

**THE**

ISSUE 70 | MARCH 2021

# BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

**THE ONLY  
INDEPENDENT  
VOICE FOR  
BELGRAVIA**

## **STRIKING A BALANCE**

**NICKIE AIKEN ON THE  
COST OF PROTESTING  
TO LOCAL RESIDENTS**

## **ST MARY'S**

**A NEW PUBLIC SPACE  
FOR OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

## **BELGRAVIA'S BILLIONAIRES**

*Support for the billionaire residents who are returning  
derelict and crudely converted commercial buildings  
back into family homes*





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

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mary Regnier-Leigh

## CHAIRMAN

George Waite

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Mary Regnier-Leigh

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fredd Design  
[www.fredd.co.uk](http://www.fredd.co.uk)

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

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

[www.thebelgraviasociety.com](http://www.thebelgraviasociety.com)

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Cover photo Heron in St James' Park  
© Mary Regnier-Leigh

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



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

**M**y plan for this edition was to report on the good things that are happening to Belgravia and our community, but I have just lost another dear friend in the war against COVID-19 and must admit that it is difficult to think positively. For too many of us this war has changed our lives forever. But we must continue and understand that this war is no different to those that have been before or will be in the future, and all of our efforts are not for ourselves.

## **The good things that are happening:**

- Please take time to read Grosvenor's Director of Belgravia, Paul O'Grady's article on Grosvenor's latest package of support to their retail and food and beverage tenants in Belgravia and some initial details on the planned re-opening from 12th April.
- For our ESRA members: Simon Mantle (Grosvenor's Associate Director of Property Management Belgravia) is planning the first of a series of virtual meetings with residents on Eaton Square to discuss caretaking and security provisions. This is a real opportunity for residents to consult with Grosvenor and I am pleased to report that, under Simon's watch, we are already seeing improvements.
- Simon and Paul have also invited the Belgravia Society to join a presentation

and Q&A session before Grosvenor submit an application for a 180-day events licence on the Halkin Arcade. We are looking forward to hearing Grosvenor's plans to restore trade to the area; the session is scheduled for 22nd April and we will report our findings in this magazine.

- Helene Oratore, our Vice Chairman, is encouraged by Westminster City Council's (WCC) latest proposals for early community engagement with WCC. Also see Helene's article on the return of Opera Holland Park (OHP). I know that Helene and Vincent are both patrons of OHP and do all they can to encourage others to enjoy these wonderful events.
- I am delighted to welcome Joe Briggs to join us at our next committee meeting and to read the latest of his historic series which traces the lost pubs of Belgravia.
- I can also recommend the Government update from our MP Nickie Aiken. Her article on page 4 is both informative and provides a balanced view on the second reading of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill'. Do read it.
- Welcome to Bayley and Sage, the new delicatessen that has just opened on the corner of Ebury Street and Eccleston Street, and congratulations to Poilane and Jeroboams for their environmentally friendly bicycle delivery services. If our committee member Andrew Geddes gets his way, this mode of transport could well become the norm, and I would certainly be prepared to pay extra if the likes of Deliveroo and their buddies arrived by bicycle.

I hope that you enjoy this edition as much as I have (especially our Editor's wonderful photographs) and join me in applauding those in our community who make good things happen. ▲

# STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN FREEDOM TO PROTEST AND PROTECTING LOCAL AMENITY

FROM NICKIE AIKEN MP



**B**efore the House rose for Easter recess the Government tabled the second reading of its Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, a wide-ranging Bill dealing with prevention and policing of crime, all the way through to sentencing.

Included in the Bill are plans to:

- Change sentencing to ensure serious criminals spend more time in prison before they can be conditionally released;
- Allow Judges to consider sending child murderers to prison for their entire lives;
- Increase the maximum sentences for low-level assaults against emergency service workers;
- Increase the powers to more closely monitor terrorist offenders released from prison;
- Introduce community sentences for less serious crime to address underlying problems in offenders' lives;
- Change sexual offences law to tackle abusive adults in positions of trust, such as sports coaches and religious figures.

Giving the police more powers to manage protests and, specifically, static protests in and around Parliament has proved to be amongst the most controversial. I know how disruptive protests, such as those undertaken by Extinction Rebellion, can be for local people and businesses. Not only are our streets and bridges often blocked for days on end, people report criminal damage and graffiti to their own homes, shops, telephone boxes and statues, and idling police helicopters for hours.

