



*Registered Charity No: 1168619  
Patron: Lord Fellowes of West Stafford DL*

# The Belgravia Society Magazine

Number 59 | April 2020

**The only independent voice for Belgravia**



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

**Reflections on a  
changed village**

*Page 6*

**The Pantechnicon  
Motcomb Street**

*Page 9*

**The Belgravia Society  
has a new website**

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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](http://www.fredd.co.uk))

Cover photo – Mary Regnier-Leigh

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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# Chairman's Message



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

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

## A caring community

As the Belgravia Society grew, we began to find that we were not able to keep everybody informed as to what we were doing and what was going on in Belgravia. Sara Oliver, one of our Committee members, suggested that we send out a newsletter. It was a great idea and Sara helped edit the newsletter and prepared it for publication. As we began to distribute it digitally, it became apparent that it was very popular.

The newsletter was monthly and, as we progressed with much more content, we decided that it should take the form of a magazine, at which point we outsourced the design work to a graphic designer; we are indebted to Pat Burtenshaw of Fredd Design for her input.

Our members give their time without charge to prepare the content for the Magazine, so we keep the costs down to an absolute minimum. However, we do have to cover the costs for graphic design and IT input and we rely on donations to cover those costs. If you enjoy this Magazine, you might consider a donation (click here to see our “Donate” page on our [new website](#)).

All our members receive the Magazine free. We try hard to ensure that the content relates to information on local events, information on the latest developments, details of consultations, and contact information so members can give their views.

We also cover matters of general interest to members, as well as help information. We like to support our articles with high quality photos, most of which are taken by our Editor-in-Chief, Mary Regnier-Leigh, who really cares about the quality and presentation of this Magazine. We also invite members to contribute their own material.

Please do take the opportunity of reading our Magazine's back issues – from June 2018 to date – on our new website:  
[www.thebelgraviasociety.com](http://www.thebelgraviasociety.com).

These are troubling times. Much of our Magazine is devoted to keeping you informed of what is happening in Belgravia and Westminster. We are curating information to help as well as trying to fulfil our ambition to provide articles which will interest and give cause for thought.

We would particularly commend the City of Westminster, under the direction of the Leader, Cllr Rachael Robathan, for their work in sending daily emails with details of their services, how they can help and the initiatives they have taken. We often have occasion to criticise WCC, but credit where it is due.

We appreciate Cllr Robathan for her regular video conferences enabling us, with the other amenity societies and residents' associations, to have direct access to her to deal with problems and take up issues of concern.



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.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 19 and post your  
completed form to

63 Belgravia Court  
33 Ebury Street  
London SW1W 0NY



We also thank Nickie Aiken, our new MP for all her work. She holds a weekly video conference with us and with our colleagues. It is very reassuring to be able to speak to her direct. She deals with all the issues in her constituency which, of course, includes the City of London. She deals with matters raised and can help resolve problems. We know that she is able contact ministers direct and pass our concerns straight to them.

We thank the countless volunteers who have come forward to help. We also thank the brave NHS and all the front line workers who place themselves at risk every day for us.

All of which makes us realise that our little Village of Belgravia is part of a much larger community, a community that really cares. ■

# Reflections on a changed village

**W**hen I look out of my window, there are no people. If I go for a permitted walk in our streets, I do see people, but not many. There are few cars. I take my camera, as I always do. In the past, there were always people, but not now. Some of the photos we publish here today are different because there are no people in them.

Victoria Station is a wasteland; their WH Smith and Marks & Spencer are closed, not because they are obliged to, but because there are no people to be served. Everywhere is quiet. Belgravia is not a noisy place (unless you are close to a construction site) but it is like being in the country. Even the constant background hum of traffic from the rest of London is gone.

If we do meet friends then we stand apart, social distancing, and talk, often from different sides of the street, or simply wave. We go carefully to the shops when we need to. We may wear gloves or masks keeping away from other people. Even in these simple acts, we are part of a community working together for the benefit of us all.

We hear of the daily death toll from Covid-19. There are many to criticise, but no one really can be sure of the right solution. We can see the trajectory of the disease that has engulfed us, in different countries. Can we really learn from them? No two countries follow exactly the same rules.





For political reasons, some countries withhold information and simply do not tell the truth about what is happening.

