
to know your
BMI?**

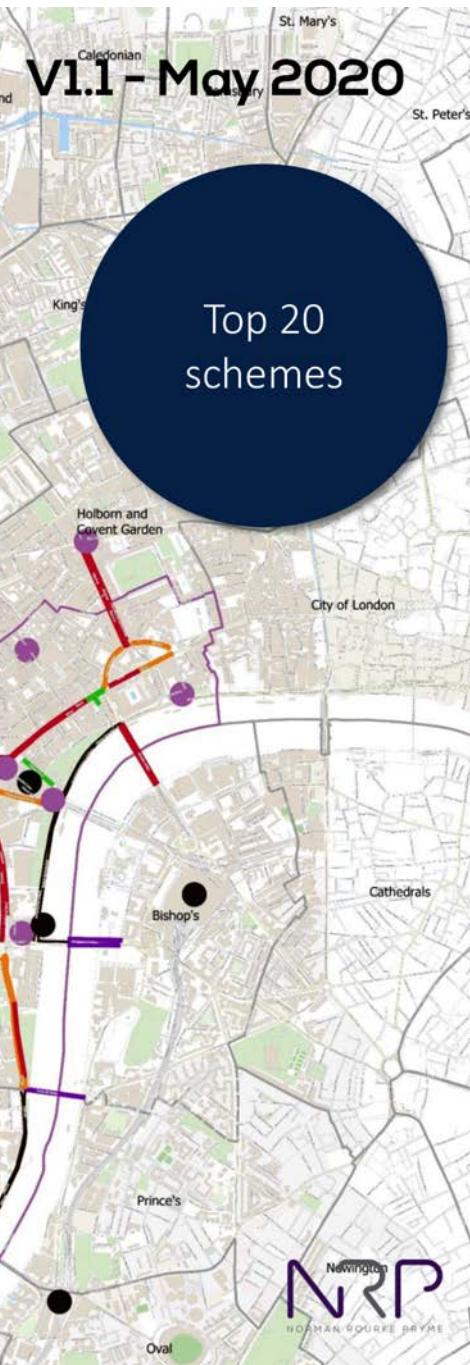


If you wish to calculate your own BMI, take your weight in kilos and divide it by your height in metres, and then divide the result again by your height in metres. Congrats if you are less than 25. As we know, Grant Shapps has announced a £2bn package of measures to improve our safety and health and encourage "active travel". Both Sadiq Kahn and Westminster Council have strongly supported the facilitation of active travel. ■



City of Westminster Movement Strategy

Westminster City Council has announced a movement strategy and information surrounding it. The leader of the Council, Councillor Rachel Robathan, expressed concerns surrounding clusters of high activity or density of business. WCC is looking to see how changes can be made to public space, road pavements and layouts which will facilitate social distancing while allowing people to move more freely and support the reopening of bars and restaurants.



It is proposed that in Knightsbridge and Belgravia increased pedestrian space will be achieved by temporarily suspending parking and by marking out extra space designated for pedestrians on the roads, including places along Elizabeth Street. In Churchill and Warwick Wards it is intended to

create bus and cycle lanes only along Buckingham Palace Road to enhance the connection between Green Park, St James's Park and Chelsea Bridge, linking to Cycle Superhighway 8. We think that incorporates a similar arrangement for Victoria Street as Buckingham Palace Road. Whether that means no vehicular traffic will be allowed is not clear. If it is not, then inevitably it will be displaced into residential streets and would not be an acceptable solution. You may see the full map if you click on the link at the bottom of this page.

There is also an interactive map which you can find on the link below. You will see that you can click on many of the pointers and see individual comments. It is not clear whether these are comments from residents, workers or businesses, or just tourists passing through.

Some suggest pedestrianising Elizabeth Street, closing the Orange Square Market, and redirecting traffic in Ebury Street, creating a one-way system, with Pimlico Road being in one direction, and Ebury Bridge Road in the other. Presumably, Chelsea Bridge Road will remain two-way. It is also suggested having a temporary cycle lane with the contraflow bike lane across the Pimlico grid while avoiding the traffic.

We find these suggestions do not make a great deal of sense. One complaint is that where there is a cycle lane running alongside lawfully parked cars, the cycle lane should nevertheless be made larger on account of other cars parked illegally on the cycle lane. It seems to us ridiculous to make arrangements for traffic, whether it is pedestrian, cycle or vehicular, when proper enforcement is necessary.

This, of course, begs the question for the whole scheme and, indeed, throughout London, and which relates to enforcement of the existing and new rules and regulations – how many of us pedestrians find themselves competing for pavement space with bicycles whose riders are oblivious and uncaring?

Clearly, WCC needs to try to find solutions for obvious problems, but some proposals are creating more problems than they can solve. Councillor Robathan has said that the schemes can be put in place very quickly and removed as quickly. Also, the schemes are temporary only and will go as soon as possible. ■

westminsterstreets.org.uk/changes-for-covid19/?ward=churchill

Although the above link refers to Churchill Ward, it covers the whole of Belgravia.

Councillors' Corner

Councillors Connect



Councillor Tony Devenish, being one of the Ward Councillors for Knightsbridge and Belgravia, is seen here with Councillor Melvin Caplan who is a deputy leader of the Council and member for Little Venice, visiting one of the packing hubs in North Westminster. They were helping 'Westminster Connects' volunteers with the shopping service. They met volunteer Chris as they helped pack the shopping bags and get them ready for delivery to vulnerable residents across the city who are self-isolating. Councillor Caplan said how important this service is, as it is a lifeline for the most vulnerable residents and volunteers play a most important role in helping the Council to deliver it.

