

THE

ISSUE 96 | MAY 2023

BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY
INDEPENDENT
VOICE FOR
BELGRAVIA



THE CORONATION
OF THEIR MAJESTIES
KING CHARLES III
AND QUEEN CAMILLA



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

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

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



George Waite
Chairman of
The Belgravia Society
and ESRA

HOMELESS SITUATION/ ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A few days ago I received an email from a senior manager of a large financial institution that has offices in Westminster, regarding homelessness and anti-social behaviour often fuelled by drug and alcohol abuse. The matters raised in the email were so disturbing that I provide below several direct extracts:

“On a daily basis we are encountering several people sleeping directly outside the branch, these individuals litter and soil the surrounding area The utter squalor they create has resulted in our shop fronts being absolute filthy. In one instance a member of our staff had to stop a rather drug fuelled vagrant from defecting right outside our door. As bad as this is, it is actually secondary to the torrid abuse staff are being subjected to on a regular basis. From Greggs, to McDonalds and ourselves, we have all had incidents of verbal and aggressive behaviour ranging from the smashing up of furniture to being spat at. Physical confrontations are not unusual between both themselves and staff. There are members of staff who now wait across the road early in the morning whilst waiting to open to avoid particular groups of vagrants. Pret-A-Manger now have had to employ instore security services after their window has been smashed yet again. They experienced a rather distressing violent

attack on a staff member in recent months and now feel no other option than having security protection. A few weeks ago Itsu had two vagrants come into their store and smash up their cabinets causing £300 of food wastage... We are a business that sees our members deal with a lot of cash and they feel uneasy walking out into a group of people who display such worrying behaviour. Having spoken to Greggs, Pret-A-Manager, Itsu and Wasabi they are all experiencing high levels of theft with people brazenly walking in and just helping themselves to items off the shelf. This problem is not exclusive to just those working in the area, but also the general public. We have encountered many an argument outside with someone just going about their day. The absolute degeneration of the local area by these individuals is worrying and we desperately seek some guidance and resolution to this ongoing problem. I fear if it is not addressed and action taken it will result in even more serious issues...”

Clearly, the problems described above are most serious examples of anti-social behaviour and we are raising them with our member of Parliament, Nickie Aiken MP, WCC, the Met. Police, and other local stakeholders.

In our October 2022 edition I wrote about ‘Crisis’, the national charity whose aim is to help people directly out of homelessness. One of the statistics that I used was that people sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence.

Homelessness is an extremely complex matter and this is a clear example of the need for formal enforcement measures (2014 Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act), but we must not forget the need that they must always include accommodation and social care support, otherwise we will simply move the problem to another area. ▲

NICKIE AIKEN MP

MY PLAN TO MAKE BELGRAVIA SAFER AND CLEANER



Ensuring Belgravia and the Two Cities remain safe places to live is my priority. It's a priority I've also heard from so many local people and I launched my Policing and Crime survey to hear what matters to you, and what you believe the police should focus on.

The results from my survey were clear. You told me you want increased police visibility, support for the most vulnerable, leadership laser-focused on Westminster, to tackle anti-social behaviour, and to crackdown on cannabis smoking.

To deliver our priority, I launched My Plan to Make Westminster Safer, shaped by your views. My Plan focuses on increasing police visibility, re-introducing estate wardens, enforcing a zero-tolerance policy on cannabis, re-establishing the Integrated Street Engagement Unit, and creating a single Borough Commander for Westminster. Please read my Plan in full at www.nickie.news/MyCrimePlan.

I am working with our police leadership and Westminster City Council to take strong action to deliver the Plan and make our neighbourhoods safer.

Following a public meeting I held earlier this year on crime and anti-social behaviour issues, I was reassured that the Leader

of the Council promised to work with me to tackle local crime issues. So before I launched my Plan, I shared the findings of my survey with the council leader. Unfortunately, I am disappointed by the council leader's response and I fear the Council is not prioritising this matter and taking our concerns seriously. The Council, after all, has a critical role and leads the local response to tackle anti-social behaviour with a number of tools at its disposal. The Council must use those tools so that local people feel safer in their neighbourhood.

