

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 2026



AN UPDATE

The Earl's Court Square Residents' Association (ECSRA) Executive Committee was busy this past year on behalf of residents, with its main activities being the upkeep of the square and the surrounds that affect us. This includes the area beyond the confines of the garden and is a responsibility taken on by a volunteer committee of eleven people. Our residents' association footprint can be seen on our website www.ecsra.co.uk and includes some 600 households.

EVENTS



Organising and facilitating events is always the fun part. The 2025 AGM last February was held at the Bottlery which has sadly had to close due to the landlord wanting to double the rent. Appealing to the London assessment tribunal for help 'didn't help.' So now the property sits empty, a loss for us locally.

We enjoyed a successful BBQ and Disco in June. A couple of youngsters from the square set up a lemonade stand as a school fundraising project. It was very ably run and the lemonade was delicious and refreshing. We saw folks returning from Royal Ascot, weaving their way through the picnic groups and settling to quaff some more. Picnic rugs, tables, chairs and benches were set out making full use of the garden for all ages. The warm weather was a real plus on the day.

Our Members and Friends 'themed' evening was held at the Dynasty Bar in September. It was great to see several new faces. In keeping with the Japanese theme, members of the ECSRA committee decked out the bar, dressed up in Japanese style and served delicious Japanese canapes. This year, the theme for the event will be Mexican.

The 'Lighting of the Christmas Tree' in December is always a joy. ECSRA run this jointly with the Earl's Court Square Garden Sub-committee. There is a write-up further on in this publication.



PLANNING

Monitoring Planning, Licencing, Traffic and Parking submissions is a big undertaking. The Council send information alerts to the Committee weekly and these are reviewed to see if they effect Earl's Court Square directly or indirectly. Even nearby alerts can have a knock-on effect. This wider area includes Abingdon, Courtfield, Earl's Court and Redcliffe Wards.

Some planning highlights

- In August, the Committee made a written submission on behalf of ECSRA to the RBKC Fairer Funding Review.
 - We pointed out to RBKC the eyesore of the new heat pumps on the Olympia Hotel, noting that we are in a conservation area. They are now "hidden from view". We still have to pressure them to have the window frames and windows put back in white.
 - We commented on the Shop Front Design Guide as part of the conservation area, which is now approved. The Guide is aimed at helping businesses improve their shop fronts to ensure a more unified design identity for Earl's Court Road District Centre's colourful shops and businesses.
 - The proposed colour changes to the corner business (part of SUDS) were discussed and approved, but the freeholder is dragging its heels, much to the Suds leaseholder's annoyance.

- Extended licences for longer hours for Burger King and McDonalds. The Committee doesn't mind legitimate businesses having extended hours, provided there are strong enforcement penalties, should these be required. The concern is the delivery bicycles flouting rules. Our view is for each application to be discussed with applicants and local residents.
- Silvertime reared its head again requesting larger premises. The Committee made it clear that we would once again firmly oppose any such plans.
- The Bolton Pub has received planning permission for its next life. We had our say and supported the final design. The owners are looking for a contractor. New flats upstairs and food hospitality on the ground floor are proposed. The facade will be kept intact.
- Sainsbury's Local has indicated an interest in renting the former Langhans restaurant on the Old Brompton Road. It has been empty for the past eight years due to reduced footfall from the dismantling of the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre.



- Of interest for the facade upkeep of the Earl's Court Road, click [Earl's Court Shopfront Design Guide draft Supplementary Planning Document](#), once open click on the Draft Earl's Court Shopfront design Guide to look at the proposals. We note that the area from M&S south to and including Old Brompton Road is not included. Alex Tullett will ask why. The Council is listening to Residents.

It is to be noted that we have not received feedback on some of our more recent objections and most recent support on projects. Since the cyber-attack on the Council's computer system, its website has been closed to any new information. Our main concern is the Sainsbury's proposal. We are trying to find out from the Council if the delay is due to the computer situation. Sainsbury's might move on. It would be good to fill this huge empty space.

RESIDENTS' HELP NEEDED

Although the Committee writes on behalf of residents as the Association, we encourage individuals who live in the Square to do the same, to ensure the loudest possible voice.

Prime examples of the need for loud voices are the Silvertime proposal and a proposed Pizza establishment to replace the dry cleaners on the southeast corner of the Square.

The objective is to stop the decline of our neighbourhood by sending a large volume of messages from residents (voters) to Councillors and Council leadership to demonstrate what we want and do not want. ECSRA sends alerts to residents with the email and contact links for RBKC when the residents' response is required.



POLICING – ENFORCEMENT

Squatters descended on what was Flora Indica. The restaurant closed due to the landlord requesting an additional £10,000 per annum. The lack of footfall in that area did not justify the increase and so the owners walked away leaving everything behind. A comfy place for squatters.

The Bolton has had its share of squatters in this past year too. The owner has planning permission but is being slow to start the conversion. There must be a way of insisting on their facade upkeep. Members of the ECSRA Executive Committee are involved in pursuing the Council for help in this matter.

We look forward to the year ahead and to lots of participation from residents. We encourage all Members to renew their 2026 subscription and to pass on this newsletter to others, so they see the work we do and will support by joining ECSRA.

The ECSRA Executive Committee

Gold standard Award for representing residents

ON THE RUBBISH FRONT

Much time is spent monitoring the problem of rubbish left in the Square at the wrong times. This task is mainly undertaken by Committee members Heidi Bradner and Mariaclara Vilona. Culprits include builders, rentals and students who do not follow the dates and times of collection. We have had some success working with the management of the properties concerned, but there remain 'hotspots' which we are trying to resolve with our now dedicated Council officer.

Here is the link to report dumped rubbish

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

A better connection as the website is not working still, is to report it on:

Streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

Dates for the Diary 2026

24 February:	Annual General Meeting
6-7 June:	London Open Gardens Weekend
20 June:	Earl's Court Square BBQ and Disco
15 October:	Mexican Themed Evening
6 December:	Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Committee Rotation

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

Offering themselves up for election:

Nadia Allam – Membership Secretary

Heidi Bradner

Shailesh Katyal

Mariaclara Vilona

Maria Xirou

Magda Zawisza

Currently serving and continuing under the rules:

Andrew Foster

Alex Tullett – Hon. Treasurer

Stefano Galgiolo

Officially Elected to the executive Committee:

Allessandra Bognetti with an interest in planning

Andrew Donchenko with an interest in policing and safety

Retiring:

Sue Lupton – serving on ECSRA for 30 years

Lawrence Smith – serving on ECSRA for two years



Sue Lupton

Thank you to Sue Lupton who has served just on 30 years supporting our community on the ECSRA Executive Committee.

As an active member, Sue has been behind the organisation of the events, the ECSRA Website, and 25 years of ECSRA Newsletters and Magazines.

