

# 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 | 2020

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- ❖ 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 2020:**

January:	Join the ECSRA Membership
2 March:	Annual General Meeting
20 June:	BBQ and Disco
6 & 7 June:	London Garden Squares Open Weekend
4 September	Film Night in The Square
9 September:	Members' Night
13 December:	Christmas Tree Lighting

*Check for further information on [www.ecsra.co.uk](http://www.ecsra.co.uk)*

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019/2020

### JENNIFER WARE

**D**uring 2019 we lost Jennifer Ware, a long-standing member of our Executive Committee. When Jennifer discovered that a property developer was planning on demolishing many of the beautiful buildings in Earl's Court Square she canvassed everyone and, with the residents' support, approached the Greater London Council to stop the works starting. She was instrumental in having the buildings in the Square being designated as listed – a lasting legacy. Having lived here for most of her life Jennifer knew the Square's history and could recount tales of the fascinating characters who frequented its streets. Jennifer remained an active member of our Committee, who always had her finger on the pulse, insisted on "Earl's" having its apostrophe and who is sorely missed at our meetings. ECSRA is planning a scheme to erect our own wall plaques to commemorate notables who lived in the Square - and Jennifer's will be our first plaque. (see page 11)

### Earl's Court Exhibition Centre Update

APG and Delancey have acquired Capco's interest in the Earl's Court site. This deal excludes Lillie Square, returns the Estates to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and TfL retain their 37% shareholding.

After years of uncertainty, with residents having to put up with dust and disturbance and an undeveloped site, it gives the Council an opportunity to provide the homes we need for our low paid key workers or young professionals who wish to buy, and elderly who need residential care/extra care/nursing homes. The community also lost an Exhibition Centre, to which people attached a certain sense of pride and joy. It helped bring business and funds into the borough. It was a place "to go" right on your doorstep and we feel this should be replaced with a new world class Exhibition Centre.

Until the start of construction, residents would like to see green areas designated for community use within the apron area as there is a lack of local public playing space for children. It would also be an ideal location for the Sunday Farmers' Market (enabling it to expand) and the plays and films the Earl's Court Community Trust stage for residents during the summer, which would relieve the pressure of hosting these in the Garden Squares. Specifics should be clear and agreed with the community and not for the exclusive use of

residents of the site. I reported on all these issues at the 2019 AGM and raised them with the Council's Leadership Team, on behalf of local residents, at the RBKC's Listening Forum last March.

The Council now has an opportunity to restructure this site and ECSRA will continue to lobby for residents' concerns to be addressed. We are pleased to have been invited by Stafford Lancaster, a lead member of the new project team, to attend a meeting to discuss ECSRA's concerns.

Please let me have any ideas you would like me to put forward

### **RBKC Joined-Up Enforcement:**

CREST (Customer & Resident-Focused Environmental Services Transformation). During 2019 we continued to lobby RBKC to strengthen planning and waste disposal enforcement.

The Council is now reviewing how it can deliver more joined-up environmental enforcement services, putting residents at the centre of service provision, and using new technology to improve the management of streets and construction sites. The CREST initially focussed on building sites, and the Construction Management Team went live on 1st April 2019.

The next stage of the project is to review whether the enforcement and engagement functions that are being delivered on streets, in estates, neighbourhoods and parks could be more joined up to further improve delivery.

### **CREST 2 is focusing on:**

- environmental crime (e.g. waste dumping, noise and nuisance)

- community safety (including CCTV and wardens)
- environmental engagement (e.g. idling engines)
- anti-social behaviour (in parks and streets)

I attended the RBKC Resident Conference on Tuesday 21st January. The Council plans to increase its enforcement presence on the streets through a new Warden Team and I will report back to the AGM.

### **ECSRA Events 2019**

We have, once again, held four events for residents. The AGM at The Gojk, the BBQ/Disco in the Garden, a USA-themed "Night In Nashville" exclusively for Members' and their friends in The Bottlery and "The Lighting of the Christmas Tree with Carols" in the Garden.

All these events provided an opportunity for residents of the Square to get to know their neighbours and we would like to thank all who attended for their continued support (see page 21).

### **ECSRA AGM 2020**

Our AGM is on Monday 2nd March at 6:30pm at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School. I do hope you will join us to meet the Executive Committee, Ward Councillors and your neighbours to celebrate the New Year with wine and canapés.

