



Marylebone Association

Newsletter August 2022

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

Congratulations to the Lionesses, many journeys to Wembley start in Marylebone and with the FA calling Marylebone home it's great to see football coming home!



Anacapi Ristorante Dinner - 18th July

A triumphant return to this much-loved local restaurant in Dorset Street, to help them celebrate their 30th anniversary! Twenty-six of us enjoyed our favourite dishes from the extensive menu with ever-plentiful supplies of wine.

It was lovely to meet up with so many old friends but also to welcome some new faces – and of course what better way to get to know new people, in such a friendly and welcoming environment?

Although the day had been almost unbearably hot by evening it had calmed down and it truly felt as if we were all on holiday, in some idyllic continental hideaway! Emilio, and his team did what they have been doing so well since 1992, looking after everyone and ensuring that a good and memorable time was had by all.

For all our August Association Events- scroll to the bottom of the Newsletter.

Marylebone Sq and the Farmers Market



Back in July 2015 when planning consent was first granted for the development of Marylebone Square on the old Moxon Street car park, the issue of maintaining the Farmers Market within the site was seen as one of some importance. At the time it traded from the car park and had done so for many years, and it wanted to maintain a presence there. It was agreed to move it to nearby Aybrook Street for the duration of the development. It was then to be relocated into a purpose built hall within the ground floor of the new building on the south side.

To enable this, the planning consent by way of Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, included in the development a “community hall” of approximately 3000 sq ft to be granted to the council for 125 years at a peppercorn rent “for the purposes of social and community use”.

As the years have gone on the relocated Farmers Market has found itself successfully trading on the street, which initially they were permitted to do under a temporary street closure order. Temporary orders have since been renewed and at present there is a further temporary application submitted to take the street trading permission up to 2027. Although there is no guarantee that these temporary renewals will ever be made permanent (and without another public consultation they probably could not) the Farmers Market is disinclined to now move into the space originally designated for it. This, in the longer term, could be a risky strategy, but that is their decision.

A further condition of the planning consent (Condition 8) was that part of the basement, comprising approximately 6000 sq ft marked for ‘community’ on the drawings could only be used as a health centre or clinic, to be let at a commercial rate. This also has met with problems as, we are told, the developers have been unable to find any medical user for it in the area. This is surprising as recently the Health Centre on New Cavendish Street has had to relocate to a basement space on Marylebone Road- but were they ever made aware that a much more local space was on offer?

Meanwhile, the developers have gone ahead and offered half the basement space to one of the local schools on the square instead for their use (with the option to allow other users to share, we understand). However, in return for fitting it out to the schools specification they are seeking to take back the other 3000sq ft of basement space designated for community as a health centre or clinic with amended consent for use as Class E space- i.e. general commercial use.

We are worried that there seems to be insufficient recognition that this could result in a significant loss to the local community. Further, the developers line that

result in a significant loss to the local community. Further, the developers note that there is no medical requirement for the basement so far is unsupported and makes one wonder why others seem keen to develop more space for medical use in area.

The developers, or rather their agents, have sought to show approval for their plans by holding a half day exhibition in May where they "found general support from the people they spoke to". This is again unsupported, and cannot comprise of anything like an acceptable consultation, particularly as a number of the people they spoke to were linked with the school benefiting from the proposed amendment.

So the question now becomes: to what use(s) could all this space best be put? Perhaps some could be for school use but not at the expense of losing one third of the total community space on offer. Certainly, whatever happens, we feel it should all be retained for community use as originally intended. We have all waited a long time for this, and many have put up with ongoing and significant inconvenience in the meantime. If we cannot make good use of every square foot of this piece of valuable real estate in the centre of Marylebone then it would show a singular lack of imagination.

One suggestion that keeps reoccurring is - why not use it for the Marylebone library, as was originally proposed? Many would say that the opportunity for this has now passed and arrangements to accommodate it have already been made within a refurbished Seymour Centre, arrangements which are too far advanced to alter now.

But the Seymour Centre is still at the planning stage, indeed it is still being consulted on, and is still to be reviewed by the new administration. Not a brick has been touched yet to commence the alterations whereas Moxon Street is now up in shell form and at a stage of pre-fit out when this could still easily be accommodated.

The Farmers Market space on its own, at 3000 sq ft, would be far too small to accommodate the full library (although it would certainly be large enough for part - say, for the children's section). But that area, taken with the 6000 sq ft immediately below it of claimed redundant medical use, would then approximately match the full library space on offer at the Seymour Centre. And of course, unlike the Seymour Centre, it has the merit of being centrally located, in a place where the residents always wanted it, and where for many years they were in fact promised it would be.

