



# The Marylebone Association Newsletter December 2020

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Dear Tim,

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Marylebone Association Covid-19 Help Group

If you live in Marylebone and need help with shopping, pharmacy collections, or just a chat about Covid-19, our support group is there for you and has many volunteers ready to help. You can get in touch at [Covid19@marylebone.org](mailto:Covid19@marylebone.org) or phone: 07950 472916

One of our volunteers, Agneta Lindberg, known to many of you through her counselling work ([www.agnetalindberg.co.uk](http://www.agnetalindberg.co.uk)) and her fitness studio has designed an online Zoom workout to ease us through the pandemic (see Events section for details).

Agneta is also leading weekly walks in Regent's Park from January (6 people per walk). For more details email Aggie at [agneta@agnetlindberg.co.uk](mailto:agneta@agnetlindberg.co.uk).







# MARYLEBONE NEWS



## Luxborough Play Area- “A New Dawn For Planning”?

Westminster Council has recently placed much emphasis on increased community involvement in the planning process, and indeed, several improvements have been introduced, such as the right to be heard at Planning Committee meetings. The document, “A New Dawn for Planning” (agreed by Cabinet on 25 October 2018) further gave an undertaking that planning decisions will be more closely related to residents’ views.

A good test of this aspiration then was how it would measure up against one of Marylebone's most heavily contested issues in recent years, the future of the Luxborough Towers Play Space. WCC themselves conceded that this had sometime ago become a space open to the community and it was listed as a Protected Open Space in the Westminster City Plan therefore any application was to be considered against the relevant policies relating to loss of community space and open space.

This site had been for years a valuable and much needed kick about space for young people in the local area before it was boarded up in 2015 and designated for the new Marylebone Library (still unresolved 12 years from its closure and various relocations to ever smaller temporary spaces). This plan was abandoned in 2016, apparently due to difficulties in the procurement of a contractor. But it remained boarded up and its future use remained a matter of great local interest and concern. A concern that was not alleviated by the commencement of site clearing works and groundworks last December - and the removal of wrought iron railings without any consents being in place.

Considering the background to this, Westminster Council should have been exceptionally careful to be seen to be as objective as possible in deciding whether to award itself planning permission for the development of this site. It needed to act, not as a developer would, but rather as an arbiter of community opinion, in order to overcome the hurdle of conflict of interest that this posed.

However the Council’s Planning Committee decision to approve its own application for a 14 flat affordable housing residential development with some form of community use at ground level has not looked at all objective, it has in fact caused a great deal of local anger and bemusement.

It was widely felt that the consultation process was flawed. Its conclusions were based on very few responses from poorly attended meetings; the questions posed were loaded in favour of the application and it ignored the much greater weight of evidence of public anxiety about the scheme. The figures gleaned were then professionally presented with a variety of charts by way of percentages to give the appearance of community approval for a project that, in reality, had almost none.

Further, there was substantial stakeholder resistance to the scheme; 839 people signed a petition against it; it was in breach of a large number of its own open space policies; it was in breach of various policies in the London Plan and also National Policy on open spaces. Also the Diocese of London complained about WCC’s failure to consult in spite of them raising substantial legal objections based on their ownership of the surrounding land. Finally the development would need the removal of a large protected London Plane tree.



It is therefore of interest to see how Westminster in the face of all this managed to reach the decision they did...[continue reading article.](#)



## Drug Dealing and other problems in the Harrowby Area

There has always been a certain amount of covert drug dealing in the nooks and crannies of the Harrowby & District area of Marylebone, possibly due to the proximity to the Edgware Road. However, under the restrictions of Covid 19 there has been an explosion of it in almost all the streets in the area.

It is now right out in the open day and night and it is all the more noticeable and unnerving for local residents when it is so blatant.

There are two schools in the area – an award-winning primary school and a Montessori school. As a result there are a number of families with young children as well as a fair number of elderly residents who can feel very intimidated by not only the dealers but the type of addicts who are attracted into the area to get their fix. It seems to be a sad fact that the dealers are preying on the most vulnerable people, some of them homeless. Residents have seen an increase in antisocial behaviour particularly late into the night.

