

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 8 March 2018 at 8.00 pm

### Venue

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

### Special Guest Speaker:

**Nigel Thorne**  
Project Manager for the Brompton Cemetery Restoration Project

### FREE

Wine and canapés/Cash Bar  
*All residents welcome*

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM
3. Chairman's Report: Questions & Answers
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Changes to the Constitution
6. Election of the Executive Committee
7. Any Other Business
8. Guest Speaker - Nigel Thorne, Project Manager for the Brompton Cemetery Restoration Project

Please use the magazine membership form on the reverse to renew your membership for 2018 or to join if you are not yet a member. Subscription rates are £6 or £9 for a family/household.

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# 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 | 2018

### On behalf of Earl's Court Square residents, we:

Monitor Rubbish & Recycling  
Comment on Planning Applications & Transport issues  
Liaise with Police & Council  
Have a Members Only section on our website: [www.ecsra.co.uk](http://www.ecsra.co.uk)  
Organise four annual social events for residents.

### Social Events 2018:

8 March: Annual General Meeting  
30 June: Earl's Court Square BBQ and Disco  
8 September: Members Only Greek Themed Evening  
9 December: Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

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

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

## JOHN D WOOD & CO

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We are delighted to be sponsoring the Earl's Court Square resident's association magazine for another year. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of you at your Italian event in the summer and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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## 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 2018

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:

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### 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 2, 61 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 9DG

\*

*Please delete as appropriate*

### The Executive Committee

ECSRA Executive Committee

Currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Chrissie Courtney (Chairman)

Andrew Foster

Christine Powell

David Ramsden

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

Heidi Bradner

Sue Lupton

Alex Tullett (Hon. Treasurer)

Mariacarla Vilona

Jennifer Ware

Maria Xirou was co-opted onto the Executive Committee last year. She has offered herself for election to the Committee

### Are you interested in an Emergency First Aid Training Course?

The Kensington Society ran a very successful course in November which was sold out. They are wondering if we would like to join forces and do another.

These Public Education and Resuscitation training courses are run by the London Ambulance, and are free! Their website is: [www.londonambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk)

They can only take 12 people at a time because of the number of dummies to practise on. As there was such a good response, The Kensington Society is aiming to do another one soon.

Should you wish to join a group, contact Chrissie at : [ecsrachair@btinternet.com](mailto:ecsrachair@btinternet.com)



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**2017** was a busy year for ECSRA. We lobbied the Police and our local Ward Councillors about the increase in anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and rough sleepers in the Square.

This resulted in a two-month drug operation in Earl's Court to combat drug related crimes and ASB. During this time there were 25 arrests, 75 Stop and Searches, 3 drug address closures/evictions and an 80 - 90% drop in complaints about drug issues from residents.

Despite the efforts of all of our Ward Councillors, the RA has been frustrated by the lack of enforcement by RBKC in relation to refuse collection, planning and pest control. There seems to be no appetite to prosecute repeat offenders or to issue Community Protection Notices, which continues to frustrate our residents. CPNs were introduced as part of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to also punish households that break local rules on recycling/rubbish disposal as a result of this sort of unreasonable behaviour, which has a negative effect on the local community. Anyone who receives a Notice must comply or faces being taken to court, fined and given a criminal record. Fixed Penalty Notices can also be issued on the spot.

One of the worst "hotspots" for rubbish dumping is in the SE Arm, which is exacerbated by the increase in short-term lettings. As requested, RBKC installed a CCTV camera to identify/prosecute fly tippers. We are therefore mystified to be advised that current borough policy states that CCTV cannot be used to identify and prosecute offenders. The SE Arm also hosts an on-going cockroach infestation. To date, RBKC Pest Control seem unable to control this health hazard.

Then there are the problems with the development of 1A where RBKC's Planning and Building Control Departments did not identify that the sewer connection necessitated a 20-day closure of the exit onto Earl's Court Road. We found it surprising that this was not addressed in the Traffic Management Plan on which the RA was consulted. The RA and most of the residents were therefore unprepared for an extremely inconvenient road closure with virtually no consultation or prior warning.

