

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 | 2022

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

- ◆ Monitor and address environmental issues including pollution, rubbish and recycling.
- ◆ Comment on planning applications and transport issues.
- ◆ Liaise with Police, Council & the Earl's Court Square Garden Sub-Committee.
- ◆ Organise social events for the residents of Earl's Court Square.
- ◆ Produce and distribute a magazine annually to all residents.
- ◆ Publish a website with local and archived information.
- ◆ Update ECSRA Members on local issues of concern.

Dates 2022:

22 February:	Annual General Meeting
6 March:	History of the Square Walk and Refreshments.
5 June:	Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in the Square
11 - 12 June:	London Open Gardens Weekend.
9 July:	Earl's Court Square BBQ and Disco.
October:	Members' Themed Social - Oktoberfest.
11 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 to support ECSRA.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/2022

Dear Residents

2021 has seen a mid-year lifting of Covid-19 restrictions which meant ECSRA was able to organise “A Day To Remember” on the 8 September when ECSRA Members were invited to a Champagne and Canapés Reception to celebrate the lives of four notable individuals who lived in our Square. The Soho Square Jazz Duo provided background music and a hundred guests and neighbours mixed and mingled in brilliant sunshine in Earl’s Court Square’s stunning garden. The specially commissioned green and white ceramic plaques, funded by RBKC’s City Living Local Life (CLLL), are erected on four buildings in the Square as a permanent reminder of the local and international achievements of Douglas Eaton, Fuad Rouhani, Dame Ninette de Valois and Jennifer Ware. Our grateful thanks to John D Wood & Co, The Sloane Club (who provided the delicious canapés) and the generous benefactors who donated the champagne for kindly sponsoring this prestigious event and to the ECSRA team led by Christine Powell who worked behind the scenes to ensure all went to plan on the day.



Sadly, we had to cancel our summer BBQ/Disco again this year which has had an impact on our finances as we rely on the profits from this event to fund our community activities as our only other revenue is from membership subscriptions/donations. We have re-booked DJ, Jerry Shillingford and are hoping it will be third time lucky and the BBQ, which is open to all residents, can go ahead in the Garden on Saturday 9 July 2022.

2021 has been an amazing year when the spirit of Christmas flowed around Earl's Court Square for our annual "Lighting of the Christmas Tree" on the 12 December - a joint venture with the Garden Sub-Committee - which is also open to all our residents. The community made a magnificent contribution of £755 to ECSRA towards funding the Santa Brass Band Quintet - who added to the festivities and put the "oompah" into our favourite Christmas carols and songs. Our thanks to Magda Zawisza and Orla Walsh (for their fundraising efforts on ECS Neighbours WhatsApp) and the many generous contributors who made this a memorable community event. Thanks also to Alan Malcolm - for making his legendary mulled wine (from a secret recipe with three gallons of fermented grape juice) Katrina Quinton - for a mountain of delicious homemade mince pies and Mariaclara Vilona for providing the children's cookies and the many residents who joined us - making it a joyful evening to remember.

The ECSRA Executive Committee continues to have virtual Zoom Meetings and we have been very active behind the scenes on many projects.



PLANTERS SE ARM:

Besides successfully obtaining a grant from CLLL for our four plaques, we were also successful with our bid for funds from RBKC's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) and the SE Arm of the Square now sports six bespoke grey planters, which have significantly reduced the number of motorbikes, cycles and mopeds taking shortcuts onto the Earl's Court Road. Besides, environmentally enhancing the area, the planters have improved pedestrian safety, which was becoming a problem



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for our elderly residents and parents with young children. Unfortunately, we have had to add edging strips to prevent them being used as seats as this was damaging the plants. The inclement Autumn weather also impacted on plant growth and new Cistus plants have been ordered for next Spring to enhance and give height to the planting.

BICYCLE HANGARS.

The third project for which ECSRA obtained RBKC funding (NCIL) is for a bicycle hangar located in the NE Arm of the Square. ECSRA's support for three bicycle hangars (each housing six cycles) was fully covered in my report to residents last year and was necessitated by the number of residents cycling to work due to the pandemic and increased bicycle theft. It has been extremely difficult to identify sites that minimise impact on existing buildings, maintain the architectural integrity of the Square and that do not take away residents' parking bays.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



**ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) PETITION 2021
Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel**

At present, Anti-Social Behaviour (such as begging, graffiti, bikes on pavements), and shoplifting are not included in the Metropolitan Police statistics for the Earl's Court area. Yet, these are the very issues that impact on the day-to-day lives of many residents.

Without the inclusion of this data, it is hard for the police, and those at the Council responsible for community safety, to develop a strategy that responds to our residents' needs.

We live here – we know what's happening and we want to reclaim our streets!

Sign the petition, and make your voice heard!

