

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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



ANNUAL MAGAZINE | AGM | 2019

On behalf of Earl's Court residents, we:

- ✱ Monitor and address environmental issues including pollution, rubbish and recycling.
- ✱ Comment on planning applications and transport issues.
- ✱ Liaise with the Police, Council and the Earl's Court Garden Sub-Committee.
- ✱ Organise 4 annual social events for the residents of Earl's Court Square.
- ✱ Publish a magazine annually with local news, distributed to all residents.
- ✱ Provide a website with lots of local information and a dedicated section for our Members - www.ecsra.co.uk

Dates 2019:

27 February:	Annual General Meeting
22 June:	Earl's Court Square BBQ with DJ Infinity
12 September:	Members' Only American Themed Evening
8 December:	Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

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

Our thanks to John D Wood & Co. for printing our magazine

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We are very much looking forward to being part of your community and sponsoring the Earl's Court Square resident's association magazine for another year. It is wonderful to see residents enjoy the social evenings put on by the committee and a reminder to all current and potential home owners why Earl's Court Square is such a great place for all! We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Charlene William, Sales Manager

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/2019

2018 has been a busy year. ECSRA's main focus has been on persuading the Council to strengthen their planning and refuse enforcement procedures as we feel prosecutions would act as a deterrent. Rubbish "hotspots" remain outside 312 (now with a permanent "A" board) 45 and 69. The "hotspot" outside 1 Earl's Court Square has improved due to ECSRA lobbying for the provision of an on site bin area. Many thanks to Heidi Bradner and her team of residents who have raised 90 dump complaints during the year.

BT's new InLink telephone panels (with illuminated advertisements) are replacing the old dirty and un-maintained BT telephone boxes in Earl's Court. BT has to replace 2 old BT boxes with 1 InLink panel. As most people now have mobiles it is felt that the old unsightly telephone boxes should have been taken out at a higher ratio than 2:1 as they clutter our pavements.



The location of the cycle lanes in Earl's Court Square, which residents feel are dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, is another cause for concern and we will keep lobbying RBKC and TfL for improvements.

The Metropolitan Police expressed concerns that *"tourists continued to be targeted during the summer by confidence tricksters with money and passports taken. Elderly people are still being targeted by BOGUS*

Police via their landline phones/mobiles and door-to-door charity fraudsters. CHELSEA AUCTION HOUSE and MUCK2BRASS are currently delivering business cards to addresses within RBKC. They offer to collect and auction people's belongings on the pretense they will pay a commission. Once collected, they correspond with the victim briefly before ceasing contact and the antiques are never seen again." The Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel's priorities are: 1) drug related crime 2) anti-social behaviour including begging 3) burglary and robberies and 4) motor vehicle crime. Crime figures are updated each month at <https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/E05009395/crime>.

ECSRA returned to Flora Indica, 242 Old Brompton Road for their 2018 AGM. The Guest Speaker, Nigel Thorne (Project Manager for the Brompton Cemetery Restoration Project) brought everyone up to date with a presentation of this fascinating £6+ million project, which is on our doorstep. A reception with wine and canapés and a cash bar followed and ECSRA was pleased to welcome all three Earl's Court Ward Councillors.

Members requested an early start to ECSRA's BBQ this year to allow young families to join in the fun and, we're pleased to report, a 5pm start will continue. Last year's DJ Infinity (back by popular request) arrived at 7pm and soon got all ages up disco dancing until 11pm. (Under the terms of our TENs Licence, the music has to end promptly at 11pm.) ECSRA provided the communal BBQs, lit up the venue with festive lighting and hosted a table so no residents were lonely. The balmy weather (always a concern) helped swell the numbers at an event, which is open to all the residents of Earl's Court Square. Profits from the **BBQ** go towards financing **"The Lighting of the Christmas Tree"** and **AGM**, which are "free" events for residents, and on-going expenses - such as maintaining/updating our informative website www.ecsra.co.uk.