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The RA shares these frustrations with our residents and wrote to the Leader of RBKC in September detailing the apparent lack of enforcement. Sadly, we have not received a satisfactory reply, addressing our residents' concerns, and we wrote again in November and December asking for these to be addressed. We await a response. In the meantime, the Committee is meeting the Centre for Public Scrutiny (who are reviewing the decision-making processes at RBKC and making sure the views of residents are heard and included as part of the review findings) on 23 January.

ECSRA has been active during the past year organising four well attended events to encourage residents to meet and to welcome new residents to the Square. Our sincere thanks to the Garden Sub-Committee for their continued support and the use of the beautiful Earl's Court Square Gardens for most of our annual events.

We hope you will consider joining or renewing your Membership to the RA in 2018 to enable us to continue to represent residents' interests and make life better for all the residents of Earl's Court Square. Our website [www.ecsra.co.uk](http://www.ecsra.co.uk) details our many activities, has photographs of our events and lots of information, both past and present, about the Square with a dedicated section for Members.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.



**Chrissie Courtney**  
Chair

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

## PLANNING, LICENCING, TRAFFIC & PARKING



As your Executive Committee, we try to keep an eye on what is happening not just within the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association's (ECSRA) foot print, but also the Earl's Court Conservation Area (ECCA) and some of the surrounding areas. The wider area is the remit of the Earl's Court Society. Each week, the RBKC sends us Planning Applications and Decisions along with Tree Applications (pruning, pollarding or felling) for the Earl's Court Ward and surrounding Wards. (*Alex Tullett is our guru and leads us in taking forward the issues requiring attention*).

A lot of our suggestions, either as agreement or objections to, are taken into account as part of the Planning and Licencing discussions with the Council and our Ward Councillors. Occasionally we represent residents at Council Planning Hearings. As can be expected, we win some and we lose some. However, our voice is heard. According to former Ward Councillor Terence Buxton, we have



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## OUR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION



In December, neighbours, songs, cookies, mince pies, award winning mulled wine and merriment filled the square. Sixty folks of all ages came to the garden to partake and celebrate the annual lighting of the Christmas tree.

The carols were beautifully sung by “Sing to Live, Live to Sing”. This is a local group formed as an initiative of the Arts and Health programme of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Arts Service, in partnership with Public Health.

The Christmas tree was a great success. To save on costs for future years the Garden Sub-Committee has kept the magnificent barrel and the slabs, as they can be stored behind the shed without too much trouble rather than paying for new ones each year.

We also have an industrial quantity of fairy lights – over 3,500 lights were used this year!

## SING TO LIVE, LIVE TO SING

Give singing a go with this arts initiative, recruiting new participants to the singing workshops held at St Cuthbert’s Church in Philbeach Gardens. The workshops take place weekly on Tuesdays from 6.45pm to 8.45pm.

Singing can help to improve breathing, relieve stress, develop core muscles and improve posture. It also boosts confidence, encourages a feeling of belonging, and improves overall mood. The Sing to Live, Live to Sing workshops are led by an experienced singing tutor. Workshops are free of charge and open to all residents aged 18 years and over. No previous singing experience is necessary.

To take part contact the Arts Service on 020 7361 3844 or email [arts@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:arts@rbkc.gov.uk) or simply turn up for the workshop and complete a registration form.

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/singtolive](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/singtolive)

a reputation as being rather ‘more active’ than other R.A.’s, which could be read to mean we are sometimes a thorn in the side of the Council.

Input to Traffic and Parking decisions is a little more difficult since in addition to the Council, we have to discuss the issues with Transport for London (TfL), due to the Red Routes surrounding us.

Our efforts often result in successes that can actually be seen or experienced, not just buried in Council files. In 2017 we helped 248 Old Brompton Road in ECSRA, obtain permission to reinstate the under balcony supports made out of moulded fibreglass to visually match what was there, the originals being removed by a WWII bomb. We also managed to persuade TfL to have the numbers 74, N74 and N97 buses stop outside Park House, 227 Earl’s Court Road, from February.

