



The Marylebone Association Newsletter June 2020

Dear {Contact_First_Name},

ASSOCIATION NEWS

2020 AGM

Faced with the unprecedented situation that the Covid pandemic has brought with it, the MA Committee has had a dilemma with regard to this years AGM. A solution to this was put forward by the Committee and sent out to members last month. This obtained general support and the detail of what we propose has now been worked out in a further email sent out to members by our Chair which you can read [here](#).

We feel this is a reasonable compromise in all the circumstances and has the advantage of our members approval to date. We hope however that will not be too long before we can all get to meet each other in person again - but who can really say?



Covid-19 Help

June will apparently continue to see the easing of some of the more onerous restrictions we have all been enduring, although we are still a long way off a return to normality. Meanwhile the Marylebone Covid-19 Help Group continues its work and once again we would like to say a huge thank you to all those volunteers wanting to help their neighbours and do something positive for others during these difficult times. They have provided a lifeline to so many local people who, we know from their emails, are grateful and relieved to know that they have such good local support.

As well as manning our dedicated help line and email responses, we continue to work with Westminster City Council's Covid-19 support service, Age UK, SmarterGiving, the NHS, local churches and others to deliver support where needed. We continue to participate in the weekly Zoom meetings with our MP, Nickie Aitken, and the Westminster groups so that we could share with her our concerns and needs. These meetings have covered a myriad of issues including: the most vulnerable and their needs, homelessness, drug dealing, food supplies, testing centres, construction noise, planning, transport and much more. We also attend bi-monthly meetings with the Leader of Westminster Council Rachael Robathan to discuss concerns at the local level.

One of our main tasks is to keep pushing the message that there is help to be had

for those who are isolated and have difficulty getting out; we have volunteers ready and able to help with their shopping needs or just a chat on the telephone.

We have now taken delivery of another 5000 leaflets which we will be distributing over the next few weeks, concentrating this time on the larger mansion blocks in the area where we know that many residents are self-isolating.

Please do make sure that you make your friends and neighbours aware of these services. We can be contacted at covid19@marylebone.org, and on our dedicated help line - 07950 472916.

MARYLEBONE NEWS

Former Marylebone Association chairman elected new Lord Mayor



Westminster City Council has elected Councillor Jonathan Glanz to be the new Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Councillor Glanz was elected the new Lord Mayor of Westminster in a Mayor Making ceremony on the 20 May with Councillor Ruth Bush, the outgoing Lord Mayor of Westminster. Due to the lockdown restrictions of Covid-19 the ceremony was virtual.

Councillor Glanz was first elected in 2009 to represent the West End Ward. He has served in the Cabinet for the Council and as Chairman of the Audit and Performance Committee and the Policy and Scrutiny Committees, among others. Prior to this, as many of our members will recall, he served a term as Chair of the Marylebone Association.

He has also been the Lead Member for Broadband and Connectivity, transforming the position of the Council from 638th of the 650 constituencies in the UK to being in the top 10.

Councillor Glanz said: *"I am thrilled to be taking on this new role as Lord Mayor and look forward to celebrating everything we have to offer in this vibrant city. While the world we currently live in is different due to Covid-19, I want to make sure everyone in Westminster feels fully supported by us during this uncertain time"*.

"I have already been championing connectivity during my time at the Council as Lead member of Broadband and Connectivity. One of my main aims during my time as Lord Mayor is inclusion so all those people who live, work and visit Westminster have equal opportunities in the world-class services we have to offer."

[Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal Fundraising Page](#)

Ward Boundary Changes - Good News for Marylebone



Marylebone has been saved from being divided up between Hyde Park Ward to the west and West End Ward to east in a last minute surprise move by the Boundary Commission. The Westminster Conservative party submitted a boundary proposal for our area which would have seen us divided over 4 wards and would have restricted the Marylebone Ward to the top half of our area only.

We had made submissions to try and counter the worst of this. However the Boundary Commission have gone further and scrapped the whole suggestion and have reinstated Marylebone to the area broadly covered by the Marylebone Association- at least down to Seymour Street, Wigmore Street and along as far as Portland Place. This is indeed a very good result, as finally we have a Marylebone Ward which covers the majority of what is widely accepted as Marylebone. Incidentally it should finally put to rest the argument of where Marylebone actually is which we have heard about many times but not all

Marylebone actually is, which may have been obvious to many, but not all.