Sue is still about to 'chew the cud,' but stepping down from active service!

Treasurers' Report for Accounts ending 31st December 2025

Considering the increases / decreases in Income and Expenditure, the main reason we were slightly down was lower receipts from the BBQ

Income

* Subscriptions. Slightly up at £91.00.

* BBQ. Down by £346.75 We had fewer people attend compared to last year.

* Hanging baskets. Down by £839.32. We carried forward the balance from previous years.

* S. E. Arm Planters. Down by £449.91. We carried forward the balance from previous years

* RBK&C and CLLL. Received £176.01 for planters/baskets for the Villas on ECR, offsetting the cost.

* The reason for this is we are the accredited R.A. and they are within our footprint, they do not have a dedicated bank account.

Expenditure

Increases on 2024

* AGM. Up by £134.35. We actually paid for the wine at the AGM.

* Hanging Baskets. Up £61.64. A slight increase, but not as much as we anticipated and in-line with what was spent last year.

* S. E. Arm Planters. Up £14.03. A slight increase, but not as much as we anticipated and in-line with what was spent last year

* RBK&C and CLLL see above.

* ECSRA Jubilee banners, a one off.

Decreases on 2024

* AGM. We as the committee supplied all the food.

* BBQ. Costs slightly down by £73.49 on last year, we used up the charcoal that was shown as prepaid in



Membership

We are excited to share that ECSRA welcomed many new members in 2025! As our community evolves and new residents arrive, ECSRA plays a vital role in keeping everyone informed about local events and our annual gatherings. These occasions provide a wonderful opportunity for us all to connect and build lasting relationships. Your memberships not only support these events but also help create an enriching environment for everyone. We truly appreciate your ongoing support! We invite you to join or renew your membership for 2026 and continue being a valuable part of our community.



Please encourage others in the Square or near vicinity to join. The Membership form is at the back of this e-magazine. So you could forward it on.

Membership Secretary: Nadia Allam allamn@icloud.com



PROFILE

Didier Garnier

An Earl's Court Square resident for Forty Years



Didier Garnier was born into a family of restaurateurs in January 1956. His parents, Roger and Micheline Garnier, opened L'Hostellerie du Château near Angers in 1952. Seven years later, in 1959, the restaurant was awarded one Michelin star—the only Michelin-starred establishment in Maine-et-Loire at the time.

Tragedy struck on Tuesday, 30 May 1961. After completing the lunch service, Didier's father went upstairs to rest and never returned to his kitchen. He died of leukaemia at the age of 32. Didier was just five years old, but he firmly believes that this event profoundly shaped the course of his life.

At the age of 15, Didier began a two-year apprenticeship at Le Vert d'Eau in Angers, a one-Michelin-star restaurant.

In September 1973, thanks to Mr Blaineau, Director of the Chambre de Commerce d'Angers, and with the support of Jacques Schneider, Didier was selected as one of five waiters sent to the United Kingdom to work for the Savoy Group. He was placed at The Connaught Hotel, where Mr Chevalier, Director of the Dining Room, completed his training and instilled in him discipline, precision, and rigorous professional standards during a formative year.

In 1974, Didier worked briefly at Maxim's (Rue Royale) and Le Cercle Républicain at the Opéra, before completing his military service in Saumur with the Cadre Noir. Despite holding the title Cavalier Garnier, he never rode a horse. Instead, he worked closely with General Delaunay, who took him running every morning—an experience Didier did not enjoy. His compensation was a private room and privileged access to the General's wine cellar.

In 1976, Didier joined the Restaurant of the French Senate in Paris, where he worked for two years. He then returned to the UK, spending a further two years at Les Alouettes Restaurant in Surrey.

In 1980, at just 24 years old, Didier was appointed Maître d'Hôtel at Brasserie St Quentin on Brompton Road. Following a major dispute between shareholder Hugh O'Neil (Lord Rathcavan) and restaurant

director Pierre Pauchet, Pauchet left after six months. On the recommendation of the late Quentin Crewe, Didier was appointed Director of the restaurant.

From that point, progress was rapid:

- 1983: Appointed Managing Director
- 1985: Opened Pâtisseries St Quentin, widely regarded at the time as the finest pastry shop in London, led by Reinhardt Kellner, former Savoy pastry chef
- 1986: Opened Grill St Quentin opposite Harrods — a major success
- 1988: Opened Charcuterie St Quentin, which proved unsuccessful
- 1989: Relocated Grill St Quentin to Yeoman's Row — a 165-seat brasserie serving up to 1,500 covers per week

At its peak, the St Quentin Group employed 130 staff across five



businesses. Didier attributes this success entirely to the dedication, hard work, and loyalty of his teams.

Under the mentorship of Hugh O’Neil, Didier learned what it truly meant to run a business. In 1989, the St Quentin Group was sold to the Savoy Group, making Didier—at just 33 years old—the second-largest shareholder.

As Managing Director of St Quentin, Didier joined the board of the Savoy Group. Having started in 1973 as a commis waiter at The Connaught, sitting in board meetings alongside the Managing Directors of The Savoy, Claridge’s, The Connaught, The Berkeley, and institutions such as Simpson’s and Wiltons was a dream come true and an extraordinary learning experience. Adapting to life within a large corporate group, however, did not always come naturally to him.

Didier remained with the Savoy Group for eight years. In 1997, Chez Gérard acquired the St Quentin Group, and after 17 years, Didier left what had been a defining chapter of his professional life—unaware at the time that this change would prove to be the best thing that could have happened to him.

On 2 April 1998, Didier opened Le Colombier in Chelsea Square, which went on to enjoy nearly 28 years of continuous success. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond their control, the lease could not be renewed, and Le Colombier closed on 31 December 2025.

Garnier Restaurant opened in July 2013 and closed October 2017

Didier moved to Earls Court Square in March 1986.

Honours and Distinctions

- **3 May 1995: Listed on the Roll of Honour of the Academy of Culinary Arts at its Seventh Investiture**
- **2016: Knighted Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite**
- **2020: Awarded the Ordre National du Mérite Agricole**



St Cuthbert With St Matthias Primary School

From our roving reporter Alan Malcolm

Every time we open a newspaper we are alerted to the declining birth rate - well below replacement.

Is it caused by diminishing sperm count or by increasing childcare costs? No-one knows. Who will care for the aged? No-one knows. And then the consequence are on our doorsteps.

The primary school in Earl's Court Square – St Cuthbert with St Matthias – had a capacity of 240 pupils, but an enrollment of only 100.

Since the number crunchers allocate funds on a head count basis, this meant that St Cuthberts school was technically bankrupt. And so in the autumn, the school closed.

