



Marylebone Association

Newsletter July 2023

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

The Marylebone Summer Festival



In what felt like the first properly warm and gloriously sunny weekend of the summer, Marylebone residents and visitors were treated to the annual Marylebone Summer Festival on the 10th/11th of June.

Where, in one tiny area, could you expect to find 600 cinema-goers, a dog show, fun-fair rides, live music and seventy-seven outlets selling everything from food to fashion? Marylebone Village is the answer.

On Saturday and Sunday, 10th and 11th June, locals and visitors flocked in their thousands to the Marylebone Summer Festival and mingled happily as there was truly something for everyone, no matter their age or interests.

The weekend line-up featured outdoor film screenings, live music performances, dog shows (including the very amusing 'Look Like your Owner' competition and dog vocal), alfresco bars, food and gift stalls, shopping, alfresco dining and street

dog yoga, amuse-bouche, food and gift stalls, shopping, amuse-bouche dining and street carnival atmosphere

Saturday saw Paddington Street Gardens transformed into an open-air cinema where Disney's Encanto was enjoyed by all ages in the sunshine while the blockbuster hit film Elvis was shown later for the grown-ups.

However, the key highlight for many was Sunday when Marylebone High Street was closed to traffic to host on-street stalls with fashion and food, and funfair rides. Adding to the street carnival atmosphere was a lively DJ booth and a pair of fantastically mesmerising and colourfully-dressed stilt dancers. It was great to see the Farmers Market joining in the festival this year, by extending their traditional trading hours into the afternoon.

The Marylebone Association was of course there too, signing up new members. but at least as important, getting the chance to chat to existing ones and hearing about what is important to our membership.

Favourite moments included relaxing with a Pimm's while listening to the string quartet, sitting on the south side of Paddington Street Gardens – having earlier experienced very active family fun entertainment for children on the north side which included the classic fairground 'hook a duck' game, a huge bouncy castle and slides, and trampoline activities.

The Charity Tombola had terrific prizes, as always, and this year's fund-raising supported [Greenhouse Sports](#). This is a Marylebone-based charity that works in partnership with schools in disadvantaged local areas providing high-quality sports coaches to deliver extra-curricular, inspirational coaching and mentoring programmes. The event raised a total of £40,000 for them.

A wonderful time was had by all and congratulations to the organisers, Howard de Walden Estates. Their hard work and planning ensured the weekend's success and set-up and clean-up operation was impressive as always. For a further look back on what took place or to catch up on what's happening next in Marylebone click on www.marylebonevillage.com

Concerns over Cycleway 43





Where will the school buses go?

Public consultation on Cycleway 43 between Hyde Park and Gloucester Place commenced on 15th May and got a 2-week extension to the 25th June.

As we reported last month, we could see a number of problems ahead, and it is clear from the level of responses that many were indeed concerned by the proposals. Further, it became apparent that many residents who would be affected had no idea what was actually proposed, and that insufficient time had been given to get the word out.

Following this, our local councillors and others successfully applied for a two-week extension but even after that it was apparent that many people were still unaware of the proposals. Certainly, the more widely it became known, the more responses it provoked. By the time the consultation closed there were more than 1000, which exceeded the number received by the Seymour Centre.

Although we will now have to wait to see the consultation results, it is fair to say at this stage that no matter how enthusiastic many residents are about cycling, this particular solution has not been met with universal delight.

For those with long memories, this will hardly come as a surprise, as this is not the first time that there has been an attempt to run a cycle lane down George Street.

Back in 2011 when Westminster Council first consulted on a cycle route that included George Street, then known as Cycle Quietway 7, they got support from only 34% of residents, with 47% opposing.

Yet those were very modest proposals compared to what is now on the table. They involved only the loss of a few residents' spaces near junctions and the painting of way-finding symbols and the odd raised table. On George Street, there was a proposal to re-allocate (not lose) a total of 2 resident parking spaces, some early release lights and advanced cycle stop lines.

Even with these proposals there was much concern over road capacity issues - remaining road widths and volumes of traffic, and over potential losses of parking spaces, together with worries over restrictions to deliveries and emergency vehicle access.

WCC, having reviewed the responses, summed it up: "There is generally an overall lack of support for the proposals among residents and non-residents alike. 45% of respondents who said they have a Westminster postcode as their home address oppose or partially oppose the proposals, and 37% support or partially support these proposals."

In practice, the lesson learned then was that it is difficult to achieve ideal carriageway widths for cycle traffic along this route in central London whilst balancing the needs of other road users, managing kerbside activity, and minimising adverse impacts on network resilience. As WCC conceded - "There is very heavy demand for kerbside activity along many streets in the City of Westminster."

So, following the general lack of enthusiasm, a few modest changes were implemented, and it was left at that.

Things remained until December 2021, when the then Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality approved the route of Cycleway 43 between Bayswater Road and Gloucester Place. The design team were brought back in, but the modest, yet unwelcome proposals of 2011 were replaced with something far more radical, leading one to wonder if the team had not undergone a complete

change of personnel over the intervening years.

This time around, it seems like George Street has been singled out for special treatment, for it is only here that gets raised cycle tracks, creating a segregated cycle lane on each side with a physical separation between the cycle lane and general traffic lanes with kerbs at different heights- and resulting in the loss of 26 residents parking spaces.

The consultation is being run by FM Conway, the same contractor who will benefit from carrying out the expensive infrastructure work if it is successful. We have pointed out many times that employing the company that is to be awarded the contract to carry out the consultation for those works results in an obvious conflict of interest. No matter what procedures are put in place there will be a tendency to read the consultation in the most positive light possible.