There are of course downsides - we lose the Bryanston & Dorset Square Ward, so the majority of our area will be represented by 3 councillors rather than 6 at present, although West End Ward Councillors will cover the south part of our area. To the north east, our colleagues in the Portland Village Association will now be entirely in the West End Ward, although of course this makes no difference to the fact of their affiliation with the Marylebone Association situated, as they are, half within the MA boundary.

Westminster will now be represented by 54 councillors, six fewer than there are now. Westminster will have 18 wards, two fewer than at present. The boundaries of three wards will stay the same; the rest will change. These recommendations do not affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Oxford Street Plans to be revisited - Again!

With the emergence of Coronavirus, the spending £150 million on narrowing Oxford Street, closing it in parts and directing buses around Oxford Circus into Marylebone and Fitzrovia is looking increasingly ill-advised.

It is also becoming increasingly financially impracticable; with the news that the Crown Estate is no longer prepared to help fund this project, with the New West End Company refusing to contribute to any revenue expenditure to keep it running and properly managed, and with TfL now even more broke than before - surely WCC must realise that this particular can of worms is best left unopened.

Even if the money were still to be available for all of this, the justification for it is rapidly evaporating. The original reason given for the scheme was to improve the shopping environment on Oxford Street - but those familiar with the street will be aware of the very positive changes to traffic levels over the past 5 years produced by the major reductions in bus numbers already undertaken. The air quality (pre-Covid) on Oxford Street, according to Westminster's own figures, is now actually the same or better than that to be found on Wigmore Street and certainly it now carries only about a quarter of the amount of traffic that Wigmore Street does.

WCC then should do everyone a favour and spend its £150 million, if it still has it, on areas that actually need the money, rather than further narrowing the street, blocking it off to taxi's and creating piazzas which will result in bus diversions into Marylebone and Fitzrovia. This will not only save money, and save Marylebone and Fitzrovia but will maintain accessibility into the West End, so that bus users will continue to be able to get into and through Central London.

The project has now been on unofficial hold for over 6 months. Not so much because of Coronavirus, but because WCC still has been unable to publish traffic modelling figures to show that the overall scheme could actually work. Meanwhile, coincidentally or not, all those originally in charge of the project have left or moved on.

Westminster Council now has to ask itself one pertinent question - why persist with a scheme that will at best prove to be of nominal benefit to the rapidly decreasing numbers of Oxford Street shoppers, to the very real detriment to all the streets surrounding it? This should be a calculation with only one outcome - after all, who are Westminster Councillors relying on to vote for them at the next election? Certainly not the shoppers.

We now have a new team in charge of the Oxford Street District strategy, led by Councillor Melvyn Caplin. He comes to it with a fresh pair of eyes, with a brief to review the whole project. At present he is busy taking soundings from various local stakeholders, including the Marylebone Association - so at least he is aware of our views. Let's hope then that he decides to support residents and to abandon this ill-fated scheme before any more pointless expenditure is incurred. Sometimes less is more, and this is definitely one of those times.

New WCC Planning Chief Supports Residents

Someone at WCC who is supporting residents, we are pleased to report, is Cllr Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Business and Planning at Westminster City Council. He met with Concilio's Nathan Parsad in a business webinar last week where they discussed how Westminster is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic from a business point of view and the future of Planning and Development in the City.

He outlined the ways in which Westminster Council was helping business get through the crisis. But business, he emphasised, would not be getting it all their own way. Regarding the extension of building works until 9.00pm, as now allowed by in principle by central government - he was against this: *"our first duty is to protect residential amenity - we have more people at home due to lockdown..... and we cannot afford to disturb them through to that time of evening."*

He also put a bit of a dampener on the widely advanced idea to bring the restaurant economy outside on to the pavements to help restaurants comply with social distancing - again citing residential amenity and the possible disturbance this would entail, touching on the considerable opposition to outside tables and chairs in the recent Firehouse Application!

