

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Members' News

Spring 2025

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Alex Tullett



Dear Members,

The Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ESRA) looks after the protection and enhancement of the Square, external to the garden railings. It is not responsible for the garden within the railings. This is still worth advising as there is still some confusion as to what ESRA Executive committee do and the Garden Sub-Committee. We work closely together but have the defined responsibilities.

AGM 2024

Our AGM was held on the 27th of February this year.

The Bottlery kindly agreed to host us. As generous as ever, as the school has no cover after hours now, to allow use of the big hall. We had 38 residents, virtually a full house in this location.

One important change that happened this year was Chrissie Courtney resigning as Chair in December and relocating out of the Square. We gave her an ovation for her eight years of dedication as Chairman.

A special welcome was given to Cllrs. Hamish Adorian, Tim Verboven and Linda Wade.

The welcome was extended to our Guest Speaker Joe Powell MP for Kensington and Bayswater who joined us after the Chairman's report, the treasurer's report and the re-election of the Executive Committee. Joe Powell mentioned that he had been attending a lot of Resident Association AGM's and that he had also held an informal get together of Residents' Association Chairs at Westminster. He explained that there were a lot of active Residents' Associations in his Constituency.

He gave an informative talk on matters relating to Earl's Court. Joe was aware of the issue of the "buildout" of the pavement outside the old Barclays and NatWest Banks resulting in the hold up of traffic flow. Buses have to stop on the inside lane blocking traffic. This is especially troublesome if a truck cannot pass the bus on the overside of the road resulting in a complete stop of the traffic. Most residents were in favour of the buildouts removal which he was in favour of.

Joe then discussed Anti-social behaviour and what was being done to tackle it. Residents appeared to be appreciative of this.

He then moved onto the ECDC redevelopment of the old Exhibition Site and talked about how he thought there had not



been enough thought on the mix of Social/Social Affordable/ other sized properties in the development.

As part of this discussion Maxine Torrents Dels Prats asked why it was that the demolition of the Exhibition Centre was allowed before an agreed development plan was in place, as it is now over 10 years with nothing on the site. We could have kept the area more vibrant than what we live with now.

Joe responded that the previous owners, prior to the current ECDC, wanted to move on quickly, however, they then ran into difficulties which has meant the site remains unused.

Andrew Foster asked Joe how he was enjoying his new job. Joe thanked Andrew for leaving the hardest question to the last. He responded it had been a steep learning curve, especially with active Resident Associations in the Constituency, however, he was enjoying what he was learning and doing.

Joe was able to stay and to talk to us over drinks and finger food provided by the ECSRA Executive Committee.

For comradery and cohesiveness for the residents in the RA catchment, the ECSRA Executive hosted four events in 2024:

The AGM in February

The Annual BBQ and Disco for all in RA in June

An Indian Teamed Evening in October

The Christmas Tree Lighting, a joint event with the Garden Sub-Committee, in December.

The committee have now recommenced our quarterly face-to-face meetings having been limited to only Zoom.

AJ Tullett

Alexander J. Tullett



THE Hon. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report for the Accounts ending 31st December 2024.

Kevin Colgan of The Garden Sub-Committee reviewed the accounts and confirmed he is happy with them.

In terms of cash, the RA finished off the year with an increase in the balance after accruals and receivables are taken into account compared to the end of last year.

The main variances this year are:

Income

Subscriptions. Slightly Down.

Advertising. Down. We stopped producing hard copies of the Newsletter, therefore there was no income from advertising.

BBQ. Up. We had more people attend compared to last year. Hanging baskets. The same as last year.

S. E. Arm Planters. Down. We factored in a decrease in costs. Indian night, we supplied the music and videos via the systems at The Bottlery. Food was donated by the ECSRA Committee.

Expenditure

Increases on 2023:

BBQ. Costs slightly up on last year, namely new BBQs.

Hanging Baskets. There was an increase, but not as much as we anticipated.

ECSRA Jubilee banners, a one off.

Decreases on 2023:

AGM. We as the committee supplied all the food and drinks. Newsletters were produced electronically, therefore there were no costs.

S. E. Arm Planters. Only costs were for plants.

Accruals

These are in relation to BBQ charcoal purchased in 2024 for use in 2025. Kevin Colgan asked if it was in a dry place, Alex Tullett advised it was. In terms of cash the RA in 2024 finished off the year with an increase in the balance after accruals and receivables are taken into account, compared to the end of last year 2023.





Dates for the Diary 2025

27 February

Annual General Meeting

7 – 8 June

London Open Gardens Weekend

21 June

**Earl's Court Square BBQ
and Disco**

16 October

**Japanese Themed Evening at
the Bottlery**

7 December

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



The AGM 2025, hosted for residents, was held at The Bottlery. Neighbours who have paid for ESCRA Membership can vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR ROLES

With Chrissie leaving the Square and resigning from the Executive Committee, certain roles have been split, some remain the same.

Alex Tullett ECSRA
Chairman/Earl's Court
Society/Kensington Society/
ESSA

TBA Hon. Treasurer, until
someone volunteers, this is
being overseen by
the Chairman.

Nadia Allam Membership
Secretary/Environment

Heidi Bradner Rubbish
and Recycling

Andrew Foster Liaison with
RBKC Councillors (other than
Ward Councillors) and MP

Stefano Galiolo A good
sounding board and helps out
where needed

Shailesh Katyal Earl's Court
Safer Neighbourhood Team
(SNT) Ward Panel.

Sue Lupton Events/Website
updates/News

Laurence (Larry) Smith
Helping at Events

Mariaclara Vilona Helping
with Rubbish and Recycling

Maria Xirou Helping
at Events

Magda Zawisza Photographer
at events/helping at events

Executive Committee members
contact details can be found
on the Home page of our
website www.ecsra.co.uk

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 and the Earl's Court Garden
Sub-Committee.