Our Guest Speaker will be Acting Police Sergeant Steven Dell from the Metropolitan Police, who will update us on local policing and answer residents' questions. I was advised at the RBKC Resident Conference that there will be an additional 341 police officers (for the combined boroughs of Kensington &



Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster) over the next twelve months. The precise allocation for each area has not been determined to date.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our AGM - to which all residents are invited.

ECSRA would be delighted to receive residents' feedback and suggestions to help us ensure that Earl's Court Square remains a great place to live.

Best wishes

**Chrissie Courtney - Chair**

**Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.**  
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## **The Executive Committee**

Currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Chrissie Courtney - Chairman  
 Andrew Foster  
 Christine Powell - Environment  
 David Ramsden  
 Alex Tullett - Hon. Treasurer

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

Heidi Bradner - Rubbish & Recycling  
 Shailesh Katyal  
 Sue Lupton - Magazine Editor  
 Mariaclara Vilona  
 Maria Xirou - Membership Secretary

Offering herself up for election to the Committee at the AGM:

Magda Zawisza



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## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

An unusual photograph has been forwarded from Jennifer Ware's collection. Photographed from the second floor of no. 19 it shows a huge procession of soldiers, sailors and military bandmen marching through the Square.

Investigation with the Senior Curator of collections for the National Army Museum in Chelsea replied as follows:

*"I would be inclined to agree with your dating of the photograph to the 1940s as battledress is being worn with peaked caps by the personnel in the foreground of the image".*

*"It is however not possible to identify the event which led to Earl's Court Square being on the route of a march. It is possible that this could be a Church Parade or a parade to raise funds for the war effort, or a remembrance celebration, a VE Day celebration as you suggest, or possibly a rehearsal for the Royal Tournament, which was based at Olympia at this time, moving to Earl's Court Exhibition Centre in 1950".*

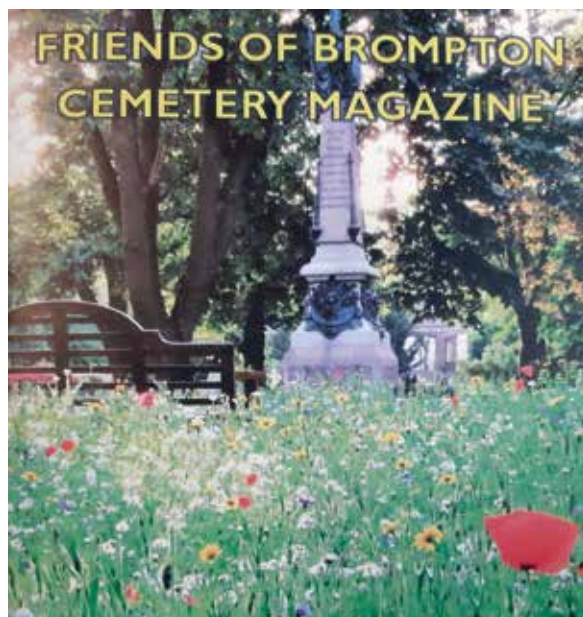


The Royal Tournament was the world's largest military tattoo and pageant, a showcase of Britain's Military power and prowess since 1880 which came to an end in 1992. With the reduction of military costs, and declining ticket sales, the services decided they could no longer free up the 2,500 personnel needed to run the show for the traditional three weeks in Earl's Court.

Soldiers, sailors and airman took part. The mass bands and pageantry of the Royal Military Tattoo ended with a field gun race, a competition which relates back to the relief of Ladysmith in 1900 by Royal Navy gunners during the Boer War. This annual summer event was a highlight for many people and their children across the country.

*If anyone has any knowledge of this occasion, please contact the editor: [sue@suelupton.com](mailto:sue@suelupton.com)*

## FRIENDS OF BROMPTON CEMETERY



**B**rompton Cemetery is on our doorstep and some of us refer to it as our nearest park to get exercise.

It is managed by the Royal parks, who work in very close association with the Friends. The Royal Parks have been responsible for managing the cemetery for many decades, but until recently gave it very little priority.

From 1997 the Friends, initially a tiny volunteer force, worked to recover it from neglect with severe overgrowth and bad anti-social behaviour, and gradually improved the scene until it reached a stage when the Royal Parks decided to apply for and were awarded substantial Lottery money.

They have done a wonderful job of restoration, with much help from the Friends who are delighted that good

strategies are now in place for business development, landscape improvement, monument repairs, interpretation and information for the public and numerous other aspects for improvement, all enshrined in a contract between the Royal Parks and the Lottery organisations. — “a very welcome situation” says Arthur Tait, Chairman of the Friends.

