

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Chairman's Update

Chrissie Courtney



<https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/e-bike-parking/results/earlscourtebikebayconsultationreport.pdf>



PLANTERS IN SE ARM

The planters were installed with an RBKC NCIL grant as a response to residents' concerns about motorcyclists/cyclists accessing Earl's Court Road via the SE Arm. As reported at the AGM, the ECSRA Committee was disappointed with the original planting. We envisaged a showcase display enhancing the SE Arm. This Spring, ECSRA re-planted and are now maintaining the planters and have designed a fresh scheme with insect, bee and bird friendly plants of different species forming a hedge facing EC Road and flowering plants facing EC Square. The planters are now flourishing (thanks to Alex Tullett's green fingers). We have entered RBKC's "Brighter Kensington & Chelsea - Streets, Mews and Public Spaces" Competition and are waiting to see the results. The Wetherby and Herbert Court Mansions Blocks fund the maintenance of the planters and colourful hanging baskets on the streetlights in the SE Arm of the Square which are administered by ECSRA.

RUBBISH & RECYCLING:

ECSRA met with Cllr Cem Kemahli (Environment Lead RBKC) in June to discuss solutions for rubbish dumping problems. A small electric buggy will soon be continuously collecting dumped rubbish off the pavements in Earl's Court - with fines issued if evidence is found in rubbish collected. This scheme (only operational in Earl's Court) was successfully piloted a few years ago and we are pleased to see it re-instated. If successful, more electric buggies will be purchased for the rest of the Borough.

Residents have also expressed concern about 69 Earl's Court Square – which has become a rubbish dumping "hotspot". We're pleased to report that the Council and Directors/Managers of 69 ECS have been working together with ECSRA to find solutions resulting in plans for 69's rubbish to be stored in vaults within the building (once remedial works are completed) which we hope will resolve the problems.

PROPOSED E-BIKES PARKING BAY:

Many thanks to all the Members who supported ECSRA's objections to the Council's recent e-bikes Consultation suggesting that a rental e-bike parking bay was installed within a residents' parking bay near the North Gate of the Garden. Due to 24 objections received this proposal will not go ahead in Earl's Court Square.

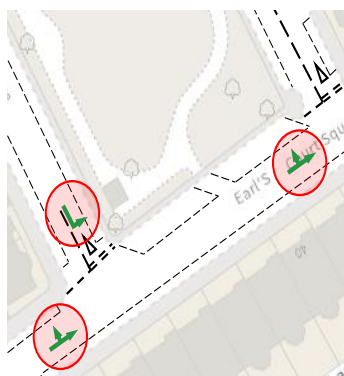
OUTSIDE LANGHAM MANSIONS/SCHOOL:

ECSRA has worked with the school and the Council to minimise the problems of children being dropped/collected from the school - and this has improved considerably. The "no waiting" signs outside the school will be amended to reflect the longer school hours **MON-FRI 8AM TO 9.30AM AND 2.30PM TO 5PM** but the school complains of constant problems with delivery vans (delivering to nearby residents) which stop in between their cones and on the yellow lines.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN SW ARM:

The Council will soon be painting 'one way' arrows on the road to prevent vehicles trying to exit onto Warwick Road - which has been an ECSRA concern. They will review the situation in three months' time for comparison to confirm whether the arrows have solved the compliance problems when they will consider installing an additional 'no entry' sign on a new standalone post.

RBKC recently measured the traffic volumes on ECS and, on average, 27 drivers a day are driving the wrong way along the SW arm, which is about 4% of the total traffic using that arm of the Square.



THREE CYCLE HANGARS PLANNED FOR EC SQUARE:

Thank you to all Members who responded to our recent Cycle Hangar Survey (see results <https://ecsra.co.uk/members-area/agm/chairmans-report/> under "PDF downloads" at the bottom of the page). All your responses were carefully considered - which helped the Executive Committee finally reach a difficult decision. **From the 33 responses, 27 residents supported more cycle hangars** - so we felt there is a proven need for additional cycle hangars in ECS. The survey responses were divided equally regarding the loss of a residents' parking bay versus loss of a pay and display bay - so we felt it fair that there was a potential loss of one of each in our proposals.

