



KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

NEWSLETTER



Dear Member

Much to our surprise, the iconic 'Burberry Corner' (the former Scotch House) is now home to Souvenirs, an outlet selling Union Jack branded momentos of London, travel accessories and luggage. It offers discounts to student customers and foreign exchange services for international tourists.

The arrival of Souvenirs represents a major image change from photographs of Eddie Redmayne and glamorous consorts that used to adorn this frontage but the logic for such an outlet in this location is impeccable. Mass-market tour operators have targeted Knightsbridge as a 'destination' location for many years and the surge in footfall over the last five years, reflects this.

For those travelling west from Mayfair, Souvenirs is now the gateway to the International Shopping Centre ("ITC"). Is this what was envisaged when the ITC was defined in the Westminster City Plan and adopted in the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan? Freeholders will have to do much more to protect – let alone enhance – the value of the environment in which they operate if Knightsbridge

is to regain its historic image. Meanwhile, mass tourism encroaches inexorably.

The Cadogan-led initiative to set up a Business Improvement District ("BID") in the Brompton Road comes not a moment too soon. A consultant has been appointed and we understand a meeting with amenity societies is likely to take place in May. Further details on the nature of the BID process are on page 10.

The KA attended the Onslow Neighbourhood Association's AGM. The agenda included a

presentation from Wellcome Trust, a prominent Kensington freeholder, on their property management objectives. This was prompted by residents' concerns about the proposed closure of the South Kensington Post Office and tenant mix in the Old Brompton Road. The KA is not the only one to be looking to freeholders to take a more proactive stance in protecting local amenity.

The KA attended the launch of the RBKC Plan at Marlborough School on 28 March. We appreciate the support of Councillors on contentious Licensing and Planning applications, in particular tables and chairs and some recent successes are set out in the Licensing report on page 7.



KA also attended a meeting with Brompton and Hans Town Councillors, residents and RBKC officers convened to explore how enforcement measures could be adapted and strengthened to reflect residents' concerns given the changing local character of the area.

This is a very full newsletter and I hope you enjoy perusing its content at leisure. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting you in and around the neighbourhood as Spring gets underway.

*Melville Haggard
Chairman*

PLANNING & CONSERVATION REPORT

Carol Seymour-Newton

The ever increasing number of cafés continues unabated – the Councils seemingly helpless to impede the onward march of this monoculture which results in stained pavements, piles of rubbish bags and little or no diversity. Two new cafés have set up with impunity in Brompton Road, at 130 and 102. The problem being that they don't need permission for change of use from retail if they are not cooking on site – they can heat food, but only need permission if they are cooking.

CONSTRUCTION SITES

These are all progressing, though at the time of writing, none had risen above basement level. By the end of 2021 Knightsbridge will be rejuvenated. Regular community liaison meetings are held by the three major developers and are open to all.

The Knightsbridge Estate – K1

The site bounded by Sloane and Basil Street, Hooper's Court and Brompton Road.

The lowest basement slab has been completed with the exception of a small area in Hooper's Court. Excavation will begin there in May once London Underground have completed their construction works at platform level. A new step-free access will be provided at Hooper's Court. Further work on the basements will continue until the summer with steel work becoming visible above ground in July.

The Berkeley and 33–39 Knightsbridge

Basement construction is expected to be completed this summer with overall completion in early 2021.

55–93 Knightsbridge

Between William Street and Wilton Place

Excavation of the basements should be completed by now with overall completion by the end of 2021.



Excavation work at 55–93 Knightsbridge

Lancelot Place

In 2016 permission was granted to demolish the existing houses at nos. 3-11 and replace with larger houses to include double basements. Recently a fresh application was lodged featuring a new design and an extra floor, more than doubling the size of the original houses. The KA objected to the scale height and bulk.

Meanwhile work continues at no.15 which is due for completion in November 2021.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Harrods

Edwardian canopies have already replaced the old domed canopies in Hans Crescent, this will have been done on all four sides of the store by the end of 2019. When the hoarding in Basil Street is removed and work is complete the windows on Basil Street will also have been opened up allowing people to see into the store and revealing the newly completed Beauty Hall.



Repairs to the Terracotta frontage commenced in February and the scaffolding will be in place until November this year.