Organise a number of annual social events for the residents of Earl's
Court Square.

Produce an ECSRA Members' News bi-annually with local news,
distributed to Members.

Publish a website with history and local information.

ECSRA Member updates on current local issues.

Policing Good News Stories

A policeman's life is nonstop and varied, we need them to be everywhere, so PC Ben Hunter was asked to share with us some 'good news stories.' He tells us what our Earl's Court bobbies have recently conducted, and he has provided the following.

- 2 x Live Facial Recognition operations targeting wanted offenders and Registered sex offenders
- Operation Nightingale uniformed patrols most Wednesdays and weekends O/S Earl's Court station targeting violence and VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) offences and offenders has been on going throughout the year
- Op Winglet from October onwards plain clothes night shift patrols targeting Drug Dealing and building intel picture
- Community Outreach Day with Earl's Court youth club to increase awareness re knife crime and staying safe.
- Night shifts conducted to target Delivery Riders

Alongside this, we have continued to keep a proactive approach with high numbers of arrests and stop and searches.

Thank you to PC Ben Hunter and the Earl's Court policing team

Membership

A Message from The Membership Secretary



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to both our cherished existing members and our enthusiastic new ones for joining the ECSRA! Your support and involvement are vital for keeping our beloved events, like the Earl's Court Square BBQ and

the Christmas Tree Lighting, thriving. This October, get ready for an exciting Japanese-themed evening at The Bottlery - be sure to start planning your outfit! We're eager to welcome even more residents to our community. If you haven't yet sent in your subscription, we warmly encourage you to do so. Your participation makes all the difference!

Nadia Allam

Membership Secretary

Earl's Court Square
Residents' Association
A Gold Standard RA awarded
by RBKC
Email: ecsramembers@icloud.com
Website: www.ecsra.co.uk

Membership Rates:

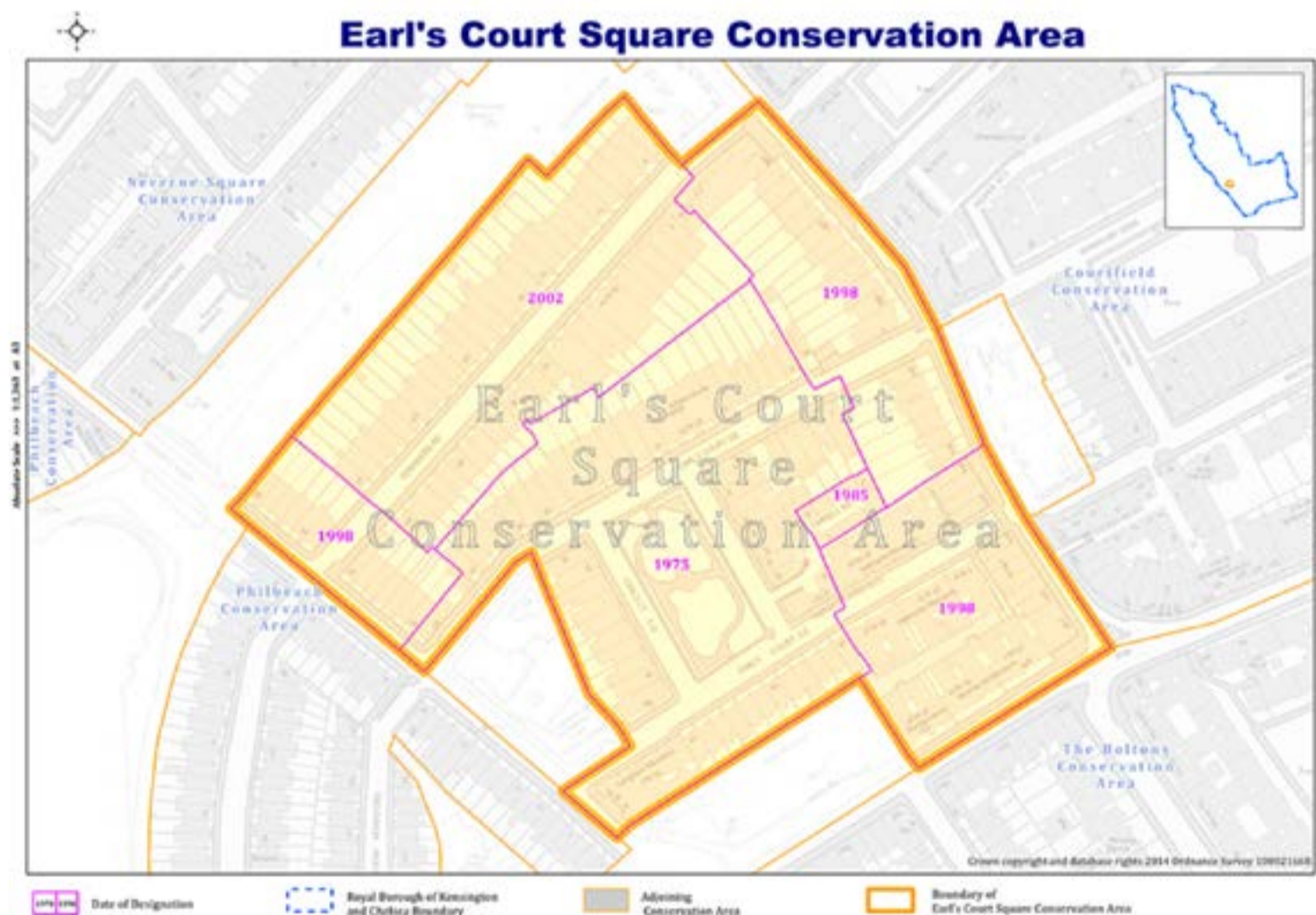
They remain the same this year

Individual Membership is at £10.00

Family Membership is at £15.00.

