

The Marylebone Association Newsletter May 2020



Dear {Contact_First_Name},

Association News

AGM PROPOSAL

The following [letter](#) has been circulated by [email](#) to all members and is to be posted out to those not on email with the paper copy of this Newsletter. We have a difficult decision to make with regard to our AGM this year, and any way forward will involve some form of compromise. We want however to ensure all our members see our proposed solution, and have the opportunity to respond to it, prior to making any final decision.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Association has, for the duration of the present crisis, shifted its energies to running the Covid-19 Marylebone Association Help Group. This now has over 80 volunteers. We would like to thank all those who have so generously offered their time and resources to helping out their fellow residents, the level of support has been truly impressive.

We are getting a steady flow of deserving cases to help, particularly after our 5000 leaflet drop over Easter, which advertised at the email address covid19@marylebone.org, and our dedicated help line - 07950 472916. A copy of our leaflet is to be found [here](#) and we ask members to circulate it to anyone that they know who may be in need of some form of help.

In addition to giving individual help, we are also dealing with referrals from Age UK and are now in the process of setting up a daily collect and delivery rota directly for the NHS Central London Clinic Commissioning Group, serving all the local surgeries.

Further, below in the newsletter you will find a number of messages from other organisations helping out in Marylebone and beyond during this difficult time.

MA OLDEST MEMBER DIES

We are sad to report that Bill Frankland, our oldest member, has died at the age of 108. He was extremely well known and loved locally and remained very active until the end. He used to attend the MA coffee mornings until about 3 yrs ago. He would have been one of the very few surviving Marylebone residents to have lived through the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. He published his last scientific paper in September 2017 aged 105.

Born in Battle, Sussex, in 1912, Dr Frankland grew up in the Lake District. He went on to study medicine at Oxford University and worked at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, before World War Two intervened. He signed up to the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), but spent over three of the six years he spent in the Army as a prisoner of war in Singapore.

During his 70-year long career in medicine, based mostly at St Mary's Hospital, he worked for Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin.

His career in immunology began in the 1950s at St Mary's, where he worked with patients who suffered from seasonal hay fever.

His pioneering work included developing the idea of a pollen count to help hay fever sufferers. He retired from his job at St Mary's at the age of 65 but worked, unpaid, as a consultant at Guy's hospital for a further 20 years.

Dr Frankland was made an MBE in 2015 for his services to allergy research, is survived by four children. His wife Pauline died in 2002.



Marylebone News

CONSTRUCTION NOISE DURING LOCKDOWN

There may be many fewer vehicles on the streets, and only the occasional pedestrian, but one thing never seems to stop - the incessant noise from construction and road works. While this can be unpleasant under normal circumstance, it becomes barely tolerable for those forced to stay indoors with no escape from the noise of nearby building sites that continue to go on at full pelt. So many complaints have been received on this subject that Westminster MP, Nickie Aiken has now sent a letter to Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy asking for something to be done about it. You can see the letter [here](#).

PEDICABS (LONDON) BILL

"That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for the regulation of the carrying of passengers in Greater London by pedal cycles and power-assisted pedal cycles for hire or reward; and for connected purposes".

Further to our previous update on this, our Member of Parliament had intended to put forward a 10-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, this Bill could not be introduced as hoped on the 21 April owing to timetable changes, due to the challenges of the virtual Parliament and more pressing business.

Nickie Aiken MP has thanked everyone who wrote in support of the Bill. Over 2,000 people signed up. This Bill will, we are told, is to be re-listed at a date in the future.

PLANNING

The Westminster Planning Committee has now recommenced in a virtual online format, which unfortunately does not permit objectors to speak.

Cavendish Square Car Park

Approval has been given for the redevelopment of Cavendish Square Car Park to create a four-storey subterranean development, removing the existing car park and digging down a further level to the existing to incorporate healthcare, retail and commercial space. This is a radical scheme for a London Square in a listed setting incorporating glass pods and modern lighting. It was however generally regarded as an improvement on what is there at present. It had the full support of the Planning Committee and West End Ward Councillors and certainly opens up the area to the public and will be more appealing and accessible than at present.

The MA had supported the application in principle - but had commented that it would require an exemplary management statement to reflect the very wide variety of end uses given in the consent.

Chiltern Firehouse

An application for the use of the public highway for the placing of 10 tables and 20 chairs on Chiltern Street directly outside the Firehouse Hotel. The original application received a large number of objections, and the scheme was revised to address some of these concerns by reducing the number of tables and chairs, reducing hours of use, and an operational management plan.