A **"Greek in the Square"** Members' evening was held in Earl's Court Square Gardens last September. Andrew mixed ouzo cocktails and Maria (ECSRA's Membership Secretary) provided an array of delicious and authentic Greek canapés. A team of Committee volunteers put up a fairy-lit marquee where Members were able to mix, mingle and dance to background music from The London Bouzouki Player (kindly sponsored by John D Wood). Sadly, this year's event wasn't as well attended, probably due to a busy Saturday night, which competed with the England/Croatia football match and the Last Night of the Proms.

The year ended with the **"Lighting of the Christmas Tree"** with Alan Malcolm's legendary mulled wine, mince pies, Maria Clara's delicious cookies and canapés kindly donated by The Gojk Restaurant. Carols were sung by "Live to Sing, Sing to Live" and our gold and silver lit tree was festooned with chocolates for the children. Many thanks to the Garden sub-

Committee for kindly supporting ECSRA by allowing us to use the beautiful Earl's Court Square Gardens for our events and sharing the cost of the Christmas tree and to Katrina Quinton for organising the tree.

After much discussion, we have decided to increase our membership subscriptions to £8 for individuals and £12 for household/family to cover expenses.

We do hope you will continue to support the energetic team of volunteers on the ECSRA Executive Committee who work hard to ensure that Earl's Court Square remains a great place to live.

Our 2019 AGM is on 27 February at 8pm at The Gojk Restaurant, 275 Old Brompton Road, when I do hope you will join us to meet the Committee, Councillors and your neighbours to celebrate the New Year with wine, Mediterranean canapés and a cash bar. We look forward to seeing you.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2019.

With kind regards



Chrissie Courtney - Chairman

**Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.
A Gold Standard RA awarded by RBKC**

Email: ecsrachair@btinternet.com

Website: www.ecsra.co.uk



ECSRA Executive Committee

ECSRA Executive Committee, currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Heidi Bradner
Shailesh Katyal
Sue Lupton
Alex Tullett (Hon. Treasurer)
Mariaclara Vilona
Jennifer Ware
Maria Xirou

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

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Andrew Foster
Christine Powell
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EARL'S COURT SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA

Earl's Court Square is the architectural jewel of Earl's Court and as such both merits and needs its conservation area status.

Hardly touched by war, it was threatened by the developer's ball and chain in the early 1970s. Astute and visually enlightened residents urgently entreated the then Greater London Council to designate it a conservation area. The Residents' Association sprang into life and since then it has had the tool to protect and enhance the Square.

All planning applications are vetted by the Committee and any that conflict with the Conservation Area Proposals Statement are referred to the Council.

The serried porticoed terraces require conformity of colour to give them their spectacular coherence, and it is the

requirement that they must all be painted the designated colour of magnolia that is perhaps the most far-reaching consequence of the conservation area strategy. Gone is the brown house and the blue one - yes,



it has been the unremitting efforts of the residents' association over the years, cajoling landlords and lobbying the Council, that have transformed the Square from the forlorn dilapidation of post-war years to the near-pristine elegance of today. Conservation area status has given 'power to their elbow'.

Rodney Brangwyn



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SEPARATE - BUT WORKING TOGETHER

There is some confusion between paying for the Garden, as part of your annual council tax or by garden subscription, and paying to become a member of the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA).

As these are two separate entities, two separate payments are required. If you are a Garden Rate Payer or Garden Subscriber you are not automatically a member of the Residents' Association. Membership of ECSRA is according to the rules of the Association.

Access to the Garden is regulated by the Kensington Improvement Act 1851 as implemented by the Garden Sub-Committee. Two groups of residents of Earl's Court Square can obtain access to

the Garden – Garden Rate Payers and Garden Subscribers. Please see www.ecsgarden.org.uk for key access – which is only available via the Garden Sub-Committee.

Although ECSRA and the Garden Sub-Committee are two separate entities, we do have a close working relationship.

Simply said, anything inside the Garden railings is the responsibility of the Garden Sub-Committee and anything beyond the railings is the responsibility of ECSRA.

Fortunately, many residents support both organisations and, if you are not already a member of ECSRA, please support us by joining and fill in the form at the back of this magazine.