Neither was he inclined to entertain the suggested reducing or deferring the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)- the charge developers pay on building development: *"A deferment would mean deferment in vital infrastructure that residents need. For many residents development has a negative influence"*- the CIL levy, we assume, being seen as a kind recompense for the serial inconvenience involved with constant building development. He identified the value of the portion of CIL (15% in Marylebone with projects nominated by the Marylebone Forum) that

Marylebone with projects nominated by the Marylebone Forum) that goes towards infrastructure directly in the area of the development: "Getting residents involved in spending CIL is a game changer ... we look forward to more neighbourhood Fora involvement".

LICENSING- Late Hours application reduced

Cumberland Food & Wine, a 24 hour convenience store on Great Cumberland Place submitted an application to extend the hours for alcohol off-sales to 2:00am 7 days a week. The Marylebone Association objected. The applicant seemed to be taking advantage of the Covid lock-down when residents might not notice the publicity in time to object. We also noted that there is a history of this establishment making incremental expansion of the licensing terms over the years. Each on its own being 'reasonable' but when aggregated amount to substantive changes to the licence.

In fact, the applicant subsequently amended the application to ask for an extension only until midnight 6 days a week and only for a period of one year "having listened to our objection". That is to say they continued their tactic of looking for a small amendment which appears unexceptional. Interestingly the Police also strongly objected to even this extension of hours citing, amongst other things, the precedent being set on allowing alcohol sales outside Core Hours in Westminster's Licensing Policy.

The hearing took place on 28th May and the sub-Committee have granted the application save for sales of alcohol on New Year's Eve or when (if) there are concerts in Hyde Park. We can only hope this does not open the flood gates to new off-licence applications all over the City. It will also be interesting to see what the applicant does when their year is up next May.

Home Sewers Stitching for the NHS

The Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society is leading a project which enlists the skills of home sewers across Westminster to make face masks for frontline NHS staff at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington. After three weeks production is around 1,000 masks a week. Materials provided but volunteers must own or have access to a sewing machine. To volunteer, or to [donate money for materials here](#), or for more information contact alice.sinclair@W9W2.co.uk

Congestion Charge re-introduced - 30% increase, 7 days a week & longer hours

On 18 May 2020 the congestion charge was reintroduced and will rise to £15 per day from 22 June 2020. In addition, the congestion charge hours are extended to seven days a week, from 07:00 to 22:00. These are at present proposed as temporary measures for one year only and air quality will be monitored throughout, to find out what these measures will achieve. In a further side swipe to ease of travel, over 60's will no longer get rush hour concessions.

Whilst there has been widespread opposition to the congestion charge extension, and admittedly its main purpose may be to help top up the depleted TfL coffers, we regard it as a positive move to protect our area from the threat of increased traffic post lockdown. We can hardly however be so supportive of the Mayor's other proposals for London's traffic - as he appears to view the Covid pandemic as an excuse to further his cause in the battle against motorised traffic in the City. As ever ignoring the laws of traffic displacement, he fails to recognise, or care, that closing or restricting our trunk routes simply puts more pressure on nearby roads, often the very streets that are more residential and least able to cope with the additional traffic.

Undeterred from snarling up traffic on the Embankment in normal times, through the creation of excessively wide cycle lanes, the Mayor has now turned his talents to closing another swathe of London's major roads. For example, the Euston Road closures, which appear nonsensical, messy and guarantee to create traffic congestion and chaos. We are bracing ourselves for the effects of all this on our area as traffic volumes start to increase and fail to see how London's struggling businesses will be helped by the Mayor making it more difficult to get around the City's key routes over the coming months.

Pedicab Bill Re-emerges

The pedicab bill is back. Further to our previous update on this, our Member of Parliament, Nickie Aiken had intended to put forward a Ten-Minute Rule Bill which, if passed into law, would regulate the provision of Pedicabs in London through TfL to bring Pedicabs in line with taxis and private hire services.

Unfortunately, the Bill could not be introduced as hoped on the 21 April, but it is now rescheduled for the 9th June.

If you have not already done so please support this at www.nickieaiken.org.uk/pedicabs. This is a piece of legislation that we have been asking for for a long time and is well worth backing.