I also regularly meet with our police leadership, and ahead of my next meeting with Superintendent Beth Pirie, who leads Westminster's neighbourhood policing teams, I would be interested in your ideas to prevent crime in Belgravia and across our neighbourhoods. Please email them to me at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk. I would be especially interested in hearing your thoughts on private security which has rapidly popped up over the last few years in Belgravia. Please let me know.

WE ALL DESERVE CLEAN STREETS!

When I'm out and about across Belgravia, sadly, I have noticed an increase in rubbish dumping. Sometimes because of fly-tipping, but most often it's because the Council hasn't collected household or public bins.

Whilst the responsibility of Westminster City Council, it's an issue I've heard a lot about from local people. We all deserve clean streets and it's critical the new council administration doesn't undo decades of hard work from the previous administration to ensure our streets were kept clean and tidy.

The Council needs to get a grip on this issue without delay to prevent vermin from getting a foothold in our neighbourhoods. If you have concerns, please send me an email. I will speak out on your behalf to ensure we all have clean streets in Westminster.

If I can be of help on any issue, please send me an email at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at Nickie Aiken MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Keep up to date with how I'm working for you at www.nickieaiken.org.uk and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube at @TwoCitiesNickie. ▲

PLANNING ADVICE

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

WANTED!

Writers | Historians | Story tellers

Do you enjoy writing? We would be delighted to receive articles and short stories about Belgravia/our neighbours/ London and beyond – all voluntary, of course. Discuss your ideas with us at info@belgraviasociety.com



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

Alternatively, print the application form on page 27 and post your completed form to

63 Belgravia Court
33 Ebury Street
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CORONATION 1953

A REFLECTION

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

The Coronation of Elizabeth II took place in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. She was the sixth Queen regnant to be crowned following Mary I (Tudor), Elizabeth I, Mary II (of William and Mary), Queen Anne and Queen Victoria.

It was a different age 70 years ago. It was only seven years after the War. As a ten year old I was very excited about the Coronation. We had enjoyed the Festival of Britain in 1951, however, there was still rationing, and ration coupons were needed for meat, bacon, sugar, butter, cheese, margarine, cooking fats and eggs.



I always remember the photo of the three Queens: the late Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary, and the desolate look as they waited to see the train which would carry King George to his final resting place. Sadly, Queen Mary died before the Coronation. It was Queen Mary's crown with which Queen Camilla was crowned at King Charles' Coronation.

*I felt an excitement
that we were
moving into a new
Elizabethan age*

Queen Elizabeth's Coronation bouquet was made up of white flowers from the four home nations and the Isle of Man. At Buckingham Palace on the day of the Coronation, gardeners, Palace housemaids and other royal employees gathered inside the Great Hall at Buckingham Palace to see the Queen leave for Westminster Abbey.

The Sovereign's Procession to the Abbey was made up of 250 people and the Archbishop of Canterbury conducted the service which Archbishops of Canterbury

have done since 1066. The return route to Buckingham Palace was over five miles. It rained. Just under 30,000 men took part in the procession – 3,600 from the Royal Navy, 16,100 from the Army and 7,000 from the RAF. 2,000 came from the Commonwealth and 500 from other colonies. There were 6,700 reserve administrative troops while a thousand officers and men of the Royal Military





Police had been brought in to assist the Metropolitan Police. A further 7,000 police were drawn from the provincial forces.

The principal decorations for the processional route were in the Mall where there were four twin-spanned arches of tubular steel that were illuminated at night. The arches were lifted into place by giant mobile cranes. I remember the arches, but failed to find any photos on the internet. I remembered that my brother had taken some pictures and I managed to find the old album and the photos too.

My father bought a TV set so we could watch the Coronation. It was on Coronation day that news came that Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay had climbed Mount Everest. As schoolchildren, we were taken to the cinema after the Coronation to see the film of the *Conquest of Everest*. We were also given three pencils in red, white and blue and a commemorative Coronation



spoon which I still have. I felt an excitement that we were moving into a new Elizabethan age.

As I reflect on the Late Queen's Coronation, it seems such a long time ago and the world is very different today. We are now in the Carolean age. I can only hope for a good future. ▲

CORONATION 2023

BY MARY REGNIER-LEIGH

"... my wife and I just wanted to share our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped to make this such a special occasion."