Membership of ECSRA is open to everyone living in the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area. Subscriptions are used towards funding the drinks/canapés provided at the AGM and the mulled wine and entertainment at the Christmas event.

The BBQ/Disco is the only event that generates a profit.



Our Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA) catchment covers 650 households.

Rubbish Report

What a rubbish job! Heidi's work is never done. Even despite travel and work trips she is keeping a weather eye out for Earl's Court Square.

Heidi has some help. Mariaclara is the 'strong-arm' in the south-east section with an endless quest for a solution for outside number 312; and there are our thanks to other helping hands reporting on the internet link to the council.

Streetline are the people to go to for reporting rubbish dumping. It is worth noting that you need to ask if they can 'look for evidence' of any address details to follow up the culprit to minimise rubbish bags being put out on the wrong days and times. If you report a dumping, you can do it anonymously, but if you want feedback on action taken, Streetline will give you a report number and an update on the situation.

There are currently two main areas for chronic dumping. One is more recent outside Northgate House, as there is a convenient bike rack and tree to prop up against. Heidi is looking into trying to help the owner occupiers who are fed up with the situation. In the opposite arm of the Square at 312 by the drycleaners, big signs are put on rubbish dumping by our vigilant neighbour, as there appears to be little recourse with the freeholder for all the short term lets. This is one place that doesn't have its own



bin storage. So regular calls to Streetline prevail.

The larger nuisance dumping is helped by the Councils electric cage vehicle, which comes to scoop up when problems are reported. The magic number for helpful neighbours contacting Streetline is:
Tel: 020 7361 3001
e: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

The Best Rubbish Quotes

If you're going to make rubbish, be the best rubbish in it.
Richard Burton.

An empty head is not really empty; it is stuffed with rubbish. Hence the difficulty of forcing anything into an empty head.
Eric Hoffer

Good riddance to bad rubbish.
Rodman Philbrick

In one-act pieces there should be only rubbish – that is their strength.
Anton Chekhov

Useful information from Heidi Bradner



Rubbish collections in the Square are on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. Put your waste out by 7am.

o Don't dump rubbish bags on the pavement.

o Please always use your vaults to store rubbish - to prevent foxes breaking into bags of food and waste/spreading rubbish on pavements.

The Sainsbury's Superstore on Cromwell Road has a variety of recycle bins by the lift to the carpark. The bin is located inside the store near the lift to the parking garage and will take soft plastic bags, paper and card, mixed glass, batteries and textiles. Electronic items are also accepted.

Chemists:

Dispose of expired/unused medications at a local chemist to avoid them going to landfill or into the local water system. All chemists in the UK are required to take back expired or unused medications.

Food Waste:

Consideration should be given to providing food waste bins in the larger mansion blocks.

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/food-waste-collections>

Useful numbers

Recycling Reminders: www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling

RBKC/For dumped rubbish:

Call Streetline on 020 7361 3001

Email: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

RBKC website: go to 'Report a problem' and select 'report a problem on a street.'

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/contact-us/report-problem/report-problem-street>

Organise pickup of large and bulky items:

Call: 020 7361 3001

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

Electrical Recycling:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling/waste-electronic-and-electrical-equipment>

Re-Use and Rehome Items:

Post free@ www.freecycle.org

Use Freegle: For RBKC residents re-homing unwanted items with their neighbours.

Offer things you don't need and for things you'd like. Don't just recycle – re-use with Freegle!

What's Happening Around Us

(A watching brief)

After considerable work by the Residents' Association the Square was granted full Conservation Area status by the Council in 1975. This was done to protect and keep the character of the Square and stop developers and in turn residents doing what they liked to the building facades.

Mary Poppins Mural

Conservation area rules limit artistic freedom.

This went to a Council Planning Hearing, the Council made an enforcement decision, the respondent has appealed and the decision and the matter is with the Planning Inspectorate. It is therefore not for discussion at the present time.

Building colour

Magnolia comes in many colours

One challenge we presented to the Council was concerning the interpretation of the paint colour for our stucco buildings. The facade colour rules are very precise, specifically BS4800 08B15 Magnolia! These details were in the 1978 Earl's Court Square Conservation Area Plan Proposal and enshrined under an Article 4 Direction made by the Council the same year and is in force to this day.

We urged the Council to ensure the Planning Officers are briefed on Article 4, as well as maintaining Council records and information. The Council ensuring accurate information is available to residents is critical for avoiding confusion over Conservation Area rules. This then avoids unnecessary enforcement action resulting from innocent errors where rules have been inadvertently breached by residents who did perform reasonable checks.

It is to be noted that windows should be gloss white and doors

can be any colour. The house numbers are to be in Garamond, 7 inches in height and in black. This is not in Article 4 it is an ECSRA initiative.

We have made it easier to locate facade rules via the opening page on the ECSRA Website. Conservation, Location & Rules.

The Earl's Court Square Conservation Area Appraisal document is a detailed read.

<https://planningconsult.rbkc.gov.uk/ECSCAA/consultationHome>

Sash Windows

Planning permission no longer needed for 'like for like' double glazing

The ECSRA had been busy lobbying for at least four years for a simpler approach when applying to double glaze sash windows, to make homes more energy efficient. The conservation rules made the paperwork onerous with all the form filling and toing-and-froing with the Council officers. With the help of Cllr. Cem Kamali sitting on the Council's 'inner circle' and being placed to focus on Earl's Court, we helped the process to be made simpler and less costly. Our thanks to Cllr. Cem and Andrew Foster who doggedly kept at it.

Go to www.ecsra.co.uk - Home - Conservation Location & Helpful Rules for more detail.



A Village in the Heart of London

Angela Casucci

There is something truly special about life in Earl's Court Square.