The Harrowby & District Residents Association (HDRA) have informed the local Police through the Bryanston & Dorset Square Safer Neighbourhood Panel and discovered that they seemed not to be aware of the problems perhaps because crimes reported on 999 and 101 are dealt with centrally. The local crime statistics are either out of date or do not reflect the extent of the problem. Also, reporting is not necessarily straightforward.

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To report a crime in real time you should ring 999. If it has already happened it is 101. If there is resultant antisocial behaviour you should be contacting the Police or Westminster Council. With these three different methods people either do not bother to report things or if they do there is insufficient communication between the different agencies to combat the problems being endured by residents. In addition, Social Services should be doing more to help the vulnerable people who are being targeted by the drug dealers.

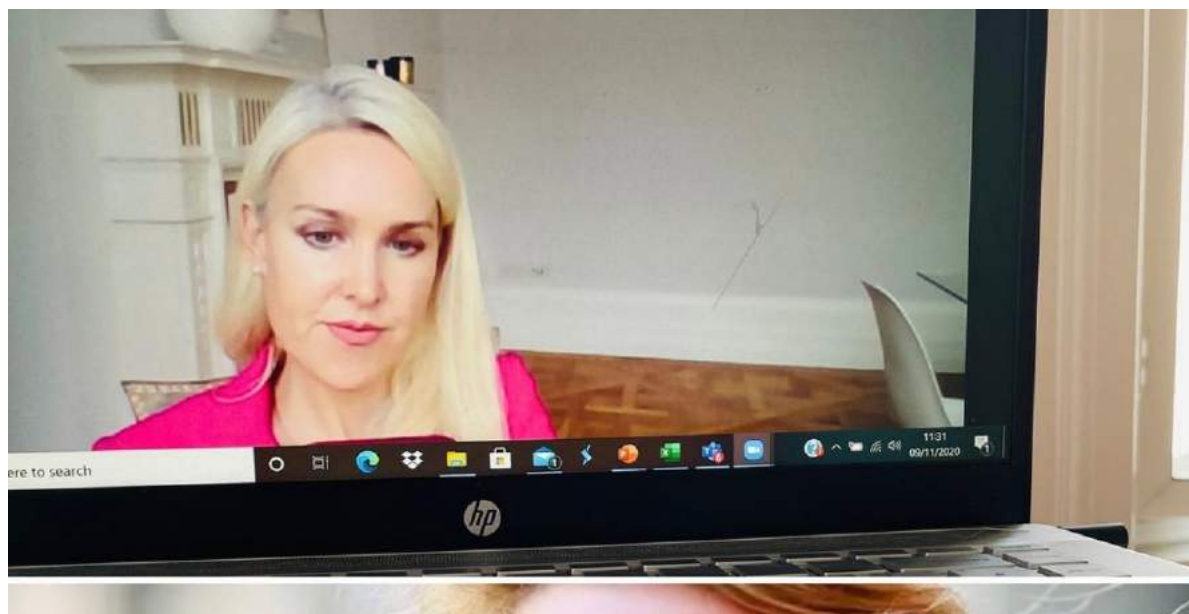
Following numerous complaints on their internal email, HDRA decided that they should encourage residents to report crimes in a uniform way. They have a simple motto to combat drugs: "If in Doubt- Report It!"

Their members have been playing their part by vigorously reporting any crimes they witness and providing photos and registration numbers of the cars involved. They have been keeping a spreadsheet of all the logged crimes so that problems can be highlighted where it is needed. A dialogue has been established with the local police team and HDRA have brought this to the attention of our local MP Nickie Aiken for her to discuss with the Met's Borough Commander.

These problems come on top of many other issues such as street begging, mainly from organised Eastern European gangs, which seem to be getting worse throughout many areas of Marylebone. They beg during the day and sleep rough at night. There are further anti-social issues from noisy motor bikes and speeding cars; not to mention the tensions of living under lockdown in a global pandemic.

HDRA would like to see some action. If there are not enough Police then redirect some to attack this now. The Council needs to step up and communicate better and more quickly. If this means having CCTV in the area for a given period so be it. HDRA would also like to have some feedback. If the Police are provided with a registration number and this car is impounded then they should be informing HDRA.

At the very least they want to know if action is being taken.