Neither should it be forgotten that the Howard de Walden Estate at the time put in a substantial bid with the promise of a library within their development. They however lost out to the highest bidder in the council's attempt to maximise the profit on the site. Further, it needs to be remembered that the council reduced the affordable housing percentage below the required 33% - to 25%. This was subsequently challenged in the high court but successfully defended on the basis of the substantial community offering in the development. If that community offering is now to be reduced it undermines the reason for the reduction in affordable units and the very basis on which the developers viability assessment would have been made in order to justify that reduction.

In any event, library or not, the original planning application gave us, in compensation, as it were, in excess 9000 sq ft of building for community use of some sort. The bottom line is that this application, for whatever reason, seeks to remove around 3000 sq ft of it. It does this on the basis of a series of assertions that appear to be unevicenced and on those grounds it should be refused.

However, whether it will be is by no means a forgone conclusion. The developers proposal has, at the time of writing, considerable support, which we suspect is more a function of its limited circulation rather than the desire of the majority of residents to part with a swathe of their designated community space.

We would advise anyone concerned about this to view the application and reach their own conclusion on it.

their own view on it.

The deadline for comments is the 9th August. You can view the application [here](#).

A National Holocaust Memorial



The idea of a UK Holocaust Memorial was first proposed in 2015. The idea was for a memorial and learning centre to preserve the testimony of British Holocaust survivors and concentration camp liberators and to honour the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and other victims of Nazi persecution.

In 2017 a site in Victoria Tower Gardens, next to the Houses of Parliament in London, was identified for the memorial. This proposal was highly contentious because of the popularity and nature of the location and because the memorial would have taken around a quarter of the green space in the park.

In February 2020, Westminster Council concluded that the current proposal was not appropriate for this location due to the potential impact on the important national heritage in the park and close by, such as existing monuments and the adjacent World Heritage site of the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The site was felt to be too small for the additional numbers it would attract.

They said: "As a council, we are completely behind the principle of having a Memorial and Learning Centre in central London to commemorate those that lost their lives in the most heinous crimes of the 20th century. We must never let people forget the Holocaust and need to always educate future generations to stop it from ever happening again".

However, the application was not to be decided by the council as it was called in and referred to a public inquiry. In July 2021 it was announced, following this inquiry, that planning permission had been granted for the Holocaust Memorial.

In November 2021, following an application by The London Historic Parks And Gardens Trust, the High Court allowed a review of that decision; and in April 2022 the High Court found for the Trust and quashed the planning permission.

Giving judgement, Mrs Justice Thornton said that those involved in the court case all "support the principle of a compelling memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and all those persecuted by the Nazis during those years when 'humanity was tipped into the abyss of evil and depravity'." However the plans did not comply with a 1900 statute specifically relating to Victoria Tower Gardens, the

with a 1900 statute specifically relating to Victoria Tower Gardens, the requirements of which represented “a prohibition on using Victoria Tower Gardens as anything other than a garden open to the public”. This law would need to be repealed for the monument to be built.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said it would consider the next steps, adding: “The government remains committed to the creation of a new national memorial commemorating the victims of the Holocaust and it is disappointing – especially for Holocaust survivors – that this judgment will delay its completion.”

This July the project was dealt a further blow when the Court of Appeal refused permission for an appeal against the High Court decision. This would then appear to be the end of the road for a memorial in that place, although hopefully a suitable venue can soon be found.

Meanwhile the project, originally estimated to cost £50m, is now expected to cost £103 million.

Buses for the Chop



Together with the obligation to enable the easy transport of workers, residents and tourists around London, there is the need for TfL to provide with its bus network accessible and sustainable transport for the elderly and mobility impaired, and mothers with young children. All these rely on reliable direct services by bus, particularly when the alternative by Tube or Underground lacks step-free access at the relevant stations.

The substantial and comprehensive cut in bus services proposed by TfL and reported on in last month's newsletter is therefore of great concern too many.

The consultation was extended and now runs to August 7th. The proposals aim to save money by cutting or merging bus routes, meaning loss of many direct links for those who need to use buses.

The nature of TfL consultations is often to decide first and then “consult” but the more objections received the more difficult it will be to rubber stamp.