We are told that locals were sent a letter about this. This work was to replace and reinstate following the road closure. The parking bay trench will be done at a later date as this needs a payment via a third party utility and on a parking suspension, rather than road closure. A date is awaited for this.

WCC has created a map of local shops and businesses which are able to offer services. If you click [here](#) you should be able to access it.

Warwick Ward

Cllrs Christabel Flight, Jackie Wilkinson and Nickie Aiken have created a map of local shops and businesses either physically open or offering delivery or takeaway services.

Apart from helping residents, it also helps support local shops and help the recovery of Westminster's economy. The Councillors, with fellow Councillor, Ian Rowley, have been organising programs of calling people to check how they are and let them know how they can get help if they need it. The team of counsellors has made over 7,500 calls and spoken to over 2,500 households.

Knightsbridge & Belgravia Ward

Councillor Elizabeth Hitchcock has given us an update on Elizabeth Street. The reinstallation of the carriageway setts in Elizabeth Street started on 18th May and should be finished by the time you read this. The work period of ten days included time for the setts to cure and be safe for traffic again.

The Community Contribution Fund is making available grants of up to £15,000 to the most vulnerable in Westminster. That fund is provided from people in the top council bands who make voluntary contributions on top of their regular council tax payment. This has provided over £1 million in extra support for voluntary and community organisations. ■



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 Andrea Mann (Lab)	amann@westminster.gov.uk
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 EBUARY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Today In the past 4 years In the future



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Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2020 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2020.

SIGNATURE(s)

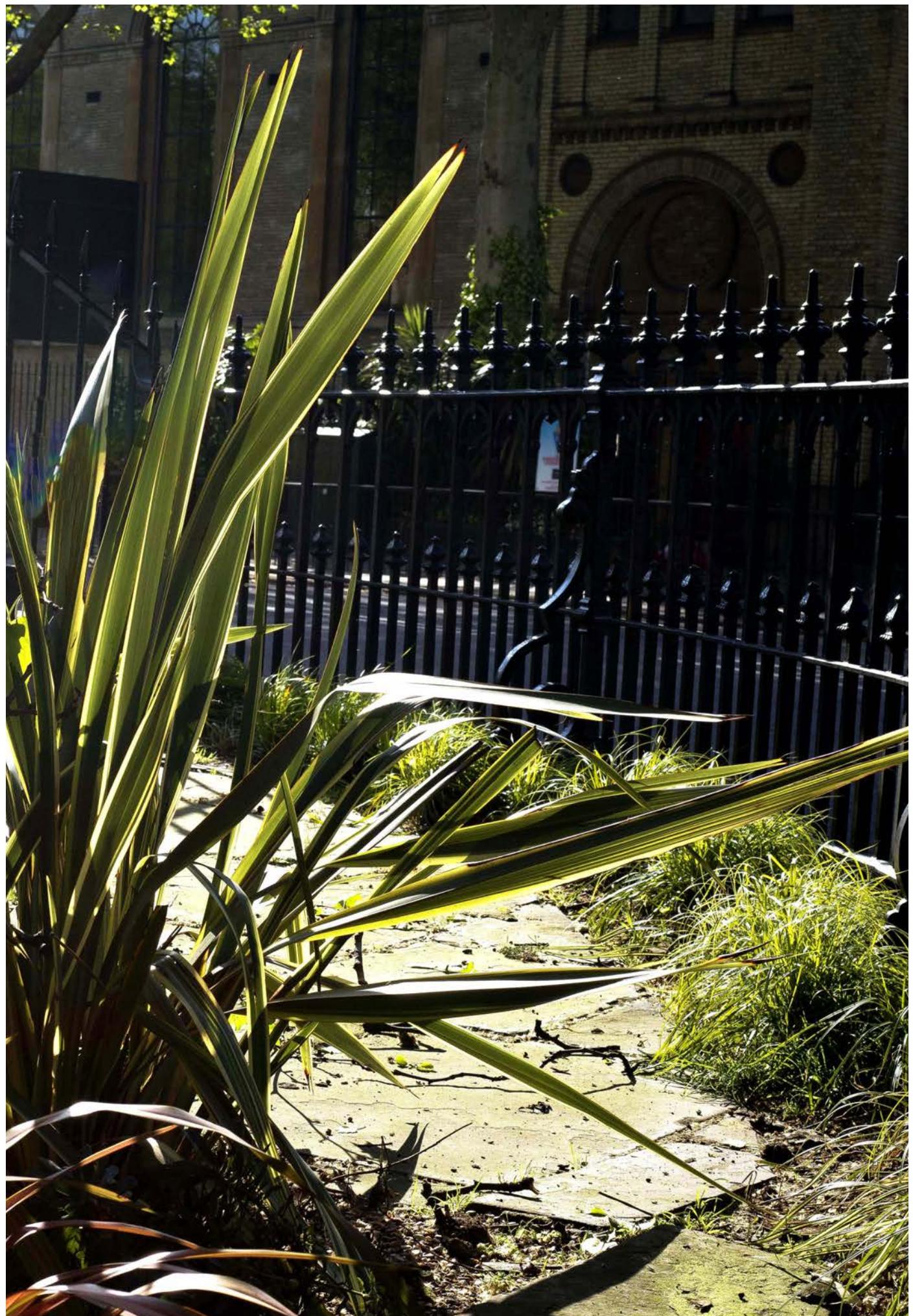
PRINT NAME Date

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 RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO THE SHOP WHERE YOU PICKED IT UP OR EMAIL TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
OR POST TO: 63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBUARY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY





The Belgravia Society Magazine

The only independent voice for Belgravia

Number 60
May 2020



Registered Charity No: 1168619

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