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MEMBERS' EVENING



We welcome any excuse to meet up with our neighbours and have a glass or two! So, this year's Greek evening in the garden of Earl's Court Square on the 8th of September, was a perfect opportunity. Sadly, we weren't blessed with a sunny evening, but warm and dry was all we needed.

The added attraction of the chance to sample wonderful authentic Greek fare with music to match made it all worthwhile. As usually happens, we met neighbours who, like us, had also lived here for 30 plus years. Funny how we had never met before! That's the beauty of living in this wonderful square, with such enjoyable social events, and of course the power of Ouzo.

Mike Cookson

SAVE THE DATE

Become a member of ECSRA and join us on 2 September for our American-themed evening party

MEMBERSHIP

ESCRA would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members. We also thank the current members, who have renewed their membership and continue to support ESCRA and its work. We are also grateful to the members who kindly included a donation to ESCRA in addition to their subscription fees.

There are 78 membership subscriptions for 2018, comprising 39 individuals, 33 family/ household and 6 life members. This is the equivalent of 111 members. In the last year 3 members left the square and 8 new residents have joined the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association. Everyone who lives in the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area is welcome to become a member.



In 2019 ECSRA aims to increase its membership and is looking for a volunteer in each building in the Square to become a 'Captain' responsible for recruiting their neighbours for membership, promoting the 4 annual events and distribution of the annual magazine in their building.

For more information about ECSRA go to our website. A membership form is included at the end of this magazine for your ready use, or download from www.ecsra.co.uk. We wish you a New Year full of happiness.

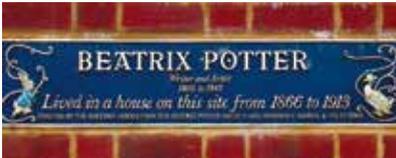
Maria Xirou
ECSRA Membership Secretary
Email: ecsrामembes@hotmail.com

DO YOU KNOW WHO SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS WERE?

Blue plaques are erected by English Heritage and there are strict rules to whom such a plaque may be displayed. In the past, ECSRA has endeavoured to have one erected to Dame Ninette de Valois, who lived at No. 23, and who established the Royal Ballet, but to no avail. We are also aware that George Mallory spent the last three nights at Nos. 17-19 before his departure for the Everest Expedition. It was where his mother lived.

Below are photos of blue plaques of several famed people who have been associated in some way with the area, some of whom you may know about, some of whom may be surprising.

If you would like to know where they are, you will find the answer on the Members' page of the website, www.ecsra.co.uk



Beatrix Potter lived in a house on this site and wrote most of her books, including Peter Rabbit, here rather than in the Lake District where she moved after her marriage and became a renowned farmer.

Some of her characters were derived from the names of people buried in Brompton Cemetery, for example Squirrel Nutkin. In 2016, a 50p piece was minted with Squirrel Nutkin on the reverse.

Hattie Jaques, a comedy actor of stage, screen and radio, lived here. She was well known for her role in the Carry On films, on TV with Eric Sykes and on the

radio with Tony Hancock in 'Hancock's half hour'. Part of a film about the life of Tony Hancock was filmed in the Square, the part of Tony Hancock being played by Ken Stott.



Hattie Jacques was married to John Le Mesurier, best known for his role in 'Dad's Army'. Her ashes were scattered at Putney Vale Cemetery.

Willie Rushton was a satirist, comedian and actor who co-founded Private Eye. He appeared in the TV show 'That was the week that was'. He was a panellist in the long running Radio 4 comedy game show, 'I'm sorry I haven't a clue', hence a blue plaque to him has been erected at Mornington Crescent underground station. He was often seen striding along Earl's Court Road.



Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader graduated from Cranwell in 1930. The following year the aircraft in which he was flying crashed and as a result of his injuries, he lost both legs. He went on to fight during the Second World War and became famous in the film 'Reach for the Sky', starring Kenneth More.



