

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 23 February 2017 at 8.00 pm

Venue

Downstairs at Flora Indica Bar
242 Old Brompton Road
London SW5 ODE

Special Guest Speakers:

Caroline Tod Richardson and Sean Duffy
Producers of The Earl's Court Film Festival

Wine and canapés/Cash Bar

All residents welcome

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM
3. Chairman's Report/Questions and Answers
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report/Nicholson Funds
5. Election of the Executive Committee
6. Any Other Business
7. Guest Speakers: Caroline Tod Richardson and Sean Duffy
8. Wine & Canapés/Cash Bar

Please use the magazine membership form on the reverse to renew your membership for 2017 or to join if you are not yet a member. Subscription rates are £6 or £9 for a family/household



Incorporating



Thank you for sponsoring the print of this magazine

Editor: Sue Lupton | Designer: Judy Head, Head Creative Associates | Printed by John D Wood & Co. incorporating Faron Sutaria

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Protecting and enhancing Earl's Court Square and
the lives of the people who live and work here*



MAGAZINE | AGM | 2017

Formed over 40 years ago, our Mission is:

The preservation of the architectural integrity of the Square
Easing traffic and parking problems
The enhancement of residential amenities
Providing social events for residents of the Square

Dates 2017:

23 February: Annual General Meeting
4 June: Sunday afternoon Jazz and picnics
17-18 June: London Garden Squares Open Weekend
1 July: BBQ and disco
14 September: Members' Italian Evening
10 December: Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Check for further information on www.ecsra.co.uk

Faron Sutaria

becomes

John D Wood & Co.

To become a bigger and better estate agency, we are combining our extensive experience and local expertise by forming one agent with **John D Wood & Co.** Our aim is to create the most personal, bespoke and innovative property service in London and beyond.

Our Earl's Court office remains the same with the same team looking after you, ensuring we find the right property, the right buyer and the right tenant for you.



Charlene Williams
Branch Manager
Earl's Court



Rollo Miles
Associate Director
Gloucester Road



Richard Going
Sales Manager
Gloucester Road



Ben Rivera
Senior Branch Manager
Old Brompton Road

Visit our Earl's Court office:

239 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9AH
020 3369 0734
earlscourt@johndwood.co.uk
johndwood.co.uk

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

London, Country & International Property

incorporating



EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Protecting and enhancing Earl's Court Square and the lives of the people who live and work here

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017

I/we *would like to become /remain a member of Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

We need to have an up-to-date email address to enable us to contact Members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

£6.00 per year individual membership

£9.00 per year family (household) membership

Donations are gratefully received.

YOU CAN PAY ELECTRONICALLY TO METROBANK:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association:

Sort Code: 23 – 05 – 80 | Account number: 10942594

Use your house number as your reference. To confirm your details and how much you have paid, please email ecsrasmembers@talktalk.net

Alternatively make cheques payable to:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association

I enclose cash* / cheque* for £6.00* / £9.00*

The Bank will charge us for each cheque.

Please return this form, together with your remittance to:

The ECSRA Membership Secretary

c/o Flat 6, 65 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 9DG

* Please delete as appropriate

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to everyone who lives within the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area. A membership form, to renew your subscription or to join, is included with this Annual Report. We are pleased to report that the subscription rates remain unchanged, yet again, at £6 for an individual and £9 for a family / household.

The membership subscriptions for 2016 were 98, comprising 43 individuals, 47 family / household and 8 life members. This compares with 86 in 2015 and is the equivalent of at least 145 members. We also welcomed seven new members.

We are very grateful to those members who kindly included a donation when renewing their membership and to those who helped with providing names for the address labels.

ECSRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Heidi Bradner

Sue Lupton

Alex Tullett (Hon. Treasurer)

Mariacarla Vilona

Jennifer Ware

Currently serving, retiring by rotation and offering themselves for re-election under the rules:

Chrissie Courtney (Chairman)

Christine Powell

David Ramsden

We have a vacancy on our Executive Committee and would welcome applications from ECSRA Members willing to stand. Please contact Chrissie

on ecsrachair@btinternet.com or 020 72440902 if you are interested in joining the team.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Earl's Court Square rubbish collections:

Monday and Thursday morning

Streetline contact information:

020 7361 3001 or

streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

Streetline's "too big for the bin" collections:

Up to 10 bulky items £28.05

To donate good quality household items, contact: 020 3405 4859

Residents can book to visit Western Riverside Waste Authority Recycling Plant (WRWA) just over the Wandsworth Bridge on 020 8871 2788.