A small minority of protesters often prevent people from being able to reach their homes, attend school, or college, or work. On occasion, our emergency services are prevented from attending incidents.

Freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, the rights of an individual to express their opinion and protest are cornerstones of our democratic society. The measures in the Bill do not stop the right to protesting; peaceful protesting will continue. I believe passionately in the right to protest. It is one of our country's values I hold dear. The right to protest does not, however, trump all other rights of others, nor should it.

This Bill attempts to ensure that highly disruptive protests causing serious disruption to the public can be stopped if necessary. I see a huge spike in my mailbag when Westminster plays host to a major protest. Constituents do not question the right to protest but nor do they accept the distress and loss of amenity they often experience at the hands of a small minority of protestors.

The Government is proposing several changes to the law which will improve the police's ability to proactively manage the most disruptive protests and provide punitive outcomes that reflect the seriousness of offences committed. The Metropolitan Police Service's cost for policing Extinction Rebellion's 2019 "April Uprising" alone was over £16 million. This figure does not include the time that was used up and manpower needed for these protests, which could have been used for other criminal investigations. Westminster City Council estimates that cleaning up after protests costs more than £400,000 which it absorbs within its general cleansing budget, diverting services from residents and businesses.

Points have been raised about provisions relating to conduct causing other people "serious annoyance" and how this could be heavily interpreted by the police, etc. Annoyance is an established component of the common law offence and there is no shortage of case law defining it. The statutory offence would be restricted to serious cases. The new offence largely codifies the existing common law offence following recommendations by the Law Commission.

Like most things, there is always a balance to be struck between the rights of the protestor and the rights of individuals to go about their daily business and I do believe this Bill does do this. ▲



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

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

Alternatively, print the application form on page 25 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court  
33 Ebury Street  
London SW1W 0NY

# census 2021

We put a note in our last magazine that Census Day was 21st March. You can still complete it and it is compulsory. The first census in the modern age took place in 1801. It has taken place every ten years following that, except 1941 when Britain was at war.

The information required over the years has changed. The early ones were mainly just head counts and few records still exist. Many other things have been added to give a picture of society, family structures, economic status and the like. The 2021 census now has added questions about service in the armed services, gender and sexual orientation. Some of the questions relating to ethnicity, gender and sexuality have been very controversial.

Over the centuries, there has been a series of equivalents of a census. The census documents give an insight into lives. The best known is that of the Domesday Book. It was started in around mid-January 1086. Lists of manors were prepared for every county. It is said that there was “no single hide (an agricultural measurement equivalent of about 120 acres) nor ox nor cow nor pig that was left out”. It also numbered how many free men, villains (alternative spelling “villeins”), unfree peasants and slaves there were.

The Domesday Book does not mention London and other well-known places as the survey was taken on the basis of “Hundreds”. They were a piece of land large enough to sustain 100 families.

The survey also lists its findings in order of the hierarchy of the owner of the land. We learn Geoffrey de Mandeville held the land of the Hundred of Ossulstone.