Following a walkabout with RBKC's Sustainable Travel Manager, Caroline Dubarbier, ECSRA looked at all the possibilities. There is no suitable site in the SW arm - where there are already problems with the one-way system and school double-parking. The SE arm was ruled out due to on-going problems with delivery vehicles. We finally identified 3 additional cycle hangar sites - **giving 18 additional secure cycle spaces for residents** with the least impact on residents. The 2 sited in the NE arm take up a pay and display bay + part of a bike hoop bay. The site in the NW arm is immediately outside the Olympia Hotel and is in a residents' bay - near a streetlight but with no EV point. Caroline intends to fund the bike hangar in the NW arm from TfL monies held by RBKC. And ECSRA has applied for Council NCIL funding for the 2 additional cycle hangars - to be sited near Earl's Court Road in the NE arm of the Square. These are dependent on our NCIL bid being successful in September.

URGENT:

If you need a secure space for your cycle please email RBKC on cycling@rbkc.gov.uk requesting a cycle hangar space in Earl's Court Square to get onto the waiting list as each hangar only takes 6 cycles.

Cost: Deposit £25 and £72 annually for each secure space.



We specifically requested that the cycle hangars are only for residents of the Square. However, we were advised this was not Council policy. We have, however, stated that priority should be given to the residents of ECS on our NCIL application - and we will be lobbying all our Ward Councillors to achieve this. The earliest we can expect installation of the new cycle hangars is September - but there will be Council Notices displayed in the two locations beforehand - so residents can comment/object.



POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH DELIVERY BIKES - SE ARM

ECSRA has been approached by a nearby restaurant (planning to make an application for a pasta bar). They envisage 40% of their business as take-aways. However, concern has been expressed that if they ever start delivering pizzas, there would be a greatly increased volume of deliveries and delivery bikes. ECSRA recently held a meeting with RBKC's Parking Schemes Officer, Chris Eales, and our Ward Councillors to discuss concerns regarding delivery bikes using the SE arm of ECS to service the restaurants sited nearby on the Earl's Court Road. We are concerned about security and noise and nuisance issues for residents if delivery bikes use the SE Arm as the bikes will pick the most convenient place for pick-ups - which is at the end of the cul-de-sac opposite the entrances to the Wetherby Mansions buildings - or the lay-by in front of our planters which is constantly used by vehicles and is located on a busy Red Route.

Report any ASB/CRIME on www.met.police.uk then choose 'Crime' or email earlscourt.snt@met.police.uk or call 101.

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 999.

Report illegally dumped bags to Council on:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/waste-and-street-environment or call Streetline on 020 7361 3001 or email streetline@rbkc.gov.uk.

www.ecsra.co.uk/useful-numbers/local-links

The Council are considering a dedicated motorcycle/cycle bay in Bolton Gardens and this proposal will be included in the RBKC October 2023 Miscellaneous Parking Amendments Consultation.

The issue will be how delivery bikes will be forced to use this proposed bay. We have therefore asked RBKC that all future Licences specify that delivery bikes use this dedicated area and that this is enforced by the Council. The Council will also need to have discussions with the delivery bike companies to ensure compliance.

IMPROVED POLICING FOR EARL'S COURT:

We have all be concerned about the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Earl's Court highlighted in our ASB Petition which attracted over 1000 signatures (published by The Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel in association with Earl's Court Square Residents' Association and Nevern Square Conservation Area Residents' Association) which was presented to our MP, Felicity Buchan, in 2021. New measures are now planned as a specific result of a period of heightened Police and Council activity at the end of 2022. The new measures will include a Section 80 Partial Closure Notice which the Police hope to have in place within the Earl's Court area in October (if approved by Westminster Magistrates) along with increased and dedicated Council activity. We have circulated a message from Felicity Buchan MP to all Members on this matter. The Section 80 Partial Closure Notice should:

- Significantly increase police numbers and presence in Earl's Court.
- Prohibit street drinking and the possession of devices to use class A drugs.
- Use Compulsory Banning Orders (CBOs) to ban individuals from the area altogether.
- Clamp down on ASB with lower thresholds for arrest.

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.

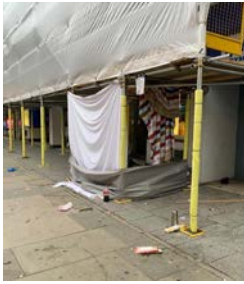
We live here - we know what's happening and we want to reclaim our streets!

Sign the petition, and make your voice heard!
<https://www.change.org/EarlsCourtAntiSocialBehaviourPetition2021>

Published by:
Earl's Court Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel
Earl's Court Square Residents' Association
Nevern Square Conservation Area Residents' Association
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ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)/RBKC:

Councillor Cem Kehmali advised at our June meeting that:



- The Council has initially sub-contracted eight My Local Bobby off duty police officers/ex-services personnel - without power of arrest - www.mylocalbobby.co.uk to supplement Council wardens within the Borough who will provide more of a presence on the streets. They will also have new more visible uniforms.
- RBKC has increased graffiti removal/pavement washing and we should see a difference soon in Earl's Court.
- The RBKC Enforcement Team has been joined up/combined to include Refuse/Wardens/Planning departments - who will patrol the area on a regular basis in new visible uniforms giving wider enforcement cover.