Police:

Earl's Court Hub: 020 87212003

Non-emergency: dial 101

Textphone: 18001 101

Emergency: always dial 999

Textphone: 18000

Kensington Society:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association is a member of the Kensington Society and members of ECSRA are eligible to attend events which they organise at a reduced rate. Their AGM is on 25 April should you wish to attend.

www.kensingtonsociety.org.

SW5 Theatre Group

Join the SW5 Theatre Group and see London's finest fringe theatre together. Membership is free, but you need to live in SW5 and be 50+. Email Sharon Robinson for further information at: sw5theatregroup@gmail.com



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA) is delighted to announce the launch of their new website <http://www.ecsra.co.uk> which gives in depth information on ECSRA and the local area. As this is a brand new website, it needs to be accessed initially via a browser rather than using a search engine such as Google.

Although available to all, there is a Members' Only section with lots of additional information such as the monthly Earl's Court crime figures, rubbish and recycling reports, advance notice of ECSRA events, archives and photographs. ECSRA was able to finance the new website due to a windfall win of £2500 from the "Golden Ticket Recycle Right" prize draw for organisations and community groups as it pledged it would promote recycling within the Association.

The main problem ECSRA has faced during 2016 is the increase in fly tipping and short-term renters dumping their rubbish on the pavements on the wrong day. Photographs are sent on a daily basis to RBKC/Streetline but it has proved difficult for enforcement action to be taken without ID in the rubbish bags. ECSRA has been instrumental in successfully lobbying RBKC to install a CCTV camera to cover the worst hotspot in the Square, which we hope will prove a deterrent and lead to successful prosecutions.

We continue to comment on behalf of residents on planning and licencing applications, TfL's proposals for changes to the road layout of the Earl's Court Square area, proposed boundary changes, the Farmer's Market and other local issues. During 2016 ECSRA held several events for the residents. The AGM followed by drinks and canapés, a tea party in the Garden (in association with the Garden Sub-Committee) to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, a summertime BBQ/Disco and a Members' Only Spanish Evening with our MP, Victoria Borwick, as our guest speaker. In December, all residents were invited to the annual "Lighting of the Christmas Tree" in the Garden with carols, mulled wine, mince pies, hot chocolate and cookies.

Wishing you all the best for 2017 and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on the 23 February.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chrissie'.

Chrissie Courtney – Chair
Email: ecsrachair@btinternet.com



THE EARL'S COURT FILM FESTIVAL

An exciting community venture to share with London and beyond.

It started around the dinner table in January 2015, with Caroline Tod Richardson, Sean Duffy and Toby Brown, community minded folk who already contribute to the Earl's Court Community Trust activities. They were discussing the creation of an event that would help make Earl's Court 'a destination' and something local people would be proud of and help to 'keep the local spirit alive'.

Sean Duffy put the idea to the London Film School and other film makers and a collaboration evolved to promote the opportunity to emerging film makers. Short films, ideally shot in the Earl's Court area was the preferred brief. The picture shows the three organisers with the 2016 award winner.

The four-day 2016 festival showcased six Earl's Court Shorts, short films whose principal filming location was in the Earl's Court area. They were all co-produced in partnership with Film Earl's Court, a dedicated entity created by the trio for emerging film makers to realise their cinematic vision by offering funding, production and administrative support. Twelve external submissions were also screened at The Troubadour and Finborough Theatre, in front of judges who selected the shortlist for the final. The highlight was The Gala Night in November, open to all local residents, who celebrated alongside the best of the UK's short film writers and emerging film makers at the Festival's Grand Finale and winners' award ceremony. This was held at our local gothic Victorian church, St Cuthbert's in Philbeach Gardens.