<https://www.change.org/EarlsCourtAntiSocialBehaviourPetition2021>



Published by
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We have a CLLL bid pending for funding an additional two bicycle hangars, which we have requested are located together in the NW arm of the Square (making a total of 18 secure spaces for bicycles) which we hope our Ward Councillors will support. Residents should contact cycling@rbkc.gov.uk to go on a Council waiting list as they will be managing and maintaining the bicycle hangars.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has been a continued problem this year which ECSRA has been actively working to resolve behind the

scenes. There have been instances of noisy parties, drug dealers/users loitering on doorsteps intimidating residents. Parents double-parking outside St Cuthbert with St Matthias Primary School - which is illegal and a nuisance – coupled with pollution from idling engines is also becoming a problem and we are hoping that arrangements for RBKC Wardens to patrol the area will act as a deterrent.

We are very concerned to hear that Earl's Court is no longer an "enhanced ward" and we have lost Police as a result. This summer The Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel (ECSNWP) and the Residents' Associations of Earl's Court Square (ECSRA) and Nevern Square (NSCARA) launched an online anti-ASB Petition (backed up with two days of street stalls outside M&S in Earl's Court Road to collect hand-written signatures) with a total of 1011 local residents signing our Petition. A report has been compiled by Professor Mike Hough (Emeritus Professor at the School of Law, Birkbeck, University of London and previously senior researcher in the Home Office where he and a colleague designed the British Crime Survey) which the Chairs of ECSNWP, ECSRA and NSCARA will be presenting to Felicity Buchan MP, in late-January. We intend to discuss our residents' many concerns regarding the increase in ASB and reduction of Police in Earl's Court and I will be reporting back to ECSRA Members after this meeting.

THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH:

On Sunday 5th June 2022 ECSRA will be joining forces with the Garden Sub-Committee for The Big Jubilee Lunch in the Garden to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Arrangements have yet to be finalised but *"communities are*

being encouraged to get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship". Please put the date in your diaries as we shall be inviting you all to share friendship, food, music and fun with your neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and we hope The Big Jubilee Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of Earl's Court Square.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the ECSRA Executive Committee for their help and advice during 2021. We are a tight knit team of ten volunteers, who all live in Earl's Court Square, and work together "to protect and enhance Earl's Court Square and the lives of the people who live and work here".

We're also grateful to our Ward Councillors, Hamish Adourian, Malcolm Spalding and Linda Wade and to Katrina Quinton, Chairman of the Garden Sub-Committee, for their continued support.

We look forward to welcoming residents to our **AGM on 22 February 2022 at 6:30pm** at "The Bolton" on Earl's Court Road/Old Brompton Road, and we are delighted that The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, has kindly agreed to join us to talk about "The Mayoral Year".

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year



Chrissie Courtney - Chair
Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.
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COMMITTEE ROTATION

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022

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

Heidi Bradner
Shailish Katyal
Sue Lupton
Mariaclara Vilona
Maria Xirou
Magda Zawisza

Currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Chrissie Courtney – Chair
Alex Tullett – Hon. Treasurer
Andrew Foster
Christine Powell - Membership

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership of the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association is open to everyone who lives within the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area. A membership form, to renew your subscription or to join, is included with this annual magazine.

We are pleased to report that the subscription rates remain unchanged at £8 for an individual and £12 for a family / household. It is proposed, however, to increase the rates to £10 and £15 respectively for 2023.

The membership subscriptions for 2021 were 131, comprising 42 individuals, 43 family / household with three life members. It was good to welcome 12 new members and those who joined from November will have their membership extended until 31 December 2022. We are very grateful to those members who kindly included a donation when renewing their membership. Christine Powell is

the Membership Secretary and can be contacted on: ecsrmembers@talktalk.net

THE 2021 AGM

The AGM was hosted on Zoom, main topics that affect residents were discussed and voted on electronically, with thanks to Andrew Foster for his technical expertise. Residents discussed Refuse Collecting/ Recycling, the Environment, Funding for Planters, Replacement Windows in a Conservation Area, RBKC Bicycle Hangars, the Commemorative Plaque event, Treasurer's Report and other topics. The Minutes can be found on the ECSRA Website.

Please do attend the 2022 AGM at the Bolton Pub on the 22nd February and have your say.

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LOOK WHAT APPEARED IN THE BIRDBATH!

Was wondering if it was Augustus, Julius or David? but Google shed some better light, to think it may be Pheidippides, the 'Marathon Boy'.

If so, it's taken him a long time to find the Pharaoh dogs, probably 15 years since they appeared from nowhere and have guarded the heavy gated entrance in the south garden since. The red headed statue mysteriously settled in a good spot to look at them.

Kevin Colgan's restorations have been a labour of love keeping their ears in place. He reminds us they are not horses to pull chariots, but with the appearance of this new Roman addition, perhaps his idea to coat the dogs in yoghurt, to let the moss grow on them for an ancient look, is good timing? The hounds having a lineage



of 5,000 years, known as loyal hunting companions and in more recent millennia the national dog of Malta.