Here in the UK, most people have complied with the strictures intended to save lives and protect the NHS. However, some are so selfish, or ignorant, or have fanciful beliefs in conspiracy theories, that they put their lives and those of others at risk. Even in Belgravia we have lost the use of Belgrave Square Garden because thoughtless and selfish people used it, ignoring the rules of the lockdown.

We have been given the chance of reflecting. The pace of life has changed. On my walks I look more carefully at my surroundings and appreciate the wonderful architecture and buildings, lit by the beautiful Spring light. I see a multitude of plants – trees, flower, bushes – all growing and flowering as the season has moved into Spring and will move on to the Summer. I appreciate life itself.

In time, life will return to normal. Probably a new normal. Let us hope it is soon. ■





# Update Nickie Aiken MP

**Video conferences** – Nickie has been keeping us up to date with how Westminster is coping with the Covid-19 virus. She holds a weekly video conference with some 20 amenity societies and residents associations in her constituency joining in. This enables the community to exchange information and raise issues directly with her and discuss matters of concern. This helps us get to know the other organisations as well, and creates a great feeling of community and common purpose.

At our video conference on 28th April we discussed a wide range of matters and Nickie updated us on others. The subjects included testing, domestic abuse, child protection, supporting business, keeping our pavements safe, theatres, changes that would be needed in relation to transport, and begging around supermarkets. She also confirmed that the government has now closed a loophole which enabled landlords to bankrupt businesses.

**Food deliveries** – Nickie has published on her website details of grocery and food deliveries within the City of London and Westminster. Do look at Nickie's website as she lists 21 suppliers of fruit, vegetables, groceries, meat and fish. The link is: [www.nickieaiken.org.uk/groceries-and-food-delivery-cities-london-westminster](http://www.nickieaiken.org.uk/groceries-and-food-delivery-cities-london-westminster). It is so important that the elderly and vulnerable have access to food as well as the rest of the community.

**Rough sleepers** – As a previous leader of Westminster City Council, Nickie was very aware of the problems of rough sleepers. Westminster has almost the highest rate of rough sleeping anywhere

in the country. It was her priority to help them into accommodation and ensure the council services were adequate. She initiated Hidden Network Scheme to help. Many come here because they know the services are so good, and only 3 per cent actually are from Westminster. WCC and the City of London Corporation have successfully sourced temporary accommodation for the vast majority of rough sleepers. About 130 in Westminster refuse accommodation. The continuing concern is for the welfare of the rough sleepers but also to meet the high costs. WCC is concerned to ensure that the additional costs will be fully met by central government. Nickie has written to Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State responsible, to ask for his confirmation.

**Coronavirus scams** – It is difficult to believe, but criminals are preying on the vulnerable for their own financial gain. A number of different scams have been reported to the police and some of them are incredibly convincing and sophisticated. Nickie warns us all to watch out for anything which seems too good to be true, as it is likely to be a scam. Take no risks and ignore anything coming from a source you do not know. If in doubt, do nothing.

Nickie has been very busy on our behalf. Do follow her on the website and social media as you will see the scope of her work for us. She can be contacted on the following link: [www.nickieaiken.org.uk/contact?dm\\_i=54JR,6UZV,1QZOT3,Q690,1](http://www.nickieaiken.org.uk/contact?dm_i=54JR,6UZV,1QZOT3,Q690,1). ■

**\*STOP PRESS\*** Nickie has been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. More next month.





# The Pantechnicon, Motcomb Street

**W**e all know the Pantechnicon in Motcomb Street, but we do not know much about its history. I have often wondered and checked with that fountain of all knowledge, Wikipedia, but there is very little there to give any real idea about it.

The Belgravia Society is sent copies of planning applications and the results of any appeals. One such appeal arrived by email this week and, with the benefit of the inspectors' review, a small undated volume which mentioned the Pantechnicon, I am able report the history of the building.

The Pantechnicon was built about 1830. It was used for the sale and warehousing of carriages and the storage of furniture and other goods including table silver and other valuables. Many houses in Belgravia were locked up for much of the year, the owners coming to town

in about March and leaving again in July. Accordingly, their carriages were stored there; they were hauled into a long gallery, about 200 yards deep, until their owners returned for the London season.

Rates were set at about three shillings for a four wheeled carriage and 2/6 for phaetons. Should the owner wish to sell the carriage, a 5% commission was charged by the proprietor, Mr Seth Smith.