### Then there are the others.

In November a closure of the N. East Arm to traffic was due to the Council not noticing that 1A’s (formerly the 3 garages) sewage pipes could not discharge into those of Northgate House because 1A’s were lower than Northgate House’s. 1A’s contractors and Thames Water had to dig up the road to connect their pipes directly into the main sewer. Apart from a very small number of residents being advised, the disruption involved was not communicated to the rest of the Square’s residents. The Council dropped the ball on this one.

We have noticed an increase in Planning Applications for “garden sheds / rooms” during the year. In themselves these can enhance a garden and its use. Our concerns arise if they are extended and

made into studio flats or something similar, such as ‘beds in a shed’, or short term lets. The Council is aware of the possible issues; however, they cannot or will not do anything unless there is evidence that these garden sheds are being used in a manner that is not acceptable under planning laws. This is an area we will keep under review.

*Alex Tullett (Hon. Treasurer)*

## THE DISAPPEARING BUS SHELTER



Arriving in Earl’s Court in 1964, I did not know about bus shelters. For 30 years I rode my bike to Vauxhall to work every day. Much later buses and kindly shelters became a way of life, a lovely convenience, just outside the Women’s Hostel. But one day in October my favourite shelter was there; the next there was no sign it had ever existed.

Not a mark on the pavement that it had ever been. With my sticks dug into the pavement and my back against the railings to support me, I wondered ‘had I been transported elsewhere?’ Rain drumming down, sticks slipping on wet pavement, I stood unbelieving reality. It was Chrissie from the Earl’s Court Square Residents’ Association who marched into attack ... and our seat has now been replaced!

*Lotti Henley*

## EARLS COURT PROJECT UPDATE



Progress at Earls Court is going well. Last year saw the heavy lifting crane finish its part in helping prepare the site for the construction of new homes and the Lost River Park. The crane was used to lift out the 61 large concrete 'portal beams' from over the rail lines that lay below the former Exhibition Centres.

CAPCO chose this crane specifically to minimise the impact on residents, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the project and to significantly shorten the project timescale.

Compared to other methods, the heavy lifting crane reduced the time this work took by two years.

This year, they remain focussed on finishing the final demolition works before they can begin the enabling works to prepare the main site for construction.

At Lillie Square, traditional garden squares have been taken as inspiration to provide calm pockets of green and recreational space, which residents have enjoyed as the seasons changed. The gardens were designed by Andy Sturgeon, RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medallist and provide a taster of what's to come

Quarterly open days are held at the Project Rooms to keep residents up to date.

[www.myearlscourt.com](http://www.myearlscourt.com)



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## ANNUAL BBQ & DISCO



The Annual July BBQ, blessed with no trace of rain, enticed out a record number of residents and friends gathering to fill the air with meaty and sausage smells: OK there was veg too! People do excel themselves with their picnics, and the music and dancing made for a lovely evening.

## TASTE OF ITALY Members Only Evening

Food features high on the agenda for ECSRA 'Members Only' evenings creating a convivial foundation for all to mix and meet our neighbours. This September we had an Italian themed evening. Viva Italia played delightful accordion tunes in the background and managed to engage a sing-along on occasion.

Marquees were erected in the Garden Square, with Italian flags, bunting and

an Aparol Spritz bar. Antipasti tastings of mixed insalata, frittata, pasta pesto, mozzarella, prosciutto, gorgonzola, bruschetta, prepared by members of the Committee were laid out. In particular Maria Clara is to be thanked, pictured here with her willing helpers. It was a lovely atmosphere. As the moon came up our tents were sparkling. Next September, do join us. We plan to have a Greek themed occasion.



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to everyone who lives within the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area.

The membership subscriptions for 2017 were 87, comprising 40 individuals, 41 family / household with six life members. This compares with 98 in 2016 and is the equivalent of at least 128 members. We also welcomed eight 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.

### Renewing your membership.

A form to renew your membership 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. You may renew your membership or join now or at the AGM on 8 March.

We have a new Membership Secretary, Maria Xirou, who can be contacted on [ecsrasmembers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ecsrasmembers@hotmail.co.uk).



### A note from Maria Xirou

I am the new Membership Secretary of the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA). Christine Powell who remains a member of the Committee and who did a great job for so many years has decided to hand over the responsibility after a great tenure. We owe her a big thank you.