Point of interest: Harrods is sponsoring a PhD student who is researching more hardwearing forms of terracotta, which would help to future proof the building.

Meanwhile Harrods is currently redeveloping and restoring their historic food halls.

Serpentine Summer Pavilion

The Japanese architect Junya Ishigami, celebrated for his experimental structures that interpret traditional architectural conventions and reflect natural phenomena, has been selected to design the Serpentine Pavilion 2019, the nineteenth since the commission was instigated in 2000.

Describing his design, Ishigami said: 'My design for the Pavilion plays with our perspectives of the built environment against the backdrop of a natural landscape, emphasising a natural and organic feel as though it had grown out of the lawn, resembling a hill made out of rocks. This is an attempt to supplement traditional architecture with modern methodologies and concepts, to create in this place an expanse of scenery like never seen before. Possessing the weighty presence of slate roofs seen around the world, and simultaneously appearing so light it could blow away in the breeze, the cluster of scattered rock levitates, like a billowing piece of fabric.'

InLink 'phone boxes'

Operators of cumbersome new style phone boxes have been taking advantage of the fact that old style phone boxes did not need planning permission. This in itself was unfortunate as, just as landlines were becoming redundant, there was an explosion of phone booths on every main street.

Recently these have been replaced by a new generation of phone and internet points, which police say are being used for drug deals and other anti-social behaviour. WCC has also been in a running battle with InLinkUK and other providers, arguing that many were being used primarily to provide advertising screens on busy shopping streets and has rejected most of the 300 applications they have received.

A recent High Court judgment has ruled that dual-use advertising and phone kiosks cannot benefit from the permitted development rights. The operators must now reapply for full planning permission. Enabling Councils to decide applications on the full range of material planning considerations as they consider appropriate.



An InLink phone box

Unfortunately before the ruling, and in spite of objections, RBKC gave permission for this one in Brompton Road. We understand that BT has lodged a large number of appeals against refusal of permission.

Day Nursery 8–10 Princes Gardens and St Nicholas Montessori School, 10–13 Princes Gardens

The Day nursery was granted permission to alter the premises and increase the number of children, and St Nicholas Montessori will be moving into Princes Gardens as soon as alterations are completed. The KA were able to persuade the Council to impose certain conditions in an attempt to mitigate the effect of the enormous number of children being dropped off and collected each day, and to restrict numbers playing in the garden at any one time

Shisha Bars

The advent of shisha cafés in Brompton Road in recent years has done nothing to improve the character of this major international shopping street. We know that some of them are breaking



the smoking indoors ban and operating illegally after hours.

Apparently shisha is also often imported illegally and sold without duty, whilst ownership of premises is often secretive hindering the ability of

Councils and police to act. Prosecutions under current laws can take up to a year, and one-off fines of up to £2,500 are not proving a deterrent. Persistent offenders often reopen shisha cafés under a new name.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is now calling for stronger licensing powers to tackle the lawbreakers. The KA asked Tony Devenish, our local GLA member, to take this up with Mayor Sadiq Khan who responded that it was the responsibility of local authorities.

According to health experts, Shisha poses the same health risk as cigarettes.

IN THE PIPELINE?

The KA has heard nothing further either about the proposed sell off/redevelopment of the Barracks or about the development around South Kensington Station and improvements to the station itself.

Threatened Post Office Closures

Amongst those at risk countrywide is the PO within yards of the South Kensington tube station. The nearest after that are on Cromwell Road/ Gloucester Road junction and Lancelot Place in Knightsbridge, but are any of them safe – Lancelot Place itself was under threat some years ago.

Kensington MP, Emma Dent Coad shares the concern of local residents and has also taken up the broader threat of other closures with the Government.

As a result of action by the MP and local residents the PO has agreed to delay a decision on South Kensington and to hold a public meeting.

Rutland Gate and Princes Gate Restoration

Work has begun on restoring pillars lamps and railings in parts of Rutland Gate and Princes Gate. This has been enabled by our local Councillors having secured funding partly from the Community Infrastructure Levy and partly from the Council's Structures Budget.



TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Carol Seymour-Newton

Exhibition Road – The future

Many will welcome RBKC's review into whether or not the Exhibition Road project had worked as intended. Several strands have played into the rethink – not least the security risk which manifested itself following an incident in 2017 when an Uber driver ploughed into pedestrians injuring several and sparking fears of a terrorist attack.

A number of articles reporting the review appeared in the national press, so we asked both Councils for clarification. RBKC covers Imperial College Road down to South Kensington and WCC covers the road going north to Kensington Road

A Kensington and Chelsea Council spokesman said:

"We are always seeking ways of increasing the safety of our streets for pedestrians, cyclists and the motorists. The proposed changes to Exhibition Road will improve the visibility for people crossing the street between museums."

"We are continually reviewing the design of our streets to follow the latest safety guidance."

"The volume of traffic along Exhibition Road has reduced by 20 per cent since the introduction of the current single surface arrangements."



So in summary we support the proposals to introduce additional kerbside measure to improve pedestrian safety, provide measures to protect against vehicles being used as a weapon, and to control vehicle speeds.

Our local Westminster Councillors stress they have attended most of the meetings and have emphasised that they would support some redesign around kerbs, but NOT pedestrianisation.

We sincerely hope the Councils provide some way for pedestrians to cross the road safely and to navigate the 'roundabout' at Prince Consort Road. In either case, you take your life in your hands and pray not to be hit. The roundabout is confusing both for traffic and pedestrians.

Background information

- * To clarify, Exhibition Road is not a shared space – it is a single surface scheme with specific areas for pedestrians and traffic. There are no plans to change this arrangement.*
- * The proposed changes are not yet approved*
- * The current single surface arrangements have brought down traffic speed and traffic volume since the arrangements were introduced*
- * In accident records for the whole of 2017 and the provisional eight months of accident records for 2018, no cyclists were reported as being injured.*

Westminster City Council had the following comments:

An article in the Sunday Times was somewhat misleading as the speeds haven't really increased that much and accidents are low. The issue is twofold:

- 1. the institutions at the southern end want the street pedestrianised. Residents, RBKC and Westminster do not support this.*
- 2. Security in respect of terror attacks.*

The principle pinch point is at the subway exit half way down where pedestrians have to navigate a rank of RBKC parking bays to get across the road and this needs relocating.

Brompton Road – Gas Mains Replacement Road Closures

The delayed works to replace the gas mains in Brompton Road between the junction with Draycott Avenue, past The Oratory and along Brompton Road to Knightsbridge Green are now planned to be undertaken between May and November. This entails the closure of Brompton Road to southbound traffic at its junction with Thurloe Place for up to four months; the southern end of Egerton Gardens, at its junction with Brompton Road also needs to be closed for this period and the entrance and exit to Egerton Gardens, next to the Sub Zero shop opposite The Oratory will be closed for up to seven months. A signed diversion route will be in place, and access is provided for emergency vehicles, residents and businesses.

Further details: info@communityrelations.co.uk or 0800 389 8261

Rough Sleepers

Members will have noticed the stall and camp, which has been set up in Brompton Road, just west of Brompton Square. The KA reported this to Council officers and local Councillors. It turned out that in February officers from RBKC had already approached him. He claimed that he was homeless, that he was conducting an environmental protest and that it was his legal right to demonstrate. He also claimed to have legal



representation and did not want to answer any personal questions. Officers have confirmed that he is not selling anything and therefore does not need a street trading licence – strictly true, as there is a sign asking for donations! The Police, who have also visited him on several occasions with Council officers, have confirmed that under human rights law he has freedom of speech and freedom of expression through protesting.

The Council's outreach team, which deals with the homeless, has also visited him, but they can only help if he asks for it. They will continue to visit and engage with him and try to persuade him to seek help. They are also seeking the advice of their legal team, however they too will have to take into account that he is "homeless, a political activist and vulnerable".

So before long, we may find that Brompton Road becomes a place of choice for political activists, not necessarily vulnerable or homeless,

Several other rough sleepers have taken up residence in Brompton Road and in Hyde Park Underground subway. If they refuse offers of accommodation they seem to be allowed to remain.



