

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association

Volunteering for Brompton Cemetery:



Brompton Cemetery is one of the Royal Borough's little jewels.

It sits in 39 acres tucked away in the area adjoining Hammersmith & Fulham, it is perhaps most famous for being the last resting place of a number of a young Beatrix Potter's characters. Jeremiah Fisher, which was the original name for Jeremy Fisher's name is in the record but only Mr Nutkin has a surviving monument.

It is full of magnificent religious statuary: shrouded urns, broken columns, rock of ages and the atmospheric chapel and colonnades is familiar from many TV productions including Sherlock. It is managed by the Royal Parks who have received £3.7 million Heritage Lottery Funding to encourage community use.

The Friends of Brompton Cemetery was founded in 1986 and have worked hard to encourage nature conservation and community use. They are making improvements to the site and buildings jointly with the Royal Parks. All Lottery funds

come with the need for the project to come up with matched funding and in this case work put in by volunteers will be an important part of this. The plans are ambitious, so there will be much to do. Restoration of the chapel to enable wider use and a visitors centre are planned.

The Catacombs will be restored, paths, walls and important monuments will be improved. Volunteers are needed for: project leadership to establish a new information centre, to become guides, steward events, to help with the web site and communications, manage the current three times per annum, twenty page colour magazine, manage the flora and fauna, help with volunteer gardening and ground clearance and, above all, promote wider involvement in the cemetery. There is something for everyone.

During the hustle and bustle of the Earls Court redevelopment, Brompton Cemetery will provide an oasis of calm for local residents.

If you would like to help, in any capacity, please leave your name at the South Lodge on Fulham Road, telephone 020 7351 9936 or email Arthur Tait on aatait1@btinternet.com or Earl's Court Square RA via sue@sueluptonconsulting.com. A meeting, over coffee will be arranged in June.



News letter

May 2014

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 14 - 15 June: London Garden Squares Open Weekend
- 01 July: Earl's Court Square Garden Tea Party
- TBC: ECSRA Annual BBQ - watch for notices
- 26 - 28 June: Earl's Court Community Trust Production of Twelfth Night in Barkston Gardens
- 20 July: Brompton Cemetery Open Day
- 9 - 10 August: London Cycle Race - expect traffic restrictions
- 14 August: Brompton Cemetery Annual Lecture
- 18 November: ECSRA 40th Anniversary Celebration

PLUS Items of local interest

Thank you to Faron Sutaria for printing this newsletter



Faron Sutaria are proud to be associated with the Earl's Court Square Resident Association.

We have over 31 years of local experience, knowledge and involvement in the area. If you are thinking of buying, selling, renting, or would like free mortgage advice, please call in and see us.

In the meantime, all of our properties can be viewed on our daily up-dated website at www.faronsutaria.co.uk

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earlsct@faronsutaria.co.uk

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If at any time, you are disturbed by noise and nuisance from local licensed premises you should contact the Police, 020 7161 8846 earlscourt.snt@met.police.uk, and the Licensing Team at RBK&C, 0207 361 3002 (24 hours), environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk, in order to gather sufficient information to proceed to the next stage.

If you see any rubbish dumped on the pavement on days other than Mondays and Thursdays, contact RBK&C Streetline on 020 7361 3001, streetline@rbkc.gov.uk. For dumped shopping trolleys, contact Customer Services at Tesco at West Cromwell Road, 020 3280 6907.

For non emergencies involving the police, contact the Safer

Neighbourhood Team on 020 8721 2003 earlscourt.snt@met.police.uk. For parking problems, contact RBK&C on 020 7361 3004 parking@rbkc.gov.uk

Making contact with Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.

If you wish to make contact with ECSRA, you can either drop a letter into 19a Earl's Court Square or email ecsra@o2.co.uk or ecsrachair@talktalk.net. Further details can be found on the ECSRA website www.ecsra.co.uk

Membership Renewal

If you would like to renew your subscription to ECSRA or become a member, please email ecsrachair@talktalk.net for a membership form. There is one enclosed with this newsletter.



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St Cuthbert with St Matthias

While the church of St Cuthbert's in Philbeach Gardens is beyond the pale of ECS, its presence has a significant effect on the lives of many residents. It has provided sustenance and support to many homeless for more than 30 years. It has from time to time been a venue for the occasional concert.