Charles R





Above: Official photograph of the King and Queen, and the working members of the Royal Family

Below: The Prince and Princess of Wales with Prince George and Princess Charlotte

Living as close as we do to Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey, we preferred to watch the Coronation on the TV. I am sure we had a better view than many of the 2,000 people in the Abbey.

The Coronation service used directly descends from that of King Edgar at Bath in 973. The original 14 central Orders of Service were written in Latin which was used until the Coronation of Elizabeth I. Coronations and other royal events are managed by the Dukes of Norfolk and have been since 1386. The current Duke, who is the 17th, is the most senior Duke in England and his position as Earl Marshall is hereditary. His grandfather was responsible for the late Queen's Coronation.

The Coronation is centred around a solemn religious ceremony, the form of which has been little changed in a 1,000 years. Since 1066 coronations have taken place in Westminster Abbey. The ceremony sees the crowning of the new King, and Royal Regalia





form part of the ceremony. The sacred objects represent the powers and responsibilities of the Monarch. The King promised he had come to serve and not to be served, then the service proceeds with Recognition and Oath and the Monarch is anointed. The Investiture and Anointing follows and then the Homage. The Homage was followed by the Anointing of the Queen. The service was accompanied by the most wonderful music.

Above left: Now and the future: King Charles III, Prince William and Prince George

Above right: Queen Camilla

Below: The Prince and Princess of Wales in ceremonial robes

The conduct of the occasion was magnificent and almost everything went to plan. Everything had been timed to the second, and it was noticed that the King and Queen had to wait outside the Abbey for some six minutes. It transpired that this came down to the horses: as they had rehearsed in middle of the night they were sleepy. Consequently, when fully awake on the actual day, they moved a little faster!

Horses notwithstanding, the Coronation was an outstanding success. We saw an ancient ceremony and the Coronation of our King. We can remind ourselves of the benefit of constitutional monarchy, no politicians arguing, no politics, no acrimonious elections. Simply a transfer of one Head of State to another, from one Monarch to the next who has huge knowledge and experience. ▲





The Mall on Coronation Day

THE KING SAID:

“As the Coronation weekend draws to a close, my wife and I just wanted to share our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped to make this such a special occasion.

We pay particular tribute to the countless people who have given their time and dedication to ensuring that the celebrations in London, Windsor and further afield were as happy, safe and enjoyable as possible.

To those who joined in the celebrations – whether at home, at street parties and lunches, or by volunteering in communities – we thank you, each and every one.

To know that we have your support and encouragement, and to witness your kindness expressed in so many different ways, has been the greatest possible Coronation gift, as we now rededicate our lives to serving the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and Commonwealth.”

Charles R



THE ROYAL CYPHERS

With the new King we have a new Royal Cypher and Queen Camilla has one also. A Royal Cypher is a monogram-device of a country's reigning king or queen. Usually, cyphers consist of the initials of the monarch's name, and often include a crown above it.

The use of cyphers dates back to the Tudor period of Henry VIII. They are simply the initials of the Monarch. It is usually followed by the letter "R" for "Rex" or "Regina" meaning King or Queen in Latin. During Queen Victoria's reign the letter "I" was added for "Imperatrix".

These days a royal crown is added to the initials. There are different sorts of crowns. The King's cypher was designed by the College of Arms. The Heralds we see at royal occasions are all part of the College and their Head is Garter, King of Arms. It was he who announced the death of the late Queen and the succession of the King. He and other Heralds played a significant part in the Coronation ceremony. The Head of the Scottish equivalent of the College of Arms is known as Lyon King of Arms.

We are all familiar with the Cypher of the late Queen. However, the Scots refused

to accept it because Elizabeth I was never Queen of Scotland. The Scottish cypher was E1R. The same problem does not arise for Charles as the first two were Scottish Stuart kings.

King Charles has elected to have his cypher surmounted by the Tudor Crown in England, and the Scottish Crown of Scotland for use north of the border.

Cyphers are used on letterboxes, buildings, Armed Services uniforms and stamps and elsewhere when appropriate. However, they are only updated when appropriate. We can see how old our letterboxes are by the cypher of the Monarch. Historic buildings often carry cyphers, again giving us an idea of how old buildings are. I believe there may even be a cypher or two of Anne Boleyn somewhere that was not eliminated by Henry VIII whose cypher may often be seen in many palaces.