See last month's newsletter for details of the proposed cuts and changes- Buses at risk include routes 4, 11, 14, 16, 24, 211 and 507 and many more. See also Nickie Aikens piece below.

You can respond to the consultation [here](#).

Nickie Aiken MP Reports



Photography Competition

My Two Cities Photography Competition has returned for a second year! From now until Sunday, 4 September, why not pick up your phone or camera, go out and about in Marylebone or across the Cities of London and Westminster, and take a picture of your favourite place or activity?

It's simple to enter and there's an age category for everyone aged four and above. No special equipment is needed, just a device that can take a picture such as a phone or camera. To take part, email summersnaps@nickieaiken.org.uk up to six photographs, along with your name, postcode and age category; 4-8; 9-13; 14-17, or 18+. I also want to know which entry is your favourite with the new Public Vote category. Find out how to take part at www.nickie.news/SummerSnaps

I had some brilliant entries in Marylebone last year and I can't wait to see this year's entries! Full details are at www.nickie.news/SummerSnaps. Get snapping!

Save Our Buses

Secondly, it is clear that the proposals to cut buses across Marylebone and central London are causing real concerns for local people.

Many of you rely on the buses to get to work, to medical appointments, to school, to college or to the shops. The Mayor of London's plan to withdraw or change bus routes 6, 12, 14, 16, 24, 74, 88 and 98 would undoubtedly force people back to using cars, expensive taxis and private hire vehicles, or cause massively increased travel times with busier buses as day-to-day commuters, disabled people and parents with pushchairs compete for limited space.

The Mayor has already had more than £5 billion of support to keep Transport for London running throughout the pandemic. He needs to get a grip on TfL's spiralling costs, and not take it out on our bus network.

We all have a role to play to spread the message and ensure our friends, family and neighbours take part in the consultation. We cannot let the Mayor push ahead with his plans. Thanks to you, we have already forced the Mayor to extend his consultation to allow even more people to make their voices heard, but we need more people to have their say. If you haven't already, please tell the Mayor of London to keep his hands off our buses. Respond to the consultation before the 7 August 2022 and sign my petition at www.nickie.news/SaveOurBuses

Finally, if you have a local, national or international issue you think I can help with, please get in touch and send an email to me at nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk and keep up to date to see how I'm working for you on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube @TwoCitiesNickie.

BT Hubs Horror



Last week the council granted planning for 15 “BT Hubs” in and around the Marylebone area. One has to ask what hope is there to achieve the desired goal of a clear, clutter free environment when the council goes ahead and approves these unsightly advertising hoardings masquerading as telephone points in multiple sites in the West End?

The proposals involve the removal of existing telephone kiosks and the installation of a new free- standing structure (referred to as a 'BT Hub' structure) which has two large LED advertising panels, coupled with telecommunications equipment.

Concern has also been raised that they will add additional safety hazards, block visibility lines and evacuation routes, and further add to the feeling of neglect, and tatty in the areas they service.

The proposals offer no benefit to local residents, businesses or visitors, and have significant adverse effects on the look and feel of the streets in which they are installed.

Objected to by councillors, ex councillors, Highways, amenity societies and residents, contrary to all guidance regarding clutter in the Westminster Way document, they nevertheless last week gained full planning consent for a period of 5 years..

The 15 sites all have a history of refused prior approval and advertisement consents applications for 'InLink' telecommunication and advertisement structures. The prior approval applications were submitted because the applicant considered that the structures did not require planning permission.

In relation to appeal decisions for separate sites, Westminster Council contended in the High Court that structures incorporating advertising and telecommunications do not have permitted development rights. The High Court agreed, finding that such structures had a dual use as both a telephone kiosk and for the advertising panel and therefore did not sit within the scope of the relevant General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) class (Part 16 Class A). The Court of Appeal upheld this judgement.

After the judgement, the applicant for the Inlink structures withdrew the prior approval applications but continued with the advertisement consent appeals.

Astonishingly the Advertisement Consent was allowed by the Planning inspector, on all 15 application sites. This undermined WCC's position somewhat, and was ultimately regarded by the planning committee as a strong material consideration in the assessment of the applications. The officer advice, somewhat half heartedly, concluded: "It is considered that the visual harm of the hubs would be limited, there would be sufficient pavement width remaining not to impede pedestrian movement and that the advertisements would not pose a highway safety issue."

All 15 of the applications were accordingly granted.