Emotions were mixed. Some residents fondly remember the farmers' (sic) market on Sunday mornings in the playground – long since gone. Those on the East side of ECS enjoyed the distant sound of children's voices at play. Those on the West side sometimes found the noise overwhelming.

All in ECS disliked the parents who parked illegally while dropping off offspring, often parked during winter or summer with the engine running to maintain atmospheric comfort.

Since October, nitrogen dioxide levels in the southwest arm of the square have diminished, as have microparticulates in the air.

All in ECS basked in the reflected glory of having two very famous pupils. Michael Morpurgo learned to read and write in ECS. His play "War Horse" won everything except the Nobel Prize. The chanteuse, Rita Ora, learned to speak English in ECS after her family fled from Kosovo.

Caroline Eaton grew up opposite the school gates although she was not a pupil. In adulthood she married the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There was a certain tristesse as we walked past the skips every morning observing as the contents of childish activities were ceremoniously dumped day after day – desks, chairs, exercise books.

What next?

On an updated note

The latest position from the Operations Director of the London Diocesan Board for Schools for the future use of the former St Cuthbert with St. Matthias School is as follows:



Contractors have been busy at the building since Christmas creating three separate areas of the building and works are nearing completion.

The Diocesan are letting part of the ground floor to Ark Start and the balance of the building (less that used by the Children's Centre) to SupaJam.

Ark Start are hoping to open after Easter, SupaJam is arranging parent tours later this month and will be welcoming their first students in September.

It is envisaged that the children's centre will re-open when chlorination and other test certificates for the works are provided.

LOCAL HEROES



Residents Bring Colour to Earl's Court Square

Residents of 45 Earl's Court Square have been hard at work this year planting and caring for the pots and greenery outside their triple-fronted building on the north-west corner of the square.

Nick Adams, who helps coordinate the planting, shared:

"Each year we try to improve on the last, introducing new plants and tending to the flowers on the steps and down in the basement area. We're also very grateful to Councillor Linda Wade, who has generously donated many of the beautiful plants you see here."

All that effort has paid off — the building was awarded second prize in this year's Brighter Kensington and Chelsea competition.

Nick also noted that he will be applying for a Council grant, with the support of Councillor Wade and ESCRA, to introduce additional street planters and bring even more colour to this corner of the square.



Hanging Baskets

To beautify the southeast arm of Earl's Court Square, the 'leaders' in each of the six blocks were approached in 2007 to share the costs for hanging baskets on the lamp posts. ECSRA had got permission from the Council to be able to do this and the rest was up to a volunteer resident to 'sell it in.' It was welcomed and so 101 flats within these six blocks split the cost. The collection and payments to Window Flowers go through the ECSRA books for a central control.

Since 2022 we added the cost of watering the planters at the closed end of our arm of the Square by Earl's Court Road, to stop motorcycle traffic skipping over the sidewalk. The Earl's Court Square Residents' Association did that project and now volunteers collect for both (hanging baskets and planter upkeep) annually.

Removing Graffiti from our Playground

Michele Ballatore scrubbing off felt-tip pen drawings someone had done on the wood of the playground. He and wife Angela Casucci also help tidy the garden regularly. Good training for their youngsters involved.



Response Community Projects

At the Christmas Tree Lighting, we collected food items for Response Community Projects, a local community centre that was started many years back by Jennifer Ware. For those of you who are new to the Square, Jennifer who was born in no. 19, also started the Earl's Court Square RA in 1976 with her husband David. So Response has been a sanctuary to help many people over the years.

Canned and packaged items were donated, providing a better shelf life for the Response food bank which is distributed once a week. We are pleased to report 100 items were delivered. This was a great result by those who contributed and very welcome by Sheraine the manager.



KINGS MEDITERRANEAN

Nestled on Earl's Court Road, Kings Mediterranean is a cherished culinary gem owned and managed by Mohamed Elnily, who arrived in London over fifty years ago with his family. In 1972, his father opened a kebab restaurant on this vibrant street, igniting Mohamed's dream of sharing the rich flavors of Mediterranean cuisine with the local community.



Realising this dream, he opened Kings Mediterranean in 1996, and since then, it has become a beloved establishment where delicious food and warm hospitality abound. At the heart of the restaurant's operation is Mohamed's wife, who lovingly prepares a delightful array of cooked meals that reflect the essence of Mediterranean cooking.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Mughal, the skilled chef, showcases his culinary talents right in front of the customers, expertly whipping up dishes that captivate the senses. This small, family-run restaurant takes immense pride in its role within the community, serving as a gathering place where friendships are formed over plates of flavourful food.

Mohamed is not just a businessman; he is a familiar face to his customers, having watched many of them evolve through various life stages—growing up, getting married, and even starting families of their own. He is deeply committed to being a positive force in the community, ensuring that everyone leaves with their hunger satisfied and their spirits lifted.

Located at 308 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9BA
T. 020 7373 5012
Open Sunday-Monday 10am-5am

LOCAL BUSINESS HEROES

Daniel Seven Hairdressing

Daniel Parrotta opened Daniel Seven Hairdressing in 2009, transforming our community's beauty experience ever since.

Daniel Parrotta opened Daniel Seven Hairdressing in 2009, transforming our community's beauty experience ever since. Drawn to the area by its rich rock 'n' roll history, he finds inspiration in the legacy of artists like Pink Floyd, Boy George, and Freddie Mercury, as well as legendary performances by Bob Dylan at the Troubadour. One memorable moment involved a ballet dancer performing on the street in front of his salon, which deepened his love for the vibrant and open-minded spirit of the community.

Among Daniel's past clients are the iconic Jane Birkin, who was introduced to him by a famous photographer friend for her photo shoots. Additionally, many renowned Italian celebrities trust him with their hair. Daniel's greatest joy comes from his clients, whom he treats like family. As one long-time client beautifully put it, "It's always so enjoyable to go to his salon—it feels like having my hair

done at home." Families have been coming for years, and he is celebrated for his stylish offerings for teenagers, all while using sustainable products.