The Association still felt that significant disturbance to nearby residents would result from this application and objected on these grounds. Whilst going out of their way to express sympathy with the plight of surrounding residents the Planning Committee was worried that the application could not be refused on policy grounds without the chance of being successfully challenged on appeal. This would not necessarily be the case as the dissenting councillor cited at least three planning policies that could be used in refusing the application, in particular, TACE 11 of Westminster's own retained UDP which states that planning permission will only be granted for tables and chairs where they do not cause a nuisance to residents.

However, the Committee in granting approval by a majority of 2:1 was greatly influenced by the reduced hours and the operational management plan and it was emphasised that if this was not adhered to there would be a chance to object to a renewal in a years time.

The Hotel will now need to apply for a separate tables and chairs license, as the area in question is located on a public highway.

LICENSING

WCC Licencing sub-Committee meetings are also being held online. Unlike with the Planning Committee objectors are able to speak so long as their written submissions have been received within statutory time limits and they have pre-registered their desire to speak.

During physical meetings in the past there frequently have been compromises reached between applicants and objectors due to the ability to get together informally just before a hearing. This obviously is far more difficult with virtual meetings but nevertheless meetings seem to have gone reasonably well so far.

One change in procedure is that, unlike in a physical meetings in the past, the announcement of the sub-Committee's decision will not be known until some point after the meeting.

LONDON BUSES

Buses in London have temporarily become middle door only boarding from Monday 20 April until further notice as part of efforts to help combat coronavirus. This change will further improve safety for bus drivers, enabling better social

distancing while the city is fighting the virus.

Please note that during the period of these temporary arrangements where passengers enter through the middle-doors, they will not be required to touch in. Customers should not approach the card reader near the driver's cab. These arrangements will be kept under review and will need to be adjusted as the Government begins to review the travel restrictions now in place across the country.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ONLY TAXI RANK

TfL are continuing to "explore the concept" of zero-emission only taxi ranks says the London Mayor.

There are currently approximately 3,500 zero-emission capable vehicles in the black taxi fleet.

City Hall Assembly Member Tony Devenish posed the following question to the Mayor: "When will Marylebone get its first Electric Vehicle-only taxi rank?" Sadiq Khan responded via a written reply saying: "Transport for London (TfL) continues to explore the concept of zero emission taxi ranks. If you are able to provide TfL officers with details of a specific location in Marylebone, they would be more than happy to explore it with the City of Westminster."

The Marylebone Association would like to see the taxi rank in Nutford Place become an EV only taxi rank as it directly opposite a primary school.

PORTMAN ESTATE OFFERS RENT HELP

The Evening Standard has reported that The Portman Estate has joined the list of London landlords offering rent holidays to retailers and restaurant owners who are desperately trying to conserve cash.

Since last month when numerous businesses were forced to close sites due to Covid-19, tenants across London have been trying to negotiate new rent deals with landlords to reflect that they have no, or substantially less, trade.

Oliver Fenn-Smith, chief executive of The Portman Estate, said the firm is in close contact with nearly 200 retailers, restaurants, bars and leisure businesses. The company will offer tenants that have been hurt by government-enforced closures three months where they will pay no rent. Those rent holidays are for the quarterly bills that were due last month or the one expected in June. Fenn-Smith said: "Our focus is on helping to alleviate their immediate cash flow concerns." He added, "We are continuing to assess the ongoing situation and are in touch with each individual business to work through this difficult time together."

FUNDRAISING FOR THE NHS

Marylebone residents David Unwin and Leslie-Jane Ferrar have shaved their heads to raise money for NHS Charities together Covid19 appeal They started a Virgin Money page and would like to raise as much as they can for the NHS <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Baldies4NHS>

FURTHER COVID-19 HELP

Message from HELP YOUR HIGH STREET

We have set up www.helpyourhighstreet.org, a website that gives willing customers a simple way to support their favourite locals by listing businesses which are still selling gift vouchers, online orders, deliveries or takeaways. There are similar projects underway across the world, notably in California, New York and Germany. We are a volunteer-run organisation (+30 people) and our services are entirely free to use; we make no money, and instead are driven by the desire to protect these smaller businesses that are a key part of our communities. Over 500 businesses are listed already, and more are added to the site every day. Shops can ask to be added to our list directly on our website and customers can let us know if their favourite shop is not included yet.

We really want to add and help as many businesses in Marylebone as possible, so we would love to have your help.

Message from WLM

WLM has been serving people affected by homelessness, poverty and trauma since 1887 in London; they are however at present undergoing a funding crisis.