Its last incumbent, Father Vine, served the parish faithfully and religiously for more than 40 years. He retired last year, well into his '80's. His successor, Father Paul Bagott, is keen to explore further ways in which St Cuthbert's can play a more central role, secular as well as religious, in the life of the local community.

At a soiree on 4th February we heard something of his hopes and plans. We also had an excellent

description by Ken Powell of the history of the church. Amongst many works of art, our attention was drawn to the imposing reredos, and the astonishing lectern. The latter was described by John Betjeman as "nouveau Viking"

We were then entertained to a superb concert of works for piano and cello performed by three students from the Royal College, and then a wonderful rendition of Chopin on the grand piano.

Work is underway to provide the occasional guided visit to the church. Hopefully, by the autumn, a vibrant Friends of St. Cuthbert's will be re-born. Watch out for further information.



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Annual Newsletter

This year, the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association Annual Newsletter, which is delivered to all households within the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area, has been delayed in order to provide details of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations and to invite those of you who are not yet members to join. See details enclosed with this Newsletter.

Planning and Properties

Last year, a planning application was submitted to develop a two and a half storey house on the site of the three garages in the north east arm of the Square. It was dismissed and again on appeal. A subsequent application has been submitted, for a single storey house, with basement; much improved in design but still a modern glass structure. ECSRA objected as have residents of adjacent properties on the grounds of loss of privacy and light pollution.

Work continues on no. 16 Earl's Court Square with occasional associated parking bay suspensions.

Rubbish

We are pleased to announce that the litter bin on the lamp post in the north east arm of the Square has been removed to a lamp post near the northern entrance to the Garden. There is also a second bin at the south west corner of the Garden. Bagged dog waste is allowed to be put into those bins. Please do not leave bagged dog waste around. This is illegal.

Cigarette ends are being dropped on the pavement in the south west



corner. As well as being unsightly, it is an offence to drop any litter on the public highway.

Clear recycling bags were introduced in October last year to allow collectors to spot items that cannot be recycled and should not be in the bag. Paper, card, cardboard, glass containers, bottles, jars, metal containers, tins, cans, aerosols, plastic containers, bottles (without lids), tubs, trays, cartons and Tetra Paks can all be recycled.

Do not put the following into recycling bags: food waste, garden waste, shredded paper, bottle tops, jar lids, clothes, textiles, shoes, wood and building/decorating/DIY materials. If you do, the whole bag will be rejected. Please note that although there are rubbish collections on bank holidays, this will not happen over the August Bank Holiday as the crews will be on duty for Notting Hill Carnival.

Do not put rubbish out on that day.



Toby Brown leads Earl's Court Courtiers at the Earl's Court Community Trust Annual Open Air Theatre production of A Midsummer Nights Dream

ECSRA Summer BBQ

The annual ECSRA BBQ will be held in the Square gardens from 7.00 - 11pm on a Saturday evening to be confirmed. Bring your own food, drink and guests and dance to our DJ, Simon Robinson. Some communal BBQs will be available for your use but if you bring your own, they must not be placed on the grass. Please remember to take all your rubbish home with you.

Earl's Court Square Garden Tea Party

This annual event attracts young and old to come and enjoy the lovely garden for afternoon tea. Cakes, scones and sandwiches are in plentiful supply and lots of strawberries to celebrate our summer gathering. Music and songs entertain. Neighbours and friends catch up in a relaxed atmosphere. £3.00pp on the door.

The Return of The Earl's Courtiers:

Many of you will know Toby Brown (pictured above in the dashing red striped sports jacket!) as merely a local estate agent (the 'Prince of Estate Agents' as he likes to call himself with tongue in cheek).

Toby is also the vice-chairman of the Earl's Court Community Trust and a long standing resident of SW5. In this role, he and his company TLC, have put on a wide range of community events in partnership with the Community Trust, over the last 3 years since he took over the business from his uncle Simon Lofts, who ran TLC for 45 years. These events have included Jazz picnics, fetes, garden parties, dances and an incredible children's Christmas event in Barkston Gardens last year: Tales at Twilight which over 1000 SW5 residents attended and which raised over £15,000 for the National

Green Shoots for a Growing Generation

This summer, as well as the lovely display in Earl's Court Square gardens, there will be a new green oasis in the South West corner of the square produced by the newly founded St Cuthbert with St Matthias school gardening club.

A gardener will be coming after school to work with the children planting and caring for flowers and vegetables. The children will help to maintain raised beds and pots around the school grounds.

The presence of this extra green space will encourage pollinators and

wild life which will help the main gardens as well.

