

The Marylebone Association Newsletter April 2020



Dear {Contact_First_Name},

Association News

The format of our newsletter will be somewhat changed during the period of the Coronavirus crisis as normal life has ceased and with it most of the issues that we report on have been put on hold.

We will therefore be concentrating on ensuring that issues to do with the pandemic affecting Marylebone are relayed to you as rapidly as possible. So in future, the monthly Newsletter will be supplemented, or replaced, depending on the situation, by regular updates, as and when we receive them. We will also post these on our website. www.marylebone.org



Marylebone News

COVID19 MARYLEBONE HELP GROUP - LATEST

Two weeks ago we put out an appeal in a newsletter special for volunteers to come forward to help those who may be in need of some assistance in Marylebone as a result directly, or indirectly, of the coronavirus pandemic. We have had a tremendous and heartening response to this with, to date, over 45 volunteers having offered to help in some way or another, and more still coming in.

We also have had a number of business and institutions who have also offered time and resources.

We would like to thank those who have volunteered so generously to give up their time in some way to help with this.

We have now formed the Covid19 Marylebone Help Group which is run by a number of our committee members, aided by other Association members to take this forward in the most effective way possible.

At present we are processing all the details of our volunteers, and those who have contacted us in need of assistance so we have the information to match the people nearest placed to those asking for help, as and when the demand arises.

So far, there has been a modest amount of help requested and we are allocating volunteers to deal with this. We are also working directly with AGE UK and some other local charities to assist with deliveries to those in our area. We expect demand will increase as the virus spreads and we now have a good working operation in place, ready to move forward to deal with the situation as it develops over the coming weeks.

Our website, at www.marylebone.org and regular newsletters will, as always, be keeping you updated on the rapidly unfolding situation.

If you wish to register to help those in need in our area please email us at covid19@marylebone.org. At present we are short of drivers with vehicles who would be able to help with deliveries and so would be particularly grateful for any volunteers who are able to provide this.

If you are self isolating in Marylebone, or in need of help due to the present crises then email us at covid19@marylebone.org or you can phone us and leave a message on 07950 472 916.

Over the past week members of our committee have attended virtual meetings, together with other amenity groups with Councillor Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council and also Nickie Aiken Member of Parliament for Cities of London and Westminster.

We have discussed ways of co-ordinating an effective community response to the Coronavirus pandemic and shared our experiences in dealing with the present situation and recommendations on how the Council can help going forward.

Westminster Council has set up Westminster Connect, with a new dedicated phone line 020 7641 1222 which operates between 8am to 10pm, seven days a week. A report can come from someone who needs help or who is ringing on their behalf.

In addition there is plenty more help and advice on the Council website, detailed below under Westminster Council news.

Meanwhile, set out below, is the latest **NHS Coronavirus Virus Guidance**:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways.

Stay at home if you have either:

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

Go to the [NHS website](#) for more information.

Westminster Council News

The Council is currently providing its normal services with limited disruption. This may change as the situation develops.

You can keep up to date on which Council services are affected by visiting the Council website [here](#). This is being updated on a very regular basis with the latest information. The front page of the Council's website has had a major makeover to signpost people to everything related to COVID-19.

The Council are making contact with vulnerable residents and tenants to support them.

The Council are also sending out daily email updates. [Click here](#) to subscribe.

Westminsters renewed 'City for All' vision

Westminster City Council's 2020/21 budget was agreed at Full Council last Thursday which will see a 1.43 per cent increase in council tax, combined with a two per cent precept for social care. Leader of the Council Cllr Rachael Robathan launched a renewed 'City for All' vision outlining three key pillars that would drive the future direction of the Council:

- Becoming carbon neutral by 2040;
- Becoming a world leader in digital communication with residents;
- Building vibrant communities with an unprecedented £2.5bn investment programme.

Westminster City Council have formally announced it is postponing future Planning Committee meetings until **Tuesday 14th April**. This Committee will take place as a virtual, on-line meeting. Further updates will be provided [here](#) in relation to planning services.

West London Mission, a plea to help protect the most vulnerable people at this time.

Below is a request for financial help from one of our major charities in Marylebone. As difficult as things are for many of us at this time at least we have a roof over our heads, things are far worse now though for the homeless and vulnerable:

West London Mission has been hugely impacted by recent events but we are responding effectively and professionally to protect our residents in our centres across London and our clients and service users who are homeless and vulnerable. We have

- *closed our dormitory-style night shelter at Seymour Place and moved residents into single room accommodation in local hotels*
- *organised for all office staff to work from home*
- *mothballed our head office and our Community Hub at St. Luke's*
- *increased hygiene protocols for all residents and front line staff*
- *increased our medical provision and care of vulnerable residents.*

Our clients and residents are the most vulnerable and most disconnected people in society. We are determined to look after them and to provide care to the very highest of standards.

We have a very robust Contingency Plan in place but the impact upon us is very significant and we are planning for an increase in costs of up to £20,000 per week. No organisation of our size can cope with such a cost increase without putting frontline services at some risk. This is where you can help.

Our Ask: Please consider making a donation to help us to continue our service provision.