Busking in Knightsbridge and South Kensington

Following on from RBKC's consultation on busking, which closed in December, the Council is developing a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) for Zone 1, which includes South Kensington (Thurloe Street and Exhibition Road) and Hans Crescent. They tell us:

There are only two areas in the Borough where Zone 1 PSPOs will apply these are South Kensington (Thurloe Street and Exhibition Road) and Hans Crescent.

This means all noise based busking and street entertainment will be restricted all the time. In order to be proportionate the following types of performances will be permitted in Zone 1 as long as they do not include singing, musical instruments and/or amplification (amplifiers, loud speakers, megaphones or any similar equipment).

- *Performances of mime and similar performance, including living statues*
- *Performances of juggling (with balls, clubs or rings, but not knives, sharp objects or live flame)*
- *Performances of clowning*
- *Performances of spoken word*
- *Performances of magic tricks or magician's shows*
- *Any entertainment that is performed as part of a street party, community festival, charitable fundraising event, protest march or similar event.*

The next steps are for the draft documents (Policy, PSPOs, Code of Conduct) to be approved by the Council's Leadership Team, allowing a 28 day consultation and then it is anticipated the Policy and PSPO can be signed off and implemented.

The Council needs the policies to be robust and enforceable as it is highly likely that the 'busking community' will challenge the PSPO in court. As ever, enforcement will be the key. If successful it will bring much relief to residents, retailers and offices who have to endure hours of ear-splitting and often repetitive 'music'.

Brompton Square Pedestrian Crossing

Following one fatal and one near fatal accident on this crossing in 2017, the KA wrote to TfL in January 2018 to ask what remedial action they were proposing. They have recently written, apologising for the delay! informing us that they

have increased the duration of the green person signal from six to nine seconds. They are currently working on a design to upgrade signals equipment at the crossing so that pedestrian countdown can be implemented. Funding will allow this to be carried out in this financial year. They tell us there is a larger scheme for improvements to the wider Brompton Road corridor but currently there is no funding available.

The dangerous crossing at the entrance to Beauchamp Place now has a green person signal and pedestrian countdown.

Graffiti

The KA sent photographs to RBKC after a rash of graffiti had appeared in Cottage Place and around the corner on the old Brompton Road tube station. Congratulations to the Council on removing it.

*Any Westminster street issues – rubbish, lighting, potholes etc should be reported on:
www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it
For RBKC: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk*

LICENSING REPORT

Paul Meitner

A busy time on the Licensing front, with multiple applications to extend operating hours and place tables and chairs on pavements, all part of a long term trend towards the 'caféisation' of the Brompton Road. As a result the character of the area is changing, with more late night noise and the loss of other retail outlets, some of which were 'old friends'. But let's start with a positive development:

Tables and Chairs

As reported in last year's annual report, a landmark was established when RBKC's Licensing Committee curtailed the hours that L'ETO could place tables and chairs ("T&C") on the pavement, bringing forward the proposed end time from 10.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and limiting the number of tables to 3 and chairs to 6. We have been able to quote this decision as a precedent when objecting to other T&C proposals, including L'Opera at 232/ 236 Brompton Road, where RBKC approved an end time of 7 p.m. in place of the 10.00 p.m. sought by the applicant. Had these applications been granted local residents would have been subject to late night noise and the movement of pedestrians along already congested pavements would have been impeded.

Elan, 239 Brompton Road

Proposed placing of 2 tables, 4 chairs and 2 planters on Brompton Road between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Following receipt of objections from us and others the end time was brought back from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Science Museum

This long standing proposal involves the conversion of the former Royal Mail Sorting office to a café and bar area. I attended a presentation at the Museum on 9 January, at which the latest version of the Event Management Plan was circulated. Comments were received from those present, including representatives of the Kensington Society and other residents' associations. Their main sensitivity is the impact of additional vehicle movements around the site. The Science Museum will be submitting a full licensing application to RBKC shortly.

Skewd, 142 Brompton Road

An application for the grant of a premises licence, involving the sale and consumption of alcohol on and off the premises and provision of refreshments until 11 p.m. daily. Following an objection by RBKC's Environmental Health team, on the grounds of noise and nuisance, the application was revised such that alcohol could only be served to persons taking a meal. Taken with other conditions agreed by the Applicant during the hearing, including a ban on the consumption of alcohol by non seated customers, this should hopefully reduce the impact of late night noise.