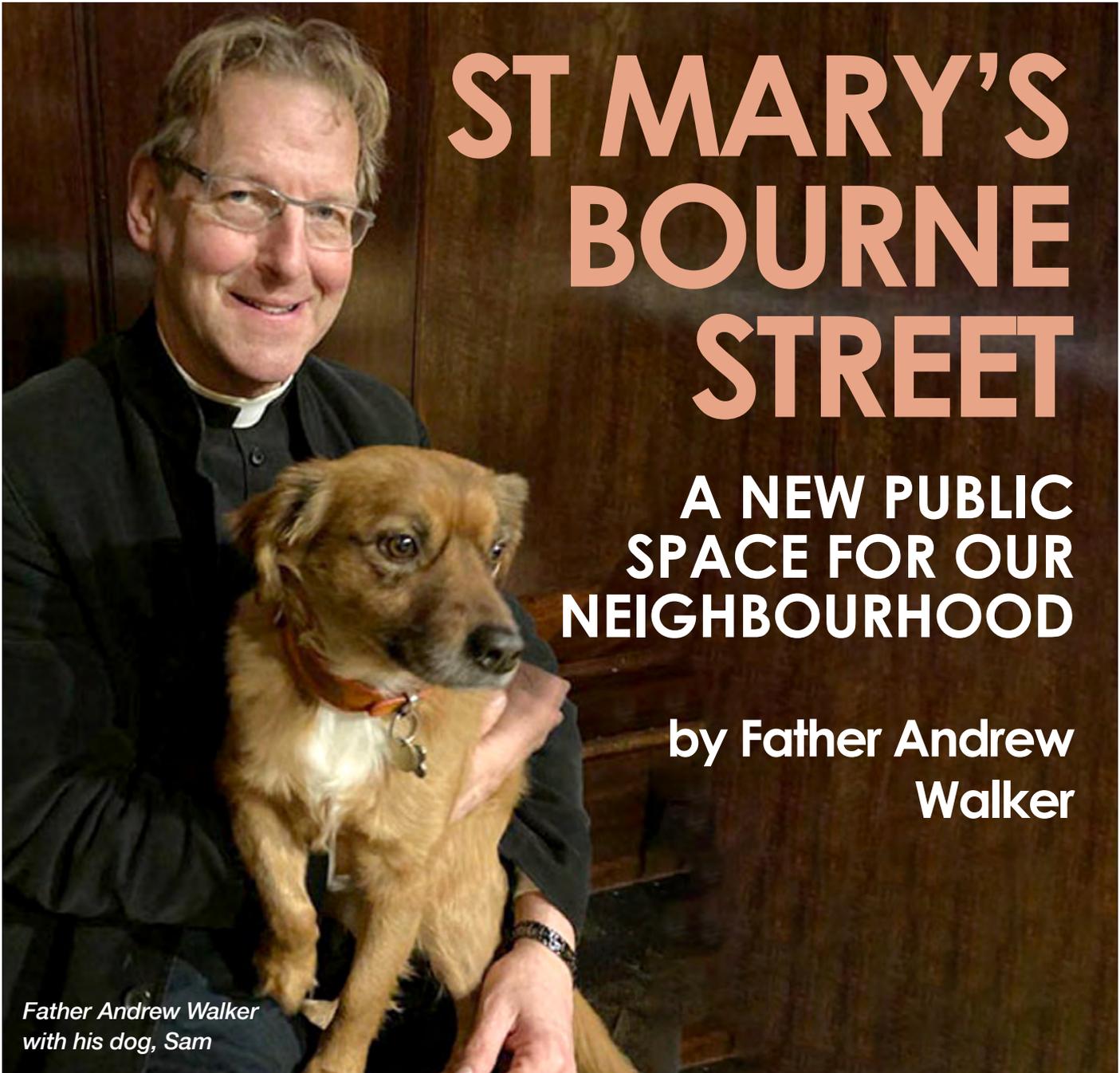
According to my translation of the Domesday Book, this Hundred included “Ebury”. It was assessed to have 10 hides. There is much further information but no reference to what we would recognise today as Westminster. What we now call Westminster Abbey was actually, and still is, the Abbey Church of St Peter’s. There was another Abbey Church to the east near Temple Bar, although its precise position is uncertain. To distinguish it from the eastern Abbey Church, St Peter’s Abbey Church became known as Westmynstre and later Westminster.

If there were 10 hides that is the equivalent of 1,200 acres and 4,856,235 m<sup>2</sup>. That is just under two square miles. If my calculations are right, which I do not guarantee, that must be about the size of Belgravia today. Again, I am not sure about the accuracy of that calculation, but it is amazing that it is so close to the size of Belgravia.

The Domesday Book is housed in the National Archives at Kew. It is Britain’s earliest public record and is one of the most complete pre-industrial society records to survive and provides a unique window on the mediaeval world. Hopefully, the census you are now completing will give the future generations some form of insight into our society today. ▲



*Domesday Book*



# ST MARY'S BOURNE STREET

A NEW PUBLIC  
SPACE FOR OUR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD

by Father Andrew  
Walker

*Father Andrew Walker  
with his dog, Sam*

St Mary's Church is a hidden treasure, tucked away between Graham Terrace and Bourne Street. Built in 1874 as a daughter church to the wealthier St Paul's of Knightsbridge, its mission was to serve the thriving working class community which inhabited the surrounding streets, as well as the poor of the nearby slums in Pimlico. The original church was built of relatively cheap, machine-made brick on unused land, directly over the newly constructed District Line.