- *31st March is year-end for many businesses. There may be some unspent funds in your marketing, community or procurement budgets. Would you consider donating some or all of those unspent funds to help us?*
- *CEOs and FDs, would you sign off a corporate donation to support us at this time?*
- *Many employees are working from home. Uniting everyone in a common cause to raise funds for West London Mission is a great way of bringing people together to support very vulnerable people in a tangible way. We would be grateful beyond words for your support.*

What to do next:

- *Visit <https://www.wlm.org.uk/donate/i-want-to-support-people-affected-by-homelessness-poverty-and-trauma/22/credit-card> to make any individual donations*
- *Call Patrick on 07901517424 at any time to discuss making a corporate donation.*

Parking

NHS workers and care workers can park for free and without time limit in pay-to-park bays in Westminster until further notice.

Westminster has issued the following bulletin regarding park for free:

NHS workers and care workers can park for free and without time limit in pay-to-park bays in Westminster until further notice.

- *If this applies to you, to enable our Marshals to identify who should be granted this concession we ask that supporting evidence be placed in your windscreen, such as photocopies of your work pass with sensitive information removed, or a letter of evidence on headed paper from your employer.*
- *Should you receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) whilst carrying out your critical work, please tell us using the information on the PCN and with your supporting evidence and it will be considered sympathetically.*

We are also issuing similar parking services for other key workers where a need is identified. Applications for free parking will be considered on the basis of priority and available kerbside parking space.

- *If you fall into one of the approved Key Workers groups, please send through requests to annualteam@westminster.gov.uk with the following details: Name / Address /*

- to <http://www.waitrose.com/apply-for-a-licence> with the following details: Name / Address / Vehicle registration / Location required / Contact telephone / Contact email / Reason.
- The free parking provided can last up to 12 weeks and their continued use beyond that period will be reviewed should that be necessary.

Marble Arch Station - No Down Escalator Service

TfL will be carrying out escalator work at Marble Arch station from Monday 9 March until mid-June 2020. This will mean that there will be no down escalator service to the Central line. Access to the platforms is via a fixed staircase with approximately 120 steps. TfL say: "This maintenance work is essential to ensuring the continued safe operation of the escalators at Marble Arch station and will be completed within the shortest possible time frame."

Licensing

Chiltern Firehouse

The Chiltern Firehouse planning application for tables and chairs on the paved area outside the Firehouse has proved contentious. It has now been revised: the new application is for 10 tables and 20 chairs and revised proposed hours of operation from 9am to 8pm.

The Association has submitted an objection to this on the grounds of the potential nuisance this would cause to nearby residents.

The planning application with all the relevant papers and submissions can be accessed online [here](#) quoting 20/00219/TCH.

Palm Palace 84 Edgware Road

As previously reported this shisha bar in Edgware Road applied to extend their opening hours to 1:00am. It would appear that the management have not been compliant with previous conditions on their existing licence and consequently the Licensing sub-Committee refused their application.

Lap Dancing Club to open in Marylebone?

The Mayfair Club in Dover Street is being forced to move because their lease is expiring. The management are the same as the nightclub located at 37 Duke Street, opposite the entrance to Selfridge's Brasserie of Light. The premises operates as a gay club and opens from 21:00 to 6:00am 6 days a week. They have now applied for a new premises licence on the same terms and also a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence so that they can turn it into a lap dancing club.

We take the view that this is an inappropriate location for such an establishment as it is certainly not within keeping of the character of the locality.

Members may wish to submit comments to WCC [here](#).

If you would like advice as to how to do this most effectively please email guy.austin@marylebone.org who will be pleased to help.

NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR THIS IS THE 5TH APRIL 2020.

A Notice from Waitrose

Waitrose Branch in Marylebone High Street is open but is experiencing long queues due to limited numbers permitted in store. John Lewis on Oxford Street has temporarily closed but, the Foodhall and Customer Collection (for JohnLewis.com orders) is still open as usual with slightly reduced hours. They are as follows: Monday - Saturday 10AM - 6PM (with the first hour dedicated to our elderly and vulnerable customers and NHS workers) Sunday 12PM - 6PM The entrance is from Cavendish Square.



Supermarket Times

Listed below, are the dedicated hours for each supermarket which has at least one branch in Westminster. In addition many of our independent traders are providing support for vulnerable groups.

Co-op - All stores have a dedicated shopping hour for those at higher risk and the people who care for them. Check with local store for details

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Marks and Spencer - Reserving the first hour of trade every Monday and Thursday, as a special shopping hour for more vulnerable and elderly customers to help them get the food and products they need. For NHS and emergency service workers, have access to the reserved first hour of trading on Tuesday and Friday for them to shop.

Sainsbury's - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, all supermarket stores will dedicate 8am - 9am to serving elderly, disabled and vulnerable customers. Every Monday to Saturday will dedicate 7:30am - 8am for NHS and Social Care workers (ID required).

Tesco - Introducing a priority shopping hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9am - 10am for vulnerable and elderly customers (not available in Express stores). Every Sunday, all Tesco stores (except Express) will prioritise a browsing hour before checkouts open for NHS workers.

Waitrose - The first opening hour in Waitrose supermarkets will be dedicated to elderly and vulnerable shoppers, as well as those who look after them.

Waitrose Branch in Marylebone High Street is open (which is experiencing long queues due to limited numbers permitted in store). The Waitrose Branch on Edgware Road has smaller queues to get into the store)

John Lewis has temporarily closed but, the Foodhall and Customer Collection (for JohnLewis.com orders) is still open as usual with slightly reduced hours as set out above.

Association Events

Our Social Team regret to announce that due to the current crisis and government guidelines all Association events have been cancelled until further notice.

Mailing Address: Marylebone Association, 229 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PN
If you have news get in touch by emailing news@marylebone.org
[Unsubscribe](#)