106 Brompton Road

This involved the placing of 3 tables and 6 chairs on the raised pavement area in a section of the street that is predominantly non residential. Although we did not object we did

write to Westminster City Council to note that commercial waste was often left unstacked on the lower pavement. We asked for a condition to be imposed, that waste only be left out in the locations and at times set out in the applicant's waste management agreement.

Brown and Rosie,
10–12 Exhibition Road

Although on the western edge of our area this application was of interest to our neighbouring associations, the Brompton Association and the Thurloe Owners & Leaseholders Association. As such we supported their objections, which centred on the placing of A boards and tables and chairs outside the permitted area. At the hearing it became apparent that the baseline planning permission required before a T&C application could be heard had not been obtained. The applicants had to reapply once the planning had been dealt with.

Harry's Bar 27–31 Basil Street

This involved the revision of an existing planning permission for the placing of 12 tables, 40 chairs, 6 planters and 2 external waiter stations between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. on a very busy pavement. Food residues and clutter were already evident, to the detriment of the appearance of

this conservation area. Despite our objection the application was approved.

42 Hans Crescent

An application for 4 tables and 8 chairs, this time between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m, which was also approved.

Bulgari Hotel, 163 Knightsbridge

The application involves swapping the location of the existing ground floor bar and basement restaurant, creating a 'café style casual' area on the ground floor and extending its closing time to 1.00 a.m. Monday to Saturday, increasing capacity from 80 to 90 in the basement and from 120 to 140 on the ground floor. After further negotiation a revised proposal emerged with times no different to those currently in force (apart from inversion of bar and restaurant and small increase in permitted numbers); and the KA withdrew its objection at the committee hearing.

Harrods

We have received notice of an application by Harrods for the operation of a wine bar with a closing time of 12.00 midnight. Whilst this is a slight improvement on what Harrods had originally told us it is still a significant intrusion into most people's definition of 'night time' and we are considering lodging an objection.

LAW AND ORDER REPORT

Dr John Pollard

The Law and Order Committee met on Tuesday February 5th at the usual venue.

The guest speaker was PC Thomas Lee from the Cybercrime Unit which goes under the name of FALCON. (Fraud and Linked Crime Online.)

In a detailed presentation, he outlined the myriad ways in which the general public is targeted at every turn including telephone calls, front door visits, e-mails, rogue websites and even couriers. He informed us importantly of the



national action fraud telephone line, namely 033 123 2040, and the related website <https://actionfraud.police.uk>.

Perhaps the most important points were to realise that if a contact came "out of the blue", the response should always be "No thank you."

Other good pointers were to stay on websites and don't be tempted to be led off them, to never use direct bank transfers to people whom one has never met, to seek second opinions, and the old

adage "If it seems to be too good to be true, then it probably is."

As regards statistics, we learned that 43.8% of all crime has a cyber element, and that the over 65's are three times more likely to lose money to fraudsters than be burgled.

The presentation was accompanied by several videos including some from well-known personalities who had been "conned" into parting with details, data and money.

On the general Policing front, we wish to inform our Members again that they can register on a website called "NEXTDOOR", used regularly by the Police to spread important information. This is very useful as we can be alerted to increased Police patrols, actions and events. When registering, one inputs a local POSTCODE and this limits one's receipt of information to one's local area.

An example of a recent posting on "NEXTDOOR" by our own P.C. Gurpreet Bance follows.

"Increased plain clothes patrols in the Brompton and Hans Town Ward tonight have been successful with several stop and searches for drugs, pick-pocketing and fraud.