## Covid-19 Residents Association meeting with Nickie Aitken MP

Nickie Aitken MP for Westminster and the City of London, hosts regular meetings with Residents Associations (RA) to discuss issues related to Covid-19. The main topics arising this month were:

**Drugs:** There has been an increase in complaints about open drug dealing and the disturbing behaviour of drug addicts since the first lockdown. Some success had been reported by other RAs in dealing with it, but complaints arise at every meeting.

**Rough sleeping and begging:** The camp established off Park Lane has not yet been cleared by the police despite numerous complaints.

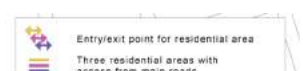
**Congestion Charges:** The MP and RAs have complained regularly about the detrimental and unfair impact of the 'temporary' measures imposed by the Mayor to fill the void in TfL's finances.

**Future Planning White Paper:** Negative impact on light industrial businesses raised as a major concern for London. Nickie Aitken undertook to investigate further.

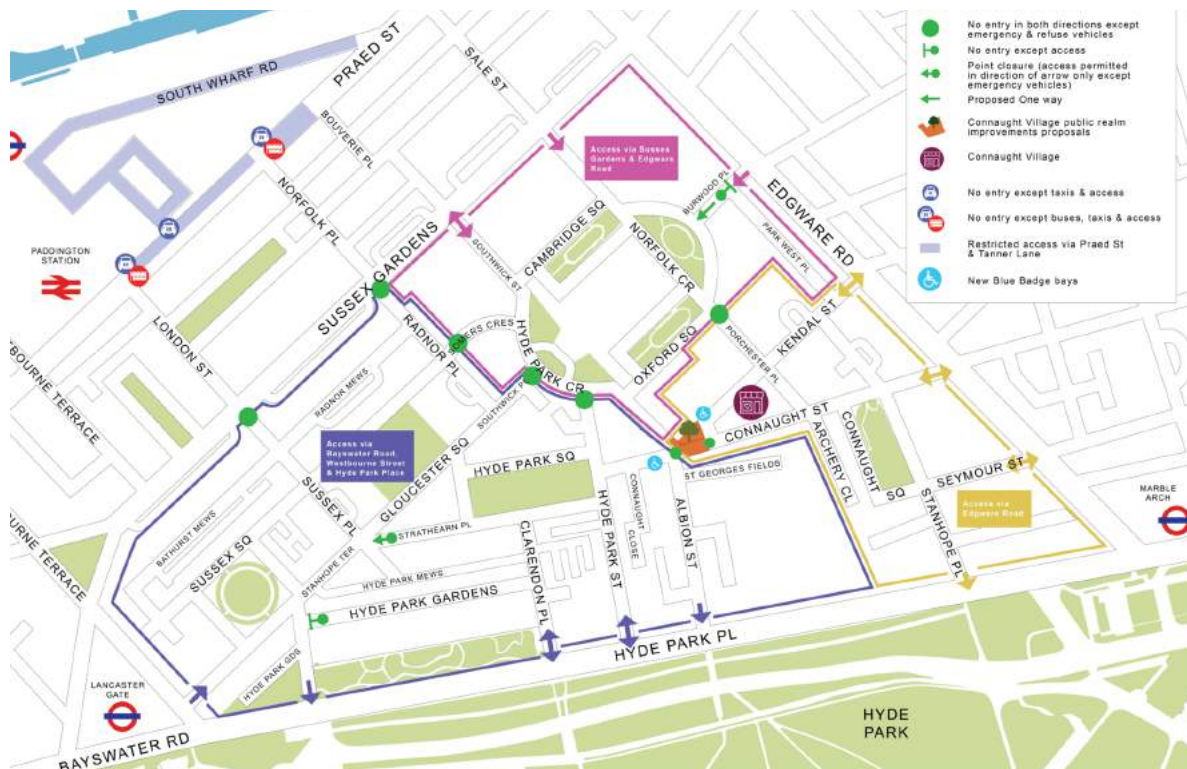
**Protests in London:** There was a debate on whether protest marches should be limited to areas of London such as Hyde Park.

# WESTMINSTER NEWS

## Hyde Park Estates Win LTN Reprieve







The proposal to impose an unwanted “Low Traffic Neighbourhood” on the Hyde Park Estate is another example (see Luxborough Play Area article above) of Westminster City Council’s community engagement approach that has left much to be desired by those who actually live and work in the area, and also with the Church - this time, the Church Commissioners.