Visible to the public is the reduction of some 6ft bramble stands with clematis and honeysuckle in their place. 200,000 bulbs were planted in the last two years and this year, included snowdrops, bluebells, narcissi, and also foxgloves. This will cheer the area up. It's good to see the snowdrops are out now.

There was a wildflower meadow planted with the help of The Friends, school children and Chelsea Pensioners near the Pensioners' memorial. The project



was called “Battlefields to Butterflies” with a plaque placed on a colonnade wall to celebrate the gardeners in the Royal Parks and Osborne House who died in WW1. Celebrations were held, linking the rich heritage of historical and listed monuments, with the Cemetery’s new landscape, biodiversity and community engagement priorities.

The National Lottery visits the Cemetery regularly to ensure the funds are being properly spent. With the Royal Parks committed to the Cemetery’s future, the aim is to make it self-financing in years to come.

More funerals, and other public events in the Chapel are part of this plan --there were for instance fifteen art exhibitions and five concerts there last year. There are now about 100 active volunteers among

the 500 Friends of Brompton Cemetery, some more active than others, and the target for this year is to increase this up to 150 Friends so that the Information Centre can be open 7 days a week.

Currently open 3 days a week, 2,500 people came through to ask about graves, picking up literature and other queries last year. The Information Centre is positioned opposite the café in the north part of the cemetery, nearest Earl’s Court Square.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in the Cemetery the first point of contact is Ann Mulcare on email. [eliann42@btinternet.com](mailto:eliann42@btinternet.com) You can discuss if you would be best suited to helping in the Information Centre, the chapel, research, gardening or other activities of particular interest.



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## THE EARL'S COURT FILM FESTIVAL ➡

**T**he Earl's Court Film Festival For those of you new to the area, we are entering our 6th year of the Earl's Court Film Festival. The 'shorts' as they are called are shown and evaluated by professionals in film, TV and theatre.

Up to 16 short films are shown over a period of two weeks in different locations in November each year and a winner chosen. If you wish to be placed on the email listing for publicity, contact Caroline Tod Richardson on [carolinetod@aol.com](mailto:carolinetod@aol.com).

*Directors of the Earl's Court Film Festival, pictured right, are: Toby Brown, Caroline Todd Richardson and Sean Duffy.*

## A NEW POST OFFICE, STEPS AWAY FROM EARL'S COURT SQUARE

**M**any lamented the closure of the Post Office two years ago, by the Earl's Court tube, but were fortunate enough to have Mailboxes Etc. do a posting service for us. And they still do, along with a personal mail box service, printing and other useful services.

But last year Krystal Express negotiated to open a Post Office on their premises. The shops and restaurants in our area have suffered since the footfall fell with the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre closing. So, extending services was important to Krystal Express.

They rationalised the food brands they carry and made good space for Post Office services. There are many people using it and it's very helpful for bringing people to our part of Earl's Court. So let's hope our businesses all benefit.



## THE SW5 THEATRE GROUP

**T**he SW5 Theatre Group is for residents who enjoy seeing plays and meeting neighbours. Whether you are on your own or with a partner, all are welcome who live in the area.

Tickets are around £20 and shows are mainly in the local fringe theatres.

For further information, please email: [SW5theatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:SW5theatregroup@gmail.com).

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# JENNIFER WARE



## THE LATE JENNIFER WARE AND HER IMPACT LOCALLY

Jennifer was born in January 1923 in 19 Earl's Court Square and grew up there. She died in April 2019 aged 87 in the same house, now converted to flats. The family have lived in the Square since 1908 running and owning the White House Hotel which spanned No's 15, 17 and 19 with an annex at No. 12. This was the place that neighbours met regularly, and artistic folks frequented. The hotel was sold in the property crash of 1972. When flat conversions took place, 19a was purchased by the Ware's and became 'operation central' as Jennifer knew everything that happened in Earl's Court.

Jennifer married David Ware, an RAF Squadron-Leader and WWII war hero. They travelled after the War on secondments to Rhodesia and America. Their four daughters were born by the time they returned to Earl's Court Square in 1963.

Jennifer's impact on Earl's Court Square is legendary. Arguably she is the reason we enjoy the beautiful place it is to live now. She mainly lead from behind to make others reach success, but if it hadn't been for her planning interest and swift response we could have had a parking area in the middle of the Square and a large portion of the north west arm of the Square demolished and who knows what erected. This was 1974 and the Square was a sorry sight,



but our buildings although dirty from the London smog, were to be treasured.