In a city as transient as London - a place where people are always arriving and leaving, where neighbourhoods change as quickly as the seasons - our Square is an exception. Here, people put down roots. Families stay for years, sometimes generations, drawn not just by the beauty of the place but by the deep sense of belonging that exists within it. In a world that often feels fast-moving and impersonal, we have something rare - a true community where friendships form naturally, across generations and cultures, in the most effortless and genuine way.

For our children, the Square has been more than just a place to live. It has been their world - a familiar, safe, and welcoming space where friendships have blossomed without effort or arrangement. They've grown up together, meeting in the garden after school, on weekends, and in every season. Without the need for scheduled playdates, they've learned to navigate friendships in their own time, forming bonds that feel more like those of a small town than a central London neighbourhood. They have shared traditions, picked up new customs from each other, and created their own - swapping festive treats,



celebrating each other's special days, and forging memories that will last a lifetime.

But it's not just the children who have found something precious here. As parents, many of us have discovered what we didn't even realise we needed - a family away from family. A network of people we can rely on at any moment, for any reason. Whether it's a quick chat on a difficult day, an extra set of hands when juggling too much, or simply knowing that someone is looking out for your child as much as their own, this community has become a source of comfort and strength.

Beyond that, our Square has given us something increasingly rare: the feeling of living in a village. It's a place where you always run into a familiar face, where kindness is exchanged without thought, and where generations blend seamlessly. Our elderly residents, who in a city can sometimes feel overlooked, have become the treasured grandparents of the Square, passing on wisdom, being cared for, and finding renewed purpose in their relationships with younger generations. In turn, they offer their own quiet support - watching over little ones, sharing stories, and reminding us all what it means to belong to something greater than ourselves. These



connections built over years of shared moments, are among the most valuable things in life. And if we nurture them, they will continue to enrich not just our own lives but those of our children. The friendships formed here today could open doors in the future, offering guidance, support, and opportunity in ways we may not yet see.

In a city where so much is temporary, Earl's Court Square is a rare constant. It is a place where people come and choose to stay - not just because of the homes or the garden, but because of the people. It is more than just a place to live; it's a community in the truest sense of the word. A village in the heart of London.



Earl's Court and Beyond



The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is an Inner London borough with royal status. It is the smallest borough in London and the second smallest district in England; it is one of the most densely populated administrative regions in the United Kingdom. It includes affluent areas such as Notting Hill, Kensington, South Kensington, Chelsea, and Knightsbridge.

It might interest you to know, the Leader of the Council Elizabeth Campell's video update on the Council's budget for the next year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4GS13p6FEQ>

A Hogarth Road update

An updated message from Cllr. Cem Kemahli Lead Member for Planning and Public Realm.

"We hope to finish ahead of schedule in late April. The main works are finishing even sooner but we have to do the entrance way last before reopening to traffic. Plans are afoot to try and bring a farmers' market, as well as more outdoor dining and attractions. We can't control the business tenants but hopefully the quality of the road will attract some new businesses. Everyone I know living locally has said how excited they are for new trees, wider pavements and a general upgrading of this Earl's Court area."

E-bikes and E-scooters

Update by Larry Smith

On October 28th RBKC invited e-bike hire providers Lyme and Forrest to a conference, hosted by the council's Environmental Select Committee. The two companies faced questions

from both residents and councillors: criticisms focussed on the challenges and problems created by misuse and nuisance parking of their bikes. ECSRA attended, highlighting concern about pavement parking, particularly near GP surgeries and schools - such as near St Cuthbert with St Matthias & St Mary's Other residents highlighted reckless pavement cycling and the challenges of identifying problem riders to Lyme/Uber and Forrest. Main points are that RBKC - and all other councils - are awaiting legislation to properly fine companies and tackle nuisance parking, and that Lyme/Forest



want to leverage further tech solutions to improve accuracy of tracking bad parking. Some other items too, including RBKC continuing to review the level of e-bike bays for parking. Lyme also explained that their bikes and users are insured, such that if pedestrians are injured, they should contact Lyme/Uber's claims team - though one resident highlighted the issues they'd experienced with attempting to make such a claim.

Thank you's to Active Residents

Cathy Burnaby-Atkins for reporting the Tips and Toes break ins and the helpfulness of PCSO Richard Burnett who came to help. Agnes Casin for getting Thames Water to attend Earl's Court Square with water pressure problems affecting much of the Square in early March. It was discovered that the hydro connection outside MacDonalds hadn't been switched back on after testing the points in the area.



Sdias London

Stephanie Dias is a 'ball of fun and energy.' She is the founder of Sdias London and has decided to set up her shop (her first one) in the closest row of shops opposite our park, the Brompton Cemetery. Stephanie is a British Jamaican Interior designer, born and raised in Holland Park, with a passion to incorporate inspirations from both home and abroad in her design work. Her extensive portfolio includes work with multi award winning developers and designers across central London.

She launched her own business within the super prime residential interior design industry in 2016 to amplify an additional layer of interior design that she felt was lacking. At Sdias, the focus is on putting together truly timeless interiors that can be enjoyed in both the now and the future. Stephanie's passion and drive for interior design stems from her Caribbean and British background and extensive worldwide travel, which influences her adaptability and appreciation for the diverse design needs of her clients. She strives to create aesthetically beautiful interiors, at the highest standard, with astute

attention to detail. The photograph of Stephanie, above, shows her waving to a local Earl's Court artist who has contributed some wall art. Stephanie is currently completing a feature on the ceiling of her showroom and plans to hold art lessons when she has finished working on the shop's decoration.

We now have some exciting new energy in our neighbourhood, with gatherings and art lessons to look forward to.