We will have to wait for new letterboxes. However, the King's Cypher will appear soon on stamps and on some coins, etc. I think it is about money but from the historic view it adds to our history. As soon as Charles became king, QCs immediately became KCs – no cost involved! ▲



BELGRAVIA IN BLOOM

OBSERVED BY YOUR EDITOR



We have become accustomed to Belgravia in Bloom in the same week as the Chelsea flower show. There were many shops and displays in Elizabeth Street, Eccleston Yards, Motcombe Street and behind it. There were some beautiful displays and very many people enjoying them. I cannot help feeling there were slightly less than usual but, nonetheless, wonderful quality. We came across a number of visitors who were lost and we were delighted to direct them to where they were trying to go.

We take the opportunity here of giving you some photographs of the things we enjoyed most.



Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum

We are very pleased to share with you news of the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum.

We received this notification from them.



We are delighted to be able to report that our Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan has been formally submitted to WCC for Regulation 15. The Plan is now out of our hands for the time being and we rely on the Council to progress matters.

This is a major milestone in the life of the Plan. It has taken nearly ten years to get to this point but worth it, we hope. We are also pleased to report that we are already getting evidence that architects are paying attention to the Plan, especially the Design Codes in their planning applications and designs. This is very gratifying.

This Plan is vitally important to ensure that the uniqueness of Belgravia, its buildings, design and structures are reflected in the policies beyond normal criteria.

Dennis Wheatland,
Chairman of the Belgravia
Neighbourhood Forum has
issued the following to tell
us about the next stages:

“The Submission of the
draft is a major milestone
in the progress of the Plan.

Thank you to all those who
have participated in our
consultations and surveys,
commented on the draft
versions of the Plan and
been generally supportive.

The Council will now review the Plan and
arrange for a six-week public consultation
on its contents. It will publish the plan
on its website and invite comments
from the public and specific statutory
consultees. Thereafter the Plan will be
subject to examination by an independent
examiner whose job it will be to ensure
that the Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan
meets certain basic conditions. These are
essentially that it must be in conformity
with other national and local development
plans and contribute to the achievement of
sustainable development.

Following this stage, the Plan will be put to
a referendum of all those who are registered
to vote in local elections within our defined
neighbourhood area. If this applies to
you, you will receive Polling Cards and
information about how and where to vote,
just in the same way as for any other local
election. We expect the referendum to take
place towards the end of 2023.



**Please make sure to vote when
the time comes.**

For your convenience I attach here a
summary of the policies which are included
in the Belgravia Neighbourhood Plan
and which are intended to ensure that
Belgravia’s unique character is preserved
for future generations and that it remains an
attractive, vibrant and agreeable ‘village’ in
the heart of London.”

This Plan is vitally important to ensure that
the uniqueness of Belgravia, its buildings,
design and structures are reflected in the
policies beyond the normal criteria. This
is particularly so the design codes that
are embedded in the historic designs
of buildings, and reflect the quality and
architecture of Belgravia. The retrofitting
of an historic building for energy efficiency
must not result in unacceptable harm to the
character or significance of listed buildings
and conservation areas of the buildings.
The Draft Plan has much in it that seeks
to protect our precious historic area while
recognising necessary changes. ▲



BELGRAVIA SOCIETY MEMBERS MEET WITH VICTORIA COACH STATION (VCS) TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2023

A number of Society members met with Paul Small, Senior Service Delivery Manager, for a tour of VCS and were later joined by Mandy Thackaberry, also a Service Delivery Manager. It was a great opportunity for members of the community to see what goes on at the Coach Station. Despite it having a large presence in Belgravia, little is known of its day to day activities.

Paul explained that the VCS was designed by the famous Art Deco architectural

practice of Wallis & Gilbert and opened in 1932. Consequently, the outside of the building is listed under a Preservation Order as well as the glass canopy in the departure area. Transport for London (TfL) own 90% of the land in the Departure Station as the District and Circle lines pass underneath VCS. The rest is owned by Grosvenor.