When Jennifer heard that property speculators were planning to bring a ball and chain to knock down the buildings in days, she leafleted everyone in the Square to warn them and gate-crashed the Greater London Council office to get a stop order. Within 48 hours she was able to stop the destruction of the buildings by brandishing the GLC paper in front of the demolition men and machines on the Monday morning and just in the 'nick of time'.

So that the protection of the Square could be ongoing, Jennifer is credited with starting the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA) which was formed after this episode. This was followed soon after by the creation of a Garden Sub-Committee, to concentrate on the garden, whereas ECSRA would protect and enhance the lives of people living in the Square beyond the garden area. David Ware was elected as the first Chairman from 1974-1976.

With the help of committee member Pamela Case, enough votes were collected from residents to recognise this Square a conservation area. ECSRA continues today with an active committee. One of whom, David Ramsden, who was a founder ECSRA Member. We are happy to say he is still on the committee to this day.

Jennifer was a well-known committed Liberal Democrat. Politics were a life-long passion and the family would spend many mealtimes in energetic debates and ideas. Jennifer always struck one as political but fair, as she would listen to all sides.



In the 70's she helped to form the Green Liberal Democrats, well before green was fashionable. They campaigned to stop lead in petrol.

She was on Party policy panels, a council candidate and GLC candidate in her time. In the 1975 election, Jennifer took on the huge task of 80,000 envelopes to be hand addressed, leaflet inserted and put into the Post Office 'walk sort'. Tony Somers who spoke at Jennifer's funeral remembers Jennifer having endless patience, charm and good humour that built up team spirit. "A tour de force".

In the 70s and 80s Earl's Court had many cheap B&B lodgings. At one point in the 80s there were around 1,000 children under 14 living in these family lodgings with very little money.

Jennifer became an influential trustee of St Cuthbert's Centre by St. Cuthbert's Church. It became a walk-in centre for the disadvantaged in the area and her family remember her doing Christmas dinners for the children and latterly the elderly.



Jennifer and other volunteers would cook at home and bring the turkeys, veg and roast potatoes to the centre each Christmas. She was involved in activity there up until just a few years ago. Fr. Paul remembers Jennifer and Sheila Kemp in their 80s, serving lunch to the elderly who were younger than them. With that foundation and years of commitment, St Cuthbert's continues to this day providing food for the homeless and vulnerable in society, under the management now of the Felix Project, where between 60 to 80 people are now being fed daily.

To further help the disadvantaged locally, Jennifer started Response Community Projects in the early 80's. This was to help people with emotional and educational support, particularly to learn to communicate in English.

For some years Response created and ran a local Earl's Court newspaper. Today 30 years later Response is still going, located on the Old Brompton Road opposite the Cemetery and ably run by Linda Ogbuehi. The *raison d'être* remains close to Jennifer's aim, to support the most vulnerable individuals with education and general wellbeing.

During this time Jennifer was part of ECNA, the Earl's Court Neighbourhood Association, which was a group that included other residents' associations in the area. Planning was a big focus of this group's activities.

Hilary Temple formed the Cromwell Road Residents' Association and between them were a formidable team, Hilary who is now 96 having qualified as a Civil Engineer. They got involved in any sort of development, the red route and Tesco

build were the big ones of the day. Hilary remembers Jennifer writing a very sound paper on hostels and hotels. Linda Wade was also involved with her Residents' Association. Hilary says she remembers Jennifer giving wonderful hospitality and warmth. You could say anything to her. She always had time for you. She never wanted to be in the front, she was the power that drove everything.

The Kensington Council Planning Officers would change every two to three years and were terrified of her as Jennifer knew all the notifications and where to put her hands on the information. So they couldn't get away with anything that wasn't deemed good for the area.

When ECNA became unwieldy the Earl's Court Society (ECS) was formed. Jennifer was secretary and her friend Hilary the Treasurer. I remember Jennifer would be working in her 'bolt-hole' office, stacked to the gunnels with paperwork, well past midnight most nights on ECS detailed work and all the other projects she was involved with at the time.

Jennifer was a great hoarder of information and anything and everything 'useful' was dutifully kept. It's amazing what her flat at 19a could hold. Much of it is now in the RBKC Library archive.

It was during the running of Response Community Projects that Jennifer was instrumental in creating an Earl's Court summer festival that ran for some 15 years with a village feel to it.