Sdias Design Studio: 304 Old Brompton Rd, London SW5 9JF

Tel: 0203 951 1372

E: stephanie@sdiaslondon.com

Japanese Anime

features the Troubadour



A film adaptation of ****K-On!**** was released in Japan on December 3, 2011. The movie that grossed over \$4million from 137 theatres has a cult following. It follows the main characters as they travel to London to celebrate their graduation, centering around four high school girls who join the light music club at Sakuragaoka High School, an all-girls private institution, in an effort to prevent the club from being disbanded.

The film features the Troubadour Cafe, a popular destination for ****K-On!**** fans. These 'pop ups' pictured appear on YouTube regularly.



The Troubadour was founded in 1954 and is now one of London's oldest independent music venues. It has hosted musicians from all over the world. Do look at the website, there is always a Jazz Sunday music session being played in the basement and countless genres of live music most days of the week.

It's getting warmer and the sun is out, so now's the time to sit outside in their garden to eat and drink!

The Garden closes at 9.30pm.

Regular hours:

Monday: 5.00pm – Midnight

Tuesday & Wednesday: 12.00pm – Midnight

Thursday: 12.00pm – 2.00am

Friday & Saturday: 10am – 2.00am

Sunday: 10am – Midnight

www.troubadourlondon.com



New Openings

Sue Lupton



Amathus Drinks

We are fortunate to have a wine & spirits store to replace Oddbins, and wow! What a store! It is packed to the gunnels with the most colourful enticements.

There are 'best sellers,' 'limited editions,' and exciting varieties of wines from around the world. Even if you don't drink alcohol there is an interesting selection to coif. My favourites besides the large gin selection are the 'goodies' to make cocktails. A huge range.

You can also pop by for truffle chocolate presents. If you want it, they have it - or something similar. I am looking forward to some wine tasting in their lower ground den.



ANA Turkish Restaurant & Bar

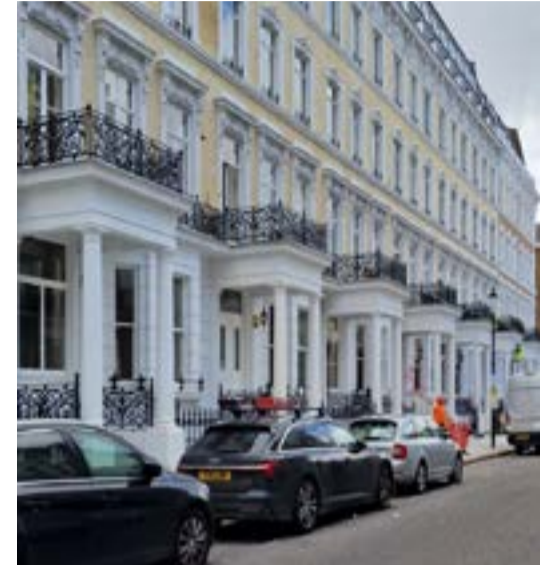
Although it was five months ago that the restaurant ANA opened for business, we can still include it in our new openings section. They have done a big refurbishment next to the Troubadour. It's the premises Troubadour had to give up, as the lease was held by a different landlord.

So, I went to have a look. I have heard good things about the food and looking at the menu, there are the Turkish favourites, not too costly either. Currently to encourage us to dine there, they are offering 10% off. Conveniently ANA is open 7 days a week 12.00pm to 11.30pm. There is an area downstairs that can hold 40 people for a party too.

263 Old Brompton Road SW5 9JA Tel: 020 3345 4358 <https://anarestaurant.co.uk/>

Ellen

Contemporary and eclectic, the flavour of Singapore has been brought to Earl's Court, with a new opening at 18-26 Barkston Gardens. The luxurious hotel bedrooms for every personality and ELLEN's Restaurant combines British ingredients with bold unexpected Asian flavours to give an unforgettable culinary experience. Explore Ellen's Cocktail Bar too, where the drinks, drawing inspiration from East Asian Tradition, ensuring they prove no less convivial than the company. Tel. 020 7866 0551



Templeton Garden (Formerly K&K George Hotel)

Templeton Garden, a stone's throw from Earl's Court tube, will open its doors in April. This is the latest addition for the new owners, the Hotel Miro Group (it currently has hotels in Paris, Barcelona and Gstaad). Templeton Gardens is their 156-bedroom property in an historic part of Earl's Court. When it launches in April, the venue will be home to a café-deli, a modern British restaurant, a cocktail bar and state-of-the-art gym. In addition there is a 'Refresh Room', which is a Miro signature feature, designed for guest use before check-in and after check-out. The space will include stylish changing rooms, showers, toiletries, charging points and smart lockers, making late flights and left luggage simple for those who want to get out and about, bag free. Many of the bedrooms will come with balconies, while others look out over the hotel's garden or Templeton Place itself.

Air Quality England Reporting on Earl's Court Road

The Council are supporting Ricardo Energy & Environment to monitor our local air quality. There are four areas in RBKC and the one outside the Raitakrai Thai restaurant, in our ECSRA catchment, is one of them. Every six months the cabinet is opened up to do a full audit and the particulates from the road surface gathered on the tapes (which are renewed monthly) are recorded on one machine and the nitric oxide and sulphur C02 recorded on the other machine.

You will be pleased to know that our overall calibrated pollution summery is low in Nitrogen Dioxide and low in particulate matter measured by a PM2.5 sensor that detects particles that are a major component of air pollution. This is read at the head height of an adult, and does not produce

readings for say a 10 year old's height. The latest results are from the 11th March 2025.

Some comparison since we last reported it in 2016: PM2.5 levels are considered low according to EU standards, but they remain relatively high when compared to other global benchmarks and are still higher than the levels recorded in 2016-2017. On the other hand, NO2 concentrations have decreased since 2016-2017, indicating an improvement in air quality in this regard.