This will be a lot easier to do than it was back in 2011, as the cycling lobby groups are now well-versed in how to get as many of their members as possible to respond to these consultations and are well-motivated to do so.

Meanwhile, there are more changes to come- particularly for Bryanston Square. Cycleway 51, St John's Wood to Marylebone, will go to public consultation shortly, (see below) and this is proposing cycle lanes down both sides of the square (see below)

Our response can be [read here](#).

Cycleway 51 (CS51) Proposals Postponed

Cycleway 43 (C43) is not the only contentious Cycleway proposal coming our way. Hard on its heels is Cycleway 51.

This was meant to have commenced by now but "owing to coming school holidays, and to coordinate with TfL's consultation on the TfL Road Network (TLRN) sections of the route, the launch of public consultation will now take place on Monday 4th September. This is so we do not impact people's ability to absorb and meaningfully respond to the consultation(s) whilst on holiday, in line with the third Gunning Principle; "there is adequate time for consideration and response".

Could it also be something to do with the reception that Cycleway 43 is currently receiving?

Anyway, it's good to see the Gunning principles being invoked - as recommended by Westminster Amenities Societies Forum earlier in the year. However a good start with observing the Gunning Principles would be to avoid appointing the contractor who has been awarded the contract to also run the consultation.

More proposed Cycle Schemes are coming up in other areas of Westminster as the enhanced Cycle Routes Program includes route development to retain the 11 post- 2020/21 temporary routes in a permanent capacity.

All these routes will be consulted on a location-by-location basis, starting with the Paddington area in early June, followed by Buckingham Palace Road later that month.

Four key temporary routes, Abingdon St, Portland Place, Bayswater Road and Westbourne Terrace have been identified for a higher level of intervention due, it is said, to the high present and future cycling demand. Abingdon St is also planned for public consultation in late July 2023.

A Cyclist Writes



This month, in the interests of balance, we are pleased to be able to publish a letter from one of our residents who puts forward his reasons to support the proposed George Street segregated cycle lanes.

As a former Marylebone Resident now living on Connaught Street, and someone who hopes to return to Marylebone, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my perspective on safe streets and active travel in the context of the C43 consultation. I want to thank Julie and the Marylebone Association for the opportunity.

I personally enjoy Santander Cycles as the fastest, cheapest way to get to work and run my errands in our neighborhood. Of course, I also walk, take the bus and tube, hire cabs, ride in my friends' cars, and rent cars myself on occasion to get out of London.

I deeply care about safe streets, not because I cycle daily, but because cycling is not an option to many fellow residents, my wife included. Our roads can be intimidating, preventing the least risk-tolerant – disproportionately children, the elderly, the differently abled, women – from choosing the freedom and benefits of cycling, even if they have the desire and ability to do so. You, or someone you care about, may well find yourself in that situation.

I encourage the Marylebone Association and its members to actively and constructively support efforts to improve pedestrian and cycling safety, starting with the C43 proposal along George Street.

C43 plays a vital role in an East-West cycle route through central London, and it has been part of Westminster's Cycling Strategy since 2021. It will be a wonderful amenity for Marylebone, for example making cycling to Hyde Park a safer option for families.

Encouraging walking, public transit, and cycling not only benefits those who use these modes of transportation but also contributes to a better, more vibrant neighborhood for everyone, including those who need or prefer to drive. After all, each motor vehicle trip avoided benefits all other drivers.

London's cycling network suffers from gaps, particularly in Westminster and Marylebone. Establishing a complete, direct, and well-marked cycling network is crucial for giving everyone the freedom to choose cycling as a safe mode of transportation.

London's network needn't exclusively consist of fully protected cycle highways, but the portions that comprise it should be safe enough for anyone to ride comfortably through. Streets with appropriate traffic calming measures and limited volumes can serve as safe, shared spaces for cyclists and drivers. Where that's not feasible (or in some cases not desired), then protected, segregated cycle lanes are essential to facilitate smooth and safe traffic flow for all.

Balancing resident's parking supply *and* demand is a reasonable amenity request, and this can be done without foregoing cycling as a choice for our community.

I'll note that Zone F parking permits are down roughly 10% since 2018, while the number of Marylebone resident spaces has only declined by 1% during the same period (WCC Parking Reports). Encouraging alternatives to vehicle ownership is one way to ensure sufficient parking space for residents who need it.

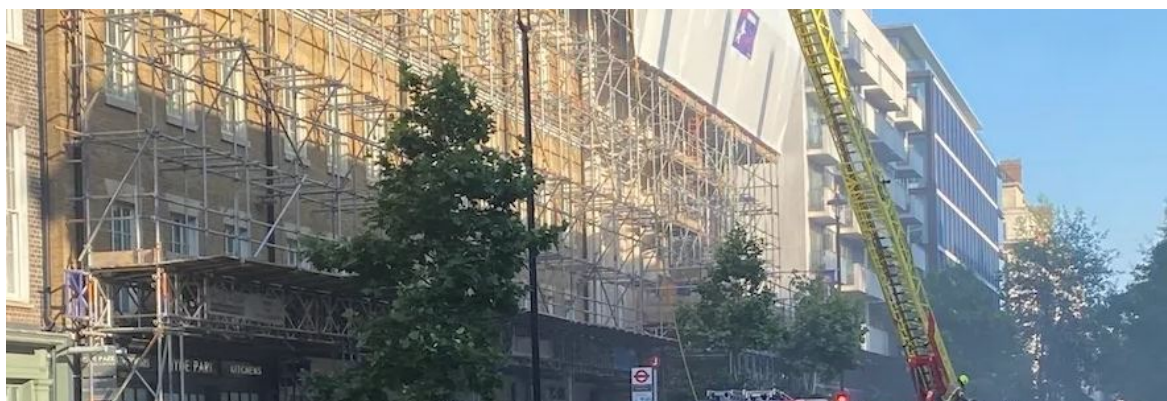
Other options should be considered as well – for example, I'd propose this audience consider advocating for a waitlist for future resident permit grants, indexed to available parking supply and equitably prioritized.