We look forward to seeing current and new members at the AGM at Flora Indigo on 8 March 2018.

The Residents' Association is a separate entity from the Earl's Court Square Garden Committee, although we are very friendly!

For further information about the Garden and application forms for access to the Garden, please refer to their website:

[www.ecsgarden.org.uk](http://www.ecsgarden.org.uk).

Let's all as one, try to pull together to make a great difference and help our area!

**Join the ECSRA.**



# KRYSTAL EXPRESS

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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

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## Environment

Christine Powell represents ECSRA on the RBKC Environmental Round Table, which meets quarterly.

As you might be aware, air pollution has a long-term impact upon the health of people as the majority of the air pollution effects are not immediately obvious. However, symptoms such as unexplained coughing, throat/nasal irritation, sneezing, eye irritation, runny nose etc. can be experienced as an acute/short term effect.

If the air pollution is higher than it should be, going for a walk or other outdoor activities should be avoided. Leaving windows or doors open for air/ventilation are also best avoided.

Together with RBKC, volunteers worked in teams over the summer talking to drivers who were parked but had their engines running. Most drivers willingly received all the information they were given. The most common reasons given by them for idling their engines were:

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

Residents can keep a tab on levels of daily air pollution using Apps such as: Plume, ClearSpace, Airvisual. For more information about air pollution look at the Kings College website: [www.londonair.org.uk](http://www.londonair.org.uk). One of their "control" stations is just outside Couscous Darna.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Streetline contact information:

- To report illegally dumped bags, you can choose any of the following options:  
**Call Streetline on 020 7361 3001.**  
**Email [streetline@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:streetline@rbkc.gov.uk).**
- Download the RBKC local app and use this app to report dumping.
- 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. The price is £31.10 for up to 10 bulky items.  
**Please call 020 7361 3001**

### Furnish Collection contact information:

- To donate good quality household items for re-use, Furnish Collection will collect up to eight items for £24.30. The eight items can be any combination of re-useable household furniture, bags, or boxes containing household items.  
**Contact email: [furnish.collection@sbhg.co.uk](mailto:furnish.collection@sbhg.co.uk) or 020 8996 4772.**

### Freecycle contact information:

- Freecycle is a service that advertises used items online. Visit the [Freecycle](http://www.freecycle.org) website for further information.
- Residents can book to visit Western Riverside Waste Authority for educational tours to learn more about recycling and rubbish in our Borough.  
**Please call 020 8771 2788.**

no rubbish collection on the bank holiday Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 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.

RBKC rubbish enforcement dropped mailings to all residents at 69 and 55 to remind them of collection days. These spots often have illegal dumping on weekends when rubbish is left on the pavement on Saturday or Sunday. Foxes and other vermin break into the bags overnight. We are watching this and working to prevent it.

#### **Recycling:**

Please dispose of expired and/or unused medicines 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 in 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 from water bottles and juice bottles; no yoghurt pot plastic lids. All lids should be placed 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 from going into landfill by just saving them in a jug such as this and dropping them at 123 Kings Road! Only lids from drinks such as milk, water, juice, and soda from plastic bottles or from Tetra Pak cartons are accepted.

#### **General Info:**

##### **Earl’s Court Square Rubbish collections:**

We are fortunate to have two collections a week on Monday and Thursday mornings. Please put rubbish in your vault. Collections begin from 7am, 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 of the collection times.

*Heidi Bradner*



#### **STEPHEN TAYLOR**

**A**fter battling an illness, Stephen Taylor died at Christmas time. Stephen lived in Earl’s Court Square since the early 90’s and loved it. He was a long-time Member of the Residents’ Association and kept his ear to the ground on ‘goings on’. What he loved most about overlooking the Square was that you forgot to be in a metropolis and could feel the changes of the seasons.

Supporting the local community, Stephen always had a smile and ‘hello’ for people in the street and at the Pembroke Pub, which he and his partner Daniele Quilleri frequented before regularly stopping at La Pappardella for a bite to eat.