Dates for the 2017, third Earl's Court Film Festival, will be available shortly at www.filmearlscourt.com

THE PEMBROKE

SLIM, FIT JANUARY

Extended through February

Extended through February

Yes, we all drank a bit too much & trimmed the Christmas cake. Through January we will be making sure that there are plenty of light options on our menu.

50% OFF MAINS

in the dining room all day

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY

SIX NATIONS

STARTS 4TH FEB

WATCH IT ALL LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

261 Old Brompton Road
Kensington
London SW5 9JA

020 7373 8337
info@thepembrokesw5.co.uk
www.thepembrokesw5.co.uk

Pembrokesw5
 thepembrokesw5
 Pembrokesw5

POLICE REPORT EARL'S COURT WARD

Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team has a new Sergeant Paul Connolly and a new PC Andrew Clough with PCSOs Danny Wright and Mike Stone remaining in post. PC Ben Palastanga, who was very well respected and will be sadly missed, has moved on within the Metropolitan Police.

However, we are delighted to welcome PC Andy Clough as our Dedicated Ward Officer and we asked him to write a brief introduction for our magazine:

"I'm PC Andrew Clough 267BS, the new Dedicated Ward Officer for Earl's Court from 2017, please call me Andy though. I've been a PC for three years now having moved from Poulton-Le-Fylde, in Lancashire.

Prior to joining the Earl's Court team I was with the Central License Police team working pan-London tackling the issues arising from licensed premises.

I joined the Earl's Court team in early 2015 so I've worked on the same team as Ben Palastanga for the past two years along with PCSO Daniel Wright and have formed a good friendship with both. As such I do know the area well.

Daniel Wright and I will be your Dedicated Ward Officers but we may be getting a second PC on board in the near future.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and please don't hesitate to get in touch with me with any queries you may have."
Earl's Court Hub: 020 87212003

The "Members' Only" section of our website is updated with the monthly crime figures for the Earl's Court Ward, which will be provided by Andy. Details are also shown of current scams and useful police information.



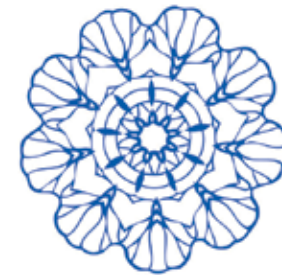
These OWL messages can also be obtained by registering for the online Neighborhood Watch. www.owl.co.uk.

As a recent initiative, a Police Officer will be appointed to man the newly redecorated Tardis, situated outside the Earl's Court Road entrance of the Underground station, from 6pm to 10pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

EARL'S COURT WARD PRIORITIES

- 1 – Burglary
- 2 – Drugs
- 3 - Anti Social Behaviour / Begging

Earl's Court Ward is listed in the top 7 Wards of RBKC for anti-social behaviour.



FLORA INDICA

LOUNGE • BAR • DINING

Plants & Flavours of India

Taste & Style of London

Modern-Indian Sharing Plates • Cocktails • Gins
Lounge • Bar • Dining • Events

242 Old Brompton Road • London • SW5 0DE • 020 7370 4450 • www.flora-indica.com





THE LARGEST CRANE IN THE WORLD

2016 saw Capco reach a significant set of milestones in the development of the old Earls Court Exhibition Centre with the completion of demolition, start of enabling works and the first new residents moving into their new homes at Lillie Square. Site preparation now moves into a new phase with the arrival of the 'Heavy Lifting Crane', the largest crane ever used in London. The crane will carefully lift the portal beams out from over the London Underground lines that run under the former exhibition centre site.

This method has been designed to minimise the impact on local residents, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the project and will significantly shorten the project timescales. The crane is 110 meters high, the same size as the Empress State Building, the tallest building in West London, the length of a football pitch and is more than twice the height of Nelson's Column. The crane will be up and running by mid-January and will be used on-site until the end of 2017.