Indeed, the potential outcome here is all the more disturbing because WCC did not even need to consult, as this was a “temporary” proposal that would also be “monitored” once implemented, before being nodded through on a permanent basis. Thus effectively removing all rights of the local population to object.

The Hyde Park Estate Association, Westminster’s recognised amenity society for the residents covering the Estate, having tried and failed to productively engage with the Council on the scheme, had significant concerns, as they made clear in an open letter to Westminster Council which we published last month. They had previous grievances with road planning that had already made things worse in their area, and thus were wary of more of the same: “We have for years been trying to get the Council to pay attention to our needs and acknowledge that the installation of cycle lanes in the wrong places has had the effect of funnelling traffic into residential areas. You all know that this has been at the top of our list of concerns. It remains at the top of our list of concerns.” Alan Zimble HPEA Chair

They felt that the Council’s proposed scheme did not solve the problem for significant numbers of people on the Estate, and indeed threatened to make it much worse by causing “traffic mayhem” on the peripheral roads around - with predicted increases in pollution and detrimental knock-on effects for neighbouring communities.

Indeed, once again, the method of consultation was put in doubt: “More worrying even than the inappropriateness of this scheme is the survey (WCC) conducted to test the opinion of residents. We have pointed out to you that the survey instrument shaped opinion and is biased. We have also pointed out

that the invitation to respond to the survey did not reach significant numbers of our residents in and around the Hyde Park Estate, and some whom it did reach did not understand its implications and did not go online to respond.....We are now pointing out that we believe that there most likely has been widespread abuse of the survey, with activists...deliberately trying to create an impression of widespread support for this scheme and urging people on social networks to respond to this survey". Alan Zimble HPEA Chair.

Following on from this, however, a different outcome was reached in that Westminster Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, Cllr Andrew Smith, announced that the proposed experimental Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme would not go ahead in its present form: "We acknowledge the concerns that have been raised, and we have made the decision not to progress with the LTN. On that basis, we acknowledge that more work is needed to assess what measures might be possible, and acceptable. Therefore I will work with your ward councillors and residents to consider alternative ideas to improve the area".

So in this case WCC actually listened to the many voices raised against the scheme and made the sensible decision to ignore the flawed consultation and pull it.

This is a rather better example of local democracy in action than that of the Luxborough Play Area and maybe can herald a new dawn, if not for planning, then at least for Westminster's many road schemes, particularly those recently introduced, with little or no consultation, as temporary measures that threaten to remain in place in spite of that.

But the story has a sting in the tale, in that the Council's earlier actions have unfortunately caused a rift within the Hyde Park Estate community which will not be easily healed: "The Council having proceeded to invite comments on a proposal we could not support, for reasons we have already explained, has created excitement and expectations for some, while creating dread and sheer rage for others. Sadly, as a result, we have become a divided community." Alan Zimble HPEA Chair.

This has resulted in a division now, not only in the area, but among the HPEA and former members, which was entirely unnecessary; it can only be hoped that lessons will be drawn from this and the experience is not repeated elsewhere in Westminster.

As the HPEA Chair went on to say: "If it is the task of our Councillors as elected representatives to build a community based on empathy, mutual concern and understanding, and of harmony between neighbours, then the proposal of a scheme as fundamentally divisive as this is a serious betrayal of a duty of care to this community and its thousands of members."

## Hyde Park Road Closures Consultation

North and South Carriageway Drives have now both been closed to all motor traffic under Hyde Park's Movement Strategy trial projects. To provide feedback on the Hyde Park trial project, and any of the other park trial projects, please find consultation [surveys](#) on the following link



projects, please find consultation [surveys](#) on the following link.

This formal consultation will gather feedback from park visitors, residents and stakeholders. Through the six-month project period, they are also collating park stakeholder feedback, and undertaking an evaluation of the internal and external implications of the trials in partnership with relevant transport authorities (eg. TfL and local boroughs).

At the end of the trial in February 2021 the Royal Parks will determine if they should extend, alter, make permanent or revoke the trial their letter below:

The [Royal Parks' Movement Strategy](#) sets a coherent framework to help shape and inform the policies relating to how park visitors can access, experience and move within the parks.

To give your thoughts [please complete the survey](#) by 10 January 2021 or write to us at [movement.strategy@royalparks.org.uk](mailto:movement.strategy@royalparks.org.uk).