The applications relate to areas of pavement outside or near the following addresses:

1. 466 - 490 Edgware Road, London, W2 1EJ
2. Edgware Road Station, London
3. 378 Edgware Road, London, W2 1EB
4. 219 Baker Street, London, NW1 6XE
5. 225 Edgware Road, London, W2 1DH
6. 105 Wigmore Street, London
7. 54 Baker Street, London, W1U 7BU
8. Edgware Road and Marylebone Flyover, London
9. 484 - 486 Oxford Street, London, W1C 1NA
10. 334-348 Oxford Street, London, W1C 1JG
11. 149-151 Oxford Street, London
12. 354-358 Oxford Street, London, W1C 1JQ
13. 386 Oxford Street, London, W1C 1JS
14. 2A Great Titchfield Street, London, W1W 8AP
15. Junction of Oxford St and John Prince's St, London, W1B 2AE

The Thoughts of the New Leader



The new Leader Westminster, Cllr Hug was recently interviewed on the Eddie Nestor show on BBC Radio London in which he set out his thoughts on a number of current issues which, of course, we were interested to hear.

He commenced with the infamous TfL proposed bus cuts (see above). He felt they are an effect of not "getting a proper deal for TfL" from central government. He was careful to avoid direct criticism of TfL as he has made very clear that he

He was careful to avoid direct criticism of ME as he has made very clear that he wants to get relations back on track and have regular engagement with senior management there.

On the issue of candy stores in Oxford Street, and rapidly spreading elsewhere, Cllr Hug outlined that the main problem the Council faces is that it lacks the legal power to close these shops, saying "I'd love to be able to snap my fingers and get rid of them right now, but that's not how the law works". At the moment the Council is dealing with a "labyrinth" of shell companies, and without more resources from central government, they are limited to "playing whack-a-mole" and seizing counterfeit goods for sale.

On the future of Oxford Street, Cllr Hug appeared to now have a rosier view of the much maligned Marble Arch Mound - perhaps because of its role in installing him in his present position. He said it was a scheme with the best of intentions to get people back to Oxford Street. We now need a package of measures to be introduced to try to bring life back to Oxford Street, "blending pop-ups, music, and culture".

Cllr Hug once again confirmed Oxford Street will not be pedestrianised under the new Labour administration.

But many powerful interests are at play, including major landowners such as the Crown, Grosvenor Estates and now, as reported last month the link up between Capco and Shaftesbury is to create a £5 billion property portfolio stretching from Covent Garden to Carnaby Street.

The council, as Labour's manifesto spelt out, will be looking to these groups and others to "pay their fair share" towards getting the "Oxford Street District" improvement plans back on track. But it remains to be seen how these supremely powerful lobby groups will respond to this.

Cll Hug once again emphasised his allegiance to the residents. Elsewhere Hug has said, "I've been repeating the word 'resident, resident, resident' in every meeting and conversation I've had. Labour's win owes a lot to its candidates being seen as receptive to the concerns of people living in wards that have become gradually more marginal, perhaps most symbolically West End, where the usual Tory dominance was dented in 2018 and demolished in 2022.

He also mentioned the Future of Westminster Commission, established to, as its terms of reference put it, "advise the council on areas of policy that are critical to the future success of the City" and "seek to review and make recommendations on the delivery of key council services to deliver a fairer Westminster for residents". More on this below.

Commission on the Future of Westminster

Every administration, it seems, feels the need to launch a new commission to help advise on the strategic way forward for the Council. When Philippa Roe was Leader she launched the West End Partnership which continued under Nickie Akin, although eventually was left to wither on the vine by Rachael Robotham. The West End Partnership started off with 2 residential members on the main board, but eventually was renamed and reformed and in the process lost those.

Now, on 21 July. We had the launch of the Peoples Commission, the purpose of the Commission is "ultimately to provide an iterative policy and advisory function". WCC. A cornerstone of the new administration's public commitments was the establishment of a Commission on the Future of Westminster.

This will act as an advisory board to assist the Council in shaping and delivering the actions to deliver on these new political priorities. Neale Coleman will chair the Commission.

The Commission will have four themes of enquiry, namely:

Housing: Lead Steve Hilditch -to advise on increasing the supply of genuinely affordable housing to meet housing need in the city. As a priority, advise on options for improving: the way the Council responds to homelessness and housing need and the quality of services provided to the Council's own tenants and leaseholders.

Fairness and Equality: Lead Karen Buck MP - to advise on policy approaches and initiatives that will enable and deliver a fairer, more equal and inclusive city.