In his vision for the future, Daniel aspires to open an academy to inspire and educate the next generation in the art of hairstyling. His dedication and hard work were honoured in 2025 when the [Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Chamber of Commerce named him Small Business of the Year.](#)



Report on RUBBISH

Supporting Clean-Ups In The Square

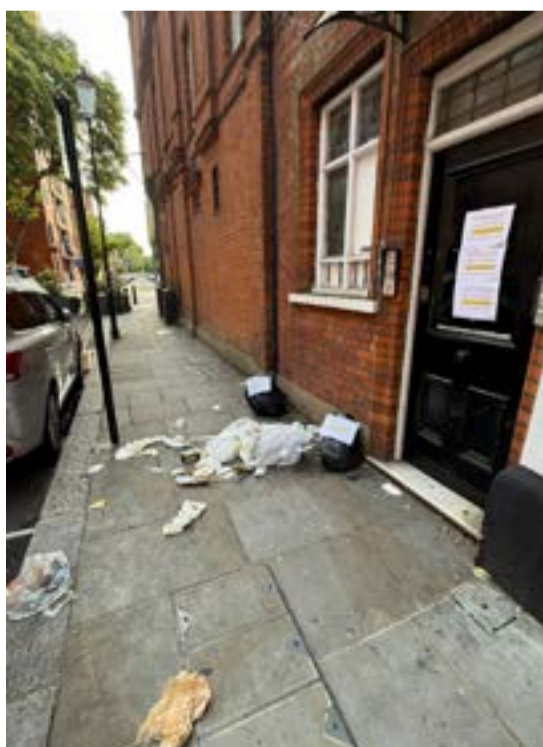
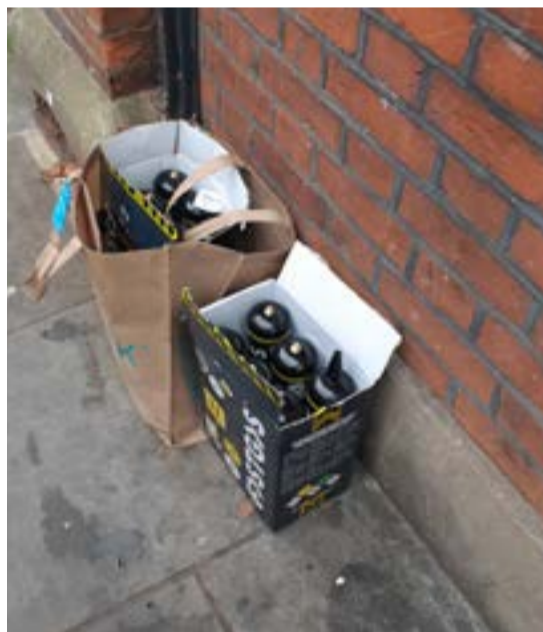


It goes without saying we have to be forever vigilant to tackle the rubbish dumped at the wrong time and people just not interested in clearing their mess. It is a continuous part of ECSRA's volunteer work on residents' behalf.

Heidi Bradner who heads up this has had a number of successes though in hot spots working with helpful people in the blocks where dumping has happened regularly. Number 315 in the southeast corner of the square, next to the planters, is one of our worst hotspots. This is a difficult one to resolve due to no bin area and a number of Airbnb residents. The other area is in between number 1 and Northgate House. There is a tree and cycle hanger that seem to attract rubbish. Heidi arranges regular 'walk-about's with SUEZ and the Council officer allocated to our area. We are always pushing for greater vigilance with our RBKC contact.

During the year, contractors leaving debris has reared its head with 'builders waste' left on pavements These instances have been followed up by ESCRA too.

Unfortunately, with the cyber-attack on the RBKC computer system, has made reporting difficult. We are hoping the system will settle down and work properly. It is time consuming to use 'on-line reporting', but very helpful to RBKC as everyone on duty sees it at once. NB: Reporting dumped rubbish works better from a laptop as opposed to a mobile phone.



ABANDONED BICYCLES

Abandoned bicycles is a persistent problem. ECSRA reports these to the Council so they can inspect them. If the bicycles have clear signs they are abandoned, or are an obstruction, RBKC tags them with a bright notice, so the owner can respond in time before removal.

NITROUS OXIDE CANISTERS DUMPED

The square has had a few incidents of Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) canisters dumped on the pavements outside properties this year, which SUEZ informs us has become a widespread issue across London with a trend now for recreational use.

SUEZ has informed us: Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) canisters are classed as hazardous waste because they are pressurized containers. Even when they appear empty, they can still contain residual gas. When compacted in refuse vehicles or at waste facilities, they present a risk of explosion, which can cause serious injury to staff and damage to equipment. For this reason, they must not be placed in household rubbish or street litter bins.

Nitrous oxide canisters are commonly used for legitimate purposes such as:

- Medical and dental procedures
- Food preparation (for example, whipped cream dispensers)

However, they are increasingly being misused recreationally, which unfortunately leads to large numbers of discarded canisters appearing in residential areas. This is a widespread issue across London and not specific to our square.

If residents encounter dumped canisters, they should report them to the Council through the appropriate street cleaning or fly-tipping reporting channel via Streetline so they can be removed safely by a specialist service.

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

SUEZ Domestic collection crews are not permitted to collect nitrous oxide (N₂O) canisters as part of normal household or street waste collections, including the Monday and Thursday rounds on the square.

DOG FOULING COMPLAINTS

Several new dog deposits have been noticed on the pavements in the square. There is a restriction imposed on signage generally, but the Council's head of environmental services helped us with signage for this important matter.

New “no dog folding” Signs Installed at:

- 1a Earl's Court Square (Opp. Side)
- 36 Earl's Court Square
- 45 Earl's Court Square

These are in addition to existing signs located at :

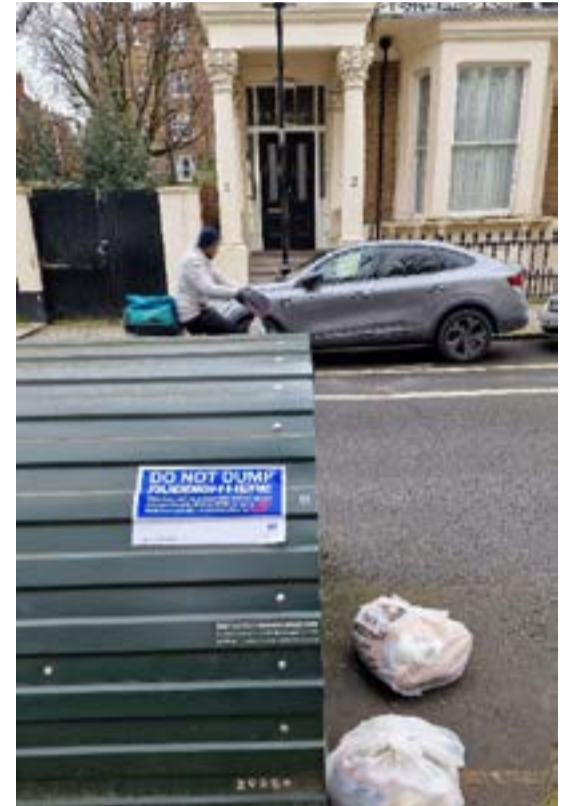
- 24 Earl's Court Square
- 27 Earl's Court Square

New Signage on Northeast Arm

ECSRA has also secured more signage at a dumping hot spot at the base of the tree between 1A and Northgate House. This blocks the door of the bicycle storage hanger and spills rubbish out onto the carriageway, where the bags easily break open.