By its 50th anniversary the church had gained its independence, ministering to its own small parish and attracting a growing and fashionable congregation. A side chapel was added to the church creating a new main entrance. The Pineapple Public House was purchased to create a Presbytery for the clergy, with a next-door cottage for nuns who worked in the community. St Mary's had also become a flagship for closer ties to Rome and was a centre of theological debate.



# BAYLEY AND SAGE – NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Today St Mary's is known for its distinct liturgy, which attracts a scattered congregation from across London, as well as its reputation for fine music. Its notable organ is one of its treasures, along with a number of art works and a collection of beautiful and ancient vestments that still remain in use.

In 2024 St Mary's will celebrate its 150th anniversary and has launched the Pineapple Project in response to the growing levels of loneliness and isolation in our local community.

The project will see the Presbytery converted back into a public space, creating a community hall for local use. The building will be fully accessible, with new facilities and a lift and will enable St Mary's to enact a programme of community events. These will include regular lunch clubs and teas to promote social interaction, play groups, and therapeutic initiatives such as Singing for the Brain and Dance for Parkinson's. It will also be available for hire for parties, classes and residents' meetings.

St Mary's has now raised £815,000 of a £1.5 million target. It hopes to have completed fundraising by the end of 2021 for building to take place in 2022-23. If you are able to help and would like to be part of this project, please contact Fr Andrew Walker at [project@stmarysbournest.com](mailto:project@stmarysbournest.com), or see the Pineapple Project website at [www.pineapple.stmarysbournest.com](http://www.pineapple.stmarysbournest.com). ▲



We all remember the NatWest bank on the corner of Ebury Street and Eccleston Street. There was a plan to turn it into a restaurant after closure, which was not very well received locally.

However, the delicatessen, Bailey & Sage, has now opened. It has a large and varied stock. The parklet which was outside the premises has now gone, but is replaced by a show of some of the products available in the store. It makes a good addition to the streetscape. The store is large and has much to offer and we look forward to it thriving. ▲



# THE LOST PUBS OF BELGRAVIA

by Joe Briggs



*The previously commercial site of the pub is now residential, as is the rest of Wilton Mews. Above pictures show a window through time.*

Thomas Cubitt built a lot of houses in Belgravia. He also built a lot of pubs. His policy of building the pub first (to act as the site office and workers' canteen while the rest of the street was developed) meant that pubs were on street corners everywhere, allowing local tradesmen to effectively recycle their hard-earned wages back to the landlord. Tradesmen still have recognition in The Plumbers Arms and until 2006 The Thomas Cubitt pub was called The Joiners Arms. Famous locals are

immortalised in the form of The Alfred Tennyson and The Duke of Wellington (who is also celebrated in The Grenadier). Horses and hunting receive tributes in The Nag's Head, The Antelope, Horse & Groom and Fox & Hounds.

Where have the other pubs gone? Some have been transformed into modern restaurants and brasseries – The Union at 11 Pimlico Road (which later became The Ebury Arms) is now a restaurant called “No.11”, and The Kings Arms at 51 Sloane Square (just outside

Belgravia) became a brasserie called Oriel before being turned into Colbert. Most have been demolished or converted – from public house to private house. The Pineapple at 30 Bourne Street was redeveloped by St Mary's Bourne Street next door into a home for its clergy. The Hole in the Wall was a pub down at the westbound platform level of Sloane Square tube, back when trains were more irregular and pints were more frequent. It was converted into a newsagents in 1985. The area lost the Somerset



*The Union at 11 Pimlico Road*

Arms on Passmore Street, The Lowndes Arms on Chesham Street, The Nell Gywnne on Pimlico Road, The Fountain on Lower Sloane Street (just outside Belgravia), and recently The Wilton Arms on Kinnerton Street. By one estimate, only 15 out of the original 40 local pubs remain. Even the tiny street that is Little Chester Street had a pub at both ends until relatively recently – The Talbot and The Grouse & Claret (which was previously The Pig & Whistle and then The Stanhope Arms (see pictures on previous page). ▲

## WESTMINSTER'S LATEST PROPOSALS FOR EARLY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

by **Helene Oratore**  
Vice Chairman of the Belgravia Society

**T**he latest initiative by Westminster City Council (WCC) in relation to early community engagement is absolutely vital and appears to have been universally well received by the participants of the two groups who attended the initial virtual meetings with WCC on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th March. Congratulations to the WCC team for undertaking this enormous task to try and reduce the stress and tension over the current outdated planning application process. If done well, the results could have huge ramifications for residents who, to date, have often been left exhausted, frustrated and bewildered at how disjointed the process is.