Fitzrovia West Publishes its Neighbourhood Plan

The Council have recently received a submission version of the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Plan from the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum. They are now seeking representations on the Plan in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), before it is examined by an Independent Examiner.

The plan includes policies on a range of matters including commercial activity, regeneration, mobility and transport and the environment. If adopted, the Plan will become part of Westminster's statutory development plan and will be used alongside the Council's own planning documents and the Mayor's London Plan in determining planning applications in the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Area.

The plan and other submission documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/np-fitzrovia-west>.

Representations on the Plan should be received no later than 5pm on 4 August 2020. They can be made by email to neighbourhoodplanning@westminster.gov.uk or in writing to: Neighbourhood Planning, Policy and Projects, Westminster City Hall, 17th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Office Rents set to plummet?

According to analysts at RBC Capital Markets prime London office rents in the City and West End could plummet this year. The team expects West End rents to drop by 27% this year and rise by 8% next year. The team added that a 27% decline in West End rents compares to a 32% drop between June 2008 and March 2009, and a 41% fall overall during the financial crisis. On that basis, it looks as if they may be being rather optimistic.

Property Week reports that a number of 'heavyweights' across the residential sector has backed a campaign calling on the government to build 100,000 modularly-constructed affordable homes exclusively for key-workers. The initiative is backed by the G15 group of London's largest housing associations, Legal & General, Cast Consultancy, Notting Hill Genesis and the British Property Federation.

Estates Gazette reports that BCO has urged building owners, property managers and occupiers to collaborate more closely to reshape modern workplaces during and after the coronavirus pandemic. Suggestions in a recently published BCO paper to achieve this include the use of screens at reception; touch-less toilet doors; an end to communal cutlery and other kitchen items.

Summer Concerts abandoned in Hyde Park

A message from the Royal Parks: *"We have been liaising with all our major events organisers and key partner agencies during Covid-19, and following Government guidance closely. It is with great sadness that our partner and promoter, AEG presents, has made the incredibly difficult decision to cancel this year's British Summer Time Hyde Park 2020. This decision has been made to protect the safety of fans, staff and guests.*

In addition to the Government enforcing a prolonged period of social isolation, the event would not want to place any additional strain on the emergency services, who we are fortunate to have working alongside us at our events.

It should also be noted that we are not taking further bookings for any small events or filming shoots for the foreseeable future. Those booked in for May have now been cancelled.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow the Government's guidance, with the hope that we can still deliver the events that occur in the latter part of the year. We will update you about these events when we have the necessary information to do so.

I am sure you will appreciate that the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone is our sole priority, and I would like to thank you for your support and patience at this time".

Westminster Council News

Street Works:

In line with Central Government guidance, the programme of planned street-works was temporarily halted. The timing of these has now been re-evaluated, taking into account areas with isolating residents and individuals working from home. The following components of the

planned preventative-maintenance programme are now scheduled thus:

- Footway resurfacing along Seymour Place between the junction with York Street and Bryanston Place – July 2020 – 2 weeks
- Core Carriageway surfacing on Seymour Place and Bryanston Place – August 2020 – 2 weeks
- Footway resurfacing along George Street between Forset Street and Seymour Place – August 2020 – 5 weeks
- Footway resurfacing along Upper Berkeley Street between Great Cumberland Place and Edgware Road – August 2020 – 4 weeks

The company which delivers these services has employed new Social-Distancing Marshalls to ensure the works are carried out safely.

Public Speaking Re-Introduced at Planning Committees

WCC have reintroduced public speaking from 26th May at Planning Committee hearings. They will of course continue to be held on-line only.

Westminster Announces Road Closures



Westminster Council has just published its: *“extensive and ambitious plans to provide new and additional space for cyclists and pedestrians in the heart of the capital to safely support the easing of the lockdown and get the economy moving again.”*

Additional work is in the pipeline and will be in place by the start of July ahead of the anticipated opening of hospitality sector.