If you have any questions about the Earls Court project, please call the 24 hour helpline on 0330 333 1510 or email info@myearlscourt.com

VISITING DOCTOR SERVICE



24/7 PHARMACY & MEDICAL SERVICES

37 Years as a community pharmacist Zafar Khan still has a passion and a love for pharmacy services to the local community and beyond. Supported by a very able team of healthcare professionals. Zafar was awarded 'the most loved pharmacist in London & Kent region' in 2016

Open 24 hours a day, 365 days in the year to meet an unmet requirement, the team are efficient, helpful and available. You can ring or walk in any time of the day and night.



24/7 Zafash Pharmacy services
Zafash Daytime Visiting Doctor services,
at home, hotel or work
Consultation at the clinic
(by appointment)

233 - 235 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0EA
Pharmacy: 020 7373 2798 Doctors: 0207 373 2219

this is private property, Streetline don't clear it. The owner architect does clear it from time to time, but the committee do have to push for it to be done. ECSRA is currently making a recommendation that a barrier be erected to discourage rubbish dumping as the new build is taking its time to get underway.

At the back of the school the stretch of pavement near No. 51 needs monitoring, and opposite the garages near No. 45 attract piles of rubbish. We have been in touch with the contract cleaner at 45 who do a twice weekly private collection and the rubbish vaults get washed every two weeks to combat vermin. Numbers 2 and 4 owned by the same company also do regular cleaning of the vaults. This is progress from past years.

At No. 69, bags (and furniture) are constantly being put on the pavement on the wrong days and times. It is a favourite site for foxes. Rubbish is consistently put out on the pavement most Sundays in the day time when it should be in their vault. The offending people are told by neighbours, but so far, we haven't got a contact for this block. If someone can help, that would be great.

Volunteers 'for the cause' are helpful by posting notices in their buildings about collection times. Especially useful at Bank Holiday time. Litter boxes really need watching as they do overflow, especially in the summer months.

We are asking if residents could keep Streetline on their phones and if passing a bursting box of rubbish, including the doggie bins on the lampposts, please speed dial Streetline, so it can be logged for the cart cleaners to come by. If Streetline are

rung by 17:00 on Friday, they will clean them over the weekend, otherwise actions won't get a case number for action until they reopen Monday at 08:30.

Email: Streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7361 3001.

BROMPTON CEMETERY UPDATE

Visitors to Brompton Cemetery during 2017 will see evidence of building and other works as £6m is spent on restoration and improvements thanks to a grant from the Heritage and Big Lottery Funds.



The Chapel roof is being repaired, and there will be improved facilities inside to enable a better welcome for visitors and the many events to take place there, including funeral services. Two wings are being added to the north lodge, one to house an interpretation and events centre, and the other a cafe with toilets.

Significant improvements to the landscape, paths, colonnades and western catacombs and memorial repairs are planned, the main works to be completed by the end of the year. The Friends will soon be seeking volunteers to help manage a wide range of activities which are planned.

Anyone interested please contact
Arthur Tait on aatait12@gmail.com.

LOCAL PROPERTY OUTLOOK



2016 was undoubtedly an interesting year for central London property with many hurdles to be surmounted. Just some of these were the 'buy to let' tax amendments, major stamp duty land tax reform, a change of Prime Minister and, the most significant of all, the European referendum.

Immediately after the Brexit results were published the media were confident that the world was approaching its end and London property would lose, in some cases, up to 30% of its value. As the

days, weeks and months passed it became apparent that whilst a price correction was necessary, the impact felt on the front line was not to be nearly as negative as expected. We, of course, cannot predict the market conditions over the next 2-3 years but for now Earl's Court is being seen as an exciting place to buy and sell. Since the referendum, the properties represented by Faron Sutaria, Earl's Court have completed at 97.5% of asking price and currently agreed sales are progressing at 98.3% of asking price!



AGS Management Ltd
AGS Management Services Ltd.

RESIDENTIAL BLOCK MANAGEMENT LETTING & MANAGEMENT OF FLATS

13A Wetherby Mansions, Earl's Court Square, London SW5 9BH

Tel: 020 7373 9927

E-mail: admin@agsmanage.com

www.agsmanage.com

Registered in England Company Nos: 03999916 & 06746353

KRYSTAL EXPRESS

Welcomes you 24 hours a day!