The front of the Pantechnicon has two large, arched entrances at street level, originally designed to give access for the carriages. The façade is formed of ten giant Greek doric columns. The inspector described it as "... informed by classical design principles of symmetry and proportion, has an impressive and dramatic presence within the relatively intimate confines of Motcomb Street".

## The Pantechnicon continued



It was claimed that the building was fireproof, however, while the façade survived, the rest of the building was destroyed by fire in 1874. It was rebuilt and altered in the same year.

The firm continued to operate until 1967 when it moved to Parsons Green. The building was listed in 1958 and planning permission and listed building consent were granted in 2016 for various alterations and internal changes in association with mixed retail, restaurant and bar use.

A planning application was for two metal flagpoles that would extend diagonally into the street at an angle to the façade which would measure nearly 12 feet long and fixed just below the second storey window sills.

The inspector concluded, “The scale and the projecting nature of the flags and flagpoles would form dominant and unwelcome additions to the front elevation which would detract and distract from the architectural quality and aesthetic appeal of the listed building”. He also said they would be “over-dominant” and provide “visual clutter”. He dismissed the Appeal.

We can rejoice then that the Pantechnicon has been protected and we will continue to enjoy it as it is, and not be dominated by wholly inappropriate advertising flags. ■



### 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@belgrviasociety.uk](mailto:info@belgrviasociety.uk)

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

Our next (video) meeting is on  
**Tuesday 12th May 2020**

### 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 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.



The Belgravia Society supports the democratic goal of the Neighbourhood Forum to create a truly local plan for Belgravia. **Dennis Wheatland**, Chairman of the Forum, asked us to publish the following letter to update you on the current activities of the Forum. In addition, you should put the date of the annual general meeting in your diaries now.

*Dear Members*

Can I start by sending you my best wishes and hoping that you are taking care and obeying government instructions to ensure that we beat Covid-19 as quickly as possible. Can I remind you that if any of you require help in any way as a result of the impact of Covid-19, please contact the Westminster Connects team by phoning 020 7641 1222 or emailing [westminsterconnect@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:westminsterconnect@westminster.gov.uk).

Turning now to the activities of the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum (BNF), I can tell you that during last summer the Forum completed the initial stage of consultation with the residents and the businesses of Belgravia, but then faced the need to seek the re-designation of the Forum from Westminster City Council. I am delighted to say that this re-designation has now been received and I would like to pass my thanks to all those members – and I know there were many – who took the trouble to write to the Council to support the re-designation of our Forum. We now have a five-year period within which to complete and secure approval of the Neighbourhood Plan for Belgravia.

I am pleased to tell you that we have also been successful in gaining some initial funding from WCC to engage a professional

consultant to help us in drafting the Plan, and work is currently underway on this. However, the combination of the process required to obtain the re-designation, this funding, and the constraints imposed by Covid-19 has resulted in the timetable we had envisaged slipping by some six months.

You may have on your calendar a date in May for the Forum Annual General Meeting. Given the current circumstances, it will not be possible to hold that meeting as planned. It has therefore been decided, as is permitted under the constitution of the BNF Ltd, that this meeting will be held later in the year. So please note a new date for the AGM of Thursday 14th September. The meeting will also include a presentation of progress on the BNF Plan. You will receive a reminder closer to the date of the AGM. Please make a real effort to attend this important meeting.

Our overall target remains to hold an open meeting later in the year for a presentation of the draft Plan; this meeting will be open to all residents and businesses of Belgravia.

With all best wishes  
**Dennis Wheatland**  
**Chairman**

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FORUM?** If not, please join now and support the development of Belgravia's Plan covering the next 20 years.

**MEMBERSHIP IS FREE** – To join, go to [thebelgraviaforum.org/about-us/membership](http://thebelgraviaforum.org/about-us/membership)

# Westminster City Council



**Y**ou will all be receiving emails from WCC on a daily basis updating you on what is going on in the city. We are being given daily information on all aspects of the lockdown and how the WCC is tailoring its services to the needs of communities throughout Westminster as well as responding to issues raised with them.

In addition, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rachael Robathan, is holding fortnightly video conferences with amenity societies and community groups in order to hear what is happening in different parts of the city. Information is therefore immediately available to WCC about the needs of the communities, problems arising on a day-to-day basis and also answering questions where possible. Many points are taken back by Councillor Robathan to be dealt with.