It is responsible of the Council sponsoring regular air quality measurements that are crucial, as they allow for continuous monitoring and assessment of pollution trends. This data helps authorities take timely and

appropriate actions to mitigate pollution levels and reduce harmful emissions. Ensuring lower pollutant concentrations is essential for safeguarding public health and improving overall quality of life.

If you are interested in detail look at the Air Quality England website and select Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which will lead you to the Earl's Court Road results. It is a portal for air quality data as well as a resource for members of the public.



Tittle Tattle



Alan Malcolm
(our tongue in cheek roving reporter)

At polite (sic) dinner parties in SW5, the topic is often raised about which organisation has done most to despoil the environment in Earl's Court.

There is hot competition between Luftwaffe and Capco. In 1944, bombers flattened the memorial to John Snow in Brompton Cemetery, the bold doctor who "solved" cholera in central London.

Number 25 Earl's Court Square received a hit and the resulting façade remains an eyesore, lacking proper columns and Corinthian capitals.

Attempts to persuade the German Embassy to pay for the reconstruction as "war reparations" have met with stony silence. However, it is easily agreed that Capco outstrips such damage. Earl's Court is "celebrating" the tenth anniversary of the destruction of the Grade 2 listed art deco building in Warwick Road.

Newly elected MP, Joe Powell, recently told the ECSRA AGM that he had no idea how tall the new buildings might be, nor how an extra 4,000 residents would be transported to and from West Brompton and Earl's Court tube stations.

Watch this space.

Editor's footnote to thank the current owners. There is plenty afoot to sort out the new infrastructure and building heights, but we do need to thank the current owners, the Earl's Court Development Company (ECDC) for helping our local community(s) with workshops, sponsorships and charitable accommodation. For example, a premises for the charity Dads House, who do mentoring (including legal advice) and have an active foodbank; helping Solidarity Sports, the charity for children's health, welfare and engendering self-belief for the most vulnerable to succeed in life and others. ECDC are making the most of the space near their HUB too, hosting world class exhibitions and shows. Their three-monthly roster for the initiative 'artists in Residents' attracts those up there with the best. The excellent Greatest Showman musical and circus experience is now on at Empress Place.

Police Reporting

Sue Lupton

When meeting late February with PC Ben Hunter to update our ECSRA Website, he tells me the MET is fully staffed for the Earl's Court Ward allocation.

The internet link for the MET Police advises we currently have:
PC HALL
PC MACGILLIVARY
PC HUNTER
PCSO OVERY
PCSO BURNETT

I explained that there are a number of instances where the link for how to report a crime, presents a form that doesn't appear to fit the instance being reported.

PC Ben Hunter says he realises this, but even if we say 'no' to the forms questions when not applicable, we need to keep going as there is a place at the end where one can describe the issue. An example I gave was an ongoing ASB situation, and PC Ben said 'keep pressing the no, and there will be a 'reason' box at the end to explain the issue.
<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

PC Ben went on to say the following which is useful.

1. For emergencies dial 999 for life threatening situations. This is for the fire brigade, ambulance and police. Risk to life and risk to property and if the suspect is there still.

2. For non-emergencies (not life threatening) dial 101.
a. The person answering will take down all the details from you and make a report, and you will get a 'crime number.'

b. If the situation is still current i.e. the perpetrator is still in sight i.e. still a current risk, there is a 'triage' of people in the control room that will work out the risk and will allocate the message to be actioned accordingly.

3. If you have reported a crime, and have more intelligence going forward you can report by email further instances to our Earl's Court SNT Team on: earlscourt.snt@met.police.uk This is not manned 24/7, but the intelligence gathering will help to build a picture of things ongoing.

4. There are two outcomes to an initial investigation. A. Close the investigation or B. Move forward with the investigation. Sometimes when new information or new evidence is discovered, the police can reopen the case and update you. If you do want to update a crime that has already been reported, you can contact the police to request an update on a crime online. You will need your crime reference number.
<https://www.met.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/us/contact-us/id-like-to-request-an-update-on-a-crime-report-i-have-a-crime-number/>

There is an option to report a crime from this link too.

5. When we are looking at Antisocial behaviour (ASB) there is a 'multi-agency' approach. The police handle things that are of a 'vile' or of a 'criminal' nature and RBKC handle 'civil' disruptors.
If you are unsure who to contact ring 101 and they will allocate accordingly.

6. Reporting Antisocial behaviour to our Council, use this link.
<https://www.gov.uk/how-report-antisocial-behaviour/report-council>

7. The Councils Community Safety ASB Team have a monitored phone line between 9.00 and 17.00. The various phone numbers are referenced for the different situations selected via this link.
<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community-and-local-life/community-safety>

8. If you want to report a crime anonymously, you can do this through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

**Our local Kensington Police station has a walk-in counter manned between 10am and 6pm at 72-74 Earl's Court Road, Kensington, London, W8 6EQ. Follow on Twitter for updated activity:
[@MPSEarlscourt](https://twitter.com/MPSEarlscourt) and [@MPSKenChel](https://twitter.com/MPSKenChel)**

Police are working with the RBKC Street Enforcement Team (SET) in the ongoing Public Service Protection Order (PSPO) carrying out stop-and-searches, tackling street drinking and anti-social behaviour, begging and cycling on the pavements. The PSPO initiative is valid for three years until March 2027.



The Lighting of the Christmas Tree



One of the fun community events in our Earl's Court Square calendar for all ages to participate in is a joint event organised by the ECSRA Executive Committee and the Garden Sub-Committee.