The aim would be to encourage rigorous best practice pre-application engagement with all parties. To consult early and to be open, transparent, inclusive, responsive and accessible. To reduce conflict and allow people who live and work in an area, and who know their communities, to really have a voice. Importantly, it would also help locals to understand the developer's



*Engagement with our own members at last year's AGM*

perspective. The proposals would create a significantly wider consultation arena, which would include the policies of the local statutory neighbourhood forums, residents' associations, Ward Councillors and special interest and faith groups. The WCC guidance document revealed a series of early community engagement expectations for developers supplemented by a realistic flowchart timeline. Mandatory methods would include leafleting, online communication, media websites, meetings with Ward Councillors, digital engagement, exhibitions, consultations, workshops and



*Cllr Robathan at our AGM*

engagement forums. This would move away from the current very ad hoc situation where developers can tick a box on their application form which confirms that they have

consulted with the community, when all they have actually done is drop leaflets through the doors of properties and, in some cases, through the doors of derelict and empty properties! This engagement format would be much wider, enabling a greater audience to engage in the process and not just to rely on a single method of logging an objection or support comment on the WCC planning portal which is only possible after an application has actually been made.

The Belgravia Society recommends the encouragement of more balanced design teams to "honestly advise" clients on reducing their unrealistic expectations before they expend time and money on professional drawings. FOUR COMMUNICATIONS has worked successfully with residents in SW1 in such a fashion. In addition, WCC should update their antiquated and often difficult to navigate planning sites.

This initiative taken by WCC is very much welcomed and supported as it fills a gap in the consultation process and ensures we are aware of what is proposed sufficiently in advance to give it consideration. The Belgravia Society fully supports this initiative and we understand that the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum also fully support it. ▲

## Complaints to Westminster City Council

IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT FOR WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL, YOU CAN REPORT IT AT

[www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

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

Also, do contact your Councillor; they are always there to help (see page 22 for contact details).

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.



### 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 in:

[info@thebelgraviasociety.com](mailto:info@thebelgraviasociety.com)

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

**Our next video meeting is**

**6th April 2021**

# COVID NOTES FROM GROSVENOR'S BELGRAVIA DIRECTOR, PAUL O'GRADY



*Paul O'Grady*

**Given the latest Government announcements, I wanted to let you know about the latest package of support that we are providing to retail and food and beverage tenants in Belgravia and some initial details on the planned re-opening.**

**I**n recognition of the fact that footfall will take some time to build from 12th April, we have now offered many of our small independent retail and hospitality tenants an additional 50% discount on their rent across April and May.

This is a continuation of our approach to focus support where it can be most effective and is on top of the rent already waived during each lockdown over the last year and programmes like the “Eat Out to Help Out” extension. I am also pleased to note that, despite the wider context, we continue to let premises in Belgravia and a number of our local streets are fully let. As before, we will adapt our support as restrictions ease and are already considering how we can again innovate to ensure a full and fast recovery working closely with tenants, the Council and the local communities.

Given the Government plans, we are also working on plans to offer opportunities for outdoor dining, in particular in Eccleston Yards and the Halkin Arcade, and we are very grateful to the Council for their help in providing outdoor seating for the restaurants along Elizabeth and Eccleston Streets, similar to last summer, for which we will now invest in aesthetic improvements and planting.

Throughout this uncertainty we remain committed to our stretching sustainability goals, particularly net zero carbon and zero waste, and we continue to encourage tenants to take up green leases and help us build back better together. This will have a significant impact on our ability to improve the local environment. We will be in touch over the coming weeks with further details on re-opening plans and will continue to promote local businesses and activities through our marketing and online channels. ▲



*Homage to Leonardo Da Vinci –  
Statue in Belgrave Square Garden*

# THE BATTLE OF BELGRAVIA'S BILLIONAIRES

**T**wo of the largest organisations within Belgravia, The Belgravia Society (an amenity society) and The Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum (a statutory regulated body) have supported the policy within Belgravia of maintaining residences as residences and changing commercial properties to residences whenever possible.