Stephen had a passion and lived for Cricket! Always around March, he would ask the date of the Square’s annual BBQ, as he was hoping it wouldn’t clash with his cricket fixtures. He didn’t just enjoy the game, he loved his ties, donned his blazer, straw hat, polished shoes and loved doing the ‘dapper’ bit too. So, let’s say cheers to a member of our local community and wish him God speed through the creases.

#### **THE SW5 THEATRE GROUP**

Now in its sixth year, members have seen over 50 quality plays at London’s finest fringe theatres - all within walking distance or a short tube ride from Earl’s Court. Membership of the group is free – the only conditions being that you are over 50 and live in the SW5 postal district.

The organisers, Sharon Robinson and Camilla Nelson propose a play each month and email you. The tickets purchased on your behalf, are under £20 and you pay on the night. The group is friendly, relaxed, often meeting up before or after the play for a light meal or drink to discuss the play and generally what is going on in Earl’s Court.

**Contact Sharon Robinson at:**  
[SW5theatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:SW5theatregroup@gmail.com)

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Liza Read



The Lake Twins

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[www.gallery286.com](http://www.gallery286.com)

## Report on Rubbish Monitoring

ECSRA actively monitored rubbish hot spots on the square throughout 2017. We work with groups of volunteers who stay in touch with each other and with RBKC to chase and stop rubbish dumping at source. If you would like to join this group, please contact us.

Below are some updates from the “war on rubbish dumping” in 2017.

Residents at 45 contacted ECSRA for assistance to get a “no dumping” A-Board placed near the lamppost outside number 45. This location has been a problem for years. Since the board has been installed, far less rubbish gets dumped there, resulting in far fewer cases reported to Streetline.

Another “no dumping” A-board was placed near the lamppost outside number 312 in 2016 and it continued to make a difference in 2017. It remains essential to prevention. However, incidents still occur. There seems to be many short-term lets in the area that contribute to the problem. **Strong enforcement** is still needed and requested by local residents.

ECSRA requested that the Council point its CCTV camera towards this hot spot as a deterrent and enforcement tool. But since CCTV has been directed to view the problem areas, this has not resulted



in identification by the Council of the culprits, despite residents often providing the date and approximate time of dumping.

ECSRA and RBKC Enforcement met to do a “walk about” the Square to work together to stop this perennial problem. After we had been contacted with a complaint that the bin area be maintained in more orderly manner, ECSRA alerted RBKC Enforcement about the paladin area at St Cuthbert with St Matthias CE Primary School. The area is now improved. Thank you to RBKC for contacting those responsible and bringing about this result.

Each year we arrange with the Council to remove the abandoned bicycles, locks or other items, like shopping trolleys, within the ECSRA area. This year five abandoned bikes were removed from the Square. ECSRA posted signs on the Square to notify residents that there was





## Prize Winning Patio in Theft Scandal

Earl's Court Square Garden is one of the joys of SW5 and not unrelated to house prices there.

There is another local garden which is (just) visible to the casual passer by – on the north east corner of the square. It is shielded by a bamboo curtain, but voyeurs can glimpse bizarre bird sculptures, nasturtiums in gay abandon, and the occasional canna lily. Tree ferns and trachycarps seem to be everywhere. The garden won the Silver Medal in the recent Brighter K&C competition.

On the occasion of Open Gardens in June, the owner recognized that while this might not be a major site, visitors and local residents might like to peer over the railings. He accordingly placed a step ladder on the street, and posted a notice inviting spectators to ascend two steps.

Within 60 minutes, in broad daylight, on a Saturday morning, the steps had been stolen! The owner hasn't got over it! And felt he needed to get this off his chest.

*Alan Malcom*

## Crime, ASB & Policing

With crime on the rise and drug dealing, break-ins and rough sleeping in Earl's Court Square, ECSRA contacted its Members in March to advise that there was an increase in criminality due to the closure of a few busy drugs addresses in Earl's Court. The Kenway Road Base is on a list of over a hundred or so bases the MET are intending to close; however,

PC Andy Clough (our Dedicated Ward Officer) advises that *"we haven't been given an exact date, we've been told within two years"*. Staffing for Earl's Court will remain at two PCs and one PCSO for the foreseeable future. The Borough tasking team, which mainly deals with knife crime and gang related crime in the north of the Borough, is funded by the MET.