Regarding the concerns about Wetherby School buses, the proposal maintains a specific amenity for two simultaneous coaches (streetview, route plan). Depending on specific needs beyond this, various approaches might be explored. These include operational changes by the school, creating additional drop-off locations nearby, or further road adjustments on that block. It's important to prioritize the needs of children and their buses, followed by cyclist safety and then motor vehicles, in line with the hierarchy of road users (DfT).

I'm keen to engage in more constructive conversation with my community around safe streets. I readily accept that cycling will not be for everyone, or for every errand. I respect that driving is an important and desirable mode of transport for many, though I reject the notion that cycling and driving must sit in irreconcilable contention. Marylebone can and should enjoy the benefits of both.

Olivier Bouan - Resident W2

George Street Fire





George Street stays in the news- on the 13th of June firefighters tackled a roof fire at a six-storey building on Baker Street.

Emergency services were called at around 6 pm to a group of terrace houses between George Street and Blandford Street where smoke was billowing from the roof.

Over 80 firefighters and twelve fire engines attended the blaze from stations including Euston, Paddington, and Kensington.

A statement from London Fire Brigade said that the roof, including solar panels caught alight. Several solar panels were also involved. Two 32-metre turntable ladders were used and the Brigade's drone team provided an aerial view of the incident.

The Fire was not under control until about 10 am with many fire engines on the scene long after that. No injuries were reported, but the cause of the fire is not known as of yet.

WCC Scrutiny Verdict - Room for Improvement



The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CGfG) has been looking at Westminster Council's scrutiny procedures- and it has been found to be wanting.

In the first year of the transition from the Conservative to the Labour administration, there was cross-party consensus that the council's existing method of work should be reassessed and, as a result, an independent review was commissioned.

The CGfG spent much of its time interviewing council employees (officers) and councillors (members) and what they learnt is quite revealing.

Westminster City Council currently operates an Overview and Scrutiny Commission and four Policy and Scrutiny Committees as part of its Cabinet-based governance model:

- Children's, Adults Public Health and Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee
- Climate Action, Housing and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee

- Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee
- Finance, Planning and Economic Development

It also has a Budget Task Group which currently meets in January each year and considers the council's draft budget.

The majority of those interviewed provided examples of how scrutiny is overly managed by officers and some questioned if scrutiny can in fact be led by councillors. This "over management" was described in terms of the timing of issues on agendas; the content of cabinet briefing reports; the focus of presentations; some elements of performance reporting not addressing those areas requested by scrutiny; and complex information not tailored to scrutiny needs. Officers were found to lead the scrutiny process, but the CGfG found they had a tendency to keep it away from key areas of council business - to avoid "undue difficulties." Others described how they had encouraged members to lead scrutiny work, but this was not taken up.

The report found that "there appears to be an atmosphere of undue control. Some pointed out that, when responding to scrutiny requests to attend meetings and or prepare reports or provide information, there is often tension and increased anxiety about what information can, and when it should, be provided to scrutiny based on the prevailing culture and historical attitude towards scrutiny."

The CGfG had "heard that the prevailing culture at Westminster is one which at best endures scrutiny and at worst is indifferent to it. There is a sense that scrutiny is not valued by the wider council community with some saying they are not clear about what scrutiny as a whole function is trying to achieve."

Further, the CGfG found that members and officers spoke of a long-established culture of the politicisation of scrutiny within the council: "This makes it difficult for councillors to break away from this pattern. New councillors learn about scrutiny through the experience of current practices and behaviours and go on to absorb and adopt them also".

Those officers who recognised problems often did not push things too far for fear of upsetting individual cabinet members.

In summary, the report said that bias, manipulation, overcontrol, politicisation and even indifference were found. Also, a practice of limiting information made available to the opposition, especially on sensitive issues. Further, the function and purpose of having full scrutiny were not really understood by a number of those interviewed. Indeed, some found it difficult even to describe scrutiny's purpose, role and remit and its place in supporting the overall governance of the council.

The CGfG duly concluded that the role and purpose of scrutiny is not clear and needs to be better understood by members and officers: "We heard numerous times from a diverse group of members that scrutiny is weak, ineffective, and that neither policy nor scrutiny roles were carried out well. Some went further and described scrutiny as a sideshow."

However, on the upside, the CGfG felt that there is now a recognition that the council needs to develop an updated vision for scrutiny and a willingness for the parties to work together to ensure that this vision is delivered: "Through our discussion with the Leader and Cabinet there is a commitment to reset and position the organisational cultural and political dynamics so that scrutiny's worth and value as the formal check and balance to policy and decision making, underpinned by legislation is understood across the council."

The CGfG put forward a number of useful suggestions, such as recognising any tendencies for officer support to shift towards unintentionally overstepping their boundaries. This can be through leading content and direction which is more likely to suit their purpose thus ensuring scrutiny remains member-led and rooted in local need.