During the past decade, when the London property market was at its height, the western side of Belgravia, perfectly positioned behind Buckingham Palace, has attracted numerous billionaires to purchase commercial properties with the sole aim of returning these once derelict and crudely converted buildings to family homes again. They have engaged professional teams of architects and structural engineers to lovingly restore these listed buildings. They have employed endless numbers of bespoke craftsman to perfect their dream homes whilst respecting and working within the strict Westminster planning regulations. The results have been outstanding in terms of the excellence of the craftsmanship utilised to restore endless period façades, fireplaces, cornicework, pediments and staircases, but also to bring back to life these wonderful Grade I and Grade II listed buildings to become working family homes, albeit on the grandest of scales.

The residents of Belgravia have applauded and supported their efforts in creating these superbly restored family homes which otherwise would have languished in disrepair and looked out of place in an otherwise very smart area.



Belgrave Square

To respect the privacy and the safety of our friends and neighbours, I will refer in general terms to the location of some of these projects.

Belgrave Square is famous for its embassies but, more recently, individuals have purchased these buildings and restored them to family homes. In addition, The Institute for Structural Engineers has been converted into a glorious family home. The western end of Eaton Square has attracted several families who have spent the past few years returning these buildings to family homes. A Middle Eastern Royal family has invested significantly in upgrading their properties. Forbes House, once a ramshackle events venue, is currently undergoing a tremendous transformation to convert it back into a family residence. The two public houses at either end of Little Chester Street have been converted to a home and a small residential block of luxury apartments. Each of these projects has changed the listed building from commercial to residential.

All wonderful so far ...until the latest planning application presented for 38 Belgrave Square in which the family have applied to convert their home into a commercial venture. Residents all over Belgravia are concerned about the far-

reaching implications of this application. Especially when there are several empty properties along the perimeter of the area, along Grosvenor Place, which could instead continue to be used as business premises. The Chapel Street Residents Association is worried about the increase in traffic, service lorries, collection vehicles and additional noise pollution from hundreds of clients arriving and departing daily.

Belgravia is and has always been a residential area. It is also important to acknowledge the status of The Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum which is a residential Forum, *not* a business Forum. Almost universally, the residents of Belgravia believe that this venture will *compromise* neighbouring properties and should not be permitted.

Westminster councillors need to understand the special nature of Belgravia and Belgrave Square's significance. It is at the heart of a unique area of the unspoiled Grade I listed Regency buildings. The proposed change of use sets a very dangerous precedent for the future of the Square. In any event, this predominantly quiet residential part of Westminster will be inevitably damaged by hugely increased numbers of people visiting the building and the increased traffic and commercial vehicles visiting it. ▲

# 2021 OPERA HOLLAND PARK SEASON RETURNS



Opera Holland Park will be open from 1st June with reduced and more spacious seating due to COVID restrictions. However, this will not detract from the excellence of the performances and may even create a more intimate ambience for this season's delights. "A year-round commitment to excellence in Opera, centered on an extraordinary two month festival in one of the most beautiful spaces in the capital."

Working with the set designer takis, Opera Holland Park has reimaged the stage and auditorium of its theatre. The new dynamic and exciting performance space provides maximum safety for audiences and artistes under the company's iconic canopy roof.

Capacity will be reduced this season using individual chairs that can be moved according to the numbers in each household 'bubble', to enable social distancing and increase step free access. Sustainable materials in takis's designs reflect the natural beauty of the theatre's setting in Holland Park and a programme of five operas in which nature plays a central

role. The Royal Philharmonic Society Award-winning City of London Sinfonia returns as resident orchestra.

Working closely with the community, despite a 60% reduction in capacity, Opera Holland Park has kept its annual percentage of free and accessible tickets. This year also sees the introduction of a programme of four Discovery Matinéés. These performances specifically welcome people who want to try opera out for the first time in a relaxed environment, and those who love opera but find the normal theatre-going experience inaccessible.