Economy and Employment: Lead Claudette Forbes -to advise on how the Council enables more Westminster residents to share in the economic successes of the city.

Energy and Green Transition: Lead Syed Ahmed -to advise on ways to enhance and accelerate climate action supported and delivered by the Council to achieve the objective of achieving net zero Westminster by 2040.

The Commission will hold no formal decision-making power and will be purely advisory to the bodies of the Council, most notably the Cabinet.

It is proposed to establish a one-off budget of £150k to cover the administrative costs of the Commission and this will be funded from reserves. Other costs associated will be funded from within existing budgets in the appropriate service areas.

New Administration - Old Problems

No sooner did the new administration get its feet under the table than the grim reality of local government funding was raised in the form of the Medium Term Financial Plan: 2023/24 to 2026/27.

As manifesto promises can only be delivered within the terms of new savings, there is already some considerable constraint on what can actually be done.

In June, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced his intention to introduce a two-year financial settlement for 2023/24 and 2024/25 under the "Fair Funding Review".

Despite the certainty that a two-year settlement provides, the expected reduction in funding from the Fair Funding Review and the impact of the recently published census (which significantly underestimated Westminster's population) remains a significant risk to the Council's financial outlook.

As a result: "Executive Directors and their teams will be working collaboratively to identify opportunities for delivering both near term efficiencies and medium-term transformational change".

This of course means cuts - but where?

WCC say: "Efficiencies in the near term are expected to include a focus on demand management interventions, greater automation, more use of data, analysis and intelligence to target resources more effectively, and continued property asset rationalisation".

Unfortunately they may also be aiming at other low hanging fruit, such as waste collections from recent reports of reduced recycling collections in our area- something we were promised would not happen.

Mayor Faces Inquiry

Sadiq Khan is facing an investigation after he forgot the date of the local elections and absentmindedly announced the opening of the Elizabeth Line the day before them - on May 4.

Considering it was already 3 years overdue the rush to do so was perhaps understandable.

The Mayor's office, having issued a statement expressing his delight, prompted Grant Shapps to complain to the Greater London Authority. The Transport Secretary complained that he had breached the rules as major political announcements should not be made just before an election.

The Greater London Authority has now confirmed that after carrying out an initial assessment, they will formally investigate the complaint.

West End Planning Deregulation

Previous newsletters have expressed concern at new government legislation which prevents the council from rejecting change of use of existing buildings within a greatly enlarged category. This could have a devastating effect on the West End and surrounding areas and poses a great threat to residents by allowing developers to turn offices into retail, restaurants and other commercial space likely to threaten residential amenity.

Westminster City Council had called for the majority of Westminster's part of the Central Activity Zone (CAZ), including The West End, Knightsbridge, Soho, Victoria, Paddington, and Pimlico to be made a special case, under an Article 4 Direction of the Town and Country Planning Act, on the grounds of their national and international importance.

However this has been rejected by Central Government which is most disappointing, but we still hope that further lobbying by our MP and others will eventually cause the government to see how ill-advised this is.

Crisis - What Crisis?

Neither the war in Ukraine, the disappearance of rich Russians from London, nor the increase in interest rates has caused the upward property market to as much as stutter in Central London.

The Daily Mail reports that 61 luxury London properties with price tags of more than £10m were bought in the first six months of 2022 with sales at their highest in a decade. New developments including the Old War Office on Whitehall and No 1 Grosvenor Square in Mayfair have proved popular with the super rich. Among the sales is a 12 bedroom mansion on Belgrave Square that fetched more than

the sales is a 12-bedroom mansion on Belgrave Square that fetched more than £90m.

The total value of £10m-plus homes changing hands so far this year has topped £1billion as international buyers continue to be attracted to London despite Brexit.

The drop in the value of the pound, which has fallen by 11% since the start of the year has also helped.

Agents also think that the introduction of new rules that will force overseas buyers to declare their ownership from 1 August have led to some international buyers rushing into the market before these apply.

It is the same story with Commercial property: Savills recently published figures showing that so far 2022 was the strongest in the City since 2018 and the West End since 2017.

Meanwhile in the wider market, house prices increased 12.8 per cent in the past year to £283,000, up from 11.9 per cent in April.

The average cost of a home has jumped by £32,000, more than the average annual wage of £31,252.

Pavement Licence Extension

The Government's temporary pavement licensing regime has been extended until 30 September 2023 and this will be in place until such time as it is made a permanent provision under the "[Levelling-up Act](#)".