With Marathon Boy finding a restful perch, I wonder what our local Robin thinks!



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CARDBOARD DELIVERIES UP! Alan Malcolm observes...



There are very few left who can remember the launch of Dustin Hoffman's career in a movie called "The Graduate". Early on, Mr Robinson (soon to be cuckolded) whispers to Benjamin: "Plastics"

For about 4 decades, this was good advice, but now things have moved on, partly due to that Attenborough chappie. Plastics are no longer flavour of the month. Now it is cardboard. Just ask Jeffrey Smurfit. If I open my front door at any time of the day, there is at least one white van delivering cardboard boxes to my neighbours.

One of my neighbours had fifteen boxes stacked in the entrance hall. "They have a new baby" she confided. When I had new babies, we got on a bus or into a car and went to Mothercare. Phil Green soon put a stop to all that.

New parents now shop "online". I used to browse in bookshops to pass the time. Now I buy presents for grandchildren "online". Recently my food has been arriving in HUGE cardboard boxes with all the ingredients, and recipes and refrigerant.

One of my neighbours gets interesting packages from Ann Summers. I don't think it is hot water bottles.

But I LOVE cardboard. It is all made from recycled paper, and can itself be recycled. We are going to save the world in 2022 with an Amazon-free January. Can we survive?

Whoop Whoop Benjamin.

Alan Malcolm



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LOTTI HENLEY

THE BEST OF FRIENDS

A Tribute by Sue Lupton

Lotti moved to Earl's Court Square in 1964. In those days, large mansion block flats were considered too big to cope with and so were cheap to buy. Lotti and her 15-year-old daughter Alix scrubbed and painted the place over Christmas and took in four lodgers to survive. Alix was very bright and was offered a scholarship and went away to school. Lotti persuaded two charities to send her son to boarding school. Resourcefulness and persuasiveness were consistent throughout Lotti's life. Soon after, M15 (where she discovered her husband had worked) gave regular employment to Lotti as a translator. For many years those of us who lived in the south east arm of the Square would see Lotti, hat on, head down and with great purpose peddle off to work, usually with something in her front basket. There would be people sleeping under the arches en route and she would drop off sandwiches to feed them. She would make more at lunchtime at the office and hand them around the Cathedral. She met a young homeless girl who became a lifelong friend. Lotti turned her life around by believing in her. She now has a family of five with her partner. Lotti was 'their Granny'. She was immensely proud of them.

The lodgers, all girls (with grandnephew Mark staying a few years) were known as 'Lotti's girls', whose rent went to support her many charities. There were many characters from all parts of the world and enormous fun was had in the Wetherby Mansions flat. Even when Lotti couldn't walk far in the last four years, she had nonstop visitors. A neighbour in a block opposite remarked, 'I look across and see a party in the kitchen every night'. This was curtailed during Covid, but Lotti now going blind reached out to people on the phone, a live-in companion dialling for her. She wanted to be useful every minute of her waking day.

Lotti retired at 68 years and off on her bike, she joined the Green Planet Action Team. She requested that all rubbish in the Square was dug into the garden soil. She had to give up on this, but undaunted joined London Citizens in Ealing, where she had a proper platform to focus on greening and waste. She was a tireless campaigner. Turning 85, Lotti founded around her kitchen table with two others, an initiative to prevent excess food from going into landfill. Three years later it received charitable status and was named Plan Zheroes (One of the three being Spanish) The Zero Food Waste Heroes. Their plan was presented to the GLA at City Hall under the then Mayor, and Plan Zheroes was chosen as one of six worthy initiatives to prevent waste. Lotti was given the accolade of London Leader 2011. With the £3,500 award, the infrastructure for getting the good idea into a workable sustainable plan, backed by London businesses, whose staff helped with business planning for the fledgling business, Plan Zheroes had a good chance to grow. Now in its 10th year 385 tonnes of food has been saved from landfill and given to good causes: www.planzheroes.org.