They made in total 28 suggestions for improvement, amongst those were: managing the size of reports to ensure usability; the timely production of reports and information; removing updating briefings and having single cabinet member presentations for better focus; more accessible reports; ownership of work programmes; interim reports, and reports based on thematic topics.

All the above may sound somewhat theoretical, but the review has supplied the tools to make scrutiny more relevant and accessible to councillors - and this could have a direct bearing on the quality and nature of the decisions that emerge from the council. It should further help focus on council priorities, such as improved public engagement and by that strengthen local democracy - and therefore this is relevant to all of us.

Poor scrutiny can lead to poor decisions and the wastage of money. Whereas focusing on the impact and outcomes of good scrutiny can add value and support effective services in Westminster for the benefit of residents.

If there had been more robust testing through scrutiny on the impact of new policies and key decisions in the past, then perhaps some of the obvious policy errors made in recent years could have been avoided.

Short Lets Legislation

With the government now looking at the responses to the recent consultation on short-term lets, it is to be hoped that some legislation on this is finally in sight. But how effective is this likely to be?

The problem with short-term letting in the first place has largely been caused by a previous piece of legislation which had unintended consequences, at least in London.

In 2015, the Deregulation Act was introduced in order to provide clear regulation for short-term rentals in London. The regulation introduced the exception that allows those hosting short-term rentals for less than 90 days a year, to be exempt from obtaining a planning permit.

This turned out to be an example of a piece of legislation with unintended consequences, at least in London. Operating an entire home short-term rental in Greater London for more than 90 days without planning permission is considered an unauthorised change of use. This could result in a fine of up to £20,000, along with being found guilty of not complying with an Enforcement Notice.

But it rapidly became clear that the 90 day rule was openly flouted, usually with no consequences as the resources to track occupancy and prove that landlords were in breach were just not there. Also, whereas a small degree of private letting in conjunction with legitimate occupancy as a permanent home is quite acceptable, the type of short-term letting that has since emerged on an industrial level, run as a commercial business, is not.

In January of 2017, Airbnb started directly enforcing the 90-day limit through its platform. The home-sharing company included a 90-day counter to keep track of the total number of nights the property had been booked for. There continued however to be plenty of other sites available which had no effective monitoring system.

Now Westminster has more short-term lets than any other part of the country, approximately 9000 are advertised on a monthly basis - many concentrated in the West End ward. The Council says the increase in short lets has resulted in a reduced stock in the private rented sector, increased private rental prices, and has affected the Council's ability to carry out its homelessness duties and support schemes.

schemes.

Short-term letting is also negatively affecting communities with increased anti-social behaviour, illegal dumping of waste, and a reduced sense of community as the number of homes for long-term residents is restricted.

The council is fully aware of the problem. "In Westminster, short-term lets have been widely abused — when you have one residential block renting out more rooms than the Ritz every night, you know the system needs reform," says Cllr Adam Hug, leader of Westminster City Council.

There are now proposals to deal with the situation from central Government. A consultation has just ended on the introduction of a new planning use-class for short-term lets and a separate consultation on a registration scheme.

The proposal is that when the use class comes into effect existing properties would fall into the short-term let use class (referred to as C5) where they met the definition or remain as C3 dwelling house.

However, any re-classification is not considered development and so existing property owners should not need to apply for planning permission where they meet the definition of short-term let. They would be classified as such and would not require planning permission. So this would do nothing to deal with those existing properties used for short-term letting, other than legitimise them.

The new permitted development rights would provide flexibility where short-term lets are not a local issue and allow for this flexibility to be removed where there is a local concern. Where the rights have been removed, planning permission would be required where there is a material change of use to a short-term let. DLUHC are also seeking views on the planning application fee required where permission is required for the development of a new build short-term let.


We hope that any legislation that results will not give an automatic right to a C5 use or things could get even worse. Ideally, any short let should require a planning application and building regulations application and licensing.

Certainly anything that can deliver a greater degree of control over the market than exists at present will be to the benefit of all those living in Westminster.

Finally, it should be remembered London residents are able to report properties being used for short-term renting while breaching legislation through the city's Planning Enforcement investigation form.

Highways Submission





Every year the Association submits recommendations for improvements to the public highway under the Carriageways and Footways Nominations process.

Thayer Street once again heads our wish list, as it has done for the last 4 years, in the hope that eventually the council will decide to rid the pavements there of their unsightly asphalt surface and replace it with the sort of Yorkstone paving to be found along the rest of the High Street.

Don't forget that if you have any areas of defective paving or roadway you wish to nominate - then let us know and we can look at adding it to our list for next year.

The complete list of nominations is below:

Pavement replacements - in order of preference

Thayer Street- remove asphalt on both sides and replace it with Yorkstone paving. (This was classified as a major N-S route meriting Yorkstone replacements in the Westminster Way Document, unless this has since changed).

Wigmore Street South from Wimpole Street to Welbeck Street - replace asphalt with paving.

Weymouth Street North Side (mainly asphalt from Beaumont Street to Devonshire Mews turning).

Bulstrode Street both sides - replacement of asphalt with paving from Welbeck Street to Marylebone Lane.

Carriageways

New Cavendish Street between Portland Place and Marylebone High Street.

We also endorse the nomination made in respect of the highway on Great Portland Street by others.

Coronation Figures

The Coronation, perhaps with the odd policing hiccup (namely the arrest of the WCC sponsored Night Stars team), was widely acknowledged to have been another very successful national event. There has now been improved communication between WCC and Met Police as a result of the misunderstanding and in the main the massive joint operation between the police and WCC and other bodies was impressively run.