Krystal Express offer all general day-to-day basics but we try to stock quality niche products not often found in the big chain stores. We have a number of discerning people in the neighbourhood and we cater to their needs as well as general household purchases. Our aim is to provide a good product and service for the locals.

FRENCH & AMERICAN SWEETS & FOOD

Off Licence until 2AM

Oyster Card - Bus Pass - Mobile Phone Top Up



... find us at 320 - 322 Earl's Court Road.

RUBBISH REPORT

A typical response "I bumped into a resident of 312 this morning who was dumping rubbish outside. I told her it was the wrong day and she told me she does not know when the right day is".

So, yet another note goes out to the building to advise Monday and Thursday. This is the 'short lets' syndrome. Ten years tracking this building, numerous photos and talks with the freeholder, we now have CCTV on the Earl's Court Road to verify what goes on and to identify offenders. Karen Crozier the Senior Contracts and Enforcement Officer for the Council and her team who we meet with regularly are determined to stop the bag dumping in this area and visit often to search illegal bags. They are pursuing the short-term lettings agency and their managers (who have been fined) to insist they take out commercial waste contracts for their customers.

There could be sensitivity about naming the 'hot spots' in this newsletter, but really we should be helping each other to keep our area safe and clean. With much lobbying, Cllr. Spalding is now in touch with the owner of 312, which doesn't have a vault, and so other suitable measures are being found.

On the northern side of the Square at No.1, the building has no rubbish vault. There has been a change of management of the building and a better system of rubbish storage is being considered. Cllr. Wade is helping to keep up the pressure on this. No. 1 can still be a rubbish 'hotspot' and needs monitoring, but we can report progress here from past years. The alleyway by the three garages at Northgate house continues to attract litter. Because



ENVIRONMENT

ECSRA is represented on the RBKC Environmental Round Table. Four meetings are held each year:

15 Charging Points for cars have been provided within the Borough but none within Earl's Court Ward – the nearest point is at Tesco's supermarket at the junction of West Cromwell Road and Warwick Road.

A report issued by the Royal College of Physicians suggests that there are 40000 deaths each year caused by pollution.

RBKC has been organising several initiatives across the borough on Idling Engines. It is illegal to do this as well as adding to air pollution. 70% of pollutants are derived from traffic.

The average reduction in life expectancy of UK residents as a result of long-term exposure to air pollution is six months.

The most common reasons given by drivers for idling their engines are:

- ⚙️ to keep warm when it's cold outside to use car functions such as charging a phone,
- ⚙️ listening to a stereo without running down the battery
- ⚙️ to avoid a traffic warden giving them a ticket while parked on a yellow line
- ⚙️ it uses less fuel than switching the engine off and on again

BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

The aim of the 2018 Boundary Review is to achieve roughly the same number of voters (circa 73,000) in each parliamentary constituency as this would give the same weight to people's votes throughout the country. The current Boundary Commission proposals are that there would be a Kensington and Chelsea constituency and a Hammersmith and Fulham constituency.

This would mean that the parliamentary boundaries would be contiguous with the Borough boundaries. The RBKC believes that this proposal, if enacted, would simplify the administration of elections and of electoral registration in the Royal Borough, as well as helping to enhance the sense of Kensington and Chelsea as a distinct part of London.

This proposal would have many advantages, not least that many residents identify with a Borough rather than a parliamentary constituency. Also, the Police, the Tenant Management Association and many voluntary organisations are organised along borough lines and thus it would be easier to brief and deal with only one MP. It would also mean that the MPs would only have to deal with one local authority.

The ECSRA have supported the views of the RBKC and have submitted its comments on the proposals to the Boundary Commission.

All comments will be published in Spring 2017 and residents will then have the opportunity to see what others have said about our local area. Based on what local people have said, the Boundary Commission might revise their proposals in the autumn of 2017.