Some other people have lived in the area, but blue plaques have not been erected to them. So we thought it fun to have a competition where the answers will be on our ECSRA website: www.ecsra.co.uk

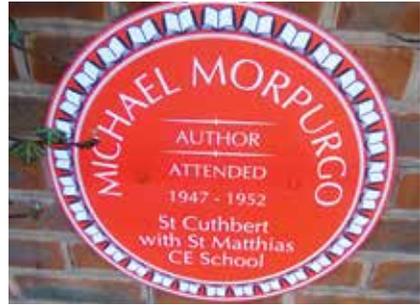


This gentleman lived here for a while. He was an eminent doctor but was also known for his visit to Oxford in 1954.



Not only known for where Lady Di lived before her marriage to Prince Charles, but a British born Hollywood film actor was born here in 1913.

You may also be interested in the plaque to Michael Morpurgo, known for his play,



'War Horse', which was later made into a film. He attended St Cuthbert with St Matthias School.

Thank you to Christine Powell for putting this together.

Answers to be available on the Members' section of the ECSRA website: www.ecsra.co.uk

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ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association is represented on the RBKC Environmental Round Table. One of the projects this year has been to create a guide to small recycling centres. For example, Lush store in Kings Road accept bottle tops and the Holland Park car park off Melbury Road has a place to leave small electrical items.



In the last recorded data of 2015, Port Talbot in Wales, with its steel works, has been named the most polluted town in the country. This is followed by Scunthorpe, Salford, Manchester, Swansea, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Plymouth, Sheffield and York, all ahead of London.

RBKC have introduced areas where drivers sitting in their vehicles with their engines idling will have a Fixed Penalty Notice of £40 issued against them, which is a step towards reducing pollution. The GLA / DEFRA have funded a Green City Village project which will include Earl's

Court Road with the aim of improving air quality by reducing delivery and waste collection lorry movements. 15% of all air pollution is due to HGVs. If you have suggestions about how to reduce pollution in our neighbourhood, please contact the ECSRA.

A charging point for electric cars has been installed in the north east arm of the Square. It was originally beside a Pay and Display bay but has been moved to the adjacent Residents' parking bay.



RBKC has launched a consultation on busking, and is considering making a Public Spaces Protection Order to address excessive levels of noise, nuisance and annoyance caused by street entertainment activities. ECSRA suggested that licences should be issued to performers and that there should be no amplification.

Monitoring & Improving Our Environment

Earl's Court Square had the highest number of dumping complaints in the Earl's Court

Ward for the period of 01 Oct 2017 to 30 Sept 2018. Our members and residents care greatly about improving our streets.

The situation on the square has improved over the years, but careless dumping still remains a constant problem. ECSRA actively monitored rubbish hot spots on the square throughout 2018. We work with a volunteer group who stay in touch with each other and with RBKC to chase and stop rubbish dumping at the source. If you would like to join this group, please contact us.

Here is some of the work we do:

ECSRA and RBKC Enforcement meet to do walks around the square to work together to stop rubbish dumping.

Each year we arrange with the Council to remove the abandoned bicycles, locks or other items, like shopping trolleys, within the ECSRA area.

ESCR posted signs on the square to notify residents that there was no rubbish collection on the end of August bank holiday, the weekend of the Notting Hill Carnival. Residents told us the notices were helpful and appreciated the efforts to keep the square clean over this bank holiday weekend.

Good results from 2018 include the A board in front of 312 to help deter dumping at this location. Progress has been made to reduce the number of dumping cases reported outside number 1 after residents there created a designated rubbish storage area for their building, which helps avoid rubbish being put on the pavement. The challenge remains for 2019 to have strong investigation and



enforcement combined with outreach. ECSRA and residents of the square would like to see a “no-dumping” A-board in front of number 45 to deter dumping. The residents and ECSRA have requested this from the Council.

Aims for 2019 include involving local residents in the battle to stop rubbish dumping on the square. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be involved. Goals continue to be to meet with enforcement officers to find solutions to hot spots.

RBKC has three enforcement officers responsible for monitoring Earl’s Court, Abingdon and Queensgate. They are Jean-Paul Ramsey, Lindi Ofori and Howard Wiggan. Please report dumping cases to Streetline. Complaints are forwarded to this team of officers.