This was one of the largest security operations the Metropolitan Police has ever led. It included 11,500 officers and staff and volunteers from across the Met, with 1,270 colleagues who joined from across the UK and overseas.

There were 6,500 military ceremonial troops and over 160 horses, working with almost 9,000 stewards.

London wide over 1,800 local community events took place over the same weekend.

On top of this, the police still had to ensure that frontline core key response to 999 calls, support for victims and proactive operations went ahead. Over the three days, Met CC took around 24,000 emergency calls with officers and specials deployed to many of them, supported by others.

Knife Crime Up in Westminster

With the recent tragic, fatal, stabbing of a teenager outside Westminster City College serving as the latest reminder of the knife crime plague sweeping Westminster, the latest crime data makes for grim reading. They show a total of 648 knife crime offences for the period from September 2022 to April 2023.

86 of those offences were knife crime with injury, and alarmingly victims from ages 1 – 14 made up 39 of knife crime offences.

This data follows the same graphical trend as total crimes and robbery with September 2022 having a low of 45 knife crime offences, December 2022 having a high of 110 knife crime offences and April 2023 having 84 knife crime offences recorded.

Knife crime offences are up 25.3% in April 2023, when compared to the previous 12 months ending April 2022.

Trocadero Centre Mosque



The Aziz Foundation has secured approval from the Westminster Planning Committee for proposals to change the use of the ground floor and basement of Rupert House, within part of the Trocadero Centre, to serve as a Muslim Prayer and Community centre.

The original application was withdrawn, and a revised application submitted to ensure concerns about safe access were addressed with the City Council and other consultees.

There are at present three Mosques in central London – Goodge Street, Mayfair and Soho – and all are significantly over capacity during Friday prayers. Directors at all three of these Mosques supported the Trocadero proposals given existing capacity concerns.

The Committee unanimously supported the application and it was accordingly granted.

Fairer Westminster



Westminster City Council's [Fairer Economy Plan](#) has been launched by Cllr Geoff Barraclough (Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development). This is one part of the Fairer Westminster Strategy, the evolving plan will be focused on three key areas - supporting the West End and local businesses, revitalising high streets, and investing in residents.

Fresh Designs have been published on the City Council's plans to [reinvigorate Oxford Street](#). (See our May Newsletter). Further Great Titchfield Street, Old Cavendish and Oxford Street could be revamped with more trees, seating areas, wider pavements and modern crossings, expected to cost £60m.

Streets outside the West End are also due for regeneration, with Paddington and Bayswater first in line for improvements.

Geoff Barraclough said: "Everyone supports the West End as an engine of the UK economy, but we need to ensure all parts of our City can share in the post-pandemic revival of London's economy."

Design Review Panel Due September

WCCs Planning and City Development Committee met to discuss setting up a Design Review Panel, the City Plan partial review and early engagement guidance. The Design Review Panel, which will be introduced from September, will be made up of a pool of 20-30 members. Of these, a small number of members with the most relevant experience will be selected to consider proposals at the pre-app stage.

The committee also discussed the comments on the City Plan partial review, which were largely supportive but noted concerns over 'retrofit only'.

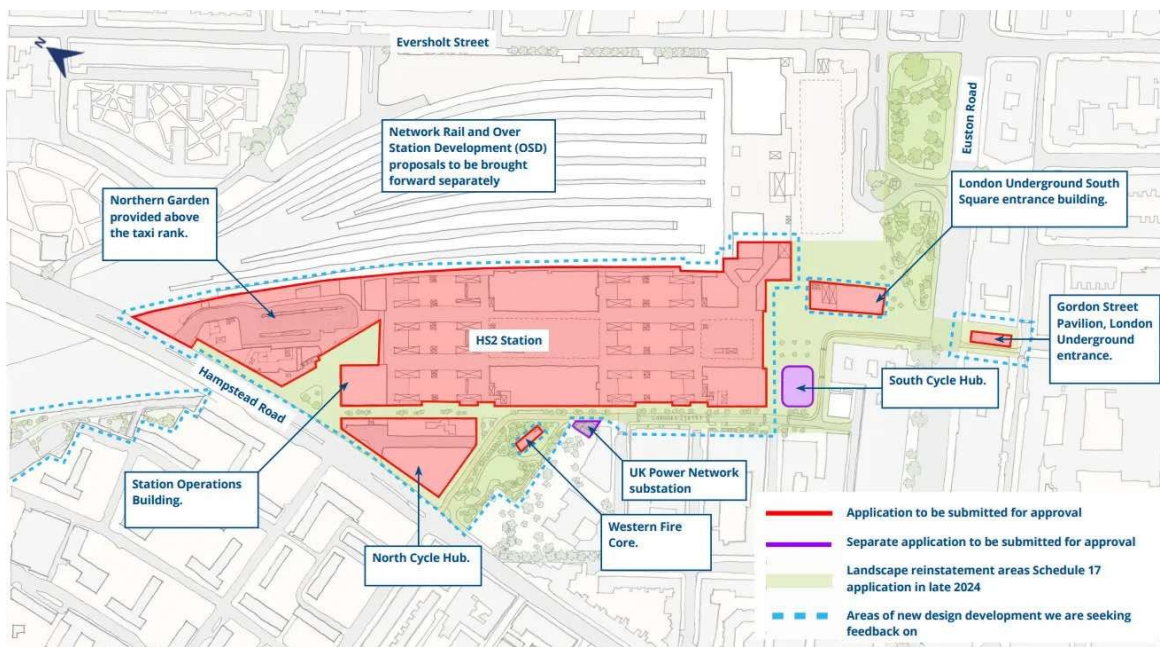
Lastly, the committee discussed an update to early engagement guidance, to set out clearly the expectations for developers. The Council will produce a template for engagement, which developers can follow. [Read More](#)

Demolition Job

The demolition vs. retrofit debate has quickly become one of the defining issues of planning and development across London, with local authorities across the capital grappling with the complex policy question.