We were somewhat nervous this year, as the Christmas tree that was bought was uncustomarily small for the 'nomenclature' of the event, but when the new lights were switched on, it looked beautiful. This year we arranged for a keyboard player to tinkle out the Christmas carols and songs. To make the most of the occasion, Sue Lupton was asked to put a singing group together and the song sheet. A core of volunteers was happily coerced into singing, even if it was to add volume, but beautiful voices were needed and our neighbour Agnes Casin put the word out to her singing group the Barcarolle Choir, who regularly practice and perform at St. Cuthberts Church. A handful of fun Barcarolle people came with partners and the stage was set for a jolly 20-minute singsong. Everyone there was seen to join in and the children continued in full voice around Ben the keyboard player, on and off throughout the event.



This year instead of chocolates on the Christmas tree, we voted for more of Alan Malcom's delicious mulled wine, a treat in anyone's book. More food goodies including Katrina Quinton's yummy mince pies, MariaClara's award winning cookies and more contributions from committee members. Another generous feature this year were the bite size savoury pies and broth donated and handed out by Olga and Maria from our local Mriya restaurant. They also brought a prize draw with restaurant offers. A big thank you for this from us all.



Garden News

Katrina Quinton



Spring as always raises the spirits and is the definition of hope, whether it be the early showing of the almond blossom around the play area, the budding magnolias or the camelias, daffodils and crocus which follow on from the snowdrops and aconites and winter flowering prunus. Last year's roses continued through the winter and I always feel slightly guilty when the spring prune happens - but a good prune will strengthen the flowers for the summer ahead and sometimes in gardening you have to be cruel to be kind. Our plan to have something in flower throughout the year is



coming to fruition. This year I really want to try and take a cutting from the glorious smelling red rose that is on the east side of the garden. No-one has yet been able to identify it but it's velvety damascene texture and the power of its scent are literally mind-blowing. I have always felt that flowers are such generous things as everyone who looks at them is able to appreciate their beauty: a box of chocolates may look lovely but could be considered a selfish pleasure as only the eater can enjoy the flavour!

Our application for the tree pruning has gone to the Council. We are hoping to get this done as quickly as possible, but we need the Council's approval for the works to go ahead so it may well be May before everyone has to keep their eyes open for the parking suspensions so they are not caught out - and so that the tree surgeons can complete the

task in hand. I apologise for the delay, we were trying to get comparative quotations from more than two providers but it would seem that tree surgeons are not desperate for work in central London. We have chosen The Tree Agency who are cost effective and also have the advantage of knowing the garden and the trees. I realise that some people do not like the knuckles of the trees but within a month new shoots will be coming forward to soften the blow and the plane trees will look like pampered poodles for a while. The increase in light levels to the garden should also affect the lawns positively.

The replacement trees we put in last year seem to have settled well and the training rope on the multi-stemmed acer in the north of the garden has been removed. The glorious red



stems added welcome vibrancy over the winter and hopefully as the tree matures we will benefit from more colour throughout the year. The walnut tree in the southern bed also seems to have settled and its dominant leading shoot should now grow apace to create a nicely shaped tree in the future. The yew topiary which is notorious for being 'difficult' in its early years has settled in the main. We are nurturing two which are showing signs of duress in the hope that they will rally. Yew is comparatively slow growing but it does work in the square as shown by the enclosure around the small bench on the west side of the garden.

We continue to use the Council's blue bag garden waste scheme which is why you may see unsightly blue bags on the hedge and the flower bed in the south-east corner. This, together with our compost bins, are the primary ways we keep our garden waste under control but seasonal pruning blitzes can create more than we can dispose of. The Sub-Committee failed in its ambition to coordinate a leaf rake in the autumn of 2024 but this will happen again in 2025 as it was a fun hour of community effort and VERY productive! Together we provided 35 hours of labour which does help



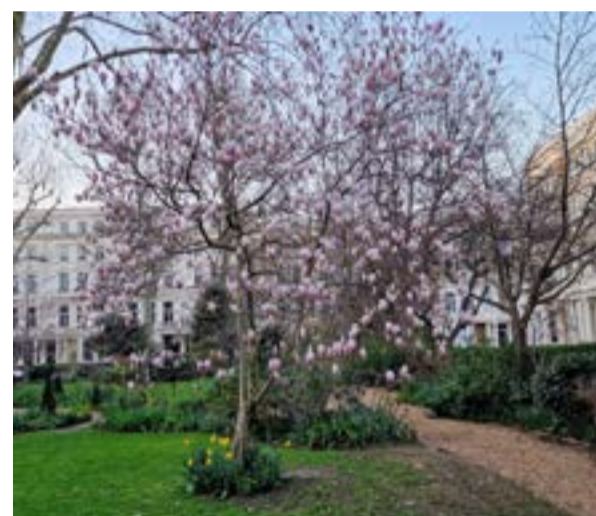
the budget and almost more importantly gets the job done quickly before the winter mulch goes down which benefits the garden so hugely in the year ahead.

The birdlife of the Square continues to entertain - the crows, magpies, jays and parakeets compete on noise levels it seems and the parakeets and squirrels compete on agility in their attempts to get into the bird feeders. Smaller birds do also take advantage of our bird feeders and it seems the woodpecker is back again this year.

Obviously the tree surgeons are very aware of their responsibility to respect nesting birds which may well affect the removal of the 'dead' branch on one of the plane trees on the west side.

As always I would ask those who use the garden to respect the by-laws and be considerate

to your neighbours. The garden is such a revitalising place for our community, and I hope that you feel that it is somewhere that adds to the pleasure of life.



Garden key update for the 1906 Act

For the 1906 Open Spaces Act to be ratified into our garden constitution, there needs to be a two-thirds majority at two meetings of garden ratepayers to agree to allow up to 75 Subscriber keys to be offered to households in the 'arms' of the square and Farnell Mews. The annual fee charged is used, along with the garden precept paid by the ratepayers, to maintain the garden but with the advantage of allowing to be used for 'extras' such as musicians or entertainment. These 'favour' keys have been granted since the inception of the Garden Square sub-committee in 1977.