Waste collection and cleaning teams are working round the clock to keep the city clean whilst, at the same time, following safe working practices and social distancing rules. It is providing Supporting Businesses Podcasts, advising on business grant status, keeping us informed on public health, dealing with the homeless and finding shelter for them as well as creating and expanding support to the community generally through its Westminster

Connect Scheme. Almost 3,000 volunteers have registered to help. This link will take you to the WCC webpage showing organisations and shops that are available to residents:

[Click here.](#)

Although libraries are closed, special areas in Victoria libraries have opened up to help residents that do not have their own computers or access to the internet.

In response to the Covid-19, The City of Westminster Charitable Trust has launched a new Covid-19 grant scheme. It is part of the Community Contribution which was created by Westminster to give residents in the top council tax bands the opportunity to give more to their local community on a voluntary basis. This scheme will give up to £15,000 for organisations operating in Westminster to provide extra support to help rough sleepers off the street or keep them protected during the outbreak, provide youth support or offer support to people who are suffering from social isolation or loneliness.

The above is only a fraction of the work which WCC is carrying out as well as their usual obligations. We congratulate councillors and officers of WCC for their incredible work during this difficult time. ■

# Councillor Rachael Robathan's report 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](mailto: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.

**Last month we published the details of several local shops that are available to serve you to which we add the following:**

## **Belgravia Food Fayre**

65 Eaton Terrace

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-9pm

Sat-Sun 8am-9pm

Delivery: 020 7881 0977

## **Waitrose**

27 Motcomb Street

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7.30am-9pm

Sun 11am-5pm

## **Sainsbury's**

14-20 Elizabeth Street

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 7am-11pm

## **Green's Pharmacy**

29-31 Ebury Bridge Road | 020 7730 1080

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6.30pm

## **A Moore & Co**

25e Lowndes Street

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Sat 9-1.30pm

## **Keencare Pharmacy**

6 Lower Belgrave Street

Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Sat 9am-1pm

**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 on Deliveroo**

020 7730 7997

## **Dominique Ansel Bakery**

Elizabeth Street | 020 7324 7705

## **Daylesford**

Pimlico Road | 020 7591 1510 or email

[delivered@daylesford.com](mailto:delivered@daylesford.com) to place your order

## **The Good Life Eatery**

Motcomb Street | 020 7052 9388

## **L'ETO Caffe**

Motcomb Street | Order through Deliveroo

Sadly, **Charles** in Lower Belgrave Street has closed temporarily



# Police and crime

## PC Dave Alford reports

During the lockdown period so far we have seen a drop in the amount of reported crimes on the Knightsbridge and Belgravia Ward. As you know, this is due to a low footfall and all of the shops, excluding Sainsbury's and Waitrose, being closed. This has unfortunately caused a slight increase in the amount of beggars and rough sleepers being found near the open stores.

While speaking with a few of the homeless community, it was established that some have been dropped by their former employers and left to fend for themselves. We have a number of Romanian nationals that were employed and have now no way of getting home. The team have pointed them to Outreach services which, from what I understand are stretched.

The stores and coffee shops (takeaway only) that are open have been visited two or three times a day by us. The customers are being managed well and there have been no major

issues reported. Fortunately, we haven't encountered any major issues with residents not complying with the Lockdown Guidelines, no fines have been issued by us so far and I find that friendly words of advice get the desired effect.

A question was asked by one of my response team colleagues regarding the private gardens and people using them to picnic or sunbathe. The issue we have with these is that they are technically residents' gardens and our powers are somewhat restricted unless we find large groups from different families mixing, proving this is another issue.

As I mentioned before, most people comply with our directions which is better than having to issue fines, etc. As community officers, we rely on support from our community and at the moment there seems to be no end of support not only to us, but to all frontline services. ■

# The Walbrook Club

Although the Walbrook Club is in the City of London, we felt in these uncertain times it would be good to show solidarity. There are two distinct cities in London, City of Westminster and the City of London. Although there are huge differences between us, we have two distinct things in common. In normal times, tens of thousands of commuters arrive in our cities for their daily work. The second is that we are in the same Parliamentary constituency and share our MP, Nickie Aiken, with them.