In 2007 it was registered in a separate entity, The Earl's Court Festival, when The Earl's Court Community Trust (ECCT) was formed. Jennifer along with

five other residents and two local priests formed the committee. Jennifer was 'the glue' that made this happen. In the summer of 2011, it became a month-long Festival with 40 events. Today the ECCT from its hub at 1 Nevern Place supports local people who wish to put on events. Toby Brown is the Chairman and in his own right is the driving force behind The Earl's Courtiers' and the wonderful plays to entertain us throughout the year.

Jennifer still active on the committee until six months before her passing, was the driving force behind The Court Newspaper which is run out of the ECCT hub. Several of us were summoned monthly to distribute hard copies in our blocks. The distribution continues and is now mainly by email.

All sorts of other activities had Jennifer's hand in it.

The Strawberry Tea Party held in Earl's Court Square each summer for the elderly, with the help of many volunteers, continued for many years and was another wonderful occasion for people to look forward to in the wider Earl's Court community.

Sandwiches, scones, cakes, strawberries and cream were given to all at no charge. All produce was donated by our local stores, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, who had had the 'Jennifer persuasion'. Entertainment was laid on and deck chairs erected. It regularly got 150 people attending. This could continue but currently needs a volunteer team leader.





At this point, readers please note that Earl's Court has an apostrophe. Woe betide anyone if the apostrophe was missing. A longer version of the reason is available, but this communication to the Senior Highways Maintenance Engineer in 2014 thanking him for taking on board the preservation of our original York paving when repairs or renewal came onto their list to replace them, sums it up.

*"Firstly your letters etc. and communications from your department omit the apostrophe from before the 's' in Earl's Court. This is not sentiment, there are sound historical and grammatical reasons why we are Earl's Court. The manorial Court House of the Earl of Oxford was roughly where Old Manor Yard is now. It was a Court in the same sense as a Magistrates' Court: a place where disputes were settled, fines handed out and rents paid. Maps, public signage and official documents for the past 300 years have an apostrophe before the 's'."*

Although the Square is now in the comparatively happy position of having

full Conservation Area status, ECSRA which Jennifer served on from inception till her death continues to fight for the conservation and, where necessary, replacement of original features, such as the capitals, dentil friezes, cornices, mouldings, finials and other architectural features of the Square.

A welcome victory for preservation was our coal hole covers. Beautifully designed plates with 'star' and 'octifloral', designs were created in the first half of the 19th century.

It was Jennifer on the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association committee in 2005 who first alerted our Council, protesting vigorously that they were disappearing with pavement repairs and being replaced by plain ones with Durey on them. Once alerted, our Council officers were reactive, and contractors were instructed to save old plates and where possible to re-instate them. This is now the declared practice throughout the Royal Borough

In the 45 years of its existence ECSRA has done battle on behalf of residents over all aspects of life in the Square from heritage to rubbish, taking in traffic, parking, bike racks, motorbike bays, security, pollution, antisocial behaviour and liaison with external bodies such as the Earl's Court Society and the Kensington Society.

In 2011 our Residents' Association was awarded a Gold Standard by the Royal Borough. This distinction is awarded to Residents' Associations which have performed outstandingly.

Jennifer has been a key member throughout, participating and making sure we had the right Chairman, with her legendary persuasiveness.



*Strawberry Tea Party volunteers*

At every annual BBQ she was on the gate greeting us locals and taking the money. At every Christmas tree lighting she would buy and heat the mince pies and made sure the children had sweets and chocs on the tree as a little present. At every Members evening Jennifer was there to support. Jennifer was tireless, selfless, supportive of her neighbours and hugely persuasive.

To quote Keith Clancy, in his address to the congregation in St Cuthbert's Church in April 2019, a founder Trustee of the

Earl's Court Community Trust, who was apprehended by *'this imperious woman who persuaded him to join and develop the arts in Earl's Court'*.

*"Something happened that I had not predicted, Jennifer became our Earl's court Mum, the natural Mother of Earl's court who like all Mum's drove you mad with her requests at times but like all loving Mum's, in return by those around her, Jennifer was deeply loved and deeply respected, in equal measure. Years rolled on and somehow without us really knowing how it had happened, we had become a family".*

To quote Cllr. Wade in her address, *"Jennifer has been such a strong presence in Earl's Court for so long that it is hard to overestimate her influence, as she was involved in so many aspects of local life". "One of her many talents was being able to identify opportunities and bring different people or organisations together to achieve an end"*.