Cllr Rachael Robathan, leader of Westminster City Council, said: *“There is no book to read in advance on how a major world capital recovers from COVID-19. We need to make sure people can get to a workplace, a restaurant, a café or an attraction efficiently and safely as the ravages of this virus recede. We hope most of these temporary schemes will work first time, but if they don’t, we won’t be afraid to say so and try something different. What’s important is that we all work together to breathe the new life into our fantastic city.”*

Initial phase 1 Projects:

Villiers Street

Timed road closures with temporary gates to increase pedestrian space. Servicing to take place outside of the road closures. This will be staffed to allow emergency vehicles through.

Golden Jubilee Footbridges

Signage to encourage social distancing and no waiting. Lifts will be operational. Location will be staffed via Villiers Street.

City Wide Cycle Stand Programme (hoops and racks)

Additional cycle parking facilities to be installed at key locations throughout the City in areas of high cycle demand, commercial areas and transport hubs.

Marylebone Station, and pedestrian link to Baker Street station

To provide additional pedestrian space along Melcombe Street by

to provide additional pedestrian space along Mercers Street by reallocating part of the carriageway using temporary barriers.

Praed Street / Paddington

Create additional pedestrian space and cycling on the carriageway using barriers.

Portland Place

To install pop up cycle lanes north and south along the road by reallocating road space using barriers, signs and lines.

Oxford Street (East and West)

To infill the bus pull ins and layby's with barriers to create additional pedestrian space whilst maintaining access for pedestrians to use the bus services. Provide additional pedestrian space on Oxford Circus by installing barriers north and south on Regent Street.

Piccadilly

Create additional pedestrian space along Piccadilly and at Piccadilly Circus by installing barriers along sections of the carriageway from Green Park to Piccadilly Circus, whilst leaving some sections available for ongoing servicing.

Regent Street

Create additional pedestrian space by reallocating one lane of carriageway in each direction North and South using barriers maintaining access to bus stops and some sections for servicing.

Covent Garden Area

Proposed to extend the existing timed closure to include Henrietta Street, Maiden Lane, Floral Street and James Street using temporary measures that can be moved in and out as necessary.

School Streets programme

Localised improvements to increase pedestrian space at schools across the City. These will be simple barrier and cone measures for short periods of time and managed by school staff.

Westminster City Council – Consultation on Traffic Management Proposals

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESIDENTS' BAYS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS

WSP is the agent acting on behalf of Westminster City Council for a traffic management scheme to introduce electric vehicle residents' parking bays in various locations including existing residents bays in Controlled Parking Zones, A, B, C and F. They are proposing the addition of a modest amount of charging points in shared use residents bays in our area, see link below:

In accordance with the consultation procedure, we would draw your attention to the effects of the proposed Traffic Orders of which further details are given in the attached PDF document which contains the Notice of Proposals, the City Council's Statement of Reasons, and the consultation drawings. The attached PDF document is also available for viewing and download [here](#).

*WSP would be pleased to receive any observations or comments you may wish to make on this scheme, **in writing**, by **1st July 2020**, quoting the above reference (7565) in any response. At the end of the consultation period all responses received by this date will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. The City Council will then decide whether to proceed with, modify, or abandon the proposals.*

BUSINESSES IN MARYLEBONE

Westminster Council initiatives

Support our Shop Local campaign:

Visit the WCC [Shop Local](#) campaign. Over 200 businesses have signed up to the map, promoting their services to the local Westminster community.

Retail, Food and Drink- local Update

In the May Newsletter we published a list of grocery delivery options as many people were having difficulty sourcing fresh produce and securing supermarket deliveries if they were unable to visit the stores in person.

Thankfully, the situation regarding the availability of groceries appears to have now normalised - those not on the Government priority lists can find delivery slots from most of the large supermarket chains if one checks at various points during the day. Abel & Cole, Riverford, etc who had ceased taking on new customers are all now accepting new customers for their fruit and vegetable box deliveries again. Similarly Gusto, Hello Fresh, Mindful Chef etc who all closed to new business have now reopened, providing recipe boxes with all required ingredients. Our local supermarkets are all now well-stocked again, and most have adapted to social distancing well now. Queues do remain at certain times though. The Farmer's Market has also continued to implement their social distancing measures which does lead to queues on Sundays.