GARDEN NEWS

Katrina Quinton



In June we were pleased to be part of the Open Gardens Weekend again and welcomed over 300 visitors from all over the world and the country. We were also pleased to welcome the judges for the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea competition and we were especially thrilled that the tulip tree on the west side of the garden chose that weekend to flower for the first time in its life which prompted much scurrying to the book shelf to find out more.

Nathan Hassall kindly supplied the musicians in the afternoon which brought residents on to their balconies and into the garden and gave us all the opportunity to talk to new neighbours and old alike. Rather dramatic thunder and rain on Sunday afternoon reduced the footfall but our lovely trio kept on playing and once the gates were closed, we kept on chatting enjoying a cooler evening from the soaring temperatures of the previous few days.

On the Monday afterwards when putting away the now dry gazebos and furniture, we noticed that the tulip tree on the east side has also come into flower. The trees are part of the Magnolia family and are called the tulip tree because their flowers are similar to tulips. They are very quick growing trees and don't usually flower until they are about 20 years old but should now flower every year. The flowers are great for bees and pollinators who have certainly been wonderfully busy in the garden this year enjoying the planting and the trees.

Train Spotting at West Brompton



Train spotter chum Mark Balaam, Eardley Crescent, told me about the Golden Arrow with the locomotive Braunton 34046 due to pass through West Brompton station, just before 9am on an early March day. I was there hearing the thunder and seeing the billowing of smoke as the engine and carriages whisked by. Mark with his three doggies, told me he managed to get a video from another train spotter. The Golden Arrow was a luxury boat train linking London to Dover, where people would then get the ferry to Calais and onwards by another French equivalent to Paris. The Braunton 34046 engine was restored and is owned by the Royal Scot Locomotive & General Trust.

Let's hope Mark (next project) makes headway in trying to get HS2 and HS1 connected to West Brompton. *Sue Lupton*

ECSRA EVENTS 2023

ECSRA Annual General Meeting

The Earl's Court Square RA Annual General Meeting was held at the St Cuthbert's with St Matthias school on the 23rd February 2023, followed by a canapés and wine reception when residents were able to mingle and meet Felicity Buchan MP for Kensington – our guest speaker.

Chairman, Chrissie Courtney, presented her annual report of activities and achievements for the previous year and Alex Tullett, our Hon. Treasurer, presented the ECSRA accounts. Felicity addressed the residents and has personally been involved in lobbying parliament and the MET for increased policing in Kensington by highlighting Earl's Court's ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) problems.

There was a good turnout of Members and non-Members living in the ECSRA catchment area.

AGM 2023



AGM 2023



The 2023 Summer BBQ and Disco

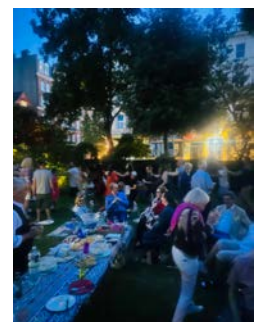
The BBQ and disco, our annual fundraiser, was held a little earlier on Saturday 24th June, to enable more families to attend before the main school holidays. We started at 5pm to cater for young families and ended at 11pm to be considerate neighbours and comply with our Temporary Event Notice (TENs) licence.

Five-year-old Sofia Casucci made a beautiful welcome sign for the South entrance which set the scene. She says "I drew this sign to welcome our neighbours to the barbecue party because I love drawing for people I care about. I feel like our community is a big family, and they've known me since I was a baby. I want everyone to feel happy and excited to spend time together, and my sign is a special way to show that!"

The four BBQ fires were set up for communal use (one for vegetarians and one pork-free) and a gazebo for the disco with DJ Paul of Krueel Intensions who got everyone up dancing and joining in the fun culminating in a conga around the garden. People brought their own rugs, tables and chairs and, with a lovely summer evening, the event was well attended and deemed to be a success.

This year, there were lots of flavoursome vodka tastings all evening from the friendly team at Mriya (the local Ukrainian restaurant) who generously offered their colourful home-made vodkas to residents. They also distributed 10% discount dining vouchers - with no deadline to promote their popular restaurant.