Three meetings were organised, the first to set the dates for the two voting meetings. The first meeting was held on 24th March and 69 garden ratepayers attended. A two thirds majority was reached which means that the second meeting, to ratify this decision, can be held.

We were very fortunate that all three of our local councillors came to the meeting and they have all agreed to return for the second meeting. The Committee's solicitor was also there, and they all oversaw the ballot and agreed it was fair.

The second meeting is to be held on Monday 28 April where the two thirds majority needs to be achieved again.

As the renewal of the keys is done from the 1st April each year, the existing Subscriber keys for those in the 'arms of the Square' will be suspended on the evening of 31 March. If the second ballot reaches the required majority, then the final number of keys to be made available and the fee will be agreed at an EGM of The Garden Committee and existing Subscribers will subsequently be invited to renew their subscription.

Neighbour Profile

The Editor asked Cilla Ware for a profile, as she has lead an unusual life as well as a family heritage that spans 126 years in Earl's Court Square. This is Cilla's story.



A twist of fate led our family to Earl's Court in 1909.

Our great-grandfather, a once-respected lawyer, had scandalously run off to Canada with his young secretary, abandoning his wife, Fanny, and their three small children. Left to fend for herself, Fanny took a job as a housekeeper in Earl's Court Square. But she was no ordinary woman - through sheer grit, sharp business instincts, and unbreakable determination, she transformed hardship into prosperity. In just ten years, she amassed five buildings, cementing her legacy as the formidable owner of the White House Hotel.

Her granddaughter, Jennifer Ware - our mother - was born in the hotel. Raised during the Second World War, she spent virtually her entire life in the Square, carrying forward the strength and resilience of the women before her. A strong woman from a dynasty of strong women.

I, too, grew up in the Square, but the hotel did not stand the test of time. Instead, I embarked on a career as a TV director. Originally marine biology was my intention, inspired by the underwater world of Jacques Cousteau. But a twist

of fate led me to film school, where I meant to learn the art of underwater documentaries. Once there, I discovered actors, storytelling, and the magic of narrative. I fell in love with drama and reset my sights on becoming a director.

Leaving film school I became a runner on feature films. Ironically, having grown up in a hotel - literally living in one my entire life - being a runner came naturally. I knew how to look after people, how to anticipate their needs, how to keep things moving. I climbed the ranks quickly, from runner to third, then second, to first assistant director and finally becoming a director. But not without resistance. In those days I was told, women can't be first ADs or directors - men won't take orders from them. But I was lucky. I had a strong mother, and I had watched people take orders from her my whole life.

People assume women gravitate toward emotional drama, but for me, action was always the real thrill - more complex, more technical, more fun to choreograph. Directing action is exhilarating - like playing with a big Scalextric set. Coming up through the ranks as a first AD, I learned the mechanics of action filmmaking from the best - directors, stunt coordinators, supervisors. I wasn't intimidated by it. The real challenge? Reinventing what audiences have seen a thousand times before. Every car chase, every explosion, every fight has been done before. So how do you make yours stand out? How do you grip your audience keep them glued to their seats? It's about crafting a narrative

within the mayhem. Every action sequence needs a beginning, middle, and end. You have to surprise the audience, keep them guessing, keep them emotionally involved!

It starts with collaboration. You sit down with your stunt coordinator & your cinematographer, and we throw ideas around. You don't have a Bond-level budget, but that's where creativity comes in. You dream big - bigger than you can afford - then scale it back into something achievable. And that's where the excitement lies: taking a limited canvas and trying to paint something fresh.

I became one of the first female 1st AD's in the UK and one of the first female Directors. I was lucky I had strong role models! The industry is unpredictable, brutal, and always changing. But for those of us who thrive on that, who love the challenge of creating something fresh in a world that's seen it all before - there's nothing else like it.

Cilla Ware



Cilla's BAFTAs

Last Minute News

The zebra crossing to Brompton Cemetary is completed. It will be safer for anyone on foot, with prams or little ones, cyclists and mobility scooters. *Heidi Bradner*



EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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



ECSRA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2025

On behalf of Earl's Court residents, we:

- Monitor and address environmental issues including pollution, rubbish & recycling.
- Comment on planning applications and transport issues.
- Liaise with the Police, Council and the Earl's Court Garden Sub-Committee.
- Organise a number of annual social events for the residents of Earl's Court Square.
- Produce ECSRA Members' News bi-annually.
- Publish a website with history and local information.
- ECSRA Member updates on current local issues.

Dates 2025:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 27 February: | Annual General Meeting. |
| 7 - 8 June: | London Open Gardens Weekend. |
| 21 June: | Earl's Court Square BBQ and Disco. |
| 16 October: | Japanese themed evening at the Bottlery |
| 7 December: | Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. |

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

Thank you to John D Wood & Co. for sponsoring the print

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 2025

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: _____

We need to have an up-to-date email address to enable us to contact Members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

- £10.00 per year individual membership
- £15.00 per year family (household) membership
- Donations are gratefully received.

YOU CAN PAY ELECTRONICALLY TO METROBANK:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association:
Sort Code: 23 – 05 – 80 | Account number: 10942594
Use your house number as your reference. To confirm your details and how much you have paid, please email Nadia Allam (Membership Secretary) on ecsramembers@icloud.com

Alternatively make cheques payable to:

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association
I enclose cash* / cheque* for £10.00* / £15.00*
The Bank will charge us for each cheque.

** Please delete as appropriate*

Please return this form, together with your remittance to:

The ECSRA Chairman
c/o Flat 13A, Wetherby Mansions,
13 - 35 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 9BY

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Nadia Allam on ecsramembers@icloud.com

WEBSITE: www.ecsra.co.uk