## What do you think of Park Lane Cycle Lanes and Edgware Road measures?

Still on the subject of consultations, Transport for London are developing new ways to engage local people and other stakeholders, and are contacting local businesses and residents to understand if the temporary measures they are introducing are affecting them. If you want to comment on Edgware Road or Park Lane measures. We would urge you to take advantage of this opportunity now. Have your [say here](#).

## Marylebone Forum AGM



The Marylebone Forum virtual AGM has been rescheduled to Monday 14 December. The AGM is open to all forum members to attend by way of response to invitations sent out to members.

If you have not received this, but if you are a member, or wish to join up (there is no charge) then please contact [news@maryleboneforum.org](mailto:news@maryleboneforum.org).

The Marylebone Forum is the designated neighbourhood planning forum for the area. Our focus is on local development and shaping the future of Marylebone. We share a vision for Marylebone to be a vibrant place to live, work or study. We cherish Marylebone's unique character and heritage, whilst striving towards the highest standards for new development, public spaces and local amenities.

The Marylebone Forum is an independent organisation of local stakeholders, and has been [designated](#) by Westminster City Council to represent the Marylebone community. The Forum is developing a [Neighbourhood Plan](#), which, if successful, will be adopted into local legislation. The Forum supports applications from local projects, for funding from [Neighbourhood CIL](#) (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds. If you live, work or study (or have a child in school/nursery) in Marylebone, please come and [join us](#).

## Crown Estates pivoting

With rent receipts significantly down, chief executive of Crown Estates Dan Labbad is in the middle of a review which will ultimately, "see the Crown do some pivoting". One of the different ways of work will be the introduction of turnover rents- not usually welcomed by landlords. Retail is not the only part of the portfolio in trouble; working from home phenomena has also put a question mark on the amount of future office space required.

## A Christmas Slump

Retailers, hotels and restaurants in London's West End are braced for a £2 billion slump in sales over the crucial Christmas season as tourists stay away and lockdown rules continue.

Forecasts from the New West End Company, a partnership of about 600 businesses in the area, show sales under Tier 2 Covid rules would have fallen to £900 million this year. down from £2.5 billion in 2019.



Warnings about unnecessary travel and quarantine restrictions on overseas trips mean the number of shoppers in the West End is likely to fall from 42 million to 18 million at most.

Jace Tyrrell, chief executive of the New West End Company, said the Government's "disastrous" decision to scrap tax-free shopping at the end of the year would put further pressure on stores and leave 25,000 British jobs at risk. "We are urging the Government to reconsider the long-term consequences of making the UK the only European country not to offer tax relief to tourists," he added.



## Shop to Eleven to 'Save Christmas'

To combat the fall in shoppers - West End stores should be allowed to stay open every night until 11pm after the end of lockdown to help 'save Christmas', according to Ros Morgan, chief executive of the Heart of London Business Alliance.

West End stores usually stay open later in the weeks leading up to Christmas Day but not normally beyond the 10pm closing time on traditional late shopping nights. The plea came as footfall figures for the second week of the lockdown showed the number of people in the West End has slumped to levels not seen since April.

STOP PRESS -

Apparently Central Government has rather more radical ideas- Robert Jenrick Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Governments has announced that shops should be able to decide their opening hours through December and January, and even have the option of running 24/7 services.

Mr Jenrick said: "With these changes local shops can open longer, ensuring more pleasant and safer shopping with less pressure on public transport."

"How long will be a matter of choice for the shopkeepers and at the discretion of the council, but I suggest we offer these hard pressed entrepreneurs and businesses the greatest possible flexibility this festive season."

"Therefore as Local Government Secretary I am relaxing planning restrictions and issuing an unambiguous request to councils to allow businesses to welcome us into their glowing stores late into the evening and beyond if they wish."

"And those stores and supermarkets will be able to replenish their shelves whenever they wish, with flexible deliveries to keep the streets free for the rest of us when we are out and about."

He suggested such changes would help "free our small businesspeople to get on with earning a living."

It will be interesting to see how Westminster Council decides to respond to Mr Jenerick's "unambiguous request" - and how residents living around and above these "glowing stores" react to it.

## West End Commercial property market still active



It is therefore somewhat ironic, that amidst all this gloom and doom the figures for this October saw turnover exceeds £1bn for London's West End commercial property. This is the highest October volume ever recorded in the West End and represents 37 per cent of the total annual transaction volume to date.