Friends of Earl's Court Farmers Market

The Farmers Market was an interesting addition to the area opening last May



Apart from the initial teething problems that any new venture has, the Market is proving popular as both a place to buy fresh food and drink, and as a place to meet up and chat with other local residents and Ward Councillors. Sometimes over a nice coffee and cake sitting around tables in the top playground. From its range of organic meats, vegetables, juices, breads and cheeses, one of the incidental benefits is that people can buy in small quantities. A single older person can afford to shop where they can buy just one piece of meat or a small number of vegetables knowing that there will be no waste. The school also, benefits from the fee that is paid to it for the use of the playgrounds.

We are always looking for ways the Market can be improved. Any suggestions as to what kinds of stalls you would like to see are welcome. As with anything, the Market's survival is dependent on the number of people who use it. The more the merrier.



*Earl's Court Farmers Market is held each Sunday from 10am – 2pm
Venue: St Cuthbert with St Matthias School, Warwick Road SW5 9UE
See you there!*



EARL'S COURT SQUARE BBQ

"Rich. Just go and light the communal barbeque troughs" she said.

As I huddled under the open canopy, watching the summer rain lashing down, my thoughts were that our relationship, and possibly my life, was in some jeopardy.

The rain stopped, praise be, and I set about coaxing the sulky troughs into life with copious quantities of fuel and some abuse.

"They're not going very well" she said.

There was no safe response to this, so I sloshed on more fuel.

The troughs stuttered into life, the sun appeared (sort of), as so, miraculously, did the hardy souls of Earl's Court Square, and surrounds, many with their state of the art portable cooking apparatus, tables, chairs and sufficient food and drink to keep any chills at bay. It was a great success! (I even received a kind word for my efforts.) Attendance was huge (well upwards of 100, anyway) and the disco, manned by the

ever-defiant Simon Robinson, dispersed all memory of dampness and gloom. The joint was jumping; the revellers cried for yet one more "golden oldie" as the "witching hour" came and went. A great time was had by all, including me. Now only the clearing up to do. Ah, well.

Come along next year – it is a community event not to be missed. Do spare a kind word for the chap with the singed eyebrows – I'll be back.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The success of last year's Christmas tree lighting made it an easy decision for the event to be repeated this year. So we were delighted to welcome back Ian and his team with their slabs and barrel. We had a jolly lunchtime putting up the gazebos in preparation for the Residents' Association's Carols and Switching On of the lights.

With residents, both permanent and visiting, hailing from all over the world, Earl's Court Square is always looking for ways to bring together neighbours, friends and families.

The annual Christmas tree lighting is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to join in to celebrate the much-loved English Christmas traditions of carol singing, lighting the tree, munching mince pies and quaffing Alan Malcolm's notorious mulled wine (that takes three days to prepare). There is much anticipation among the children as they await the turning on of the lights giving the go-ahead to pounce on the sweets that cover the tree. And we welcomed our local amateur dramatics group, the Earl's Courtiers to lead the carol singing. The young ones, who of course know all the words, join in enthusiastically.

When everyone has gone home, the beautiful gold and silver lit tree stands in the garden, a symbol of the spirit of Christmas and a reminder of neighbourly friendship.



OUR LATE FRIEND MIGUEL SABATER

believe you will all have known Miguel Sabater by sight if not by name. For many years, he could be found positioned, weather permitting, at the top of the steps to his flat, 15a Earl's Court Square basement, from whence he kept his eye on everything that went on. The sad news is that Miguel passed away in October at the age of 80.

A photographer by profession his eye was sharp! He saved us countless parking tickets and forestalled a great number of thefts as well as other crimes. He was often a help to the police and a fund of information. Those who stopped to pass the time of day will miss him and his local knowledge dearly.

An artist originally, Miguel painted his own portrait in the early 70's and it sits proudly in his hallway. He had Miguel's photographic shop in the Fulham Road for 30 years and included in his repertoire school children and weddings. He was the Royal photographer for the Spanish Royal Family and was regularly invited onto the Royal yacht to photograph events.

Miguel had a razor-sharp mind and could fix anything. He loved helping people. Even though Miguel lost his sight over his last 10 years due to diabetes, he was still very active keeping account of everything going on in the Square.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Yvonne, his daughter and sons who lived in the flat and his extended family by whom he was greatly loved and cherished. Miguel was a true pillar of the community.