In a landmark case, one resident on Southwark's Aylesbury Estate is taking the council to the high court over plans to demolish what was previously one of Europe's largest council estates. With both Southwark Council and Notting Hill councils named in the claim, all local authorities and housing associations will undoubtedly be watching the proceedings with interest.

HS2 - More Delays



There is to be some more rethinking of the station design at Euston to keep costs down, to deliver it alongside the extension from Birmingham to Crewe and Manchester.

These further delays mean Euston station is now not expected to open until 2041, at the earliest- that is if it is used at all.

For although the government has previously committed to building Euston station, Michael Gove, the Levelling-Up Secretary once again cast doubt on this suggesting that old Oak Common could remain the terminus for London.

Although Euston station is expensive, a large part of the cost is simply buying up the land to build it, and although its shrunk 10 platforms will put pressure on HS2's ability to run all the trains it plans to offer — that's still a lot more than the six platforms being built at Old Oak Common.

Either way, these continuing delays mean that people who live or work near HS2 construction sites can expect to live next to the disruption for many years more than they had been led to believe.

On that issue, the Leader of Camden Council, Councillor Georgia Gould said that "the community around Euston have lost homes, schools and businesses to HS2."

the community around Euston have not homes, schools and businesses to lose. They've already lived through years of disruption with no end in sight. If there is a delay, HS2 must not forget the promises they made to our community and must continue to deliver on them."

Meanwhile the cost of building HS2's terminus station at Euston has nearly doubled to £4.8 billion since it was originally planned, according to a report from the National Audit Office (NAO), with the constant changes to the design having wasted over a hundred million pounds.

Day Travel Cards Withdrawn

In the latest cost-cutting exercise Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London are proposing to remove the Day Travelcards from sale.

This could pose a number of problems as cash is no longer an option, the only other methods to pay for travel, including London's bus are an Oyster card, contactless bank card, and smartphone.

Disability Confident

The Council has achieved Disability Confident Leader status; the third London borough to achieve this thanks to the challenge to become more inclusive from the Unions, Able Networks, Staff Networks, and staff across the Council.

Disability Confident is a government scheme to attract, recruit, and retain those with disabilities and health conditions and to help organisations to think differently about them.

All organisations start at level 1 and progress through the scheme at their own pace. 4.3. The first two levels focus on inclusive and accessible recruitment and the actions organisations are taking. The Leader status demonstrates the commitment to taking an active role in encouraging and helping other employers on their journey to becoming Disability Confident.

The Marylebone Dairy





Wednesday 21st June marked this year's summer solstice and we needed every minute of extra daylight to pack in all the month had to offer in Marylebone!

We started with the 20th year Anniversary of our much loved Farmers Market on 4th June. It was amazing to see so many old friends come together to raise a glass and piece of cake to celebrate this occasion. The moment was all the sweeter coming hot on the heels of the news that the Market will be allowed to remain at its Aybrook Street base for the foreseeable future. Here's to the next 20 years of happy Sunday shopping!

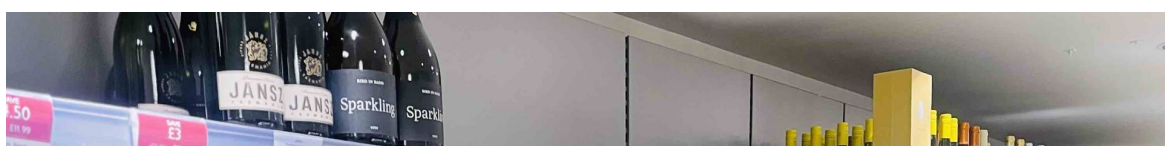
The next weekend brought the Marylebone Summer Festival. What felt like thousands of tourists mingled with residents on packed streets and there was barely a seat to be found in Marylebone's cafes and restaurants. Many thanks to The Howard de Walden Estate for organising and funding the event and to those who made the trip up to the top of the high street to visit the MA stall!

Marylebone Music Festival opened in Manchester Square on 22nd June and ran until 25th. The Festival goes from strength to strength and alongside an eclectic and entertaining musical programme it continues its fundraising efforts to support the vital work of West London Mission. Well done to all involved.

Amidst all of the excitement of the big events the MA was also delighted to join the Bryanston Square residents AGM in the Swiss Embassy and a fantastic historical walk through the area that was organised by Gaby Higgs on behalf of the St Marylebone Society and attended by WCC and Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg.

Looking back on such a varied and entertaining list the MA can only reflect on how lucky we are to live in such a vibrant area that is blessed with such an engaged community!

Crime - Shoplifting





We have had serious shoplifting issues in Waitrose. Speaking with Parish Navsaria the manager there are at least three episodes of shoplifting a day, a gang is targeting the store at 8am and taking all the alcohol off the shelves - hence you will see the shelves without any bottles.

Many cars have been burgled in Marylebone and phones snatched. Please be vigilant.

Announcements

The Wallace Collection



Photo credit: Lisa Sheridan Studio. Lisa Hulton Archive, Getty Images

Exhibition: The Queen and her Corgis last chance to see

Exhibition: The Queen and her Corgis last chance to see.