She was awarded the Mayor's Community Award for Kensington and Chelsea and put others up for recognition too. Having written this piece for the ECSRA Magazine, I believe it is a missed opportunity that we didn't put our own, Jennifer Ware up for a Queen's Award.

It was thought her funeral was quite the most glamorous and interesting that most of us had ever been to, with wonderful singing and appreciations from people from all walks of life.

*A write up in the Times by Cilla Ware, plus appreciations from Cllr. Linda Wade, Keith Clancy and Tony Somers are on the ECSRA Website.*



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## GARDEN MATTERS



Continued thanks are due to Charlie Woods and his team and, especially, to Anna Surdacka, pictured, who continue to cherish the garden. We are grateful for their professionalism and their generosity to the garden. We still have red roses, white and pink camellias and the winter cherries in flower amongst many other flowers.

Our aim for year-round interest is working, and the micro-climate that is Earl's Court Square helps. We tried with dahlias and hollyhocks again in the summer and some worked but most disappeared! We won't give up and are aware that after the glories of the spring the mid-late summer can seem rather dull in comparison. We continue to believe in flowers that smell and fruit trees that fruit and this year we had grapes, apples and almonds to harvest and for the birds to enjoy.

The new compost bins have been a major investment and look tidier from outside and inside the square. They are being managed so that the compost can be turned from one bin to another accelerating the decomposition allowing the final product to be used in the garden. We do have to buy compost in but it is good to know that we can utilise as much as we can, although we do still have to have garden waste removed as so much is generated and we cannot have a bonfire, not least because the smoke from a bonfire acts in the same way as smoke from barbecues and





goes straight into people's homes and lingers!

The shed has full guttering and water barrels on both sides and will have a path around the edge to avoid the damp getting into the wood. The new gravel has improved the paths hugely and we will top this up as and when necessary. We have also given the play area a bit of a service, replacing the broken rocker and rubbing down the wooden frame, re-staining it and replacing the broken screws and bolts. Our Square was chosen again to be part of the Open Garden Squares Weekend in June with musicians from the Royal College of Music entertaining us during the weekend.

Many guests come back on the Sunday because they had enjoyed themselves so much on the Saturday and we owe many thanks to Stacy Bouvier and her house guests and to Kevin Colgan, Simone Smith, Maurya Murphy and her daughters, for manning the tea urn and the entry table allowing us to welcome visitors. We have been chosen again to be part of the event for 2020 (6th and 7th June) and all offers of help are always gratefully received.



As many people know, Jennifer Ware died last year and to remember these friends of the Square, the Sub-Committee has decided to invest in structures to remember them. We have finally commissioned replacement iron rose-arches in the Square for Jennifer and her late husband David. Jennifer loved the idea when I mentioned it to her several years ago and it should be noted that the large arch on the south side of the garden was erected in memory of Jennifer's mother Peggy Lang.

Plans are in hand to manage the installation around the existing roses planted for Peggy so with luck they will continue to flower in all their glory next summer supported by the new arches.

We would like to install an ornamental obelisk in the cottage garden on the west side of the Square to remember Victor Smith.

*Katrina Quinton*



## In Memory of Victor Smith

**V**ictor died in May after a long spell in hospital. Many friends from the Square were able to be with Simone and the family at his funeral. Victor Smith was a very long-standing member of the Garden Sub-Committee, head gardener for 25 years and an integral part of Earl's Court Square.

Victor always enjoyed the garden and for many years after he closed his Obelisk Gallery, worked in the garden not just mowing the lawn and mending the gates but also managing the keys and everything in between. His wry humour and sense of fun made meetings a delight and buying plants together was always such fun.



He was always encouraging me to go a little bit further than I felt I should – but if Victor agreed off we went! I think Victor's gardening principles were, if in doubt have a go! He loved being in the garden whether with a spade in hand or with a glass of wine in the evening. Entertaining was part of life and he was always there for Open Squares weekends from the beginning with his trusty cash box.

*Katrina Quinton,  
Chairman ECS Garden sub-Committee.*

## Earl's Court Square RA BBQ



*The guest table at our annual summer BBQ*

Our annual 'bring your own' summer BBQ and disco in the garden square had excellent attendance in June. We started earlier at 5.00pm so that the children could meet our local Earl's Court police and play with some of the things they brought along (see page 26).

The music ended at 11pm to abide by the Licencing Regulations. The Earl's Court Residents' Association Committee erected and lit 5 BBQ's one of which was vegan friendly. People brought their own drinks, rugs or picnic tables and food for the BBQ. Local Councillors came and residents brought guests.