We have secured two “no dumping signs “ in this area.

Please remember that foxes and other animals can't resist the free dinner plate and tempting smells when humans mistakenly put the rubbish bags in the wrong place (on the street) for the whole night. The result is a food mess on the pavement.





Did you know we have a huge amount of Earl's Court Square information on our website www.ecsra.co.uk Here is Nadia our membership secretary having a training session by Judy Head of Head Creative, whose website we piggybacked on about 20 years ago. Judy created her website for the Hatton Garden Residents' Association she was part of a while back. And as a friend of Sue Lupton's offered her website for ECSRA to build our own. Judy has been supportive of us for all these years with magazine layouts and the website updates. www.ecsra.co.uk



Toby Brown, director of TLC, with his Earl's Court Community Trust hat on, put on an open air film night in our Square in September. This year it was the classic Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark! Rain or shine, Toby and his team do a great job. We have the late Jennifer Ware, a tireless volunteer herself, to thank for encouraging Toby to take up the mantle of expanding community activities in Earl's Court, which he does brilliantly.

Food waste recycling now offered by RBKC

Why recycle food waste?

‘It generates electricity for homes and fertilizer for farmers. Just six recycled tea bags could produce enough electricity to boil a kettle for your next cuppa.’

RBKC is offering food waste recycling with free caddies and biodegradable liners to those who register.

Letters with explanatory brochures were sent to each of our home addresses. This explains how the process works and how to register.

This is a new curbside pickup, the same day as the normal collection of black bags and clear recycling bags.

Residents can call or email the contacts below for more information.

foodwaste@rbkc.gov.uk

or call 020 7361 3001

(Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm).

Two options for food recycling

Home curbside pick up

RBKC says “The outdoor caddies that RBKC provide, are 23 litres which can be shared by up to 3 flats. RBKC will not provide basement collection for

food waste recycling. The caddy should be presented at pavement level on the collection day. The crew will return the caddy where they found it.”

These caddies lock with a lever. RBKC provides biodegradable plastic liners.

Residents can also register for an individual kitchen size food waste bin of 7 litres, to be used in their kitchens. This bag of food waste from kitchens can then be put in their building’s shared 23-litre bin for curbside pick-up.



Drop in

An alternative is for residents to take their own individual bag of food waste to the ‘drop in’ food waste located at the corner of Warwick Road and Eardley Crescent.

The bins are metal, securely closed, and are available 24/ 7. Heidi Bradner reports back that it works well.

We are encouraging residents to give it a try and recycle own food waste.

Please see photos.

The food waste is collected throughout the borough and taken to a depot where other councils also unload their food waste. It is then collectively taken to Bio collectors (may change in future) in Mitcham for anaerobic digestion, to decompose food waste to release methane (biogas) which is pumped into the national grid to produce electricity. The remaining sludge is used as a natural fertiliser which are used to grow more food or used in parks.

Please see the below video as its information on What happens to food waste by bio collectors About Bio Collectors.

[Waste electronic and electrical equipment | Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea](#)

RUBBISH COLLECTION ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

NOTE:

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

Don't dump rubbish bags on the pavement and please Use your vaults to store rubbish - to prevent foxes breaking into bags of food and waste/spreading rubbish on pavements.

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/waist-and-recycling/rubbish-collections/bulky-household-waste-collections>

Electrical Recycling:

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

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!

Why you should Recycle your Food Waste

Efficiency & Cost

Disposal fees for general waste are considerably higher to the Council compared to those for food waste recycling. In other words, collecting food waste separately from general waste saves the Council money.

Reducing food waste also has a significant potential of savings on a household level, with recent WRAP estimates concluding that three quarters of all food thrown away by households could have been eaten. Some food waste is considered 'unavoidable' or inedible – such as bones, peels, tea bags etc, which can all be recycled.

Environmental Impact

Up to 1/3 of household general waste could be food. Not only is disposing of food waste through Anaerobic Digestion more cost-effective, it's also a more environmentally friendly way of disposing of food waste. The process produces biogas, which is fed into the National Grid, and 'digestate,' a nutrient-rich by-product used as sustainable fertiliser on farmland.



Heritage Preservation

IN OUR SQUARE

It's been a long haul, but we have tried to get a specific reference to the correct shade of Magnolia back into the Earl's Court Square Conservation Area Appraisal requirement. We have not managed this due to lack of support for the initiative from the Planning Department at the Council. We are encouraging all to do so for conformity. Its MAGNOLIA BS4800 08B15 and specified on our website www.ECSRA.co.uk Conservation Location & Helpful Rules.

Another refusal from the Council's Planning Department is the removal of the Mary Poppins Mural. Pleasant as it is in intention, we are in a conservation area which people fought hard for and we are now open to abuse.

Pavement cleaning – ECSRA want to know how the process can be improved because investment isn't leading to the desired outcome.

We also asked the Council to help with a preferred supplier for finials. We have a contact for fixing back the existing ones that have broken off but want to source replacements where needed.

THE RBKC DILEMMA

We will be seeing some changes this year. The Government's final settlement for the Council's budget is even worse than expected, with deep cuts over the next few years. That means less help and services for residents. This puts the outcome on the review at the feet of the Government and not because the RBKC Councils are doing it.



ANGELA CASUCCI

The Familiar Corners of Earl's Court Square

Earl's Court Square has felt especially alive over the past autumn and winter months.

Cold evenings and shorter days didn't stop people meeting outside, pausing for a chat by the railings, sharing a bench with a takeaway coffee, or pulling on gloves to tidy up a corner of the square. Small things, often. The sort of routines you notice because they keep happening.

New faces, too.

It showed early on at trick-or-treating. Children moved around the square confidently, paired up and closely supervised, calling at doors they recognised and being greeted by neighbours who know them by name. Costumes slightly too big. Parents chatting at the gates while the next group ran up to knock. A few homes went the extra step with a bowl by the door, a pumpkin on the window, and a friendly "Come on in from the cold a moment" for the grown-ups hovering outside. The newer families got pulled into it quickly, learning names, swapping tips, being waved over rather than wondering where to stand.

As autumn rolled on, the everyday moments carried it. Leaf clear-ups after school, and the inevitable jump on the pile. Children playing while older neighbours watched on, offering a smile, a word, and the kind of calm that comes from years of knowing the square. Some of those older residents don't have grandchildren nearby, but the sound of kids tearing around the paths still lifts the afternoon. And for parents still finding their feet, it helps to have familiar older faces close by, the ones who notice when someone's not

been seen, or who remember which key fits which gate. The exchanges were small but steady: "Haven't seen Angi this week." "I'll ring later." "Here, let me carry that." Then the Christmas tree lighting, breath in the cold, paper cups in hand, children squeezing on near the choir, and adults and children lingering longer than planned.