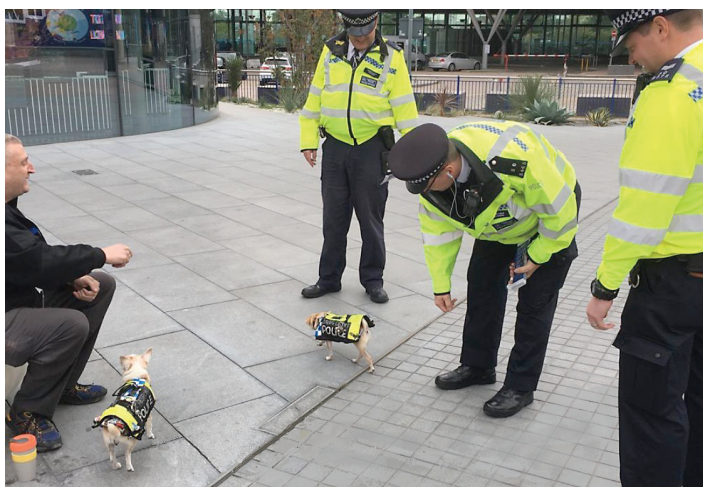
A gang of street gamblers ran off into several different directions before Police could apprehend

them, however abandoning their ball and cups behind meant that Police could dispose of them."

These regular updates via e-mail are most reassuring.

Our next Law and Order meeting is July 2nd at 5pm. and we hope to have a presentation from the Roads and Transport Policing Command. These meetings are most interesting and informative and the half-hour before allows Members to meet informally with local Police over tea and refreshments.

On a light-hearted note, these canine companions appear to be the latest recruits.



WCC BOUNDARY REVIEW

Simon Birkett

The Local Boundary Commission for England and Wales (the Boundary Commission) has formally commenced an electoral review of Westminster City Council. They are required to carry out these reviews from 'time to time'. Westminster has not been reviewed since 1999 and the Commission has therefore decided to review it in advance of the local elections in 2022.

Our ward, Knightsbridge and Belgravia, includes about 4,500 voters so is small relative to others in Westminster which can have 7,000 to 8,000 or more. It might be extended therefore to include parts of Hyde Park or Mayfair wards to the north or east or Belgravia south of Ebury Street which is split currently between Churchill, Warwick and St. James wards. Key issues for us are likely to

include: maintaining the alignment and integrity of the Knightsbridge area, including the Royal Park and the neighbourhood area, within a single ward (which gives us a powerful voice with our Councillors); and perhaps linking to other communities which have experience and share an interest in Hyde Park, International Shopping Centres or 'stress areas'. Reuniting 'Belgravia' would be particularly attractive too.

The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements such as the total number of Councillors, the number of wards, the number of Councillors representing each ward, ward boundaries and names of wards. You can find out more about the review, which closes on 3 June 2019, at www.lgbce.org.uk.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Simon Birkett

The Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan (the KNP) was 'made' (i.e. adopted) by Westminster City Council on 11 December 2018. The KNP is therefore now part of the statutory development plan for Westminster and will be used alongside the Council's own planning documents and the Mayor's London Plan in determining planning applications in the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Area. The KNP is still the only 'made' Plan in Westminster, though Mayfair could have its referendum later this year. Others are in the pipeline.

During the preparation of the Plan we identified a number of priorities to focus on after the making of the Plan. These include: following up at least once on Knightsbridge Management Plan (KMP) actions; commenting selectively on significant planning applications; commenting on emerging planning policies; monitoring the neighbourhood portion of Community Infrastructure Levy monies; monitoring the application of KNP policies; and promoting neighbourhood planning within Westminster. Longer term priorities include: applying to

renew our five year mandate in July 2020; and reviewing and perhaps updating the KNP once we see where the Westminster and London plans are headed.

In the first few months, we have written to Westminster to follow up on a number of points relating to the forthcoming consultation on the new Westminster City Plan and begun discussions with them on many of the 'Top 85 priorities' in the Knightsbridge Management Plan. We have also started to comment selectively on significant planning applications with objections lodged over a major development in Lancelot Place (re scale) and a café conflicting with policies in the International Shopping Centre. We've had positive discussions with developers about the need for 'zero air emissions' buildings to reduce air pollution.

We are also having a much needed 'taking stock' after four hectic years' of hard work! More at knightsbridgeforum.org.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ("BID")

Melville Haggard

Businesses, usually with the help of consultants or local authority officers, identify an area that needs a remedial uplift. A BID proposal is drawn up that includes delivery guarantees, performance indicators and a management structure. The proposed programme of services should clearly be additional to those provided by the Local Authority and not used to replace existing public services. The costs are borne by non-

domestic rate payers (businesses) who vote on the merits of the BID in a postal ballot conducted by the Local Authority. To be successful, the vote must meet two tests: more than 50% of votes must be in favour of the BID and the YES vote must represent more than 50% of the aggregate rateable value of votes cast. The BID mandate is valid for a maximum of five years and further extensions can be secured through a renewal ballot.