It is the largest event the ECSRA organise in the year where all residents are welcome. Please put the 20 June in your diary for this year. If you don't know anyone, head for the large table in the south side of the Square hosted by committee member Sue Lupton. You will find a welcome there from the group.

## ECSRA Members Evening

Our themed Members' evening was 'A Night in Nashville'. The September weather was suspect, so our local Bottlery Steak & Oyster Bar stepped up for us at the last minute. Aperitif and wine flowed plus American foods in abundance.

The Country and Western band cheerfully singing and playing in the background helped the happy occasion. The Bottlery staff dressed the part and hosted us wonderfully. It was a quality evening with Members enjoying themselves.



# PRIVATE DOCTOR SERVICE



## ZAFASH MIDNIGHT 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 until midnight, including bank holidays, 365 days in the year, to meet an unmet requirement, the team are efficient, helpful and available.

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



**Zafash Pharmacy services**  
**Zafash Private Doctor services,**  
**NHS 111 services**

.....

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

## NHS 111 calls for Community Pharmacist Consultation Services (CPCS)

NHS 111 calls for Community Pharmacist Consultation Services (CPCS). We are most fortunate to have Zafash Pharmacy located at the lights on the corner of Earl's Court Road and The Old Brompton Road accredited for CPCS which is the dial 111 NHS medical emergency service.

There are two functions of CPCS. One is the consultation of minor illnesses, pharmacist consultation and prescriptions. And the second is the request to the pharmacy for emergency supply. This service was set up in October 2019 where trained pharmacists can do consultations for minor illnesses, to enable quick patient help, to relieve GP surgeries and emergency A&E services.

Zafash is not the only pharmacy with CPCS status but is the only one south of the Borough that is open from 8.00am till midnight. To date they are the highest provider of 111 services in England and

have had more than 100 people use the service, which is currently 10 times more than others.

The owner Mr Zafar Khan, MBE, estimates that 60% of calls have been for emergency supplies and 40% for consultation. The pharmacy gets email and phone alerts from NHS 111 to action what may be necessary. They have access to summary care records should a person travelling have left their meds behind. With the persons permission they can check up on what they are taking.

Mainly it involves chronic conditions such as heart meds, insulin, inhalers should prescriptions be necessary. Out of hours doctors find Zafash important too for medical supplies and as part of the 111-emergency service. Zafash are an NHS nominated pharmacy for palliative care and maintain a list of medicines for this end of life service.

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## A NOTE FROM THE ECSRA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Please renew your membership or join the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA). The Membership Form is on the inside back cover.

Do note that the ECSRA Membership is different to the garden access. The Garden Sub-Committee is responsible for everything within the gated garden.

The ECSRA Committee is responsible for supporting residents' concerns and upkeep, external to the garden gates. Our raison d'être is 'protecting and enhancing

Earl's Court Square and the lives of the people who live and work here'. To help with subsidising events and other needs that crop up, there is a small Membership Fee annually of £8.00 for an individual member and £12.00 for a family/household membership.

Do contact us if you are able to help with our events.

**Email Maria Xirou**  
**ECSRA Membership Secretary**  
**[ecsrasmembers@hotmail.com](mailto:ecsrasmembers@hotmail.com)**



## ‘COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE WOMAN’

**T**hursday 5th December witnessed the biggest erection seen in Earl’s Court Square for some time. The Christmas tree arrived just after nine o’clock, and six nervous males were loitering, having volunteered.

It took all our strength to get it out of the lorry, and carry it across the grass. Oddly the experts who had supplied the tree had come armed with only a few bits of string – no crane. The task was clearly Herculean, and none of the local geriatric males came in that category. And then the Garden Committee Chairman stepped forward and showed why she is a worthy holder of that post. *“Use the bags of gravel to build a small mountain which can then act as a fulcrum. Tie the string around the upper parts of the tree and heave”*

“Thank you Katrina” was muttered sotto voce. Slight progress, but still a long way from success. Quite simply, we had need of more Y chromosomes and a lot more testosterone. Once again our valiant Chairman sprang to the rescue. She had spotted a building site on the corner of the square with four YOUNG muscle bound males. She set off and using her X chromosomal charm soon returned with four nervous workmen.

Nobody says “No” to this Chairman. They were brilliant and after muttering only a few Polish proverbs, the tree was nearly vertical. They were each rewarded with a mince pie, freshly hand made.