Most of the floors immediately above the ground floor Departure Coach Station building are presently empty (owned by

TfL), who are looking to refurbish and let them out. Paul discussed with members plans that have been drawn up to utilise some of this space with elevators up to a mezzanine level, with shops and then elevators down for coach departures. Equivalent examples are London railway stations, for example, St Pancras. They would ideally like to have shops which would serve local residents as well as coach users. These plans were costed pre-COVID at £40m but would now cost much more. The plans are dependent on TfL funding, but TfL presently has budget problems. VCS can only use surplus funds for any works on the station.



Mandy Thackaberry, VCS Service Delivery Manager and Paul Small, Senior Service Delivery Manager

National Express coaches are their biggest operator, but their ticket counter deals are with other operators as well, for instance, airport coach operators as well as international coach services. Before COVID they sold around 470,000 tickets a year, now they are running at around 80% of that pre-COVID figure. Prior to Brexit, there were many more international departures, for example, to Romania and Poland.

A figure of 17 million people per year come through the coach station. VCS even has its own left luggage department with airport-type scanners for luggage left, normally for no more than 24 hours. They now have slightly reduced the staff dealing with ticket sales as so many are done online.

At present, about 50% of coaches exit into Elizabeth Street and turn right towards Buckingham Palace Road. The rest use the Ebury Street exit and turn left into Semley Place (previously, they used to turn right up Ebury Street but after a campaign by local residents, they now turn left and have a cut-off time of 9.30pm each evening, since Ebury Street is a more residential area). Paul mentioned they cannot add on capacity to National Express in consideration for the local residents. One

of the Society members mentioned to Paul Small that a coach had been seen driving down the street the wrong way and after checking the CCTV cameras at the bus station she was able to confirm it and report it to VCS. Paul Small said if any residents see similar behaviour from coach drivers, to photograph them and send to him. There is a traffic management plan that the coach companies have which stipulates what drivers can or cannot do.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are very pleased to publish this information about VCS. A follow-up article will appear next month. It is good to know what is happening. The fact is that a coach station of this size and volume of traffic should not be here in the residential area, but it is. We know that for many years TfL and WCC, etc, have been looking for alternative sites, however, unsurprisingly no one else wants it. So we now need to get to know the workings of the VCS and help it to integrate with us as much as possible. If we try to ensure that everything is done to mitigate its presence, we can then perhaps see some benefits from it. ▲



ROBERT JOHN GRAHAM BOOTHBY, BARON BOOTHBY

“**A** bounder, but not a cad”, the Queen Mother said of Boothby. Born 1900, Eton and Magdalen College Oxford, Secretary to Churchill, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer (1926-9), he lived at 1 Eaton Square from 1946 to his death in 1986, and was made a life peer in 1958.

Boothby “has been sitting on the wrong side of the House for many years. The Hon. Member seems to know better than the ordinary person what is good for him, what he ought to buy, where he ought to buy it, where he ought to manufacture and everything else. There is the true Socialist”, said the Liberal leader of the time.

Boothby had a colourful, if discreet, private life, as the Press didn’t print what they knew. He was a prominent advocate of decriminalising homosexual acts between men, to “do something practical to remove the fear and misery in which many of our most gifted citizens were then compelled to live”.

He had a long affair with the wife of Harold Macmillan (Prime Minister 1957-1963), and was rumoured to be the father of the Macmillan daughter, Sarah. The Macmillan connection was said to be why the police did not investigate the death of the Duke of Devonshire, Lady Macmillan’s brother, wary of drawing Press attention to her while she was being unfaithful.

Boothby was married twice. His first wife was Diana Cavendish, daughter of Lord Richard Cavendish, Lady Macmillan’s first cousin, whom he only married after the Macmillan relationship was “on the wane”. He swiftly realised the marriage had been a mistake, becoming a source of long-lasting guilt for him. The year after Lady Macmillan died, Boothby married a Sardinian woman 33 years his junior. Boothby apparently fathered at least three children by the wives of other men: “two by one woman, one by another”.

He insisted he was “not a homosexual”, but “sub-conscious bi-sexuality is a



component part of all of us [and] the majority of males pass through a homosexual period". At Oxford, Boothby earned the nickname 'the Palladium', because "he was twice nightly". He did not begin to have physical relationships with women until he was 25.