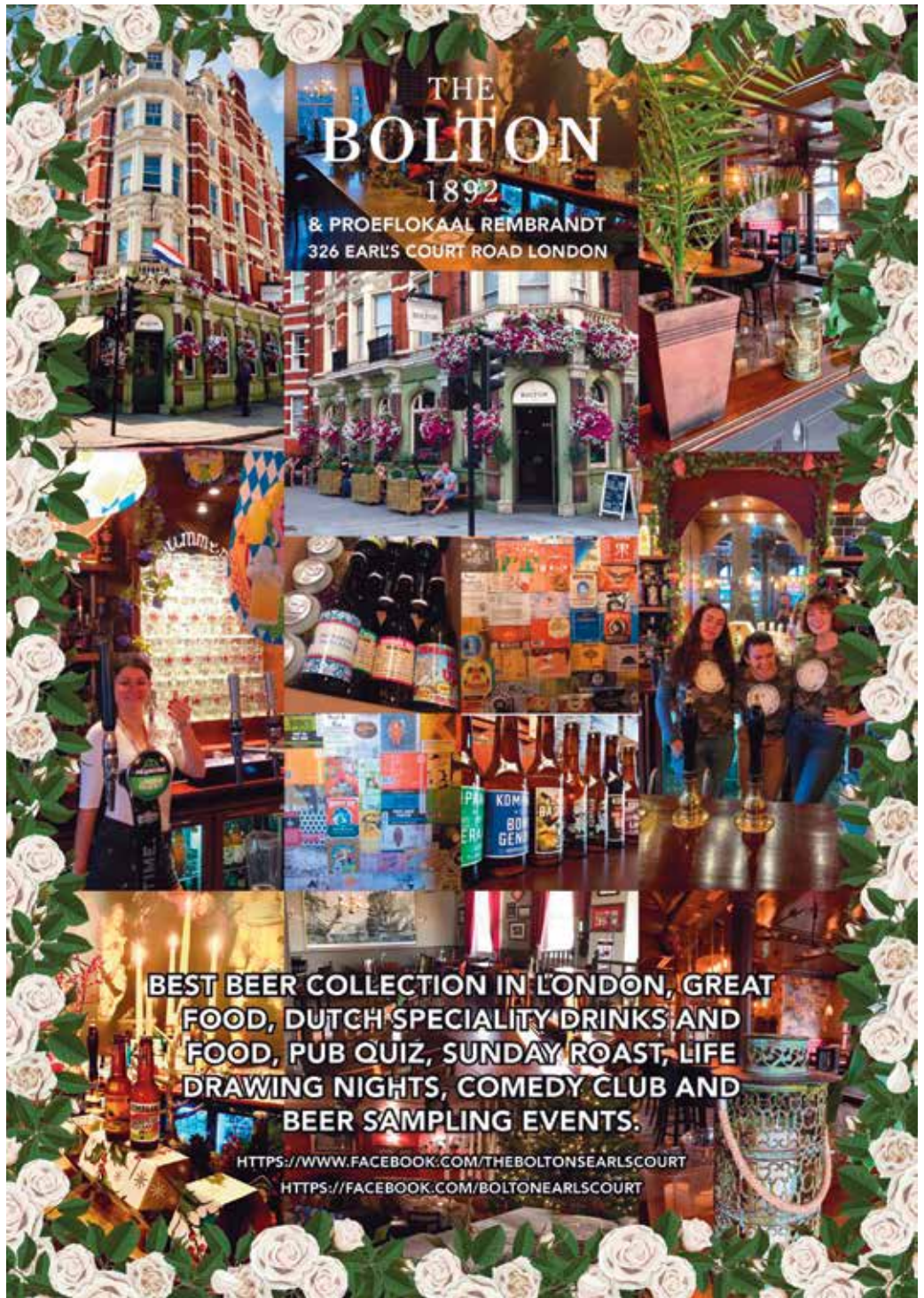
Lotti was a fervent Roman Catholic. She was a very active member of the Servite Church on the Fulham Road. If there was a person in trouble, the priests would ask Lotti for practical help. She took on many tasks and her belief in people and support continued throughout the years. She would be seen outside the church wearing her warm hat in all weathers collecting for Christian Aid. In later years when she couldn't stand for long, she used a wheelchair to do the weeklong collections. She was extraordinarily focused.

Lotti or Leontine Christine Alexandra Louise Elizabeth Olga Wilhemine Gabriele Marie-Antoinette Henley, grew up as Prinzessin zu Windisch-Graetz. Both her parents had a Royal lineage, her father from an Austrian family and her mother German. No politics were spoken in the household. Society was very divided in the 1920's. They had four girls, home educated by a Baroness Kyle, a known socialist, chosen so the girls would not be 'toffy-nosed'. They were taught every subject, even chemistry. They went to Florence for 18 months to learn to paint which Lotti enjoyed throughout her life. When the war became active, Lotti and an elder sister became nurses.

The family having been ousted from their home and their properties taken earlier by the communist regime, Lotti experienced real hardship at age 20. The war changed her life for she saw, as a nurse first-hand, that the Italians were allies of the Germans, and then weren't. The conflict that ensued saw thousands of Italians buried under their flags. It was so horrible seeing the boys being killed that Lotti became a pacifist!

Lotti herself was a prisoner of war in an English camp and experienced starving. This experience was the driving force for Lotti to help many people over the years. She remained a force for good as the figurehead of Plan Zheroes. She once told me 'Nothing is forever', and with a twinkle in her eye said, 'but I do love life'. Lotti was received into Heaven in April 2021 three months before her 96th birthday. Lotti has a lovely obituary and background on her work if you Google the web.

Sue Lupton



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IN MEMORY OF DUGGIE FIELDS

A tribute by Emma Kendall

Duggie Fields, a British artist who made Earl's Court Square his home for 52 years, passed away at 75.