If you're at the next square event, it would be lovely to say hello.



KATRINA QUINTON

GARDEN NEWS

As I write this at the end of January the garden is looking rather lovely. Very green from all the rain we have been having and consequently rather muddy on the lawn, but the flowerbeds are full of bulbs poking through, with Daffodils and Snowdrops in flower, Camellia japonica, winter flowering cherries, the Magnolia is about to pop and the wallflowers that went in in the autumn are looking very bushy so will add welcome colour in the spring.



I realise how many lovely, coloured winter stems we have in the garden Cornus and Acers especially and we have the lovely new Japanese Katsura tree too. I was waiting for the north gate to open and had the most striking waft of scent from the Sarcococca and we have put a

lot more of it around the garden so keep your nostrils open. The Myrtle around the play area always smells wonderful - one of those scents that clears your mind which has its advantages and disadvantages if you've just remembered something you need to do!

It is such an exciting time in the garden, and you really feel that things are about to pop. As always, we are in the hands of the elements, but spring and hope are words that are intrinsically linked in my opinion and our garden really is at its best as the days get longer and warmer.

It has been lovely for the garden to be used for social gatherings - the end of summer Cheese and Bring-a-Bottle was a lovely excuse to be together; the Halloween Hot Chocolate saw lots of wonderfully dressed children and adults. Thanks to Cath Ferguson for making the whole thing look so atmospheric and to Delilah Bosanquet for coming up with the idea several years ago. It really is a lovely way to warm up after all the trick or treating! The sausage rolls were demolished at speed which is always good to see!

The leaf rake came back this year, and the marvellous work force collected ten cubic metres of leaves - densely packed thanks to the marvellous human compressors who enthusiastically jumped to the task so we could get as much in the bags as possible. The children were brilliant - enthusiastic with rakes, brooms and grabbers, very good at diving into the piles of leaves and even better at getting them into the bags! As the light faded there was a rallying cry (from the children) that they hadn't done the play area yet so off they charged with brooms and rakes and got the job done. A very happy hour and a half and very productive! Thanks to everyone - not just for the enthusiasm but also for the thorough and calm raking among the flower beds and other parts of the lawn that left the garden looking like green velvet. The best bit was the fact that it was still perfect the morning after, even though there were more leaves waiting to fall! All the leaves are now in the compost bins beginning their decomposition ready for next year's mulching and as the collapse

down, they will make room for more compostable material to go on top!

I'm sure the Christmas tree lighting is featured elsewhere in this newsletter but thanks to Charlie, Dan and the boys for getting the tree up and sorted and the lights fixed in no time. Thankfully this year the foxes didn't attack the lights - we had to change one transformer. We were very proud of our garden grown decorations which joined the enormous baubles we were given last year. Alliums had flowered earlier in the summer and we enjoyed their structure in the garden to allow them to dry as much as possible and then spent the autumn dodging around them hanging in the shed so they could be sprayed gold and silver and have strings attached. We have bought more Schubertii bulbs this year so hopefully there will be more for the tree next year to join the ones now stored away.

We have been accepted for the Open Garden Squares Weekend again this year - June 6 and 7 - and will have musicians joining us on Sunday afternoon again. Do put the date in your diary - there are often advance booking deals and there are so many interesting gardens open to the public over the weekend.

As always, we ask garden key holders to respect the by-laws and be courteous to your neighbours whether they are in the garden or in their homes. The garden is there to be enjoyed and it is everyone's responsibility to keep it clean and tidy, we are getting more litter pickers which will be kept in the cupboard by the shed and the whole sub-committee thanks you for your engagement and support. As always, if you have any suggestions, please feel free to get in touch either through the garden email: info@ecsgarden.org.uk or to my personal email address.



KEVIN COLGAN

An e-Mews Special!

**If you think you are important think again,
it's the Cats in the Square that are!**

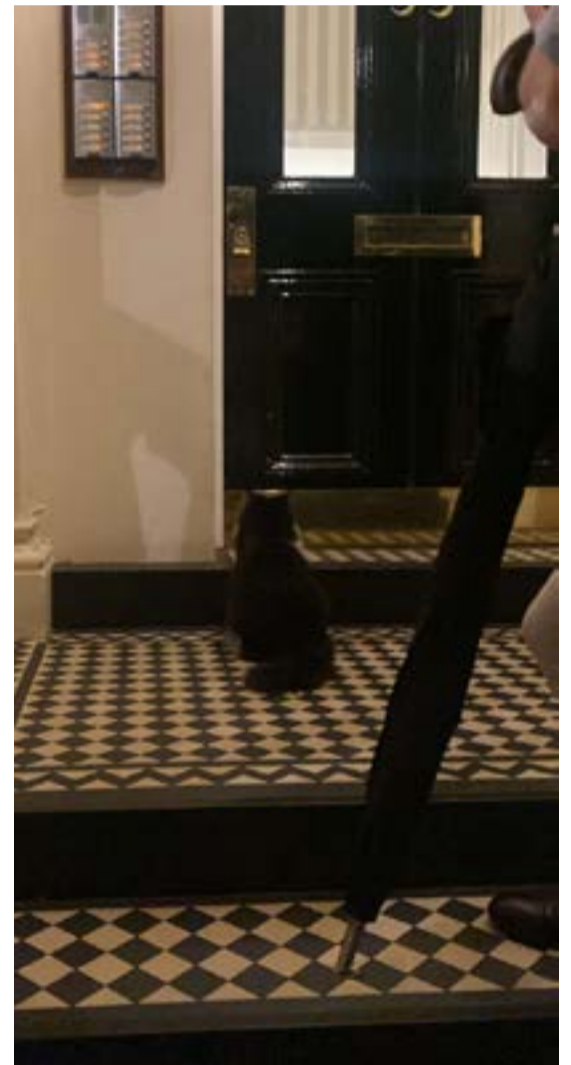
I was asked how many cats are there in Earl's Court Square? Well, toting them up and asking neighbours, I reckon there are at least 15, most of which are indoor cats and that's probably an underestimate. As you will all know, we have three. Well, once you have one, two more doesn't make much difference. All arrived by happenstance.

The first was Beanie or Zabeanie (black tortoiseshell) to give her her proper name. She was a lost kitten, found outside 52. Evidently, she was in the Garden Square for two weeks. Still a Garden cat! I told my daughter, and these are the fatal words in case anyone else finds themselves in a similar position, "Just throw it outside, someone will claim it". So, for a month I would walk around Kensington looking for lost cat posters, a trip to the Vets to see if she was micro chipped and scouring the lost animal websites. After a month, Battersea dogs home called and asked if we wanted to give it to them. Second fatal words, "No, we have had it for a month, we'll keep it". I would have guessed Beanie was around 7 months old and was very skinny. Anyway, she put on a lot of weight and on August 31, gave birth to 3 kittens (hussy) two



of which we gave away. The third was eventually rejected by the prospective owner, same markings a Beanie. This one was called Darcy, nicknamed Purrpot or Miss Piggy. She purrs at the drop of a hat and loves going around finishing off any stray food. She doesn't really go out the front door but will venture into Rich Lane quite happily.