They closed the Night Shelter for rough sleepers at WLM Seymour Place to avoid increasing the spread of disease and moved the service users from there and elsewhere into hotels and bedsits. They continue to support them, remotely, to move forward in their lives, but many are now destitute and requiring emergency food vouchers. The WLM Seymour Place premises have been transformed into a Homelessness Workers Clinic by the NHS, with teams who are supporting homeless people working from there. WLM's CEO, Roger Clark, says:

"The COVID-19 virus has made it incredibly challenging for WLM to fulfil its mission of empowering people affected by homelessness, poverty and trauma to make positive changes in their lives. Our costs are sky-rocketing as we staff and manage infection control in our crucial residential services. Any donations that we receive at this time will be very gratefully received as they will help us to keep people engaged and safe".

We all remain vigilant and are sticking with the plan to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents and staff by ensuring that we limit unnecessary access to our services to stop the spread of COVID-19. We are actively engaging with partners and commissioners to make sure that our services are at the forefront of their minds and we are constantly undertaking deep cleans in our WLM residential premises.

We are incurring spiralling additional costs and our fundraising challenge grows daily. None of our premises can operate as normal and we suspect this situation to

daily, none of our premises can operate as normal and we expect this situation to continue for many months.

Your financial contribution will help us keep our homeless service users and vulnerable residents occupied, supported and safe from COVID-19. Please donate at: <https://www.wlm.org.uk/appeal/covid19-emergency-appeal>

Message from WESTMINSTER CONNECT INITIATIVE

We are coordinating the efforts of West End businesses in supporting the frontline staff providing critical services and offering vital support to those who are vulnerable, ill and self-isolating. If your business can support by donating any food, groceries or toiletries, please contact Nicola.Gibson@newwestend.com

The Westminster Connects initiative has been created to connect volunteers with those in need of help during the coronavirus outbreak. Residents and organisations can contact Westminster Connects by emailing westminsterconnects@westminster.gov.uk or via the City Council's [website](#).

A dedicated phone number is available for individuals who may need help or for people who know of anyone in need of help as a result of COVID-19: 020 7641 1222, available from 8am to 10pm seven days a week.

We would also urge businesses to aid the Council in any way that they can. Please see below a number of ways that businesses can aid frontline and NHS workers during this difficult time:

- If your business has any parking spaces or PPE including face masks, gloves, overshoes, hairnets and aprons, that you can offer to frontline workers, please email details to anas.wihaib@newwestend.com
- CBRE is assisting the NHS on its immediate need for additional premises and parking facilities by identifying suitable vacant properties within close proximity to an NHS or Private Hospital which could be occupied by the NHS. Currently, the greatest needs are car parking, overnight beds for staff and storage facilities within a 15 minute walk of an NHS hospital. If your business can help, please email nhs@cbre.co

Message from CAMDEN UNIVERSAL SCRUBS COLLECTIVE

A family business working in Camden for 30 years, Universal Dry Cleaners and Laundry, has established the Camden Universal Scrubs Collective to manufacture free Scrubs and protective clothing during the Covid crisis.

They are already supplying the Camden Covid Response Unit and the SOHO Covid hot hub and have raised in excess of £10000 to continue this work.

If you feel able to support this essential work, further details and methods for subscribing are available on https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/yani-zertalis?utm_term=Jn9Y54WZV

Message from the MANVILLE HOTEL

The Mandeville Hotel in Marylebone implements a series of Covid-19 initiatives to help vital care workers and locals in need. Starting immediately and throughout the recovery phase, The Mandeville is working with Smarter Works to engage with St Mary's Hospital and local food banks as well as local residents to assist with groceries, pharmacy pick-ups and wellbeing packages with vital needs.

"This is a time we need to come together and support our community and those essential workers who are keeping us all safe. We have our team employed to ensure we can do what we can to help. We are also actively working on a safe comeback plan whereby we can engage with guests to ensure their safety and wellbeing, with a series of contactless initiatives," says Chetan Bhanot, GM at The Mandeville.

Let The Mandeville be your concierge service. For those who need it in the Marylebone area, The Mandeville is offering their concierge service to assist with groceries and pharmacy pick-ups.

Local residents should email or call the provided contact details and the concierge team will accept orders and book in time slots throughout the week. All deliveries with comply with necessary Covid-19 precautions to ensure an entirely contactless process.

Many key workers may be driving, and The Mandeville is offering its parking spots for essential workers. Located behind The Mandeville Hotel, and in close proximity to UCL and St Mary's Hospital, the spaces are available for essential workers.

For stays from July 1st until the end of September, we will donate 20% to Cook_19 and all the wonderful work they are doing.