Businesses in the area are starting to take steps to reopen within the limits that the current restrictions put on them. As you may be aware, non-essential retail will be permitted to reopen on 15th June, with social distancing provisions in place, so we should see the retail environment start to resume activity soon.

Many of the proprietors of our Marylebone restaurants and food stores have been working very hard over the last 2 months and at times like these "Shop Local" really does matter more than ever if we want our wonderful group of Marylebone businesses to survive.

A large number of the local restaurants are now offering delivery and take away - in fact those still closed may be a shorter list! It is particularly noticeable that the independent restaurant sector and other independently-run businesses has been faster to adapt than the chains in the area. The proprietors are clearly working hard to make the best of this difficult situation, so do support them if you can. Most restaurants are offering collection or delivery through one of the delivery apps (Deliveroo, Uber Eats, Just Eat, Supper etc) or online through their own website, or by telephone directly. Do check your favourite restaurant or shop's website to find out the most up-to-date information as it is changing daily.

A list of open restaurants and businesses in Marylebone and the immediate surrounding area, this is not definitive and members will no doubt be able to add to this list.

Souli, Etna Cafe, Joe & the Juice, Woodlands, The Golden Hind, The Seashell of Lisson Grove, Snowflake, Amorino and Baskin Robbins for ice cream, Paul on the High Street, Edgware Road and Baker Street, Il Baretto, Briciole, Caldesi, La Brasserie, Pret, Paul Rothe & Sons, Iberica, Crazy Pizza, Trishna, Opso/Pittabun, Diwan, Pasta de la Nonna, Tommis's Burgers, Le Relais de Venise, Royal China, Ishtar, Kibele, Le Jardin du Jasmin, Clipstone, Starbucks, Monocle Cafe, Chiltern St Deli, Reubens, The Real Greek, Donostia, Lurra, Mercato Mayfair, The Swedish Shop, L'Antica Pizzeria, Phoenix Palace, Five Guys, Buchanans, Saint Aymes, Abasto, and The Coachmakers Arms. Both The Coach Maker's Arms and Cote offer a home delivery service of ready meals. Selfridges Food Hall has reopened with a limited offering and a one-way system in place in store, along with take-away food from The Brass Rail.

One new addition to Marylebone High Street during this period has been Caldesi's new pop-up food emporium in the old Skandium space. Offering takeaway food and groceries, this complements the take-away/delivery food offering they have been running from their Cross Keys Close restaurant location which has won a legion of fans during the lockdown period.

Similarly many of the local food retailers, restaurants and cafes have broadened their offerings to include grocery provisions. Notably the local fishmonger La Petite Poissonerie now stocks grocery items including fruit and vegetables, bakery and other provisions, and the Chiltern Street Deli is now selling a wide variety of grocery items, fruit and vegetables, bakery items, ready meals and other goodies as well as their tasty cafe options. It is great to see these businesses adapting so well to a different environment. Daylesford and La Fromagerie continue to be open offering a wide selections of goods, as well as Philglas and Swiggot, Le Vieux Comptoir and Majestic for other "essentials"!

We thank all those who have been working through the lockdown to keep us fed and supplied with the items we need, including all the staff at the various supermarkets in the area.

Both Waitrose (Edgware Road and the John Lewis Food Hall) and Marks and Spencer (Marble Arch) offer services where you can shop in-store and they will deliver your shopping to your home at an agreed time. Waitrose Edgware Road advises to phone and book your slot before going to shop. Marks and Spencer have slots for the same day or next day - you sign up at the customer services desk before shopping, then at checkout they bag it all up and label it for delivery. Both retailers also offer same-day home delivery through the Waitrose Rapid service and M&S through Deliveroo. Sainsbury's also covers our area with their Chop Chop same-day delivery app. These services have a limited selection as well as limiting the number of items they will deliver, and the delivery charges are slightly higher but they are a convenient option for those needing provisions or self-isolating.