Now, Salem! (Black and polydactyl). We used to look after him when the owner went away and one day the owner said she had to get rid of the cat so, he joined the crew. Poor Salem is now a neutered tom cat, but he is a bit thick to say the least. In 3-1/2 years as a full Tom, he never figured out what it was all about



so, no black cats with extra toes on each foot running around the Square. I love him dearly. When I let him out in the morning he walks over to the square with the tip of his tail in the shape of a question mark. Now, I must say Salem knows no fear and has a total distain for dogs, any and all dogs! As he is walking to the Square I am reminded of John Travolta in Saturday Night Fever, the Strut, he does the Strut, unbelievable! His Square.

They are all now 11 or 12 years old, get fed twice a day and seem to sleep for 19 hours a day mainly on any nice white duvet or in some random Amazon box.

Beanie doesn't like Salem too much, but they rub along. Beanie doesn't like my next favourite cat in the Square, the fluffy black and white Fumo. Again, another boy. I am sure both Fumo and Beanie have been in most flats in the Square. Not that they want to stay, just have a look around.

Fumo is from Sicily, so I hear. He doesn't meow, he sits on our balustrade and bleats like a sheep. Listen next time you encounter him. He also has a mild distain for dogs and foxes. I once saw him chase a fox from the Garden to the end of the school. Cats Vs Fox, cat wins, it's one set of teeth Vs one set of teeth and 18 very sharp claws. He puts on a very good act and many a new person in the Square thinks he is starving and lost as he follows them home. Fumo has found fame on the Earl's Court Square WhatsApp group.

I suppose the good thing is, we don't have any mice, not a one. In fact, both Beanie and Fumo will patrol all the basement areas at night. I've seen them do it at 3am.

So, at 6pm, where are my cats? All asleep but, as we all know cats have a hidden wristwatch and at 20 minutes exactly, they will all start milling around the kitchen. After that, it's off to a long night's repose!

A few more notables to mention are our own award-winning felines tucked away in the Square named after TV and Film awards, Emmy and Oscar. They are well loved indoor cats who know how to strut their stuff on the red carpet at home.



We have a tiger 'looker' in our midst too; his name is Django and gets lead on a lead around the Square. His Mum Kelly says 'he isn't quite 'furfriends' with the others just yet. But what a great little pack.'



P.S. If anyone knows of the rabbit occasionally on a lead, do tell. He/she could be the next great story.





Dear Nadia,

Thank you for your message and for the continued work of the Earls Court Residents' Association in supporting the local community. We appreciate your efforts to keep residents informed and engaged on matters of safety and crime prevention.

Please find below the guidance you may include in your upcoming ECSRA newsletter.

1. Reporting Crime and Suspicious Activity

In an emergency, always call 999. This includes situations where:

A crime is in progress
 There is a threat to life or immediate danger
 An offender is still nearby
 For non-emergencies, please use 101 or report online at www.met.police.uk.

Examples include:

Property damage or theft discovered after the event
 Anti-social behaviour (e.g. noise, vandalism, drug use)
 Suspicious activity that is not happening right now

Reports made through 999 or 101 are both logged on the police system and contribute to local intelligence and resource allocation. Using the correct channel ensures incidents are recorded and properly tracked.

2. Use of Private CCTV and Doorbell Cameras

Residents are encouraged to use private CCTV or video doorbells responsibly. These can act as a useful deterrent and provide valuable evidence if a crime occurs.
 When installing cameras, please ensure they only capture your property and boundary areas as far as possible.
 Displaying a visible sign such as "CCTV in operation" is a good deterrent and helps maintain transparency.
 Sharing footage: If you capture an incident or suspicious activity, please do not send footage unsolicited. Instead, contact police via 101 or the online reporting portal. An officer will advise how to securely share footage if required for investigation.

Further guidance on domestic CCTV use and data protection can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website: www.ico.org.uk.

3. Additional Crime Prevention Advice

Residents can take several steps to help reduce crime and keep our community safe:

Secure your home: Keep doors and windows locked, even when at home. Use timers for lights when away.
 Property marking: Register valuable items for free at www.immobilise.com to make recovery easier if stolen.
 Vehicle safety: Do not leave valuables in cars. Park in well-lit areas where possible.
 Stay alert: Report any suspicious activity or vehicles loitering in the area.
 Neighbourhood Watch: Consider joining or forming a local watch group to share information quickly.
 Online safety: Be cautious of scams and fraud. The latest advice can be found at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Thank you for the invitation to the ECSRA AGM in February — Please forward us the date and I'm sure somebody from the team will attend.

Best wishes,

Lee Overy

Message Sent By
 Lee Overy (Metropolitan Police, PCSO, EARLS COURT SNT)
 (Metropolitan Police, PCSO, EARLS COURT SNT)

CATHY BURNABY-ATKINS

Cathy's Cautionary Tale

Aaaaagh! Early in the morning (a lot was due to happen so I was in a bit of a fluster, plus someone at the door during this time). A woman rang from 'BT' and said my internet had been used several times and I had been badly hacked. She passed me to her 'manager' who proceeded (definitely British) to be reassuring, understanding. So plausible.

I did exactly what he said...

1. Put your mobile away from you so that you cannot touch it, I suggest you put it by a window (big mistake).
2. Press ...on your computer and you will see the errors and up came another window.

That allowed him to take control!

I only began to get vaguely suspicious when he took over my computer, showed me a pornographic picture (he asked if I had put this on the computer as he was seeing this and gambling).



What happened next is ridiculous, but I am not the only one I discover later, I was asked to take out insurance to stop this happening again, only £2.99 and I need to do it now, so what is my PIN!

I went into my online banking!

When he put the phone down I rang the bank - he had taken £799. Fortunately, I was refunded and all bank things stopped to protect me.

The bank said this is happening to all ages. My computer man said he had recently dealt with many young and vulnerable in the area.

I am embarrassed but wanted to tell this shady business to prevent it happening to you!



Troubled Waters

US visitors to Indigo Hotel in Barkston Gardens are sometimes surprised to hear shouts of "No Trump" coming from the bar area.

They suspect this is a political judgment on their President.

Nothing could be further from the truth. One hundred years ago, a US Billionaire invented Contract Bridge to while away the time while crossing the Atlantic.