Contact through telephone or email: concierge@mandeville.co.uk 020 7935 5599

COVID SCAMS

Unfortunately, at a time when the vast majority are going out of their way to help the vulnerable, the minority criminal element, as always, seek to instead to take advantage. Already there are a number of different scams in circulation related to Coronavirus and it is important to know both what to look out for and how to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

The Financial Conduct Authority, who regulate financial services and markets in the UK, have produced a short article giving people some pointers on both. You can read it [here](#).

Fraudsters are also now selling fake products such as PPE and face masks as well as fake tests, usually at suspiciously cheap prices. Please do be careful, particularly when buying online. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

COVID: Full list of boroughs and the numbers of infected (April 27 figures):

Finally, here is the full list of London Boroughs with the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus, according to figures released on Monday (April 27) by Public Health England. Westminster, which started near the top of the list a month ago is now near the bottom, where we hope to remain.

- Barking and Dagenham 445
- Barnet 1,161
- Bexley 592
- Brent 1,320
- Bromley 1,007
- Camden 563
- Croydon 1,325
- Ealing 1,014
- Enfield 809
- Greenwich 611
- Hackney and City of London 612
- Hammersmith and Fulham 599
- Haringey 531
- Harrow 869
- Havering 616
- Hillingdon 701
- Hounslow 626
- Islington 401
- Kensington and Chelsea 451
- Kingston upon Thames 396
- Lambeth 1,110
- Lewisham 886
- Merton 632
- Newham 935
- Redbridge 652
- Richmond upon Thames 356
- Southwark 1,160
- Sutton 651
- Tower Hamlets 591
- Waltham Forest 704
- Wandsworth 893
- Westminster 583

HOME HOUSE OFFER

During our period of lockdown, our friends at Home House and their sister club, Home Grown have very kindly extended some of their benefits to members of the Marylebone Association. Perhaps you would find some wellbeing sessions useful or want to be stimulated by hearing from successful entrepreneurs? If so they have something that you might enjoy watching!

There are a couple of sessions from both Clubs which you can see free of charge from your pc or laptop (and usually only available to their members). Each week and you will find details [available on our website](#). To register is easy and you just need to send an email to either: membersevents@homegrownclub.co.uk or sarah@homehouse.co.uk and say that you are a MA member (please don't contact Marylebone Association direct). They will then send you updates for future events each week. We do hope you take advantage of this generous offer and enjoy these sessions.

NON SUPERMARKET STORES IN WESTMINSTER OFFERING DELIVERY

Many members will have encountered great difficulty in securing deliveries from the major supermarkets. Supermarkets are not, however, the only options for groceries. A number of other providers are also working hard to keep Westminster residents supplied.

Some delivery alternatives to supermarkets are listed and linked below (courtesy of the WCC website).

- [All Greens](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Balance Box](#) (meals, diet)
- [Bidfood groceries](#) (groceries)
- [Camisa deli](#) (groceries)
- [Covent Garden Fruit Co](#) (fruit, veg)
- [EuroFrutta](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Feed Britain \(Leon\)](#) (meals, fruit, veg, cheese)
- [First Choice](#) (groceries)
- [Fresh Connect](#) (fruit, veg)
- [Fruit for the Office](#) (fruit, veg)
- [Greens Produce Ltd](#) (fruit, veg)
- [I.A. Harris & Son Ltd](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Linkclass](#) (fruit, veg)
- [London Dairies](#) (dairy, fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Marr Fish](#) (fish)
- [Nature's Choice](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Ripe](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [Seven Dials Market \(Kerb\)](#) (groceries)
- [Sundance and Partners](#) (fruit, veg, groceries)
- [2-Serve Wholesale Ltd](#) (fruit, veg)

MA BUSINESS MEMBERS TRADING

Most businesses in Marylebone remain closed at the time of writing. We hope that they all will be able to reopen in the near future. Details of various government support initiatives for businesses during the Covid-19 can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

We urge members to support our local businesses wherever possible - it has never been more important for you to shop locally to help ensure their survival over this difficult period.