The figure obviously demonstrates that there was still a sustained investor appetite for the West End's centrally located assets in spite of hard times presently being suffered by many businesses in the area. It can be concluded that these investors are anticipating a rapid and substantial recovery at some stage in the near future.



stage in the near future.

Key deals include a 50 per cent interest in The Nova Estate, SW1, which CPPIB sold to Suntec for £430.6 million, the freehold interest in 158-159 New Bond Street, which SEB sold to the building's sole occupier, Chanel, for £310m, and White City Place, W12, which Mitsui Fudosan / Stanhope sold to Cadillac Fairview for £235m.

## Derwent London commits to Baker Street

In further evidence that the property market still has life left in it, the Evening Standard reported that Derwent London has announced that it will commit to building a £400m office development on Baker Street, despite the continuation of widespread remote working.

Chief executive Paul Williams said: "The significant operational progress made in the third quarter and the group's strong financial position give us the confidence to commit to our next major development at 19-35 Baker Street." The £400 million project comprises 293,000 square feet of space, of which around 200,000 square feet is offices. Derwent expects construction to start in the second half of next year and complete in 2025.

# WESTMINSTER COUNCIL NEWS

## Planning White Paper Feedback

While the Government's 300,000 homes target remains 'undiminished', it is understood they have listened to the feedback of critical MPs and ministers are now looking to 'rebalance' the formula.

There is not much detail at this stage, but it is thought the focus will shift towards building more homes in the North and Midlands, and in urban areas or city centres - where the coronavirus pandemic has potentially accelerated a longer-term drop in demand for office and retail spaces.

"Concreting over large parts of rural and suburban England, with no democratic right of communities to appeal, as the algorithm and White Paper suggest, will undermine much of the good we are intending to do."

Former Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers also said the change in approach from the government was "encouraging", but "a few tweaks are not enough".

This will come as a relief to Westminster Council, who on the formula devised in the White Paper, were looking at a fivefold increase in their housing target.





## 20mph speed limit now in force across whole of Westminster

The scheme to reduce the speed limits on all Westminster roads which started in July has now been completed at a cost of almost £1.5 million. This followed from a public consultation carried out last year which two-thirds of respondents said they supported the speed changes, while 32 percent opposed them.

Councillor Andrew Smith, Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways said: "Our teams have been working throughout the summer to carefully and effectively complete this roll-out across Westminster."



“Reducing our city-wide speed limit is a clear step forward in our efforts to create a hub of safe and sustainable transport, not only saving lives but creating a calmer and more inviting street environment for those who travel around our city, whether by foot, cycle, car, taxi or bus.”

The City of London Corporation reduced all roads in the Square Mile to 20mph earlier this year, and is planning to reduce them to a 15mph limit.

Islington Council has had 20 mph speed limits since 2011, and Camden Council since 2013.

Transport for London has given the 20 mph speed limit to all highways it manages within the current Congestion Charge Zone.

To ‘align’ with Westminster Council, TfL plans to do the same with its roads in the north of the borough, including Wellington Road, Park Road, Finchley Road and the A5205, although it said that the 3 lane carriageway on Westway A40 will remain 30mph (recently reduced from 40mph).

## Flats to become “houses”

Westminster Council intends to launch what is called an “Additional Licensing Scheme”.

This proposed scheme is part of the wider private rented sector strategy. The proposal to carry out a consultation to introduce an Additional Licensing Scheme was backed by the majority of respondents to the private rented sector strategy consultation in Autumn 2020.

It will mean that many properties rented out by private landlords to 3 or more people will become “houses in multiple occupation”, even if what they actually are is, say a 2 bedroom flat. Landlords would be faced with extremely onerous obligations when letting out their property and draconian penalties if they find they overlook any of the very many regulations that go with it, either intentionally or unintentionally. A number will find their properties, for some reason or other will not comply with the new standards. There will also be a substantial charge to apply for a licence in the first place.

This is of course aimed at curbing the very small percentage of rogue landlords who exploit the system. But as a consequence is likely to deter many from renting out perfectly decent properties, and thus further reduce the available rental stock and make the remaining properties more expensive to rent.