In last year's ECSRA Magazine we did a profile piece on Duggie and his 'cult' style of fashion, art pieces, painting and music. He was always recognisable as he wore his snazzy creations, colourful badges, eyebrow make up and of course the quiff curl on his forehead. Duggie told a magazine 'I don't see any separation between my art and life; I live inside a painting.' In the heady days of the 60s which included collaborations with Zandra Rhodes and Andrew Logan, whose pieces are sold in our local Gallery 286, Duggie and Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd fame shared the flat.

I asked Emma who runs the Sunday farmers' market to say a few words about Duggie. He has always been an encouraging advocate of this local initiative and you will see his little stick men artwork on market signs.

Emma says, 'Duggie began to tell me about his life the second time we met when I had just started to sell bread for my friend Syd Aston at Earl's Court farmers' market. There it started, our friendship forged on 10-minute natters every Sunday, rain, shine, Brexit & virus. Eighteen months BC (before covid) Duggie underwent chemotherapy for approximately four months. He still only missed one market. We spoke on the phone instead. We had many wonderful conversations; he was so full of glamour from the era I'd grown up hearing about. The 60s. He inspired many things in me and showed full support of the music I shared with him and would share his new musical pieces with me too. Duggie, already a strong supporter of the market, gave me counsel when I inherited the market during the first lockdown to prevent closure. He shared his art so we could use it in our new logo. We last conversed a couple of days before he passed. We had become very close, and I miss him terribly. My deepest sympathy is there for his family and friends. It is an honour to have known Duggie Fields and call him my friend.'

Dougie's brother has inherited Dougie's work, colourfully displayed in his local Earl's Court flat. Although it is early days of working through 50 years of creative life, Duggie's niece Sara is excited and is looking forward to getting Duggie the recognition he deserves. Sara tells me there are some wonderful comments shared on Instagram, [@duggiefields](#) and there is a colourful obituary on the Web.

Emma Kendall

GARDEN NEWS - Katrina Quinton, Chairman Garden Sub-Committee



Thankfully life in the garden was slightly calmer this year as we were all able to travel more widely. We are very grateful that so many people were able to find sanctuary in the garden during the trials of last year.

We were thrilled to finally welcome Terrain Aeration Services from Suffolk who brought their marvellous gadget which forced huge amounts of pressure deep into the lawn which then was filled with seaweed fertiliser. It was amazing to watch and even more amazing to stand next to the machine when they hit the button – the ground really did move! The main lawn is certainly healthier but we are still challenged by the corner lawns which we continue to work on.

The Garden Committee was thrilled when Harriet Worsley moved into the square and we were able to progress our idea to create a Children's Garden Club. Harriet has done everything and been totally brilliant. Best of all, many children are enjoying being in the garden and learning about what goes on. Details are on the website which has been updated. Thanks are due to Sarah Wadey for her help with this.

We were concerned by one of the London plane trees which was not looking healthy so we called in the Council's arboriculturalist for his expert advice along with our tree surgeons. We were right in thinking that the tree had been affected by masaria. The tree surgeons took off the dangerous limb but on looking at the branch we discovered it also had a fungal infection and that other limbs were affected. The hollow limbs were not only dangerous but were damaging the healthy parts of the tree.



Permission was granted to carry out remedial action, which included taking branches from the tree's other side so that it would not be unbalanced and twist in the wind. I realise it looks a bit odd but the rest of the trees will be pruned in the spring.

We also plan to reduce the hollies in size considerably to allow more light into the garden. Sadly the Photinus by the shed has also fulfilled its life span and needs to come out. To replace it we would like to plant a tree for the Queen's Tree Canopy to mark the Jubilee. We will reassess the surrounding flower bed too – obviously keeping and reusing as much plant material as possible whether in that bed or around the garden.

The camellias are already out, the roses are still flowering and there is always something wonderful to look at and get pleasure from – we count our blessings.

Katrina Quinton
Chairman ECS Garden Sub-Committee

EARL'S COURT SQUARE - THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

Keith Clancy reporting



What have the establishment of the Royal Ballet, the establishment of OPEC, the Archbishop of Canterbury's wife and lifelong service to the community got in common?

Picture this if you can, several dozen three-piece suits, dozens of elegant frocks, the occasional trouser suit and one or two pairs of shorts huddled under trees trying to keep from passing out in the heat.

Mad dogs and Englishman at a wedding in Rangoon perhaps? No! This was the Earl's Court Square plaque unveiling ceremony. Some say it is unwise to quaff lashings of donated expensive chilled champagne under the mid-day sun. "Not a bit of it" for the residents of Earl's Court Square! Especially when accompanied by The Sloane Club's finest canapés. 'Heat be damned' the residents of ECS were here to commemorate its heroes!