Nestled amongst the gleaming high-rise towers of the City of London stands a Lilliputian Queen Anne-style townhouse. It was originally built by the late property magnate, Rudolph Palumbo, in 1952 as his family office. The building itself is as improbable as it is charming. Such is its uniqueness, it has affectionately been described as “Glyndebourne in the City”. It is home to The Walbrook Club. Opened in May 2000, the Club does have a strict dress code as one would expect for one of its quality. In normal times, it is open throughout the day from Monday to Friday with breakfast from 7am, lunch and then dinner until late.

Its conversion into a private members’ club was overseen by the doyen of London clubs, Mark Birley, of the original Annabel’s, Harry’s Bar and Mark’s Club. The Club is located directly next door to the Mansion House and NM Rothschild, and is the only expression of Birley’s genius outside of Mayfair. Albert Roux of Le Gavroche set up the kitchens whilst Steven Spurrier created the wine list.



*The Walbrook Club*



*The Green Room at The Walbrook Club*

The Club has become known for providing discreet and elegant rooms for Members wishing to conduct confidential conversations, to entertain guests or simply to relax. As London’s only family-run club, its friendly atmosphere is matched by every element of the decor having a story.

## The Walbrook Club continued



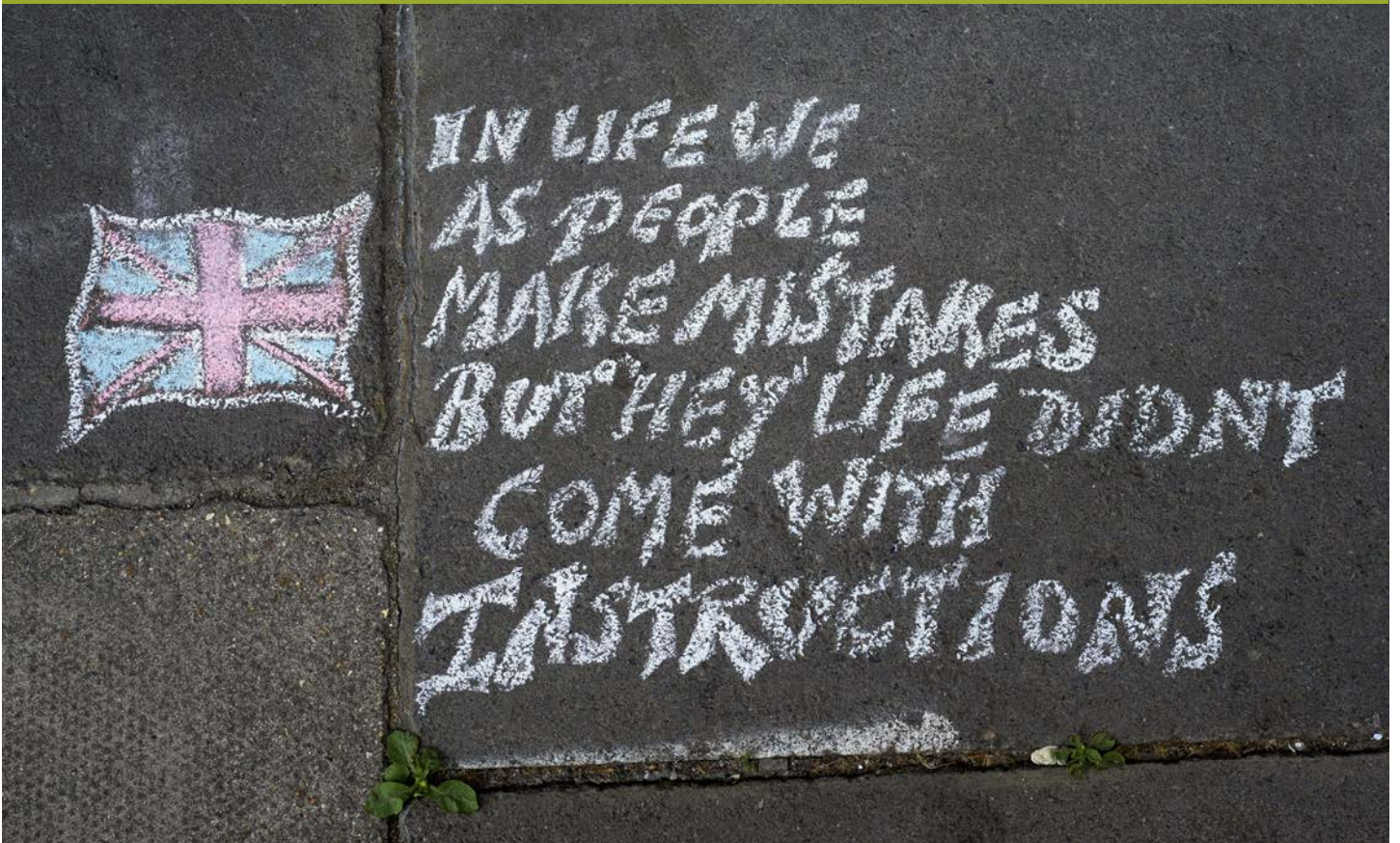
*The Oak Room at The Walbrook Club*

Members may enjoy the monthly breakfasts with a distinguished guest speaker, including sitting heads of state, leading politicians, titans of industry and cultural icons; candid evening interviews with successful business people; wine dinners and tastings; and other happy occasions such as the annual Shoot Dinner or the Women's Lunch Forum.

In such a male-orientated bastion as the City of London we are pleased to report that it is open on an equal basis to men and women who are director-level and above or equivalent. The Walbrook Club marks its twentieth anniversary this year. ■

*The Walbrook Club*  
37A Walbrook, London EC4N 8BS  
020 7623 6100