One wonders about the timing of this- just as the coronavirus crisis has plunged the rental market into turmoil as tenants struggle to pay bills and many landlords fear financial ruin.

Now, on top of this, property owners who are already struggling with large unexpected costs may well be concerned that when the outbreak is over they may be left with rental homes that cannot legally be let.

The online consultation will run until 11 February 2021. Westminster Council encourages you to please [read the consultation document](#) which runs to 161

pages and gives a very clear indication of the complexity and degree of regulation that is proposed for the sector.

It would be advisable for all private landlords to let WCC know their thoughts and suggestions by [completing our online survey](#).

## Report It

You can report dumped rubbish, broken pavements, defective street lights and more on the Report It service. <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it>

You can register here <https://www.fixmystreet.com/alert> for alerts of everything reported in your area (just use your postcode and it will offer you options).

# BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Changing Lives this Christmas



After what has been a very hard and extremely anxious year for so many people, St Marylebone Parish Church and its community partners are getting together to bring some festive cheer to some of the most vulnerable people in





Recent lettings have included eyewear brand Ace & Tate, which has taken 39 Marylebone High Street, due to open in November, and Scandinavian fashion brand, Tiger of Sweden, which opened at 86 Marylebone High Street in September.

New arrivals which will join the village's range of places to eat and drink later in the year include deli/restaurant concept, The Italians on Devonshire Street; and Home at Marylebone in the old Coco Momo site on Marylebone High Street— a new all-day dining offer.

Flat Iron is to open its ninth London location next month on James Street in Marylebone.

## Introducing the Portman Marylebone Coffee Collective

Sip your way around the neighbourhood by joining the new Portman Marylebone Coffee Collective.

To help you navigate the latest lockdown, the resident cosy cafés and delicious bakeries of Portman Marylebone would like to treat you to a complimentary hot drink which can be picked up safely using their takeaway services.

Simply follow the @portmanmarylebone Instagram account and directly message the word coffee to receive a special code which can be quoted in store to redeem your winter warmer with a purchase of any additional item.

Whether you are a coffee connoisseur or appreciate a good old-fashioned breakfast tea, the coffee houses of Portman Marylebone have you covered from Monday 16th November - Sunday 13th December 2020 with a limit of 150 coffees up for grabs each day. Choose from one of the below crowd favourites and indulge in a cuppa on us!

- Monocle Café, 18 Chiltern Street
- Chiltern Street Deli, 27 Chiltern Street
- GAIL's Bakery, 4-6 Seymour Place
- Daisy Green, 20 Seymour Street
- Shreeji News, 6 Chiltern Street
- Boxcar Baker & Deli, 7A Wyndham Place

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Redeem one free standard hot drink per day, per person with a redemption code when you purchase another item in-store at participating venues in Portman Marylebone. A maximum of one standard hot drink per day. Any eligible products redeemed using your redemption code are for your personal consumption only. One free standard hot drink including espresso, americano, short black, hot chocolate, tea, cappuccino, latte, macchiato.

## Phoenix Rises



As local residents will confirm, walking past The Duke of Wellington pub on the corner of Crawford Street/St Mary's Wyndham Place has been a miserable experience since 'The Dook' closed its doors more than four years ago. Mercifully, Westminster turned down several applications to turn the former pub into a sports bar and an 'adults only' members club – and it has paid off as the former team gathered enough backing for it to re-open as, guess what, a pub! Months of hard work by both builders and the team resulted in a triumphant return ... for just 3 weeks, before they were forced to close their doors AGAIN! The good news now of course is that it will re-re-open on December 2nd and once again be offering the brilliant food and the welcoming atmosphere which made it so popular in the first place.

## Health Champions

More information on how to become a Health Champion can be obtained from [westminsterconnects@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:westminsterconnects@westminster.gov.uk).

Westminster Council continues to organise weekly Zoom meetings on Covid-19 to keep residents informed of the latest policies, data and research. A presentation on vaccines was given last week by scientists from Imperial College London on behalf of the National Institute for Health Research.

To learn more about vaccines and to register for a vaccine trial go to: <https://www.bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>. Please note that you may receive a placebo during the trials, but this will not preclude you from the national vaccination programme.