**Contact the booking office for performances on 0300 999 1000 for tickets for:**

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The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart  
1st-26th June

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La Traviata by Verdi 5th-29th June

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The Cunning Little Vixen by Janacek  
13th-30th July

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L'amico Fritz by Mascagni 16th-31st July

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Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert & Sullivan  
3rd-7th August

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# PARTY WALL MATTERS

by Helene Oratore



*Helene Oratore*

I write from personal experience and am not giving advice on party wall matters. You should seek professional advice from a party wall surveyor. In this issue, I answer a few questions which members have sent me.

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## **CAN YOU TELL ME BRIEFLY WHEN DOES THE PARTY WALL ACT APPLY?**

The party wall act covers three main situations:

- altering a party structure;
- building along the boundary of two properties;
- excavating within prescribed distances of shared or adjoining structures.

So notifiable works could include, for example, excavating within 3m of your neighbour's property to build some foundations to an extension, or constructing the flank wall of an extension at a boundary, or cutting into the walls of a terraced property to place beams as part of a loft conversion.

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### **I HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT NOTICES. IS THIS CORRECT?**

Correct. A building owner could be in the position where they are required to serve a regular notice and/or a 3m notice and/or a 6m notice on an adjoining owner. This all depends on the work being undertaken.

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### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY NEIGHBOUR HAS STARTED WORK WITHOUT INFORMING ME?**

A building owner must seek consent before embarking upon works which affect a party wall or adjoining structure. If consent is not sought, then the building owner is acting outside of the law. The adjoining owner may have to stop them by resorting to the law and obtaining an injunction from the County Court. A court may request an undertaking as to costs so that if, in fact, the building owner is not acting illegally, you will be responsible for the costs of the injunction. Seek legal advice before embarking upon an injunction.

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### **HOW DO I FORCE THE BUILDING OWNER TO PAY FOR ANY DAMAGE INCURRED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION WORK?**

The adjoining owner has two ways to request payment for any damage done to their property because of any works which are covered by the Act. One may allow the building owner's contractors to repair the damage or a payment in lieu can be agreed. Before repair work commences one should ensure that any dispute has been settled, that the cause of the damage has been confirmed, and the amount for any repair has been agreed by the surveyors. This is done by an award. If a repair or payment is still not forthcoming, the party can take enforcement action in the Magistrates' Court. In this case, seek legal advice. ▲



# **BLOOD DONORS**

The NHS Blood and Transplant service is appealing for donations from people who have recovered from coronavirus to help save lives as London moves from “medium” to “high” alert. Donating blood plasma is a simple procedure and very similar to giving a normal blood donation, but the red blood cells are returned to the patient and the process takes a little longer.

The nearest Donor Centre is at 26 Margaret Street, London W1.

Anyone who has had coronavirus – either a test result or the symptoms – can offer to donate by calling 0300 123 23 23 or visiting [www.nhsbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk) to arrange an appointment to donate.



It was recently disclosed in the Daily Mail that the Prime Minister and his fiancée were having delivered to Downing Street ready-made lunches and other food from Daylesford’s.

The thrust of the article is difficult to follow. At one point it appeared to be criticising the Prime Minister for choosing an upmarket service and failing to wait in queues at supermarkets and, on the other hand, referring to Daylesford’s as the most sustainable farm shop in Britain. It also suggested it was the poshest! We wonder if this was a microaggressive woke insult?

Daylesford has been extremely well received in this area. The company was founded over 40 years ago. The vast majority of Daylesford’s produce is reared and grown on organic land in

Gloucestershire. Most of the livestock roams freely and is fed on organic crops from the farm itself. Apparently, the healthy lifestyles mean some animals are said to live twice as long at Daylesford compared to other farms.

The article also seemed to complain that the Prime Minister and his fiancée failed to eat the cheaper option available in the Downing Street canteen. There, with the benefit of the taxpayer subsidy, quiche Lorraine and boiled potatoes costs a bargain £5.

One thing we can be sure of is the very high quality of the produce bought at Daylesford’s, their contribution to the welfare of the planet, the sustainability of their produce and the care and welfare of their animals. ▲

*Bridge at St James' Park*







# 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](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



*giftaid it*

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



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[www.thebelgraviasociety.com](http://www.thebelgraviasociety.com)