Please look at our website for lots of photos of the BBQ <https://ecsra.co.uk/recent>





The Coronation May 6th

When did a drop of rain stop the British from celebrating – never! So, again the Coronation of an English Monarch took place on a wet day and the reign of King Charles III started with rain! This did not dampen spirits in Earl's Court Square Garden and, as soon as we watched the helicopters fly over Buckingham Palace on TV, we either dashed on to the street or stuck heads out of windows to see them fly past Earl's Court Square. The helicopters going one way, and the red, white and blue smoke trails of the Red Arrows going over the south side of the Square. It was then time to rally our forces, get the tea urn on and prepare for Coronation Afternoon Tea in the Square. Mounds of sandwiches and cakes appeared under the odd umbrella, then more and more and more residents arrived. There were lots of Kings and Queens for the children's parade – with much use made of wellington boots as military uniforms and capes and cloaks to keep warm. Many congratulations to our winners who were awarded a commemorative mug and a jar of lemon sweets – which are rumored to be the King's favourites!

Thank you to everyone who took part and came and joined in despite the weather. The costumes, cakes and sandwiches were enjoyed by all and once we'd mended the fuse on the extension lead – my fault and Edward was right – and Kevin and Stacy had set up the most brilliant relay system with kettles there was tea and coffee by the gallon. Councillors, Constabulary, Clergy and Community combined to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation with grace, good humour and in typical Earl's Court Square style. *Katrina Quinton*

Please look at our website for lots of photos of the CORONATION TEA – <https://ecsra.co.uk/recent>



DATES FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY:

- **TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER**
7PM TO 9PM
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ
EVENING AT THE
BOTTLERY, 231 EARL'S
COURT ROAD.
- **SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER**
4PM TO 6PM
LIGHTING OF THE
CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE
GARDEN.



Frank Phelan - a celebrated and engaged abstract painter.



FRANK PHELAN

Frank Phelan, a member of the Earl's Court Square RA passed away at aged 92, soon after a diagnoses of pancreatic cancer. He had lived at No. 17 in the Square for over 40 years.

Born in Dublin, Frank trained as an Architectural draughtsman before emigrating to Canada with his father and brother at the age of 21. Six years later he returned to Dublin before moving on to London and falling in with the St. Ives circle - a well-known artists' colony. He started painting and shared his time between London and Cornwall, a practice he maintained for the rest of his life.

When Frank married Anne and had two children, Daniel and Maddy, they needed to change tack to make ends meet. They found the solution in Frank's love of food and talent as a cook. He and Anne started a small catering business in their own kitchen in Notting Hill eventually selling to the National Theatre, the National Gallery, Tate and the Design Centre. This was a deliberate policy on his part to keep a connection to the art world. They eventually sold the business and Frank had proper time to paint.

Frank was a philosopher steeped in the classics, intelligent, argumentative with thoughtful reasoning, mediator and friend. Always good company and a supporter of our Members' events. He hid his light under a bushel on home turf, but was a star in the world of modern art. He is seen as a major strand of Irish twentieth Century art history. When Frank died, he had a large display of his works at Cricket Fine Art, a gallery that represents a selection of gifted contemporary artists and introduces their work to a wider audience.

His paintings and mixed media works are in private collections in England, Ireland, France, the United States, as well as in State Collection of Ireland (OPW) and the Cork Institute of Technology & Arts.

An 'after party' was held at the Chelsea Arts Club where he was a member, and a luncheon in his memory at the Sketch Club, who considered Frank 'a treasure!' Here's 'raising a glass to Frank'.



ROGER DEARDEN

Roger Dearden - Fashion Illustrator.

During the pandemic we contacted all our ECSRA members, asking if anyone needed assistance or were willing to help. We were therefore able to introduce Roger to Jessica Bilinski (who had offered to assist with shopping and collecting medicines) and Jurgen Rigterink (who kindly offered to collect Roger's daily "Times" newspaper). Jessica has sent in the following message - as they became good friends:

"Roger was one of a kind, he really was such a special person. Roger had such a wonderful zest for life – come rain or shine he was so very happy, reading the Times, looking out at the window over the Square (which he loved so much). He was kind, he was calm and he was so thoughtful. He had a wonderful way with everyone he met, wherever he went he lit up the room. He was wise, he was the greatest teacher and always had the best advice. He had a fantastic sense of humour, we laughed together always and always had the most fun times together. He truly was one of a kind, and we are all so lucky to have known him, learnt from him and loved him." Jessica Bilinski

Website - http://www.rogerdearden.com/Roger_Dearden/Home.html