## Special Offers

Once again this year NVS Pharmacy are offering a perfect opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping: NVS Pharmacy, who are Business Members of the Marylebone Association would like to support our local community by offering 15% off all fine fragrances and skin care. Brands include Chanel, Elizabeth Arden, Hermes and many more. Gift wrapping service is also available and the offer ends on December 31st 2020. NVS PHARMACY 46 Baker Street, London W1U 7BR

# MARYLEBONE EVENTS

## Beginners Pilates With Agneta

Every Tuesday morning at 9:30

Pilates is a great way to start the day. Join Agneta on a Tuesday morning for a gentle stretch and movement class created for people new to online exercise. It is difficult to get out as often as usual during the winter months

and particularly during a pandemic so Agneta has devised this short session to help keep us mobile. Just click the link below to register for this free class and you will receive an email with the joining instructions. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZAKdu6vqzgrHtYMxj66e8hPs7awxqzqPoY>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the class. Any questions: [agneta@agnetalindberg.co.uk](mailto:agneta@agnetalindberg.co.uk) or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Agneta-Lindberg-Studio-371816039512849>

Need help setting up Zoom on your phone or computer: [lindadaviesuk@gmail.com](mailto:lindadaviesuk@gmail.com)

## Virtual Messiah Reimagined

Thursday 3 December at 7.00 pm (and then available to view at any time on the YouTube channel).

This promises to be a fantastic event free to view on Facebook and YouTube as part of the London Handel Festival. The soloists and musicians will be based in St George's Church in Hanover Square (Handel's church!) whilst a range of choirs around the world have pre-recorded the anthems and this has been edited and will be shown between the soloists arias and recitatives. It's a totally new way of doing this and replaces the normal performance with a live audience in the church.

Just need to subscribe to the YouTube channel (easy - just press the button on the page!)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFaou6RLFurdApPzYylkFjw>

## Folklore Of Underground London

Tuesday December 8 2020 from 6.30

Antony Clayton, author of Subterranean City: Beneath the Streets of London, presents an illustrated talk that will uncover some of the colourful folklore of underground London, with its secret tunnels and passages, buried trains and the secret street hidden beneath a major department store. The talk will be 40-50 minutes long, followed by a Q & A. You won't need a camera or microphone for this talk, as audience members won't be seen or heard. For further information go to [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

## ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Covid 19, as we all know, has put a temporary rein on the Mendshere



Covid-19, as we all know, has put a temporary rein on the Marylebone Association social events lined up but our 'virtual walks' have proved popular, so here is one more to enjoy from the comfort and warmth of your own sofa:

## London Christmas lights, Customs and Celebrations

Thursday 10 December 4pm Fee: £10 per household

An opportunity to enjoy the highlights of London's wonderful illuminations on a virtual walk from the comfort of your own home! Janice Liverseidge our London Blue Badge Tourist Guide is providing the opportunity to explore London at a magical time of year and to see the best of the lights and hear about both well-known and lesser known customs at this festive time. We'll learn about the author of a much loved Christmas tale, the writer behind one of our favourite Christmas carols, how Christmas lights came to the capital, the growth of popularity in sending Christmas cards and the Victorians love of the Christmas tree. En route you'll see the lights of Marylebone and Bond Street, wonderful shop window displays and much more en route to Trafalgar Square our destination. All of this without the crowds and in the warmth of your home!

For further details contact Rosemary Forgan on 020 7916 9353 or email: [rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org](mailto:rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org)

## Book Club

Tuesday 5 December 2020

Members normally meet at The King's Head pub in Westmoreland Street – but since this is not possible right now meetings are via Zoom. Anyone who is interested in joining in should contact Liz Queenan. Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30 – but our Zoom meetings start at 5.

This month there are two books to choose from: Lady in Waiting by Anne Glenconner and Ma'am Darling by Craig Brown, the idea being that club members can read either or both – and compare as both are about the life of the late Princess Margaret.

All books read are available on paper and on e-readers. For more information contact Liz Queenan ([liz.queenan@marylebone.org](mailto:liz.queenan@marylebone.org)) or tel: 020 7486 3709.

## Pub Evening, Coffee Mornings

Sadly both cancelled until further notice.

## Scrabble Club

Normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at The Natural Kitchen in Baker Street. This is not possible at the moment but we do hope to be able to get together again soon. For further information contact: Rosemary Forgan, tel 07887 891977, email: [rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org](mailto:rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org)

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