The project is funded by the school with help from the PTA, who have been fund raising with coffee mornings and other activities. A donation of £100 has been made from the Nicholson funds, provided by the developers of Maître Place at the time of the redevelopment, and held by the ECSRA executive committee, to help with the start-up costs of compost, pots and plants.

Any help that gardeners in the Square can provide will be gratefully received and by mid-summer we should all be enjoying the fruits of their labours.





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Brain Appeal. Last summer he created The Earl's Courtiers, a SW5 Amateur Dramatics company, who put on a magnificent production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream in Earl's Court Square.

This June, Shakespeare in the Square is back but this time it's Twelfth Night in Barkston Gardens. Having selected a largely local cast, Toby intends this year's performance to not only be a theatre show but an interactive experience for the audience too. As soon as you walk through the gates of Barkston you will be transported to Illyria (where Twelfth Night is set). You'll be entertained by traditional musicians, fed delicious Mediterranean treats and be brought right into the action by the cast.

The play will be on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th June and tickets will cost £14 for adults (to include a meal and a drink) and £5 for children. Proceeds of the event will be donated to a great local charity this year: the restoration of St Cuthberts Church, in Philbeach Gardens. On the Saturday evening, the performance will be preceded by another play put on by the children from Marianne Badrichani's Earl's Court Drama Workshop group which should make for a grand community day for all ages on the last night.

Tickets can be bought via the website www.earlscourtiers.org Or directly via Toby Brown: 020 7370 4000 toby.brown@tlclondon.com

The Return of The Earl's Courtiers:
Twelfth Night at Barkston Gardens
Dates: 26th, 27th, 28th June 2014.

The Troubadour invites you to

discover your local cave a vin, La Cave du Troubadour, a bijoux room below Troubadour Wine Shop, where to indulge in a glass or two of excellent wine in good company.

The Cave offers an extensive range of wines by the glass, and the option to choose any bottle from the shelf and drink it by dancing candlelight downstairs.

So, dig out that yellowing old copy of Sartre or de Beauvoir, and foxtrot down the road to your own petit cave du vin, where to fill a piece of flashing Bohemian crystal with something vinous.



TROUBADOUR

The Troubadour, 263-267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JA. www.troubadour.co.uk
For information contact Susie or Dorota on T. 020 7370 1434 or email: info@troubadour.co.uk

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Old Brompton Road. Many topics were covered and the minutes are available on the Garden website www.ecsgarden.org.uk.

May I remind all users of the garden that it is a shared space and noise and behaviour should be appropriate to a communal garden where people's homes overlook the garden, and that parents are responsible for your children at all times.

A survey regarding music at the Open Garden Squares Weekend on 14th and 15th June will be sent out to Garden Levy payers after the event

and we would be grateful for your response to it.

A new lighting system for the garden has been commissioned as the existing one has given up the ghost. It will be more energy efficient and we look forward to seeing the new effects.

Fingers crossed for the right amount of sunshine and rain for the plants and us mere mortals in the months ahead and I hope as many of you as possible are able to spend time in and enjoy the garden, especially at this wonderful time of year.

MALE & FEMALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help Families to Help Themselves

Could you give just two hours a week to visit a family in-need in either Kensington & Chelsea or Hammersmith & Fulham?

Are you a good listener and reliable?

Family Friends charity provides practical and emotional support to disadvantaged families with children under the age of 16 through mentoring and befriending. Volunteers commit to supporting a parent or child for two hours each week for a year. Expenses paid.

**5 INDUCTION TRAINING COURSES HELD PER YEAR:
NEXT INDUCTION TRAINING: SATURDAY 14th & 21st SEPTEMBER,
10AM TO 5PM
(14 hours in total)**

INTERVIEWS COMMENCING NOW

Please visit www.familyfriends.uk.com for details & to download our application form or phone 020 8960 9099

Family Friends is an *Approved Provider* of The Mentoring & Befriending Foundation
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In spring the almond trees welcomed the warm weather with their wonderful blossom. They were not the first flowers in the garden, we have had a lovely show of aconites, crocus, snowdrops, hyacinths, camellias, honeysuckles amongst other flowering shrubs and the forsythia and tulips followed on from the daffodils.