This of course is most unhelpful to those residents in areas where this has become a significant noise nuisance.

Rough Sleeping and Homelessness





Westminster City Council invests a massive £7million pounds annually (not including Government funding or other external funding sources) in services designed to prevent rough sleeping, provide a wide range of accommodation with support, develop and deliver pathways out of rough sleeping services into the community.

The homelessness and rough-sleeping team has recently gone through a restructure which will go live in August and is equipped to deliver “high quality customer-centred services that tackle and prevent homelessness”.

During the Westminster Street Count completed in partnership with St Mungo's on 14 June the teams saw 229 people up from 178 during the previous street count in March. The high number of individuals seen on the street continue to be from the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

TfL Bailout Watch

Transport for London's (TfL) current funding settlement expired on Thursday 28th July 2022.

The government has made another offer to TfL to provide the funding needed to keep public transport running as services recover from the pandemic. This is the latest offer in a long-running series of negotiations, delays and extensions as the two sides try to find a route out of their current impasse.

The core demand from the government is that TfL needs to find at least an extra £500 million a year in revenue from somewhere and to find further cost cuts.

Although the details are not yet known, TfL's position has long been that it is working towards breaking even in the post-pandemic world, even without the usual central government subsidy that most public transport operators receive, and that it only needs assurance of a long term commitment to capital investments.

Andy Byford, London's Transport Commissioner said: “Since keeping London moving through the darkest periods of the pandemic we have been making the case to the Government that there can be no UK recovery without a London recovery and that there can be no London recovery without a properly funded transport network.”

Elizabeth Line Update



Bond Street Station to open shortly, present forecast this Autumn

TfL's Elizabeth Line Committee has confirmed that it is now seeing an average of 200,000 journeys each day on the new section of the Elizabeth line between Abbey Wood and Paddington.

The Elizabeth line Committee's papers note that though they are still struggling with fixing a handover between signalling systems at Stratford, which is critical to the autumn upgrade. The Stratford issue can cause a train to stop unexpectedly, which is what it's designed to do when a problem is detected, but it can hold up trains behind as the stalled train is restarted.

All Souls Church Langham Place



A few months ago we reported on an article in the Guardian Newspaper which linked a proposed but rejected development of All Souls Langham Place to the London portfolio of the Russian Billionaires Abramov and Frolov.

This article was subsequently amended to show it was in fact St Pauls Church on Robert Adam Street in Marylebone which was the intended site of the proposed redevelopment, not All Souls at Langham Place.

We are happy to be able to take the opportunity to correct this and at the same time draw attention to the appeal at present being run for help with the restoration of this famous Robert Nash church, which will be 200 years old in 2024.

At present scaffolding is being installed, once this has been completed the work on repairing the roof can begin in earnest, starting with the removal of the water tank, welsh slate tiles and other roof coverings. At the same time repairs will begin to the portico, this is the area that includes the external walls of the rotunda, pillars and steps at the front of the church.

The original estimate for the programme of repairs was in the region of £1.3 million. However the Church now estimates they will need to raise a further

£900,000 to fully cover the costs of the project.

Please help support this worthy project [here](#).

Marylebone Diary



This month kicked off with bright sunshine, joyous PRIDE celebrations and the annual Hyde Park music events which showcased big names like Adele, Elton John and The Rolling Stones.

Many Marylebone residents could hear Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger singing from their bedrooms!

Marylebone High Street is as busy as ever with Kirstie Allsopp seen in Daylesford Organic doing her weekly shop.

The Rudolf Steiner House is now The Marylebone Theatre - congratulations to all involved!

As it approaches its one hundredth year, the Steiner Hall is being rebranded as The Marylebone Theatre. The theatre has undergone an extensive refurbishment and as a result is now a beautiful versatile space.

It will open to the public on 29 Sept with DMITRY - an explosive political thriller which is rather apt for what is happening right now.

Set in 1604, the play tells the story of the man known to history as the false Dmitry, a pretender to the throne of Russia whose claims turned out to be part of a Western backed plot to overthrow the corrupt regime of Russia's tsar, Boris Godunov. It is an extraordinarily pertinent investigation of the historical tension between Russia and the West.

Meanwhile Regents Park Open Air Theatre is showing 101 Dalmatians from 12 July -28 August which is a real treat. This new musical adaptation is packed with puppetry and is perfect for a summer's day.