Being social by nature, Earl's Court Square celebrated the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen with a garden party in the Square.

Afternoon tea with cakes and sandwiches provided by the combined efforts of the Residents' Association and the Garden Sub - Committee and enhanced by welcome contributions of others, created a charming atmosphere where we could all chat with old and new friends and neighbours. Those who were in the garden early enough were able to enjoy the RAF's flypast of modern and vintage planes and of course the Red Arrows with their smoke still trailing from their journey down the Mall to Buckingham Palace.

FOR MEMBERS TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE RA

We held our special Members' evening in September with kind permission of Jonathan Ross at his Gallery 286 in the

Earl's Court Road. The Spanish themed evening for Members to meet Members was set in the beautiful back garden and was attended by Victoria Borwick MP who made a point of meeting everyone and joining in our fundraising for local children's charity, Solidarity Sports.

There was a busy band of volunteers that had fun making a magnificent array of tapas earlier in the day. Coarse liver pate with sugared peanuts, tortillas with ham and some with veggies, Camembert and walnuts coated with black chocolate, apricots with blue cheese, to name a few of the sumptuous 16 varieties.

Jonathan Ross was the consummate host and there was friendly banter and good conversation had to the background sound of Peter Jones on acoustic guitar.

Our Members' event will be an annual occasion, with the next being an Italian evening on the 14th September.



THE GARDEN

The garden continues to flourish and our replanting of the south-east corner lawn after the removal of one of the plane trees has been a success. We resited the bird-bath to make it more of a feature and created a new flower bed around it. We also raised the canopy of the elm tree and the hollies on the south side, together with a substantial prune of the large camellias which allows more light into the area which we hope will encourage the lawn.

Our battle with the invasive “Mind Your Own Business” continues which is why parts of the lawn are stripped out and reseeded – it is a bit like the painting of the Forth Road Bridge but we won’t give up!

We were saddened to lose Anna, our lovely gardener provided by Charles Wood, who was offered a job in Oxfordshire but were then thrilled when we learned that it wasn’t just us who missed her skills and enthusiasm and overjoyed when told that she was coming back. Eyre Sykes gave us continuity and his skills with the pruning saw and secateurs are reducing overgrown shrubs that have turned into straggly trees and pulling everything into shape. Our patience with a huge camellia we were given a few years ago, has been rewarded with a much happier looking plant in the north-west corner which, now that it has settled, has also been pruned. That corner has also benefitted from a new flowering cherry tree which, we hope, will blossom in the spring when we also hope that the new topiary will reveal itself

in full plumage! The installation of a fountain in the north-west corner can be a place for reflection both visually and mentally, and also provide fresh water for birds and wildlife (it is not for human consumption). We are grateful to Alain Bouvier for his generous gift which acknowledges Stacy’s 30-year involvement as a member of the garden committee. It was thrilling to see the Camellias around the play area come into flower in November – with some still flowering from the previous season. The gaps are filling which is helped by the fence to stop marauding feet.

There have been parties and festivities in the Square and it is always heartening to hear parents and carers remind children not to walk on or through the flowerbeds and not to pick the flowers. Ours is a garden for all ages and while not perfect – but saying that we were awarded silver medals by the London Garden Society and Brighter Kensington and Chelsea this year – it is something from which we can all benefit, appreciate and cherish.

Thoughts from the garden.

I wonder if Earl’s Court Square has the trendiest foxes in London. I wonder if the London Fashion Week spreads to the fox population? I wonder if the desire to stand out from the crowd with the smartest of hairdos could explain why the foxes love the lighting system in the Square. They must receive an electric shock when they bite through the cables – albeit a small one - but it does make me smile to think of them with highly charged fur sticking out at all angles as in Tom and Jerry cartoons of old! Maybe they then perambulate to the cemetery to show off their latest styling to their friends and foes! Who knows

COME AND SEE BILAL - THIS IS WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS!



Shoe Repair Service | Key Cutting | Locksmith Services | Cleaning Products

10% Discount for Earl’s Court Square Residents
at Deluxe Dry Cleaners in 312 Earl’s Court Road, SW5 9BQ . T: 07446 983 419