As an invitee of the legendary Jennifer Ware Family, I turned to the lady next to me and enquired, "So tell me something of yourself". Her reply intrigued me more than I was expecting. "My husband joined the clergy in my twenties." "A varied lifestyle of parishes and abodes no doubt." I replied.

"Yes, you could say that." She offered, drip feeding my snooping.

"So where are you now?" I pressed, intrusively, for some tastes.

"Lambeth Palace." She replied in her matter-of-fact voice.

"Ah ha, That clergyman! Pleased to meet you Mrs Welby."

Caroline Welby and her sister Mary Eaton were here to celebrate the 50 years and more, of dedication their father Douglas had given to the preservation of Earl's Court Square. They were proper Earl's Court Square girls having grown up here playing under these very trees.



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THE SLOANE CLUB
CHELSEA LONDON

Speeches began. We learnt of how Douglas Eaton along with Jennifer Ware had put their community shoulders to the community grindstone for decades, skillfully battling away developers' attempts at vandalising the glorious Earl's Court Square. Glasses were raised, bubbles were drunk and applause rang out as we toasted our ECS Heroes.

Then a tale of a man with a memory nothing short of Olympic shifted the mood from community triumph to community astonishment! Fuad Rouhani, resident of Earl's Court Square, philosopher, art lover, international man of letters, elected

as the first Secretary-General of the Oil Producers Economic Council OPEC. We were told by his granddaughter he had memorised the entire cannon of Shakespeare. Many of us in the audience scratched our very warm heads, this tale of incredulity leaving us feeling somewhat inadequate. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" Sue Lupton said filling my glass. Shadows shifted on the lawn as feats of great mental dexterity gave away to tales of great feat. Did you know Ninette De Valois started the Royal Ballet in her first-floor flat sitting room on the south side of Earl's Court Square? Images of leotarded young women and men flashed in the minds of the audience. Just then a sneaky comment slipped into my ear, "Gosh it must have been murder living underneath De Valois with all that bouncing going on."



Speeches complete, ECS guides led the well-dressed rabble round the Square for our tour of the newly installed plaques. As heated foot hit heated paved slab our merriment graduated into gratitude and awe for this very particular of London squares. This is Your Life! Earl's Court Square Residents, people of great humour, great talent and great affection sharing great times together.

Now, that is worth put a frock on for, is it not?! Play your cards right and you may get a plaque of your own!

Keith Clancy

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Jingle Bells the Oompah way!!



Checklist:

Get a beautiful tree with lighting -
Katrina Quinton and Garden Sub-
Committee team

Set up and serve mince pies, cookies,
hot chocolate and mulled wine -
Chrissie Courtney and ECSRA team.

Hang chocolates on the tree -
Sue Lupton to get them for little
people to have a field day once the
lights are turned on.

Invite an oompah band –
Chrissie and parents

The Lighting of the Christmas Tree event was a group effort this year which always creates more fun. Orla Walsh had left a big impression by arranging three oompah musicians to entertain us at each corner of the Square one afternoon last Christmas. So we decided to build on this and engage a band for this year's event. Chrissie found an oompah quintet who dressed up as Father Christmas. Big tick - lovely for the children! That was an expense that ECSRA needed help with, so Orla and Magda Zawisza were approached to see if it was something the 'mums and friends' group in the Square would like to support. The collection was brilliant and helped to pay for the quintet.

John D Wood & Co., our business sponsor, printed the carol song sheets. Alan Malcolm made his legendary mulled wine that takes him three days to brew - no shortcuts there! Katrina made 100 delicious mince pies, and Mariaclara Vilona kindly provided heaps of M&S cookies for the children.

The joint event this year of ECSRA and the Garden Sub-Committee meant more hands-on deck to help put up the gazebos and clear up afterwards. A big thanks is owed to a number of helpful residents who assisted.

If you have any suggestions for next year's Tree Lighting, please send to the editor:
sue@suelupton.com who will be happy to share your input with the two committees.

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

PARENT & CHILD GARDEN CLUB



The youngest green-fingered residents of the square have spent their Sunday mornings drawing, digging and planting at the Parent and Child Garden Club.

Open to children between three and ten, the club includes craft, gardening

and thirty second botanical lectures. The children have made leaf crowns, cress gardens and crackers, and there is more fun to come in 2022. Check the Gardening Club section on the ECS website future dates and to sign up. Ecsrgarden.org.uk

Harriet Worsley





FASCINATIONS

Digger awake, digger asleep
 When I get up, I'll take a peek.
 I'm on a swing, but giving a cheer
 I want to see digger and be right there.

Digger awake, digger asleep
 The man is kind, do I want to steer?
 I climb the rail, but am too small
 Was stopped and told, when big and tall.

Digger awake, digger asleep
 I'm so excited, from windows I see
 It's noisy now and oh so clever
 I really want one here forever.