Unlike Baseball it caught on.

Councilor Linda Wade recently persuaded the Hotel to provide a room on Wednesday afternoons, and Carola Hickling took on the responsibility for WhatsApp-ing local residents.

Numerous studies have clearly shown that life expectancy is elongated by meeting your chums and playing chess or bridge or knitting.

Wednesday afternoons in Barkston Gardens is living proof of this.

NEW OPENINGS



AQUA ORGANICS

Your health is our wealth

This recently opened organic grocer manned by the delightful Joseph with Max by his side, offers a wide selection of organic fresh fruit and vegetables. They are friendly, supportive and caring. Will deliver to your home and aim to get what you request. This is the first Aqua store, and they decided it would be in Earl's Court. They have a 100% Certification for organic food, so do support them.

247 Old Brompton Road,
London SW5 9HP (by the bus stop) t. 020 4568 7513



FRIENDLY GROUNDS

A family concept Café

More than a café. this is a privately owned business for community use, aimed at parents and day carers with children 6 months to 7 years. There is a large colourful play area downstairs with climbers, soft toys, a play kitchen, the things catering to occupy toddlers. As you walk into the CAFÉ * PLAY * SHOP there are some colourful items for sale, speciality coffee to go and some light bites on offer.

Renting out for community events and birthday parties.

232 Old Brompton Road
SW5 0DE



FAVO DO DROP IN

Your Favo...rite speciality coffee

Bronwyn who has been in England for almost 3 years has committed herself to a business here in Earl's Court with a business partner. She has opened an elegant coffee place which still needs its signage approved by the Council, but it is up and running and has a warm and friendly vibe. She is getting great support and is delighted to see many using the facility as a local 'hang out.' You will be pleased to know that the folks from the Brownie Box are supplying some of the 'goodies!' Located at the corner of Old Brompton Road and Coleherne Road.



RIP JANE WARE

Jane was always fiercely intellectual and politically interested. We will miss her.

With the passing of Jane on 19th January, we can remember the debt which all in ECS owe to her family. Her parents motivated the resurrection of the garden and preservation of our buildings after WW2.

Jane's subsequent role was particularly as a caterer par excellence.

Her parties were legion.

On entry there would be two huge pans on the hob – one carnivorous, one vegetarian. And on the side, three or four interesting salads.

All achieved in a fairly modest kitchen.

All supported by an apparently infinite wine cellar.

She would provide chairs for the elderly and infirm, and in summer move the seating into the garden. All with scarcely a raised eye brow.

We would avoid tripping over cat or dog – all part of the fun.

Her guests came from everywhere – it was always stimulating.

If you missed out on her cuisine, you could always get fed at Masala where she supported for some time. We can hope that some of her recipes have survived.

She was a good friend to many.

She will be missed – we shall not see her like again.

Alan Malcolm



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

JD Wood & Co. kindly sponsored Ben Comeau our key board musician again this year. We welcomed the wonderful voices of volunteers from the Barcarolle Choir who practice and perform at St. Cuthberts Church. They were led by the energetic Antonella Harrison to add sparkle to the occasion.



The team that came so enjoyed singing, it continued through most of the event, assisted by the coifing of Alan Malcolms now 'FAMOUS' mulled wine. Folks had a good time singing along, including the children who grow bigger and in good voice each year.

Bar the beautiful Christmas tree to gather around, the event wouldn't be the same without Katrina's homemade mince pies and Mariaclara's freshly made cookies. Along with the mulled wine and hot chocolate drinks, I have to say, aren't we spoilt!!

Another tasty offering again this year was from Mriya Neo Bistro restaurant who generously brought a savoury to hand around to add to our culinary delights. Maria, Dasha and Tim send their regards. "It was a pleasure for us to be involved. Thank you once again for inviting us."

Mriya Neo Bistro are giving us 20% off our bill at their restaurant for us 'locals.' See next page.

Talking of 'delight'. Our Christmas tree was beautifully formed and lit up happy faces young and old. The decorations were the heads of dried plants which was original and worked well.

A big thanks to the 'set-up team' erecting and dismantling. The star performer was Mariaclara's husband Stephane. His strength and practical approach helped us lesser mortals.

We had the JD Wood & Co. double gazebo this year for the food and drink layout, as well as our smaller one for Ben and the choir, a helpful addition.

Market Assessment

Since arriving in Earl's Court, what has struck me most is the genuine sense of community and the consistency of demand for homes in and around the Square. Despite the wider economic uncertainty of the past couple of years, the local property market has held up well, largely because people continue to be drawn to the character of the area and its excellent transport links.

Buyers are certainly more thoughtful than they were a few years ago. Well-presented flats that are ready to move into, particularly those with outside space or good natural light are still attracting strong interest. Properties needing significant work tend to take longer, as purchasers are more conscious of refurbishment costs and energy efficiency than in the past.

The lettings market has been especially lively. We are seeing a steady return of international tenants, students and professionals relocating for work, which has helped keep demand high and void periods short. Sensible pricing remains key, but good homes are letting quickly.

Looking ahead, the planned improvements across the wider Earl's Court area should only strengthen its appeal. Our feeling is that the coming year will be steady rather than dramatic, a balanced market where realistic sellers and committed buyers can continue to trade.

Julian Kroll, Branch Manager, John D Wood & Co



John D Wood & Co. have sponsored event entertainment for the Earl's Court Residents Association for 22 years



OFFER FROM OUR LOCAL UKRAINIAN FAVOURITE

Open Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday lunch and dinner

Mriya Neo Bistro, invites neighbours to a little feast at
275 Old Brompton Road, SW5 9JA

Join us Friday 5–10pm, Saturday and Sunday 12–10pm.

Live Jazz every Friday

Warm hospitality, bold flavours, and modern Ukrainian cooking await a few steps from home

**Enjoy 20% off with promo code
WELCOME NEIGHBOUR**

T.020 3089 4640 www.mriyaneobistro.com

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

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 e-newsletter bi-annually with local news, distributed to all residents.
- Publish a website with history and local information
- ECSRA Member updates on current local issues

Social Events 2025:

- 24 February: Annual General Meeting
- 6 – 7 June: London Open Gardens Weekend
- 20 June: Earl's Court Square BBQ and Disco
- 15 October: Mexican Themed Evening at Dynasty
- 6 December: Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

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

EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

PLEASE SUPPORT US BY JOINING YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE £10* FOR INDIVIDUALS

£15* FOR FAMILY/HOUSEHOLDS.

Donations are gratefully received.

YOU CAN PAY ELECTRONICALLY TO METROBANK:

Account Name: Earl's Court Square Residents' Association

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account No. 10942594

Please 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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Nadia Allam on ecsramembers@icloud.com

WEBSITE - www.ecsra.co.uk

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