RECYCLING

Please dispose of expired, unused, medications at a local chemist, so they do not get into the landfill or the local water system. All chemists are required to take back expired or unused medicines in the UK.

Top Recycling “No’s” for our Borough:

- * No foil, including foil lined tray, wraps or bags.
- * No thin plastics that can be scrunched in the palm of your hand. Only plastic that is stiff and hard should go into your recycling bag
- * No shredded paper. It cannot be effectively recycled. Please put in your black bin liner with normal rubbish.
- * No pizza delivery boxes that have food waste on them. If the top of the pizza box is still clean, please cut this portion off and put in recycling bags. Keep out of recycling bags any greasy or food-contaminated cardboard, usually the bottom half of the pizza box
- * No Lids. Take off all caps on water bottles, juice bottles, No yoghurt pot plastic lids. All lids should be in black plastic rubbish bags or taken to Lush cosmetics at 123 Kings road. (Or any of their stores)
- * You can prevent all your lids going into the landfill by just saving them in a jug and dropping them to 123 Kings Road! Only lids from drinks

such as milk, water, juice, and soda from plastic bottles or from Tetra Pak cartons are accepted.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Earl’s Court Square Rubbish collections are **Monday** and **Thursday** mornings. Please put rubbish in your vault. Collections begin from 7 am, so if bags are left on the pavement at night, foxes break into the food waste and spread rubbish over the pavement.

Please advise any new residents and cleaners the collection times. We are fortunate to have two collections a week.

If you see illegally dumped bags, you can choose any of the following options to report it:

- 1) call Streetline on **020 7361 3001**
- 2) email streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
- 3) download the RBKC Local app and use this app to report dumping
- 4) Go to the RBKC website Streetline page and use the Fault Report Form for street cleaning and litter to report rubbish dumping or request dog waste clean up.

Streetline offers a ‘Too Big for the Bin’ collection for a fee for up to 10 bulky items. Please call **020 7361 3001**

If you have good quality items that you would like to donate for re-use, please go to the Furnish Collection website. You can contact Furnish via email at:

furnish.collection@sbhg.co.uk
or telephone 020 8996 4772.

Furnish will collect up to eight items for £24.30. The eight items can be any combination of pieces of reusable household furniture, bags, or boxes containing household items.

Freecycle

Freecycle is a service that advertises used items online. Visit the Freecycle website for further information.

Residents can book to visit Western Riverside Waste Authority for educational tours where they can learn more about recycling and rubbish in our Borough.

Please call 020 8771 2788.

BUILD THE WORLD'S GREENEST VENUE

So much has changed since the original plans for the Earl's Court site were submitted and over the summer of 2018 a team of locals who are part of the 'Save Earl's Court' campaign including David Trodden, Secretary of Philbeach RA, have undertaken the following to date:

Gathered the support and views of local residents on Earl's Court Road on Saturday lunchtimes.

- * The group met with Deputy leader of RBKC Kim Taylor Smith to discuss their concerns and findings.
- * Presented the petition for "the world's greenest venue to be built on the site of the Earl's Court Masterplan" addressed to Sadiq Khan and signed by 1,264 people to Caroline Russell, Green Party, at City Hall who ensured the Mayor received it.

The main aim:

- * To have the world's greenest multi-use exhibition/conference space on site as a destination/location to support local businesses .
- * To have a range of housing options including affordable housing for young people/keyworkers and independent living for older residents — places where people live .
- * To have use of the apron of the site.

This site is key to the success of the area and so the support of residents is crucial at every level in the future.

Please contact David Trodden on d.trodden@hotmail.co.uk if you would like further information.





Guy Lyon Playfair

Linguist, musician, journalist

Guy Playfair an Earl's Court Square resident since 1978, died in 2018 at aged 83. He is remembered by his family as a talented linguist and very musical, able to play the trombone, violin and keyboard. He even built his own harpsicord.