Some plants you search for but the joy of discovering one amongst the foliage is one of life's gifts. The bird boxes have been cleaned and dusted and the feeders and bird bath are being visited. We have planted apple and plum trees too and are filling in the gaps in the hedges. Touch wood, we got away lightly with the wind and gales over the winter but it has meant that our plans to strip down

the ivy have been defeated by the massive amount of work created in the greater London area – it is not essential work but we were hoping to get it done before the nesting season began. We will be trimming it back but it will probably be the autumn before we can try again.

The observant amongst you may have noticed that we are changing the central bed. The yellow roses have come out and we plan to replant them around the garden. The central bed will be planted with a variety of plants to add variations in height and colour with a longer flowering season and a more interesting focal point.

We had a good turnout for the AGM in January, this year held in The Gallery at The Troubadour on the

London Garden Squares Open Weekend

This annual London wide event over two days, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June will have music in the afternoons. We have had prizes and commendations for the upkeep and ambience of our Square and are fortunate to have a caring and active Garden Sub-Committee who ensure that the garden continues to flourish.

Forty Years On

For the majority of residents, it seems as if the Residents' Association has been around forever. Not so. It celebrates its 40th birthday this year.

Some of the senior citizens have memories of the 40 years which preceded its nativity

Earl's Court Square garden had suffered grievously during and in the aftermath of WWII. It was more like a rubbish tip than the award winning pleasure garden of today.

Brothels abounded. Crime was a serious risk. Developers were always trying to making faster bucks by pulling down the 19th century buildings. The facades were painted a variety of garish hues.

Finally the residents rose up led by the indomitable David Ware (as it happens, a decorated bomber pilot, who was not easily discouraged!).

The Residents' Association came into being, and immediately persuaded the Greater London Council to slap a Conservation Order on numbers 33 and 45-47.

A year later full Conservation Area status was granted and the rest, as they say, is history.

If you seek the RA's monument, look around you.

We want to celebrate the occasion with a party that we hope will be special to all who attend. This 4th anniversary event will be open to fully paid up members and their guests and details will be sent to them nearer the time. So save the date of 18th November. The Stotts at Poets House, number 21 have kindly agreed to host the occasion.



Murder

A Columbian woman of British citizenship, was murdered at no. 9 Earl's Court Square in January. She was found on 31 January and had been dead for about three days. She had been bludgeoned on the head by a blunt weapon. A man was later arrested at Leicester Square Underground Station.

Miss Deyes

Miss Deyes of Langham Mansions who has recently died, volunteered the task of proof reading the ECSRA newsletters. May she rest in peace.



It's all about team work:

The K&C Credit Union, *YourCU* is partnering with local housing association Octavia Housing to help tenants avoid payday lenders. Residents living in social housing in Earl's Court are set to benefit from the partnership.

"As a local employer and housing provider of some 4,000 properties in London, Octavia are pleased to support YourCredit Union," said Octavia's chief executive Grahame Hinds."

"We see first-hand the demand that exists for a form of ethical and responsible banking. Many families and individuals are under increasing pressure to make their money go further and a surprisingly high number of residents have no access to affordable banking services."

"Your Credit Union offers a trust-worthy option for borrowers and an ethical investment opportunity for the many socially minded organisations and individuals who live in the area."

Octavia are offering their 7,350 social housing tenants and staff the chance to save via pay roll deduction and to apply for affordable loans – avoiding the ruinous rates demanded by some payday lenders. The not-for-profit organisation aims and ethos are based on the principles of founder, Octavia Hill who began her

work with the poor of London in the 1860's with the purpose "make lives noble, homes happy and family life good".

YourCU's chief executive William Rhodes said the partnership would help raise the profile of the union and allow people to make an ethical investment in their community while earning a competitive interest rate.

"We are delighted to announce the decision for Octavia Housing to partner with *YourCU* as their ambition and values are in line with our own".

"Our customers can save or borrow with confidence. Credit unions are not charities. Those who put in their savings get a return for their money. With current bank rates low, successful credit unions can be very competitive."

There are an estimated 24,500 'financially excluded' households in the Royal Borough, each paying a 'poverty premium' of up to £1,000 a year through high borrowing costs, additional charges and lack of access to cheaper deals. At its recent AGM, *YourCu* voted to increase its catchment area to lenders and borrowers and to pay a dividend to savers of 1.6%. Individuals can save up to £15,000 with the Credit Union and be eligible for a yearly dividend. Savings are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

For further information about *YourCU* visit: www.yourcu.co.uk or call: 020 7605 6341.

GALLERY 286 welcomes its neighbours



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