## Seen in lower Belgrave Street





# The Belgravia Society's new website [www.thebelgraviasociety.com](http://www.thebelgraviasociety.com)



For some time now we have been wanting to update our website, and now we have been able to through a most generous donation. We are therefore very pleased to announce that you may find the new website on the very easy to remember name [thebelgraviasociety.com](http://thebelgraviasociety.com). Do take a look at it.

Included in the new site is a page showing back issues of our Magazine. You will be able to click on one the Magazines and open it to see the contents displayed as 'flippable' pages. Above the pages you will see a bar

with symbols on it. If you click on the button at the extreme left that looks like an "X", the Magazine will enlarge to fill the whole screen. You can reduce the size again by clicking on the "X". You can scroll through the pages using the arrows in the bar at the top, or the arrow that appears at each side.

[Note: It takes Google time to integrate a new website. Please make sure you use the correct web address, otherwise you will get the old website which is no longer in operation. We are working to get rid of the old website presence from Google.] ■

## 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 –  
[info@belgraviasociety.uk](mailto:info@belgraviasociety.uk)

## Planning Advice

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

# Development and building sites

Last month we reported on a number of building sites in the area being shut as a result of the lockdown. This was done voluntarily and the government did not require them to close. Most of the sites have reopened but with a change to working practices designed to support social distancing and stop Covid-19 spreading.

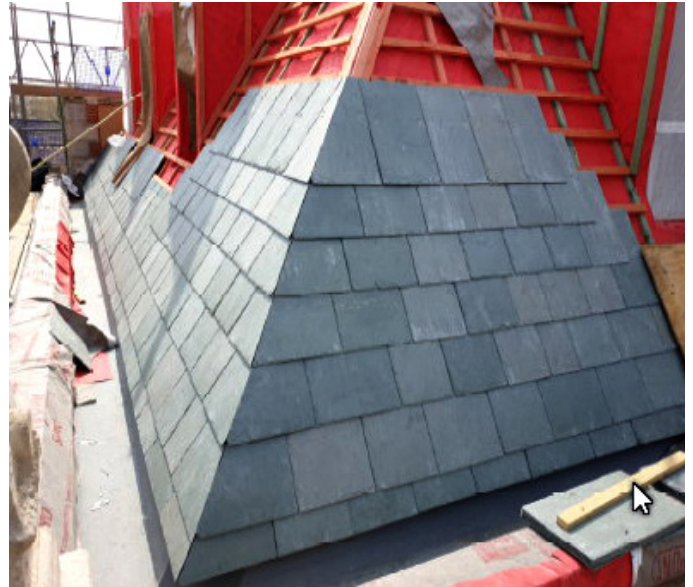
**Chelsea Barracks** – we are advised that the site remains open but for limited work. Mace, who are finishing phase 3, will be leaving the site soon in any event. Multiplex continue with phase 4.



**33-39 Knightsbridge** – the contractors are continuing to operate on site with a number of safety measures for their protection including segregated working zones and other appropriate precautions. Work therefore continues.