A journalist by profession, Guy had a sense of community. He would come to the AGMs before he became infirm and was active with the local charity Response, when it produced a magazine in the '90s.

He was an endlessly curious person and his breadth of knowledge was immense. He spent four years in Brazil as a freelance journalist for the Economist, Time and the Associated Press. At that time he got hooked on parapsychology being fascinated by the surgeons in rural areas operating without back up, using psychic and trance methods. The first of his 12 books were the Flying Cow followed by a sequel, The Infinite Boundary in 1976 making it the most comprehensive survey of the paranormal world of Brazil.

Back in London, and Earl's Court Square, he was good friends with Uri Geller the illusionist and magician and self-proclaimed psychic. In the early '80s he helped No. 19 Earl's Court Square remove a poltergeist. Guy was asked to investigate. He set up a tape recorder to record the strange noises and the next day the tape recorder had dematerialised and nothing has been heard since.

Guy got involved as a researcher with the Enfield Poltergeist activity and wrote a book about it that became a mini TV series in 2015, where his character was played by Matthew Macfadyen.

He is remembered by the few who knew him in the Square as a quiet, shy and interesting man, who knew a lot about gardening and plants.



It is always comforting when a plan comes to fruition and so the flowering of the new winter cherry in the circular bed lifted my spirits on a damp day in November. The weather this past year was interesting. A mild early wet winter pushed the bulbs through only for them to be hit with the Beast from the East in March. Then the warmth began and an early start to the summer brought everything on again in wild succession and then the heat kept on coming. The lawn got browner, the trees popped their bark, but we kept on watering and the garden thrived.

The camellias are happily established now and like the cherry, were in flower in December. The bulbs were showing their heads before Christmas and so we wait for the joy of discovery of what has survived and what will come through in the spring – and how they will react to the weather. Even though winter is a quiet time of year in the garden, there is still much to contemplate and enjoy. It seems gentler and calmer than when you are in awe of the spectacle of spring bursting out.

We have commissioned the tree surgeons to prune the plane trees in February and tidy up our wonderful myriad of trees. We do this every three years to keep the trees healthy and to allow as much light as possible into the garden. The trees look like arthritic hands with their nodules when they have been freshly pruned but, as is always the case, they sprout green leaves again very quickly. By doing the work early we hope it will not be such a shock for people and will be easier for the tree surgeons. Over the years, we have tried to rescue plants donated to the garden: the red camellia in the north west corner has been a great success as has the small acer, but it seems that the majestic tree fern didn't respond to our ministrations. The dreadful Box Moth is still a plague in London. We have managed to keep the central

bed safe with regular spraying, but sadly, other beds have suffered and the caterpillars have won. We might well change species to decorative ilex or holly.

The apple trees flourished again this year as did the almonds which we hope were appreciated by the mystery overnight harvester. The grape vines and herb pots continue to be appreciated by local chefs. We are hoping to introduce some decorative vegetables this year which will require regular attention.

It is rewarding to those of us who manage the garden to see residents enjoy the garden and what it can offer, and what they can offer to it. It is lovely to see it being enjoyed for fun and games, picnic lunches, afternoon tea on a tray, evening drinks, or a post-prandial cigar.



The box for the games was a success – but it is curious what gets taken away. A sturdier one will appear in the spring so that everyone can enjoy the chess and dominoes.

The watering of the garden was not helped by the foxes, who chewed the pipes; nor was it helped by some children unscrewing and destroying the jets and nozzles! Because the watering system goes off at night, it's not always noticeable when things have gone wrong. Thanks to the vigilance of Kevin and Anna everything stays under control. We angle a couple of jets towards the water feature to refill its reservoir and also fill it up manually. The water feature does not have its own supply of fresh water so parents please note that it's not wise to allow your child to drink the water.



The garden's by-laws were signed off by the Magistrates this year and they are on the noticeboards at the entrances.

Please remind yourself of them and please do remind others whose behaviour does not comply.

THE MAYOR'S AWARD



Sue Lupton, a long standing ECSRA Committee member, was nominated and seconded by six other residents of Earl's Court, for the 2018 Mayor's Awards.