At this point the Chair of the Residents’ Association came into her own. Until now, she had been holding her piece of string as if there was a dog at the end rather than



a 40ft spruce. Now her judgment about degrees left / right / back / forward was invaluable. And then JOY the plastic netting was cut away and the perfect tree in all its glory was revealed – perfectly balanced.

The piece de resistance was the star on the summit. Three days later came the official switching on of the illuminations. A massed crowd assembled to sup the lethal brew emerging from the corner flat and listen to the Earl’s Courtiers choir beautifully singing familiar carols.

We hope to have recovered from strained backs and punctured egos at the dismantling on 5th January. Chelsea & Westminster A&E is still on standby.





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280 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9HR

T: 020 3984 9895

## Police & Emergency



*Earls Court officers had a really nice day on Saturday meeting the residents from Earls Court Square.....Great food and music at the annual BBQ*

### **Police: Earls Court Hub: 020 87212003**

Non-emergency - dial 101  
textphone 18001 101  
Emergency - always dial 999  
textphone 18000

Our dedicated Ward Officer is:  
Acting Police Sergeant Steven Dell.  
steven.dell2@met.penn.police.uk

### **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.

We hope that you will join us at our AGM where Steven Dell will be our guest speaker.

### **Rubbish Update & Recycling.**

ECSRA actively monitored rubbish hot spots on the square throughout 2019:

Here is some of the work we do:  
Each year we arrange with the Council to remove the abandoned bicycles, locks and other items, within the ECSRA area.

ESCRA posted signs on the square to notify residents that there would be 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.

ECSRA and RBKC Enforcement met over the course of 2019 to walk around the square to work together to stop rubbish dumping.

Good results from 2019 include getting an A board no dumping sign back in front



of 312 that had been removed. This spot continues to remain a problem spot for dumping. Together with local residents, who sent many complaints to Streetline, we helped to keep rubbish near number 1 from worsening, as this is also a hotspot for dumping on the square. The situation on the square has improved over the years, but careless dumping still remains a constant problem on our streets.

Aims for 2020 include continuing to stop dumping at these spots. We have organized a volunteer group, led by Heidi Bradner, 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:  
[ecsrachair@btinternet.com](mailto:ecsrachair@btinternet.com)

## Recycling

Please dispose of expired, unused medications at a local chemist, so they don't 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

General Info: We are fortunate to have two collections a week. Earl's Court Square Rubbish collections are Monday and Thursday mornings. Please put your waste out before 7 am but not the night before or use your vault.

Please do not leave bags on the pavement at night, because foxes break into the food waste and spread rubbish over the pavement.

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

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](mailto: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” to report rubbish dumping or dog waste.

### Freecycle

Freecycle is a service that advertises and recycles unwanted and used items online for free to keep things out of the landfill.

Visit the Freecycle website;  
<https://www.freecycle.org/>  
for further information.

### TRAID

Do you have any small-medium electrical items or unwanted clothes you want to get rid of? TR Aid the recycling charity, will collect your unwanted small-medium electrical items (like kettles and toasters) and clothes for free.

For more information and to book a collection visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/traid](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/traid).  
For more information about recycling, and services available to reduce and reuse your waste, please visit:  
[www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling).

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.

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## ... and Finally



### Sunday Farmers Market

Our Sunday Farmers Market brings the freshest of bread with lots of variety. Wonderful cuts of meat, best of eggs and farm fresh full cream milk. The vegetable stall does good trade and niche stalls can turn up for cheese and handmade cakes. With local support it will continue.

Please do support the Farmers Market on Sundays in the School grounds.



# EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

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## MEMBERSHIP FORM 2020

### PLEASE SUPPORT US BY JOINING YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us have an up-to-date email address to enable us to contact you.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ecsrmembers@hotmail.com)

\* *Please delete as appropriate*

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 2nd March at 6pm for 6.30 start to 9pm**

## **Venue**

**The Children's Centre, Main Room,**  
ground floor of St. Cuthbert with St. Matthias School  
London SW5 9JA

## **Guest Speaker**

**Acting Police Sergeant Steven Dell**  
Earl's Court Dedicated Ward Officer  
Metropolitan Police – Kensington & Chelsea

## **FREE**

**All residents welcome**  
Wine & Canapés provided

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## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM
3. Chairman's Report and Questions & Answers
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Executive Committee
6. Any other business
7. Guest speaker - Acting Police Sergeant Steven Dell
8. Wine & Canapés

Please use the magazine membership form on the reverse to renew your membership for 2020 or to join if you are not yet a member. Subscription rates are £8 or £12 for a family/household.

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