PUBLIC EVENTS

HYDE PARK

As happens every year after Winter Wonderland, when all the stands and rides have packed up and gone away, the turf has suffered from the



pounding of thousands of feet and a large part of it having been covered over. Contractors quickly moved in to repair the damage and the whole area was completely returfed in time for Easter and the

41-gun salute for the Queen's official birthday in June. After this it will again be subjected to the wear and tear of the ten day British Summer Time concerts and activities.

EVENTS

British Summer Time Hyde Park 2019

Friday 5 July – Sun 14 July

is back with a series of concerts bookending the week, featuring major stars including Celine Dion, Barbara Streisand and Robbie Williams and a further headline act still to be announced when we went to Press. In between the two weekends Open House returns for a week of free entry to summer activities such as live music and entertainment, tennis screenings from Wimbledon, street food stalls, circus and cabaret performances.

Guided Tours, Activities for Children, 5k and 10k runs

are on offer. For further info www.info@royalparks.org.uk

THE GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL 2019 28–30 June

The Exhibition Road Cultural Group (ERCG) – nineteen of the country's leading cultural institutions based in and around Kensington, is holding a two and a half day festival in June to 'reinvigorate' the vision of Albertopolis during the bicentenary of the birth of Victoria and Albert with a fusion of the arts and sciences.

There will be closures to Exhibition Road but information packs will be widely distributed throughout the area well beforehand with full details of the road closures, traffic management plans and any changes to resident parking. In Mid-June the Festival programme and key information for residents will again be widely distributed. As the Festival develops, they will be updating the website, www.imperial.ac.uk/festival-consultation. Any questions can be sent to festival@imperial.ac.uk

PRINCE ALBERT the COMPOSER *Music Enthusiasts Alert!*

A researcher at the Bodleian recently uncovered settings by Prince Albert of a Jubilate and a Te Deum. As part of the ERCG festival celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, they will form part of the 11 am Matins service of ERCG member, Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, on Sunday 30th June when they will be sung by the choir. Everyone welcome to come and listen.

OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND 8–9 June

Organised by the London Parks and Gardens Trust

Every year since it began in 1998, London garden squares have been welcoming the public to their gardens – originally for one day in June, and in recent years over a full weekend. Originally there were 43 participating gardens, now there are over 200, located across 27 London boroughs. They range from the historic and traditional to the new

and experimental including private gardens, roof gardens, community allotments and gardens belonging to historic buildings and institutions. There is even a ballot to visit 10 Downing Street, though since the ballot opened in March there is small chance of entering now. For full details,

ticket prices etc go to www.opensquares.org

Participating squares locally include Ennismore Gardens, the Ismaili Centre Roof garden, Thurloe Square – check the website for days and times. www.opensquares.org

KA EVENTS



THIS YEAR

Tuesday 12 February

Veolia Southwark's Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF)

A small group of members were given a fascinating insight by Veolia into one of the most advanced recycling facilities in Europe. Much of the recycling from various boroughs including Westminster is processed there before being sent off to manufacturers to turn the recycled raw materials into new products. They use a combination of mechanical and biological processes to segregate recyclable materials. Organic biodegradable components are broken down by a composting-like process to create fuel for energy recovery which is sent to their nearby Energy Recovery Facility.

Wednesday 15 May

Hyde Park Super Nursery

A guided tour, followed by drinks and nibbles – Fully Subscribed.

NEXT YEAR

Monday 13 January 2020

58th AGM

A note for your diaries

We are delighted to tell you that once again the Mandarin Oriental are kindly allowing us to hold our AGM in their beautifully restored Ballroom.

We are currently working on ideas for later in the year. Ideas for events that you think members would enjoy are welcome – please send suggestions to events@knightsbridgeassociation.com

Vice-President: The Lady Grade
Chairman: Melville Haggard, Vice-Chairman: Carol Seymour-Newton, Treasurer: Olivia J Cox
www.knightsbridgeassociation.com