Announcements

The Wallace Collection

A decade after the remains of King Richard III were found under a car park in Leicester, there's an exhibition about the discovery opening in London later this year.

The exhibition at the Wallace Collection is a tie-in with a movie, *The Lost King*, about the discovery that's coming out at the same time, and the Wallace is going to be looking at how artists represented the King over the centuries since his death.

Since the 19th century, a sinister painting by Paul Delaroche, *Edward V and The Duke of York in the Tower*, has provided the modern imagination with an indelible image of what has been judged to be Richard's greatest crime, the alleged murder of the 'two princes' in the Tower of London.

Weapons and armour at the Wallace Collection have been referenced by generations of artists in their interpretations of the Battle of Bosworth, where Richard was famously slain. Finally, from the mid-20th century, the Wallace Collection staff have served as advisors to filmmakers placing this notorious figure on the silver screen, including Sir Laurence Olivier's famous retelling of the story.

The new exhibition will aim to tell this story for the first time, displaying art and armour alongside costumes created for the new film.

This exhibition, *The Lost King: Imagining Richard III*, will open at the Wallace Collection on 7th September and runs until early January 2023. It will be free to visit.

Friends of Home Grown

We hope everyone's been enjoying summer (heatwave not included). As we wind down and enjoy the summer, we would love for you to block your calendars next Thursday for our Entrepreneur's Collective event with Michael Blakeley.

You're invited to 4th August, 6.00pm

Do you have a full proof business plan to pitch?

In partnership with Entrepreneurs Collective, entrepreneurs pitch their company plan in exchange for funding hosted by Michael Blakeley and judged by a panel of investors.

This opportunity will help them hone their business abilities, raise publicity and possibly earn funding to achieve their goals.

William Heath Robinson

WILLIAM HEATH ROBINSON

The Heath Robinson Museum announce:

To mark the 150th Anniversary of the birth of William Heath Robinson, and to coincide with our Laughter Lab exhibition, we will be joined by Geoffrey Beare - Collection and Exhibitions Manager at The Heath Robinson Museum to discuss the humour of William Heath Robinson.

The talk will explain how this serious artist and illustrator turned to humour to fill a gap in his income and how it came to be his primary source of income. It will track the way his style of humour developed from satires of symbolist painting through absurd and surreal scenes of daily life. During two World Wars he deployed irony and satire to counter German propaganda and to bring a little mirth into the otherwise painful lives of servicemen and civilians. Both greatly appreciated his efforts. A similar dry humour was used to satirise the pomposity and fussiness of those who took themselves too seriously. He was modest and gentle, qualities that shine through in his humour.

Although he was dubbed 'The Gadget King' the primary subject matter for Heath Robinson's humorous work was not gadgets and contraptions, but the human condition, the workings of fate and the weakness and self-importance of man.

Contact and [Booking Details](#). Wednesday, 3rd Aug 2022. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Portman Square

Enjoy the beauty of [Portman Square Garden](#) with a drink in hand from the fully stocked bar, picnic or a hot lunch from our two or three specially selected street food stalls. You can also book into one of the workshops or wellbeing activities if you'd like to relax or pick up a new skill.

Make the most of your summer, change your lunchtime habit, meet up with friends after work or just while away an English summer day at Summer in the Square.

Date: 12:00 - 20:00 17 August 2022

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon

Only a few places left for the Royal Parks Half Marathon which takes place on 9th October 2022. Take the most iconic and picturesque Half Marathon through four of London's Royal Parks and support our services empowering positive change in people's lives

Take in the famous sights while raising money for people that are affected by homelessness this year. Over 16,000 runners take part in the 13.1 mile route, showcasing the iconic sights of London through four Royal Parks (Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, and Green Park) and past some of the capital's most historic landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and the Royal Albert Hall. As a flat course, the Royal Parks Half Marathon is great for either experienced runners looking for a fast time or first time half marathon runners!

Whether you're a beginner or a regular runner, there is plenty of time to begin

training and WLM will support you with your training and fundraising along the way. You will also receive a free WLM running t-shirt!

The registration deadline is on the 26th August 2022.

St John Restaurant

London restaurant institution St. John will open its first new restaurant in 7 years, when it arrives in the west London neighbourhood of Marylebone this autumn.

The new restaurant, which is scheduled to open on Marylebone Lane in mid-September, will function as both a wine bar and dining room, which will offer an all-day menu. Parisian and Tuscan wine bar culture has informed this neighbourhood opening, according to co-founder Trevor Gulliver. It is the first time since 2015, when the group opened on Maltby Street, that the group has opened a standalone restaurant.