ECSRA has lobbied on behalf of residents for a more visible police presence. This resulted in PC Clough putting in a bid for increased patrols from the council police team and a two month drug operation from September to November last year. Following the drug operation there have been a number of arrests and an 80%-90% drop in email/airspace about drug issues from the residents.

There have also been a small number of robberies from mopeds and motorbikes using acid and alkali as weapons (mainly in Notting Hill and North of the Borough). Increases in the length of sentences to 5 years and life, has been a significant deterrent.

PC Andy Clough will be attending the ECSRA AGM when he will be pleased to answer residents' queries.

**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 door-steps. **020 7341 5210/020 7938 8211**  
**email: [streetoutreach@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:streetoutreach@rbkc.gov.uk)**.  
 They have asked that you contact them before the Police.





## GARDEN NEWS

**W**ith the return of Anna, the garden has continued to flourish in her very capable hands assisted by other members of the team belonging to Charles Wood. The summer flowering was lovely and as the garden was tidied up for the winter not only did we add many tons of fertiliser, but we were also able to use our own compost which is very satisfying. What we are putting back into the soil is really showing in the improved quality of the soil and hence the plants that are coming through.

Many hundreds of tulips and daffodils have been added to the existing gardens – I'm not sure quite what happens to all those we put in over the years, but it is a pleasure to restock with spring colour. We have wallflowers in too and so when spring comes it will be with a real shock of colour.

In the meantime, the winter flowering shrubs are coming on, the camellias were even in flower in November which was very bizarre as we had some very late flowering roses flowering at the same time, but a garden is always full of surprises. The apple trees fruited well, the almonds continue to thrive, and the grape vine is finally curling around the swing with the jasmines and honeysuckles.

Having finally taken the decision that the time had come, we invested in our new shed which is sturdy and strong. We have added to its security with more to come and are still working out quite where everything should go so it can be a useful space which is easy to store things and so we know what we have. It is not a dumping ground and we continue to be diligent, but it has already proved useful as a drying room for the gazebos after the various wet

events during the year. Gradually the guttering is going up so we can harvest the rainwater and we will also be adding the final bit to the back of the shed with another water butt!

The Garden was pleased to take part in the Open Garden Squares Weekend in June where we welcomed over 800 visitors to our oasis. It is a lovely weekend and reminds us how very lucky we are to have the garden at our fingertips. The London Garden Society awarded us a gold award this year which was a huge accolade. We didn't make the medals, but it did mean we effectively came fourth which shows how much work Anna has done and how our long term planning for the garden is coming to fruition.

The trees grew hugely this year, and with the heat and the rain of the summer, and the winds of the autumn huge quantities of bark flew off the trees. The bark is a self-cleaning feature of the London plane tree and there were some very beautiful and sculptural pieces of bark on the lawns which is some consolation for the amount of extra work it generated.

So, we look forward to the spring and to seeing what will poke its nose through the winter frosts to give that added lift to your day when the snowdrops and aconites glint in the sun reminding you that even though the cold of winter is not yet over, the days are getting longer again.

### Garden Freehold

The continuing story of the Garden Freehold followed an interesting path this year. At the AGM in January 2017 there was much discussion regarding the purchase of the 50% share of the freehold

not held by the Garden Committee. The meeting agreed that the other freeholder was virtually powerless to do anything with their share of the freehold as it stands at present. An amount was agreed as what could be offered. The share was marketed at £250,000 and a couple of offers were made but not at the full price. Both were accepted but both came to nothing. We were then advised that the owner was going to put his share to auction.



There had been some requests for information and the Sub-Committee had ensured that the sales information contained correct information about access and the limitations placed on the freeholder by the 1851 act of parliament. Again, it didn't sell but there have been several enquiries post sale which have also come to nothing. We did offer the amount agreed by the AGM to the vendor, but this was refused. So, we are still where we were at this time last year, but having spent or wasted, whichever way you want to look at it, a large amount of time in discussion, meetings, correspondence etc with various professionals. The position is still one of wait and see.

*Katrina Quinton*