**55-91 Knightsbridge** – liaison meeting took place via video on 7th April, but no more are scheduled at the moment owing to Covid-19. The site remains open and, as far as possible, work will continue including main roof construction, 3 and 4 William Street roof coverings, lift installing and testing, and various fit-outs internally, plus continuation of other works.

The dismantling of the final tower crane has been postponed due to TfL requirements to maintain a clear route between London hospitals.



**Cundy Street** – there is no specific news yet, however, we do expect to hear something from Grosvenor very shortly and will report to you in next month's Magazine. We remain deeply concerned about the proposed heights of the buildings. ■

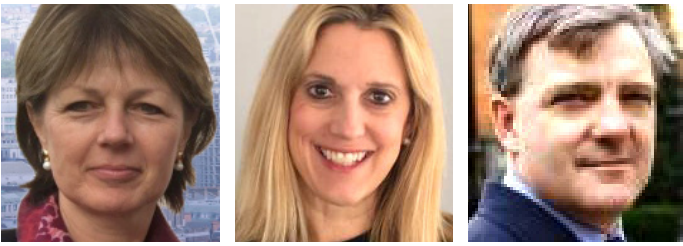
## The Belgravia Society Planning helpline

Do not forget our Planning telephone helpline, there to guide you if you receive a Notice of a Planning Application relating to a property near you. Have the Planning Application number ready so we can easily check the application. If you are a member of The Belgravia Society, we offer a service to forward to you all notices of planning applications we receive from Westminster City Council relating to Belgravia. If you would like to receive them, please send us an email requesting this service.

**Helpline tel no: 07578 969 509**  
**Email: [info@belgraviasociety.uk](mailto:info@belgraviasociety.uk)**

# News of your Local Councillors

## Knightsbridge & Belgravia Ward



Councillors Rachael Robothan, Elizabeth Hitchcock and Tony Devenish

## Warwick Ward



Councillors Christabel Flight, Nickie Aiken and Jacqui Wilkinson

Your local councillors are busy in their wards helping and supporting residents and businesses and much occupies them. They continue to provide whatever support or advice is needed and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

They have had many offers of help. They reiterate that if constituents need assistance or have concerns about a vulnerable neighbour or relative, then they can be best served by contacting Westminster Connects Team by email, or telephoning 020 7641 1222 from 8am-7pm, seven days a week.

Some WCC services, libraries, leisure centres and playgrounds, following government advice, have been closed. However, such essential services as refuse collection and street cleaning services are fully operational. The Council is moving resources around as more people are working from home in residential areas of the City.

The Council is providing NHS workers and care workers with free parking on their pay-by-phone bays throughout the City for any period of time; they just need to

show appropriate NHS credentials on their windscreens.

Your local councillors are there to support everyone in the community. They are there for you and you should not hesitate to contact them. As usual, full details are given in this Magazine on page 20.

Councillors from Warwick Ward also give us news affecting their Ward. The councillors have been receiving complaints from residents relating to antisocial behaviour, including drug taking and drinking at the back of offices at 11 Belgrave Road. Councillor Wilkinson has been working with the developer who has offered 50% of the funding for new hoarding to prevent access and the remainder of the cost is being met by the current landlord.

Councillor Wilkinson, who is also Westminster's Animal Welfare Champion has told us that dogs must now be kept on leads. "Social distancing is a crucial tool for staying safe, so dogs must remain close to their social distancing walkers and avoid unexpected contact". ■

# 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 (also mentioned on page 23).

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

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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.

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OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**



## Postscript from WCC

On 26th April 2020 the Environment Secretary, George Eustice, set out how food suppliers have been addressing the supply of groceries while the nation remains in lockdown.

He reported that:

- Staff absence due to self-isolation and illness has dropped significantly in food suppliers, from 20% earlier in the lockdown to less than 10% at the end of last week.
- 500,000 food parcels have been delivered to people with medical conditions which require them to be “shielded” indoors for 12 weeks.
- Supermarkets have carried out 300,000 priority deliveries to these groups.
- Supermarkets have increased delivery slots from 2.1 million to 2.6 million a week, and intend to add a further 300,000 over the next couple of weeks, although he acknowledges this will not be enough to meet all the demand.

Prof Stephen Powis, the National Medical Director of NHS England, said that the benefits of social distancing were clearly showing, with the number of hospital admissions and critical care beds in use both declining. ■







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The only independent voice for Belgravia

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