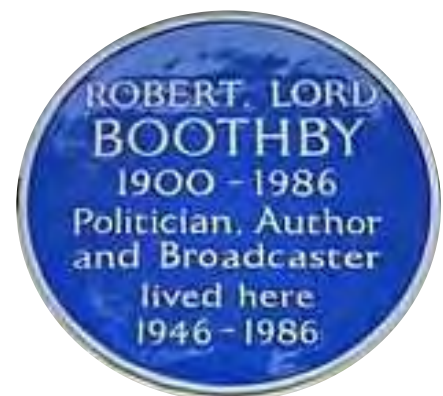
In 1963, Boothby began an affair with a cat burglar he met at a gambling club, who introduced him to Ronnie Kray, one of the Kray twins, who supplied Boothby with young men and arranged orgies, receiving favours from Boothby in return. When the *Sunday Express* found out, the Conservative-supporting newspaper opted not to publish, but it was eventually reported in the Labour-supporting *Sunday Mirror*. Boothby threatened to sue the *Mirror*, which backed down, sacked its editor, apologised and paid Boothby £40,000.

He embarrassed his fellow peers by campaigning on behalf of the Krays in the Lords, until their increasing violence made that impossible. MI5 used the Kray twins to gather intelligence on homosexual politicians and establishment figures, focusing on Boothby, said to share Ronnie Kray's fondness for young men. Quite the bounder! ▲

Top Left: Robert Boothby 1924

Top right: Robert John Graham Boothby, Baron Boothby circa 1964, with Ronnie Kray

Below: Blue plaque outside 1 Eaton Square



NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

DOCKLESS BIKES PARKING DELAYS AND DANGERS



Electric dockless bikes (Lime, Tier, Dott and Human Forest) are increasing in number across Westminster. Whilst they bring benefits of clean and active travel with them, the lack of parking regulations has led to bikes being strewn across the pavements, creating many obstructions and dangerous situations.

People with visual impairments, in wheelchairs, mobility scooters or with young children in buggies are most affected. We welcome Westminster Council's belated announcement that controlled parking zones are to be considered in the West End of the city; something your local Councillors and many local people have been demanding for over a year.

With other neighbouring Councils having already introduced such parking zones, we are calling on Westminster Council to act immediately and without further delay. We would like to see the Council implement parking zones across all of Westminster and to do so immediately, rather than a

staggered and time consuming roll out, starting in the West End. The problems exist all over the City and people living in Knightsbridge and Belgravia cannot wait for these bikes to be controlled.

13-17 MONTPELIER STREET



Cllrs Devenish, Hitchcock and Robathan held a meeting recently with the developers of the site, together with their planning consultant. This was an important opportunity to relay the strength of feeling about the site and the reasons for resident concerns. Subsequent to this meeting, and as a separate matter, the second application for a minor variation to the existing License was refused by Westminster City Council. We have urged

that the owners should hold a meeting with local councillors, residents, the KA and KNF to try and resolve a path forward. We wait to hear further.

POLICING UPDATE



We recently said goodbye to PC Dave Alford who has served in the Metropolitan Police for the past 21 years and with the Knightsbridge & Belgravia ward since 2016. Dave has gone on to take up a new role and new challenges and we shall miss him hugely. We wish Dave all the best with his future endeavours.

Dave and the team have been instrumental in keeping our streets safe, working with the local councillors and with the local community.

The Knightsbridge & Belgravia Safer Neighbourhoods Team is a group of Met Police Officers dedicated to serving our community. The team is made up of officers based in our part of Westminster, supported by additional officers from the wider area. Dave Alford has been replaced by Paul Wyllie.

The team is comprised of:

Aadil Bagar (Aadil.Baqar@met.police.uk)
David Rowsell (David.Rowsell@met.police.uk)
Paul Wyllie (Paul.Wyllie@met.police.uk)
Zack Slaney (Zack.Slaney@met.police.uk)

Call 101 if you require non-emergency police assistance.

Call 999 if you require emergency police assistance.

Ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to supply anonymous information.


KEEP IN TOUCH


We are here to support everyone in our community. Please don't hesitate to contact us with a local issue or concern. We will do all that we can to help you and your neighbours.