*Hello mums and dads,
 Please share fun stories to be considered
 for publishing with the editor:
 sue@suelupton.com*

NO TRICKS - BUT DEFINITELY TREATS

It was just before 5pm, darkness had fallen and WOW! Emerging from homes were the best dressed wizards, ghouls and glam, to rival Fantasia.

Instigated by Angela Casucci on the 'Mums & Friends' WhatsApp group, a hive of activity buzzed around the Square on the night of 'trick-a-treat'. Did I count 50 or were there more? All active and elated folks.

Armed with a list of twenty odd invitations with addresses to call on, the children scampered around to homes and blocks offering goodies on doorsteps. The dash around the Square was highly charged and exciting.

There was a reward at the finale for mums and dads, grandparents too, with a noggin at the Wares at No. 19 to celebrate this 'pop-up' occasion with a joyful happy ending.



BABY RHYME TIME

Our neighbour Cathy Burnaby-Atkins is an experienced teacher in Early Years and KS1. Having said yes to volunteering on a Thursday morning at the local Brompton Library, Cathy fitted into the Baby Rhyme Time the library had initiated pre Covid.

Mums, dads, and family helpers gather and find space on the floor, where the sea of little children, mainly under three, can't roam too far. Behind the scenes Cathy had found two more songs to introduce into the hour's sing along. The older children knew the song 'Zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon', and another from the oldest children's song books, '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive'. Books were opened, and children pointed to whatever was relevant in Cathy's big book.

It is a joyous occasion for children to be entertained and family friendships made. I left with a big smile and crossed the entrance area where 60 neatly parked buggies showed the tale of what a willing volunteer and a well-managed library can do.

Cathy is on: crburnabyatkins@hotmail.com, should anyone want to contact her in her professional capacity.

Brompton Library is a cosy welcoming library. It hosts intermittent events such as magic shows, drama and sensorial activities. The library now has a second volunteer who is there every Saturday morning 10.30 – 12.00 when she will be reading books followed by arts and crafts.
210 Old Brompton Road SW5 0BS.
t. 020 7361 3010.

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ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association has been represented on the Environment Round Table Committee. Unfortunately, due to the Covid crisis, no meetings were held during 2021.

A subgroup of the Earl's Court Society, the Environment and Highways Group has, been set up and five meetings have been held.

An application for an air quality monitor to be placed in the south east arm of the Square has been submitted. Vehicles, both dropping off and picking up children at St Cuthbert's school, often wait with their engines idling, adding to pollution in the area.

Other issues being considered are pressing for a 20 mph speed limit in Warwick Road, applying for noise cameras to inhibit the racing of traffic between the various sets of traffic lights in Warwick Road, requesting that the stepped-out pavements in Earl's Court Road be removed, applying for a community bus to run between the hospitals in the north of the borough and the south,

The Ultra Low Emission Zone within the North and South Circular roads came into effect on 25 October. Cars exceeding the limit will be charged at £12.50 per day and hybrid cars will no longer receive a 100% discount when driving in the Congestion Charge Zone.

With more hybrid / electric cars being purchased it is gratifying that there are more charging points within the Square.

RUBBISH MONITORING UPDATE

We are fortunate in RBKC to have twice a week rubbish collections on Monday and Thursday mornings. Residents of the 650 homes in our RA catchment area generally follow the rules, but the inevitable happens when not all folks cooperate. To keep our square clean, ECSRA and the RBKC Enforcement Team meet regularly to do walks around the Square and work together to stop rubbish dumping. We arrange with the Council to remove abandoned bicycles, locks and other items, such as shopping trolleys.

Throughout 2021, ECSRA monitored rubbish 'hot spots' in the Square. Good results included working with RBKC to stop dumping near Hotel Olympia, number 55, the corner outside 69, the east side corners near 1 – 1A and number 312.

The goal remains to have a strong investigation team and enforcement combined with outreach where a group of residents stay in touch with RBKC and with each other.

COMMUNICATION

Advise any new residents and cleaners the collections times of Monday and Thursday. Collections begin at 7.30am. Please do not put your rubbish out at night because the foxes break into food waste and make a mess. Put rubbish into your vault in between collection times.

Top recycling "No's" for our Borough:

- ◆ No shredded paper. Please put it in with normal rubbish.
- ◆ No foil or foil trays. RBKC do not recycle foil.

RE-CYCLING

Please dispose of expired, unused, medications by bringing them to the counter at a local chemist, so they do not get into the landfill or the local water system.

- ◆ Lids: Take metal lids off glass bottles and put them loose in your recycling.
- ◆ But plastic caps should be put back on plastic bottles (after they have been rinsed, dried and squashed)
- ◆ No greasy or food-contaminated plastic, paper or cardboard
- ◆ Only plastic that is stiff and hard should go into your recycling bag
- ◆ No shredded paper. It causes problem for the machinery. Please put in with normal rubbish.
- ◆ No foil or foil trays. RBKC does not recycle foil.
- ◆ To help stop dumping on the Square, please follow the guidance below.