“[It is] Inspired by the bars of Paris and Florence, which are all things to all people at all moments through every day — coffee and wine, tartines, and three-course meals, babies and bankers,” Gulliver said.

St. John first opened in old bacon smokehouse on the edge of the Smithfield meat market in October 1994. In May 2003, the group opened its second outpost, St. Bread and Wine, on Commercial Street in Spitalfields. It has since opened and closed both a hotel-restaurant in Leicester Square as well as the Maltby Street site in Bermondsey; and had the brief dalliance with the city of angels. In recent years, the focus of St John has been on its bakery division with a small sites in Seven Dials, Covent Garden, and in Borough.

Now, after an-in-recent-years focus on bread and bakery goods, it looks as if the inimitable group will turn its attention to wine. A flurry of wine bars, perhaps. A British restaurant duo making wines in France and bringing them back to the U.K. for sale in London. After Brexit? “Cheeky.”

Association Events

ANNUAL SUMMER WINE TASTING LUNCHEON

Sunday 14th August at 1.30pm

Ishtar Restaurant, 10/12 Crawford Street, London W1U 6AZ

Please secure your place now. Final numbers to be given to Ishtar on Monday 8th August.

Your Committee is delighted to invite you to our annual Summer Wine Tasting Luncheon. A delicious 3 course menu (vegetarian alternative available if requested in advance) will be accompanied by a selection of summer wines, white, red, and rose. These will also all available for purchase on the day at fantastic prices and prepaid orders can be delivered locally free of charge.

Tickets costing £40.00 per person inclusive of coffee or tea and VAT, service optional, are now available and because this is always a very popular occasion certain to sell out quickly. Numbers are limited so be sure of reserving your place kindly contact annmariejohnson34@aol.com for further details.

Advance payment will be required and a Guest List held on the door. Receipt of

payment to be sent as confirmation, as unlike in previous years payment cannot be accepted on the day. We very much look forward to welcoming you to what is always one of the highlights of the Summer season.

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 14th September at 10.30am
Marylebone Theatre, 35 Park Road (next to Francis Holland School), London NW1 6XT

Our next Coffee Morning is being hosted by The Marylebone Theatre, London's newest cross cultural, performance space. Once known as the Steiner Hall, the theatre has undergone a massive refurbishment and will open on the 29th September with 'Dmitry' the unfinished Schiller play.

There will be the chance to meet the team behind the theatre's relaunch including the Artistic Director, Alexander J Gifford. We will be some of the first to see the newly refurbished cafe/bar, where of course we will be treated to tea, coffee and a cake.

Places need to be booked with early booking encouraged as numbers must be given to the venue by Monday 12th September. To reserve your place please contact Lois German on lois.german@marylebone.org or telephone 0207 487 2706.

REGULAR ASSOCIATION EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 3 August at 6.30 pm
The King's Head,
13 Westmoreland Street, London W1G 8PJ

Members meet upstairs at The King's Head pub in Westmoreland Street. Anyone who is interested in joining in should contact Liz Queenan. Meetings have changed to the first Wednesday of each month but still commence at 6.30. This month's choice is The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. All books read are available on paper and on e-readers. For more information contact Liz Queenan (liz.queenan@marylebone.org) or tel: 020 7486 3709.

PUB EVENING

Monday 8th August at 6.30pm
The Larrik, 32 Crawford Place, London, W1H 5NN

Continuing with our regular bi-monthly pub evenings at this cosy, warm and welcoming gastro pub with great food, wines, beers and cocktails...Everybody is welcome so do come along whether you are a regular or new to our pub evenings, where you will be greeted by our hostess for the evening Ann Marie Johnson.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Tuesday 9th and 23rd August 2022 at 5.00 pm
The Duke of Wellington, 54a Crawford Street, London W1H 2HQ

The Scrabble Club meets in the private dining-room at The Duke of Wellington 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 are very welcome. Anyone interested in joining and/or wanting further information should contact rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org or 0788 789 1977.

Future events – put the date in the diary now

Saturday, September 24th pm

A walk around Historical Marylebone with our Blue Badge Guide, Janice

A walk around historical Marylebone with our Blue Badge Guide Janice Liverseidge

Full details in the September newsletter

Mailing Address: Marylebone Association, 229 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PN

If you have news get in touch by emailing news@marylebone.org

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