"It was a great and lovely surprise, as I had nominated another and thought the letter with the news was for him. I had no idea I had been nominated too" exclaimed Sue.

"The ceremony included amazing people from New Horizons and Open Age, for services to older people, the Chair of Governors at Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and the Founder of Avondale Extra. There was a fellow borough resident who had given pleasure with his gardening skills and for his willingness to be a good neighbour to many"

"I got my award for services to the community in Earl's Court. There were six of us from across the borough and the award was presented by the Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi at the Town Hall, followed by a reception."

"The gathering of my nominees and friends continued at Jennifer Ware's in the Square afterwards".

ANNUAL BBQ



Living in London implies an adherence to the social milieu which is de rigueur. The Chelsea Flower Show gives way to Henley; Ascot is succeeded by Wimbledon.

The fortunate few having sated on champagne, Pimms and canapés are then able to unwind in the verdant surrounds of Earl's Court Square Garden and enjoy its summer BBQ.

The carnivorous smells of burgers and (free range ?) sausages are accompanied by the vegetarian odours of roasted sweet corn. The roars of the Royal Enclosure have given way to the squeals of children.

Finally, after much Prosecco has been market tested, there is the music and the dancing. Not since Band Aid has moshing like this been seen. The aftermath: Sunday morning and "seven maids with seven mops swept it to get it clear". Roll on next summer.

Alan Malcom

SAVE THE DATE

The next ECSRA summer BBQ is on
22 June 2019

KRYSTAL EXPRESS

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LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Earl's Court Square Christmas Carol Service-The Warm Voices and Warm Hearts of a Christmas Community At song



On a cold and frosty evening, in the bleak midwinter, not quite next to a lonely cattle shed but in the far more attractive and convivial surroundings of the lovely Earl's Court Square, stood a Christmas gathering of Kensington's most gorgeous people, the tinselled, winter-hatted residents of Earl's Court Square and their seriously attractive friends. There, next to the exciting Christmas tree, little children waited with baited frosty breath, warming their hands on hot drinks to see the Christmas lights being switched on – the signal to snatch a sweetie from the tree.

Adults wished each other seasonal greetings, sharing lashings of hot wine and avalanches of mince pies their hearts equally lifted by this now long established ritual of community carol service affection. Song sheets were handed out to the musically enthusiastic and accomplished; likewise, song sheets were handed out to the musically shy and the tone-deaf. The singing began. With gusto, Good King Wenceslas was serenaded beautifully by the sweet voiced; contrastingly, the musically shy mumbled a bit in praise of the King whilst the tone-deaf were lucky they were not arrested for attempted Regicide.

As more of the excellent hot wine was consumed, the carols improved with many tra la las being in time and on pitch. Silent Night was surprisingly moving whilst Once In Royal David's City approached the community spiritual under the Earl's Court Christmas stars. It makes a difference to us all, standing in the cold and the dark singing songs, whether we sing them badly or beautifully. It makes a difference to the children who roared out "We wish you a merry Christmas" enough times and with enough volume for all in Earl's Court to be certain what time of year it was. Earl's Court is a special place in London. We have our lovely traditions of showing each other how much we care. Bottoms up for 2019.

Keith Clancy



Gojk - A Hidden Gem in Earl's Court



The Gojk Restaurant & Lounge.
Seasonal Produce and the best classic
and contemporary dishes with a modern
twist, fine wines and creative cocktails.

Open Tuesday to Saturday from
17.00 until close.

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www.thegojk.co.uk

GOJK Restaurant & Lounge: 275 Old Brompton Road, SW5 9JA
<http://thegojk.co.uk> t: 0207 373 1384

GRAFFITI

Alex Tullett has declared war on graffiti, which has proliferated alarmingly in our Ward. The PO box at 278 Old Brompton Road; 304 Earl's Court Road; the air monitoring station on E.C. Road; 286 OBR and the old Tournament Pub hoardings have been repeatedly targeted - the list goes on.

An Executive Committee member, just returned from Paris with its graffiti blighted streets and unkempt pavements, remarked that "RBKC was as bad".