For takeaways we list those we are aware of, however, members will need to check the individual websites as some use delivery and others are just order

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Restaurants offering takeaways

- Ishtar
- Kibele
- Iberica
- Jikoni
- Cote

Shops

- La Fromagerie - shop online for in-store collection or delivery
- Philglas & Swiggot
- NVS Pharmacy
- Meacher Higgins

OTHER NON-MEMBER BUSINESSES OPEN

These outlets are printed as have been reported to us at the time and may be subject to variations:

- Paul at Marble Arch/Edgware Road
- Lurra -also sell meat
- La Petite Poissonerie - which is also selling fresh fruit and veg from the market as well as their usual fish
- Il Baretto
- Souli on George Street
- Caldesi
- Chiltern St Deli which is also selling some groceries and take away ready to cook meals
- Etna Cafe on Baker Street
- Case Becci
- Joe & the Juice at York st
- Daylesford Organic -deliveries
- The Swedish shop - with shorter hours
- Greenfields
- Green Valley
- Amorino on Edgware Rd for ice cream etc
- L'antica Pizzeria
- Five Guys
- Fruit Garden welcome Street
- Mercato
- Buchanans cheese shop

The Farmers Market will be open as usual Sundays and is NOW GATED with the entrance only on Moxon Street. Please come to the market alone to shop & leave your dogs at home.

If you know of any more companies, not on any of the above lists, that are open, or providing food deliveries, please get in touch and let us know.

OPEN HOUSE APPEAL

Open House will be well know to most of our members as an organisation dedicated to giving free access to London's best buildings. As a charity they have funded their work with income earned from running events throughout the year, and have been hard hit by the lockdown which has stopped almost all sources of income. They have asked us to circulate the following appeal:

Open House is not a big organisation. We don't receive central government grants or statutory funding but nonetheless do amazing things with modest resources. We have a tiny staff team supported by tireless volunteers but making the Open House festival happen every year, and delivering educational projects in communities on the ground is a huge undertaking. Right now our staff are working around the clock finding new ways to continue supporting the communities who rely on our learning programmes throughout the lockdown. We are creating new online and mail-order educational activities to ensure nobody is deprived of a holistic education due to the pandemic. And we are devising inventive ways to celebrate London's unique landscape for all even if Covid-19 means that we can't run a traditional Open House Weekend in September. But we can't do any of this alone.

In the past, we have rarely asked the public for financial support and have done everything we can to keep Open House free for all, but in this crisis, we now need your help. If you believe in our work and can afford to contribute a small monthly donation, please act now to become an Open House Friend. You can read more about the great rewards we are creating to say thank you to everyone who donates below.

We understand that incomes are being hit across society by the virus, and that not everybody is in a position to give to charity at this time, but if just 1% of the people who come to Open House every year gave a small donation each month, it would safeguard the charity, guaranteeing the future of the free Open House festival and the critical work we do with disadvantaged young people across London. The link to our Friends appeal page is <https://www.openhouselondon.org.uk/appeal>

As a thank you for supporting our work we are creating new rewards including special events and gifts for all Open House Friends.

The Open House London Team

THIS MONTH IN MARYLEBONE HISTORY

Wigmore Hall (originally named Bechstein Hall) was launched on 31st May 1901 opening to a gala concert starring famous Italian, Belgian and Ukrainian musicians. Built by British architects, Thomas Colcutt in Renaissance style, lavishly appointed with alabaster and marble walls, the Hall was designed to look grandly impressive yet appear intimate enough for recitals. It quickly became celebrated across Europe for its excellent acoustics. Over the years it has had long associations with many great artists and continues to do so up to the present day.

Association Events

As members are aware, our popular coffee mornings and pub evenings are cancelled for the time being.

Visits, Tours and Dining Experiences

The two tours of Selfridges, followed by Breakfast at the Brasserie of Light, were originally scheduled for 26 March and 23 April. Sadly these have had to be postponed as has the Kings Cross Walk, scheduled for Thursday 28 May.

The Book Club and the **Scrabble Club** have also ceased to meet in their normal venues, but all is not lost:

Book Club

After 8 very successful years of organising the MA Book Club, Andrew Cooper has decided to step down and take a well-earned rest. Liz Queenan has taken on the role of organiser.

The Book Club normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the King's Head pub in Westmorland Street but, since this is no longer possible, we managed to successfully convene last month's meeting online via Zoom and we will continue to do so until we are able to gather together again.

The next Zoom book club will be on Tuesday, 5 May at 5pm.

This month's book is 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles - ironically the tale of a Russian aristocrat whose life is spared, post the Russian Revolution, provided he remains forever within the confines of Moscow's Metropol Hotel. For further information contact Liz Queenan (liz.queenan@marylebone.org) or tel: 020 7486 3709

Scrabble Club

Normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at The Natural Kitchen at 55 Baker Street. Sadly this is no longer possible but some members have taken to playing Words with Friends 2, a game which is very similar to Scrabble and can be played via an app. For further details contact Rosemary Forgan: (rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org) or tel: 020 7916 9353.

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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