REPORTING

When you see illegally dumped bags, please help us report the problem. The Council prefers us to use the on-line form.

This generates a case report and will also show actions taken. If unable to report on-line, call Streetline on 020 7361 3001.

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/waste-and-street-environment>

TO BIG FOR THE BIN

RBKC offer a 'Too Big for the Bin' collection for a fee. Up to 10 bulky items. Please call 020 7361 3001

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/rubbish-and-recycling/bulky-household-waste-collections>

BE COMMUNITY MINDED

We would strongly like to promote Freegle and Freecycle. They are part of our rubbish and recycling outreach and pledge to be green.

Some of you will remember we won recycling prize money in 2015 which went towards printing and distributing flyers around our RA catchment area detailing useful information. The two networks mentioned are green and community minded and prevent items from going into landfill, by finding new homes for large and small items.

So if you or someone in the neighbourhood want to redistribute something from your home that is still good to use, Freegle it free of charge. Freegle is a charity that enables you to exchange unwanted items for free.

To find out more and to see what is currently available:

<https://www.ilovefreegle.org/explore/Kensington-Chelsea-Freegle>

If you have good quality items that you would like to donate for re-use, please go to the Freecycle website:

<https://www.freecycle.org/>

SOCIAL HISTORY DEVELOPMENT - in conversation with Peter Verity

Have you ever thought how Earl's Court Square got built? It's a complex story with endless bankruptcies, that wouldn't have happened if the market had been caught 50 years earlier. Social history impacted on the area and building designs. In the 1840's the size of houses were substantial, these would typically house a couple, with two children and a staff of 10. In those days the developers had to commit to build new churches in the area for people in the houses. That's why we have so many churches nearby. The church built on the site of St. Cuthbert with St. Matthias school was bombed and was replaced with the school.



The building of Earl's Court Station brought a different order of things, as people who traditionally lived elsewhere were now able to live in London. These were termed, the middle and professional middle classes who didn't want big houses. So the big single family homes up to the Brompton Library, became apartments. The northeast side of Earl's Court Square was built in the 1840's and over the next 30 years the market changed. The stucco buildings overlooking Earl's Court Square gardens were built in the 1860's and known as the South Kensington design. All were single dwellings. But within a short time, no one wanted to buy them as they were too big and the developers weren't reading the market. The subsequent bankruptcies led to a private purchase of the garden in the 1870's as compensation.

The Jacobean Revival style in 1888-90, or 'The Dutch Houses', were the only buildings to have made the developer money. They were copying the houses in Courtfield, but in a reduced way. They were built to be brick and terracotta to give a unified look. The current white paint on some of them should never have been allowed. Terracotta paint has now been mastered to cover the white, to revert to the original look.

The Wetherby Mansions were built in 1890-5 by three separate building firms. They were built on one level, mainly with two to three bedrooms with a fireplace in each room, high ceilings and an area to accommodate a parlour maid. Pullies for coal delivery to each floor via dumb waiters and lifts from the ground floors were installed.

No. 69 was built for and lived in by an Admiral and was called 'Admiral House'. No. 21 was the home of Sir William Palliser, the ordnance inventor, originally 'Earl's Court Lodge' and later became home to the Poetry Society and renamed Poet's House.

Join us for a history 'walkabout' of the Square on the 6th March. Look out for notices around the Square for timing.



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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 2022

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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES:

£8.00 per year for individuals *

£12.00 per year for family/households *

Donations welcome

To become/remain an ECSRA Member, please pay electronically to Metrobank.

Account Name: Earl's Court Square Residents' Association:

Sort Code: 23 – 05 – 80

Account number: 10942594

Please use your house number as your referencen and email Christine Powell (Membership Secretary) on: ecsrmembers@talktalk.net to confirm your details and how much you have paid.

For further information regarding ECSRA or Membership – or if you would rather pay by cheque/cash, please contact:

Membership Secretary Christine Powell on: ecsrmembers@talktalk.net

Chair Chrissie Courtney on: ecsrachair@btinternet.com

Website: www.ecsra.co.uk

* *Please delete as appropriate*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 6.30 pm

Venue

Upstairs at

The Bolton Pub

326 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9BQ

Guest Speaker:

The Mayor of RBKC - Cllr Gerard Hargreaves

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM
3. Chairman's Report and Questions & Answers
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Executive Committee
6. Membership Rates
7. Any Other Business
8. Guest Speaker: The Mayor RBKC - Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
9. Complimentary wine & canapés, cash bar.

Open to all ECSRA Residents, and ECSRA Members are qualified to vote at the AGM. Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports will be available to view on our website www.ecsra.co.uk from mid-February.

Please use the membership form on the reverse of this Notice or on our website to renew your membership for 2022, or to join if you are not a member. Subscription rates are £8 for an individual or £12 for a family/household.

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