This exhibition runs from Wed, 8th Mar 2023 to Sun, 25th June 2023. This event runs over several days/weeks. 20th to 25th June 10am to 5pm

Britain's longest-serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is often recognised for the famously close association she developed with Pembroke Welsh corgis, owning over thirty of the dogs throughout her 70-year reign. A special one-room display celebrates through photographs the unique connection The Queen had with her corgis. Each decade of her life will be marked by a single image that captures Her Majesty and her love of the breed. The display coincides with the Collection's major exhibition, Portraits of Dogs from Gainsborough to Hockney (29 March – 15 October 2023), which explores our devotion to four-legged friends across the centuries. Through carefully selected paintings, sculptures, drawings, works of art and even taxidermy, the forthcoming exhibition highlights the unique bond between humans and their canine companions.

More information at this [website](#). No need to book tickets - Cost is free - just turn up on the day.

Regent Street Consultation Workshops



Below is the WCC Announcement concerning Regent Street Consultations. Various changes were made to Regent Street over the covid period that were not consulted on at the time that have affected traffic flow in and out of Marylebone and these have been detailed in previous newsletters. We would urge anyone affected by these changes to have your say in one of the dedicated workshops scheduled to take place over July:

Westminster City Council and The Crown Estates are working together to develop a long-term vision for the design and management of the public space along and around Regent Street. Shortly we will be launching an agreement with

around Regent Street. Shortly, we will be launching an engagement with stakeholders and people who live, work, visit and shop around Regent Street. From 6th July to 30th August there will be a series of engagement activities to inform a new vision for this world-renowned London destination.

Westminster City Council is the local highways authority, and The Crown Estate is the landowner and custodian of the buildings on Regent Street. Together, we are working in partnership to consider the future of Regent Street.

Regent Street is recognised globally and is unique to London. This engagement is an opportunity for everyone to help ensure the street serves people who live and work in the area, and as an international destination to appeal to the millions of visitors it attracts every year from across London, the UK and around the world. This is the start of a conversation on Regent Street and its surroundings, to help inform the right solutions that stand the test of time and create the very best experience for everyone.

During the pandemic, the Council worked in partnership with the Crown Estate to install a temporary scheme in the interest of public safety. Regent Street evolved as we trialled improvements to its accessibility and the general experience for all who use it. This included adding 5,000 square metres of increased pedestrian space, 330 planters, 60 new trees, accessible seating and 1.2km of cycle lanes. Our learnings from these measures along with what you tell us now will shape the vision and future design for Regent Street.

Between 6th July and 30th August there will be lots of ways for you to have your say about Regent Street, including a series of pop-up events across the Borough, focused workshops and an online survey. We are reaching out in advance to invite you to one of the dedicated workshops for residents, businesses and key stakeholders, which WCC and TCE will be hosting across a range of dates and locations:

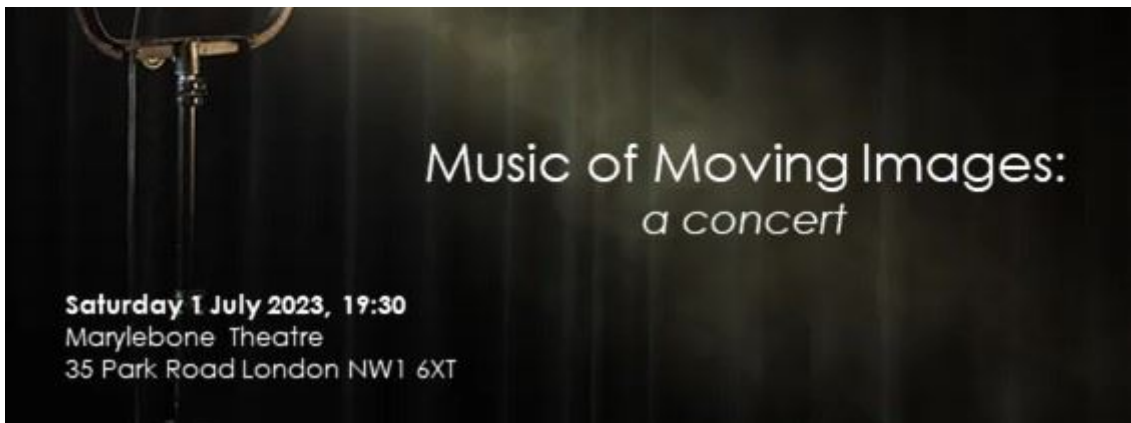
- Thursday 13th July 1, One Heddon Street: 3.00-4.15pm or 6:00-7:15pm
- Thursday 20th July, Westminster University: 3.00-4.15pm or 6.00-7.15pm
- Wednesday 26th July, Westminster University: 3.00-4.15pm or 6.00-7.15pm

For further details on how to access the venues, [please sign up](#) in advance to let us know if you are coming and if you have any accessibility requirements.

What you tell us will help to shape the future of this world-famous destination and create the very best experience for everyone. Looking forward, this engagement will help shape a future vision for Regent Street ahead of plans being developed. This vision will be the foundation for further engagement activities and conversations with residents, businesses, shoppers and visitors that will take place over the next year, so there will be plenty more opportunities to get involved.

The Marylebone Theatre





London Trio is putting on another concert at the Marylebone Theatre and we are as before happy to offer discounted rates to our members.

Continuing the tradition of Café Concert (small artistic productions held in intimate spaces), London Trio (Yekaterina Lebedeva-piano, Anna Kondrashina-flute, Eun Cho-cello) present their next concert dedicated to some of the composers who wrote for film, opera, theatre or ballet, whose music has been created from cinematic or theatrical imagination. Composers who hear and transcribe movement in sound.