A special mention to our Marylebone Association Business Members who are currently open for business (within the Government guidelines):

Restaurants offering takeaway/delivery and other services

- Ishtar
- Kibele
- Iberica
- Trishna (and other restaurants in their group including Hoppers)
- Cote (offering an at home meal delivery service)
- The Coach Makers Arms (offering take away food and grocery items as well as at home meal delivery and grocery delivery through the Cubitt House At Home website)

Shops - Grocery and Pharmacy

- La Fromagerie
- Chiltern Street Deli (now offering a wide variety of food and drink for purchase)
- Philglas & Swigot Wines
- NVS Pharmacy
- Meacher Higgins Chemist

We are lucky to have a broad selection of shops run by committed and hard-working proprietors and staff in our area. Please do shop local where possible, and support these businesses during this difficult time to ensure we can continue to have a vibrant retail choice in the future.

OPENINGS/CLOSINGS

Sadly, the Boot's on Marylebone High Street shut as part of the company's store rationalisation plan announced last year (not Covid-related). We are lucky to have many independent community pharmacies in the area, such as NVS Pharmacy on Baker Street and Meacher Higgins on Crawford Street, both of who are Marylebone Association Business members and who have been serving the community during the lockdown period.

Caldesi has opened a pop-up food emporium serving take away food and drink as well as grocery items in the space previously occupied by Skandium

Message from John Lewis

Our Foodhall has remained open and we are now finding ourselves well stocked with a number of essential items.

We have introduced a large number of safety measures for both of our Customers and Partners.

These include :

- *Limited number of customers allowed in the Foodhall to allow appropriate social distancing*
- *A queueing system both inside and out*
- *A designated exit and entrance*
- *Protective equipment for our Partners including screens and face visors*
- *We also offer a delivery service to the local area for customers - to take advantage of this customers are required to complete their shopping in the Foodhall, which we then deliver in a designated, agreed time slot.*
- *We have also introduced a volunteer e-gift card for customers who are unable to get the store themselves. Customers can buy an e-gift card online at johnlewisgiftcard.com which can be emailed directly to friends, neighbours and volunteers to use on their behalf at our Foodhall.*

It would be great if you were able to include this information to your residents on any platforms you have available such as newsletters, facebook or websites.

New West End Company Guidance

The New West End Company has just issued the following guidelines to its members on a phased re-opening of the West End, which involves amended hours of trading, provisions for increased bike parking and much else the details can be found [here](#).

This Month in Marylebone History

999 service started in June 1937

It all started on 10 November 1935, when a fire broke out at a doctor's house at 27 Wimpole Street, Marylebone. A neighbour spotted the fire and attempted to dial through to the local telephone exchange. In those times, calls usually had to be connected manually, and such was the case at the local Welbeck exchange. For whatever reason, the caller had difficulty getting through to an operator and the fire continued to rage. Eventually, the brigade were alerted by other means, but not before five women had lost their lives in the burning building. These were Julia Franklin (55), Elizabeth Caroline Dunkley (55), Lillie Hannah Brook (47), Alexandrina Lamont (22) and Evelyn Hardy (15). The tragedy on Wimpole Street

might have been averted had that early telephone call got through. Fireman Tobias might have reached the victims before they asphyxiated. Clearly, a more efficient system was needed.

On 30 June 1937, the Assistant Postmaster General Sir Walter Womersley was able to announce the inauguration of the 999 service — the first emergency telephone number in the world. The House of Commons greeted it with short-sighted derision!

Despite parliamentary lambasting, the 999 service was deemed an immediate success. A year after launch, an average of 8,000 emergency calls were being logged every month. In the Postmaster General's antiquated vocabulary, the service had: "obtained remarkable results in securing the arrest of malefactors and saving precious minutes in summoning the doctor or fire brigade". It remained a London-only service until after the Second World War, when 999 was rolled out to other major cities. Somewhat surprisingly, it would not become UK-wide until 1976, with the arrival of automatic exchanges in all parts of the country. 80 years after the tragedy that sparked it, the 999 service is still very much at the core of emergency response.

Events

Association Events

None

Regular Association Events

(For more details click on the event)

Book Club continues in 'Zoom form only' and this month's book is The Dry by Jane Harper. For further details contact Liz Queenan (liz.queenan@marylebone.org) or tel: 020 7486 3709

Marylebone Events

(For more details click on the event)

See our website for the latest details.

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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