Graffiti has increased during the past year and there also appears to be a reduction in the pressure washing of pavements. The graffiti is probably down to reduced police numbers, the pressure washing due to cash restraints at the Council.

RBKC's Graffiti Team need the property owner's written consent before actioning removal. Consent forms can be downloaded from <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/fault-report-graffiti-and-flyposting>.

If you are targeted and are not the owner of the property, please forward the consent letter to the managing agents or the freeholder to complete and return.

Once RBKC receives the consent they will instruct their contractor to remove the graffiti. As one resident says, "people are becoming concerned that the Borough is supposed to be a Royal Borough, not spotless but at least clean, not a Rotten Borough"



STREET DRINKERS IN EARL'S COURT SQUARE

Having problems with street drinkers camping on your doorstep in the Square? ECSRA has been liaising with residents and the Police about this increasing problem.

PC Andy Clough (based at Kenway Road) asks residents to "give us a rough time frame/days in which the street drinkers congregate. We'll then come down and deal with them. If they are persistently ignoring our warnings we can then look at giving them community protection notices which would make it an arrestable offence".

Contrary to local rumours Kenway Road Police Station is scheduled to remain open for another two years, after which the main hub will be Kensington Police Station, which will be open 24/7.

PRIVATE DOCTOR SERVICE



24/7 PHARMACY & MEDICAL SERVICES

40 Years as a community pharmacist Zafar Khan still has a passion and a love for pharmacy and medical services to the local community and beyond. Supported by a very able team of healthcare professionals.

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.

Zafar Khan has been awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen



24/7 Zafash Pharmacy services
24/7 Zafash Private Doctor services,
24/7 Medical Consultation

233 - 235 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0EA
Pharmacy: 020 7373 2798 Doctors: 0207 373 2219/3506

YOUNG POLICE CADETS

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) of Kensington and Chelsea are young people aged 10-18 years and based at the Army Reserve Centre in Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. They are an award winning Borough.



The VPC is a youth diversion program that was set up by the Metropolitan Police Service to support young people. It is a disciplined youth group that offers many opportunities to all young people living in the borough. They can volunteer at high profile events, gaining a basic knowledge of policing skills and First Aid. They can

attend many cadet residential camps, make new friends and gain confidence.

To join, please contact PC Jayne Richardson on **020 8246 0667** or email **Jayne.s.Richardson@met.police.uk**

POLICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Police Earl's Court Hub: **020 8721 2003**
Non-Emergency – dial **101**
Textphone **18001 101**
Emergency – always dial **999**,
Textphone **18000**

Street Outreach Team RBKC – in case you have any rough sleepers on your doorsteps. Tel: **020 7341 5210** or **020 7938 8211**. Email: **streetoutreach@rbkc.gov.uk**. They have asked that you contact them before the police.

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mediterranean

Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 8PM

at

The Gojk Restaurant

275 Old Brompton Road



Followed by a Lounge Party

Free Fizz or Punch and Mediterranean Canapés

with a Cash Bar

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME



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 2019

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:

£8.00 per year individual membership

£12.00 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 ecsrmembers@hotmail.com

Alternatively make cheques payable to:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association

I enclose cash* / cheque* for £8.00* / £12.00*

The Bank will charge us for each cheque.

Please return this form, together with your remittance to:

The ECSRA Membership Secretary

c/o Flat 2, 61 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 9DG

ecsrmembers@hotmail.com

* *Please delete as appropriate*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27 February 2019 at 8.00 pm

Venue

The Gojk Restaurant and Lounge
275 Old Brompton Road
London SW5 9JA

THE AGENDA

Followed by a Lounge Party

FREE

All residents welcome

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM
3. Chairman's Report/Questions and Answers
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Executive Committee
6. Changes to the Constitution
7. Any Other Business
8. Free Fizz/Punch and Mediterranean Canapés. Cash Bar

Please use the magazine membership form on the reverse to renew your membership for 2019 or to join if you are not yet a member. Subscription rates are £8 or £12 for a family/household.



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