Jake Heggie writes operas from films. Nino Rota wrote almost exclusively for films by Federico Fellini, Luchino Visconti, and Franco Zeffirelli. Sergey Prokofiev wrote music for film, theatre and ballets. Francis Poulenc wrote operas based on French classical plays. Nina Chamberlain wrote a piece for piccolo, piano and silent film of the 1920s.

All of them share their desire of realising a moving image in sound, sometimes to influence the movement and sometimes to make it more poignant, meaningful, transmitting an emotional message to the audience.

A London Trio collaborate in bringing these compositions to life in a concert that includes Moving Images and live music.

Here is the [link](#) with a discount code for the MA

Summer in Portman Square Garden

Marylebone's ever-popular Summer in the Square is back! With a fresh roster of exciting outdoor activity that will help see the final week of the Wimbledon tournament out in style, visitors are invited to watch the matches on the big BNP Paribas screen from a deck chair with a drink in hand in the tranquil setting of Portman Square Garden.

This year's festival is taking place 11-16 July with the usual Wimbledon Tennis Championship screening alongside a feast of food stalls, a bar, and our Wellness Den hosting an array of free workshops to boost your health and wellbeing. New this year, our Guest Kitchen will feature chefs from some of the area's fantastic eateries offering up a selection of culinary delights.

Entry is free although visitors to Summer in the Square are encouraged to donate to Home-Start Westminster, a charity that provides support for families living in the local area at the on-site donation point if able.

Thanks to BNP Paribas, Portman Marylebone, Derwent London and Lazari Investments who are sponsoring this year's Summer in the Square.

Home-Start Westminster

Home-Start Westminster is a charity that provides support for families living in the local area. Rich or poor, settled or transient, their trained volunteers help to give encouragement and support to change the pattern of troubled lives.

Families struggling with postnatal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the support of a volunteer who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need.

If you have any queries, would like more information, or if you would like support for your family, please get in touch: Telephone 020 7724 1345 Email: admin@hswestminster.co.uk

Visitors Address (Back Entrance) St Paul's Church Centre, Broadley Terrace, London NW1 6LQ

Women's Safety Strategy

Westminster City Council is conducting a survey which will help to develop and inform a Women's Safety Strategy and Report.

Hearing from residents based in Westminster will help to achieve the Night Safety Programme's aim to improve safety – and perceptions of safety – for all women in our evening and night-time economy.

WCC is keen to hear about your experiences of visiting or living in Westminster at night. Any information you can provide as part of our survey will support work to improve the safety of women and girls in the borough.

Take our quick survey now: [Westminster Experience Survey](#)

The closing date for this survey is 7 July 2023

Association Events

ANACAPRI DINNER

Wednesday 12 July at 7pm

Anacapri Ristorante, 10 Dorset Street, London, W1U 6QR

Once again we have arranged an alfresco dinner at this traditional local Italian restaurant.

As previously Emilio will provide a three course dinner, with house wine, from the A La Carte menu (with the exception of fillet steak and Dover sole) all for only £40.00 per person including service. Those who have attended previous dinners here will recall the generous portions, free flowing wine and a most enjoyable

evening.

Once again we will be taking advance payments for those wishing to secure a place. All members welcome both residential and business.

Few places remaining. To book and arrange payment please contact Lois German on lois.german@marylebone.org or by phone 0207 487 2706.

ISHTAR WINE TASTING LUNCHEON

Sunday 6th August at 1.30pm
Ishtar, 10/12 Crawford Street, London, W1U 6AZ

Join us for this wine tasting luncheon. We will be presented with some summer wines, including red, white and rose with the Sommelier talking us through the selection. The wines will be accompanied by a meze platter and a main course with a complimentary dessert.

The cost for this is £45.00 per person, including service, with advance payment required. The event is arranged by Ann Marie Johnson, but to book and make payment please contact Lois German on lois.german@marylebone.org or telephone 0207 487 2706. Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

PLANNED EVENTS

Saturday 23rd September at 2.30pm - Mayfair Walk -Details will be in the August and September Newsletters.

Regular Events

BOOK CLUB

Monday 3 July at 6.30 pm
The King's Head, Westmoreland Street, W1G 8PJ
July's book: Blood and Oil by Bradley Hope and Justin Schek
August's book: Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris

Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month, upstairs at The King's Head pub in Westmoreland Street. All book choices are available in paperback and on e-readers. For further details – and anyone interested in joining us - please contact Liz Queenan (liz.queenan@marylebone.org) or tel: 020 7486 3709.

PUB EVENING

Monday 10th July at 6.30 pm
The Prince Regent, 71 Marylebone High Street, W1H 2HQ

Continuing with our regular bi-monthly pub evenings at this popular London pub, with plush bar, menu and real ales. Everybody is welcome so do come along whether you are a regular or new to our pub evening, where you will be greeted by our hostess for the evening Anne Hamilton.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Tuesday 11 and 25 July from 5.00 pm
The Duke of Wellington, 94a Crawford Street, London W1H 2HQ

The Scrabble Club normally meets in the private dining-room at The Duke of Wellington pub in Crawford Street on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month

Evenington pub in Crawford Street on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 5 until 7, with Scrabble sets and dictionaries provided – and all levels of players very welcome. Anyone interested in joining and/or wanting further information should contact rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org or 020 7916 9353. NB: change of dates for August only when Scrabble Club will meet on August 8 and 22.

Mailing Address: Marylebone Association, 6 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8AL
If you have news get in touch by emailing news@marylebone.org
[Unsubscribe](#)