Elizabeth, Tony and Rachael

Contact us by email:
ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk
rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk
tony@tonydevenish.com

 020 7730 8181

 'Like' our Facebook community page to stay up to date about our area.

EVENTS IN JUNE

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 10TH-11TH JUNE



Annual event allowing entry into gardens like our own Belgrave Square usually closed to the public. Tickets can be booked online at

www.londongardenstrust.org.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL 17TH-18TH JUNE



Celebration of science arts – a weekend of free events for all ages. To attend the festival register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/595625731597.

TWELFTH NIGHT IN BELGRAVE SQUARE 25TH JUNE | 5PM



Tickets are not available at the time of writing, but will be shortly. It is hoped some theatre goers will take the opportunity of picnicking first from 3pm until the performance starts.



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soprano



Xavier Hetherington
tenor



Peter Edge
baritone



Kaoru Wada
piano

The Garrison Chapel, Chelsea, London

Tuesday June 13th 2023

11am - 1pm

www.operaprelude.org



A BOUQUET OF SONG

13TH JUNE 2023

11AM-1PM

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OR 020 7183 7323

ELIZABETH HITCHCOCK GIVES DETAILS OF COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES



We have just completed a series of street surgeries in various locations around the ward. We hold these surgeries several times a year in order to give residents a chance to speak to their councillors face to face. At the surgeries there are also Westminster City Council officers present – our planning enforcement officer, our senior city inspector, a housing officer and our neighbourhood coordinator. Between us, most issues can be covered. Very often the officers will have an answer to a query but, if not, they can take it away and get back to the resident.

As councillors, it gives us a chance to get to know our residents and to learn about the issues, both good and not so good, that are happening in their neighbourhoods. You can ask for information and advice, make your views known on a range of issues, or enquire about local authority services. Very often, we are taken to see something in person near to the site of the street surgery, for example, paving that needs renewing, a housing issue, a faulty streetlight or missing street signs, to name but a few.

Of course, residents can always contact us via email at any time, but in person meetings are often more productive to convey thoughts or feelings in greater depth and with more detail about something important.



We hope to see you at a future street surgery in Belgravia. They are advertised on our social media channels as well as a notification in the *Belgravia Society Magazine*. Until then, we work for you. Please do get in touch if there is an issue that we can be of help with.



Cllr Tony Devenish
tony@tonydevenish.com

Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock
ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk

Cllr Rachael Robathan
rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk



PARK LANE CYCLE LANE

REAL FIGURES FROM A MEMBER WHO USES THE PARK CYCLE LANE

We travel quite frequently up and down Park Lane by taxi and I keep a record of the number of cyclists we see on the twin bike lanes. In the last 15 journeys it has been a total of 18 in both directions, with four total blanks and a maximum of three.

Additionally, on Monday evening at 7.10pm, I was walking through Hyde Park Corner on my way to Piccadilly. A total of some 20 cyclists waited for the change of the

Knightsbridge traffic lights before heading north. Only two headed for the Park Lane bike lanes. All the rest went into the park.

This is just further evidence of why the bike lanes should be replaced.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your Editor travels up the Cycle Lane by bus at least once a week and can confirm similar figures. The Mayor will not listen – BUT he's up for re-election next year!

INVITATION TO THE NEXT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

We would be delighted for you to join our video meeting. Please let us know by email if you wish to be linked in info@thebelgraviasociety.com. We can only accept a limited number, so first come, first served.

Our next meeting is on
13th June 2023

CAF
Charities Aid Foundation



If you have a CAF account, IT is an easy way to donate to the Society.

Please do help us to maintain our work for Belgravia, and our community magazine.



Registered Charity No: 1168619
An amenity society recognised by the City of Westminster

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to residents and non-residents and is free

Name email

Second name (if any) email

Address.....

Telephone: Home..... Work

Mobile Date

By signing this Application I CONSENT and AGREE to The Belgravia Society sending emails to me until I unsubscribe or resign from the Society.

Signature(s):

Please let us know if you have any special interests, concerns or queries:

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT TO YOU OR EMAIL TO: info@thebelgraviasociety.com
OR POST TO: **63 BELGRAVIA COURT 33 EBURY STREET LONDON SW1W 0NY**

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made:

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

- Today In the past 4 years In the future



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



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