



Marylebone Association

Newsletter May 2021

Dear Tim,

The Marylebone Association AGM is usually held in June each year. Last June, in the relatively early days of the pandemic, we were not set up to host a large virtual meeting and instead had to make do with a large and comprehensive online annual report. Few then thought that a year on we would still be unable to meet in person. Although things have now definitely changed for the better and under the government's roadmap timeline it is possible that larger indoor gatherings will be permitted after mid-June, this lacks the certainty necessary to go ahead to plan a live event at this stage.

Rather than have another closed AGM, we have therefore decided to put the date back until later in the year in the hope that by then larger gatherings will be permitted.

Back at the beginning of the pandemic we set up the MA Covid-19 Help Group. After a year of help given by our Covid-19 volunteers the need for the service has now diminished to a level that allows us to put this on hold, for the present at least. Accordingly, a few weeks ago I sent out a letter of thanks to all those new member volunteers who had come forward so generously to offer their time to help out fellow residents.

I similarly would like to thank all of you amongst our regular members who volunteered at the time. It was once again a graphic demonstration of the willingness of our local community to come forward and help out at a time of great need. I would also like to thank our local businesses, who in spite of their own problems were keen to weigh in with offers of assistance.

Finally, as this month we are at last able to contemplate some return to a semblance of normality, for outdoor events at least, our social team have immediately leapt at the opportunity to re-introduce some live events, listed below. It's been a long wait, but it looks like it's been worthwhile!

Michael Bolt

Chairman

Association Events are back!

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Zoom, it has been a good friend over the past year but now we can start to enjoy meeting up again...

Saturday 22 May 2021 at 11.00 am - King's Cross Walk

Join us on this live walk (rather than on Zoom!) discovering Kings Cross where we explore the amazing transformation that has taken place over the last few years. Janice Liverseidge our local London Blue Badge Tourist Guide will be updating us on recent changes and how the final pieces of the plan, which has made the area so desirable, are being completed.

Learn how part of the former gasworks are now elegant new homes, see the new public art for all, discover what Thomas Heatherwick (of 2012 Olympic flames and Routemaster buses) has been up to, how bats are being protected and how the area has repurposed old railway buildings and even received a new postcode. New buildings have sprung up in the last 12 months, a new bridge approved plus plans revised about the public/transport access to the area. This 25-year project is nearing completion so find out what more is planned and the best places to eat, shop and relax.

The walk will last one and a half hours and will finish in the area so you can enjoy a lunch or drink with friends and family. With so many different options you will be spoilt for choice but <https://www.kingscross.co.uk/eating-and-drinking> has plenty of ideas.

The cost of the walk is £10 per person payable in advance and to reserve your place please email Lois German on lois.german@marylebone.org or telephone 0207 487 2706.

This is just the start – and fully in accordance with current Government regulations – but watch this space for next month when we're planning:

An open-air picnic in the Park (June 8th or 9th)

An informal gathering outside, you're invited to 'bring your own' refreshments OR buy from the Regents Park cafe

Alfresco dinner at Anacapri (June 16th)

Put the dates in the diary now, full details to follow.

We also haven't forgotten:

Dinner at Bright Courtyard

Tour of Selfridges with breakfast at The Brasserie of Light

For all Association events scroll to the bottom of the newsletter.

Five New Beauty, Fitness and Wellness Businesses in Marylebone Lockdown Lift



After coming out of lockdown we are all feeling a mix of exhilaration and apprehension. During the last year we have seen exceptional perseverance and astonishing courage and fortitude of people. However, it has left us feeling a little exhausted! Here are five new beauty, nails, fitness, and wellbeing businesses in Marylebone that you can look forward to and that will make you feel and look brand new:

1. Jonathan Mendoza located at 1, Harley Street was originally born in Venezuela moved to Spain to study and trained as an osteopath and acupuncturist. He worked in hospitals with trauma patients for 14 years in Spain, Ecuador, and Panama. He commented 'with people working from home, all of his patients are coming in with 'zoom back ache' due to sitting in one position all day long'. His most popular treatment now is a combination of acupuncture with cupping, dry needle, and manipulation of the back.

Contact: 07519551250

2. Oksana who owns 'Oxygen Beauty' is located on Fitzharding Street, a stone's throw from the Wallace Collection and Selfridges. With eight years' experience in the beauty and medical aesthetics industry her work is meticulous. Do not think you can be in and out in 10mins, she is a perfectionist by nature and will give you top to toe luxurious treatments from mesotherapy to eyelash extensions that leave you feeling a million dollars and you can still see that difference a few days later. Marylebone's best kept secret.

Contact: 07447911156

3. The fabulous Third Space gym on Marylebone Lane we are all familiar with, but they are now offering covered Outdoor group Classes. No excuses! Get rid of that lockdown fat! Whilst we patiently wait for the 17th of May to roll round and we can get back to training together in our studios, we are bringing a weekly class to the outdoors, surrounded by the stunning views at Regent's Park. Members can embrace the outdoors with our hybrid hit class 'Run WOD' – combining AMRAP, EMOMs and Running challenges. All classes are COVID-safe - you will have your own space and take part in an equipment-free workout as your favourite instructors guarantee to make you sweat. Classes are held Tuesdays at 7.30am and Thursdays at 12.30pm, available to Third Space members only.

www.thirdspace.com

4. NBar nails. N.Bar has cemented its position as the most successful and progressive chain of nail bars in the UAE. Founded in 2001 by the inspirational Negin Fattahi-Dasmal, N.Bar was the first to transform routine nail care into an 'experience'; delivering top quality bespoke nail treatments with unsurpassed results. After being a loyal client to the brand during their 10-year stay in Dubai, Marylebone local Sarah Aswed and her husband Majid Hangari have brought the N.Bar experience to central London, with its luxurious, high-end services.

They chose Marylebone because it has always been home to them and in the past 10 years it has flourished to be one of London's most sought after addresses for businesses and residence, with a multicultural community. Located on George Street, N.Bar has opened its doors to a thriving global and commercial community that enjoys top-quality nail treatments, excellent customer service and uncompromisable hygiene standards. N. Bar also shares a passion for creativity, glamour, and quality services. George Street
www.nbar.com

5. Belinda Aloisio transformational life coach and energy healer offers spiritual healing hypnotherapy and meditation. After starting her first treatment centre in Notting Hill she is now coming to Marylebone. She has many clients who are anxious and unsettled after the last lockdown and because of this her most popular treatment is rapid energy healing that will help you rebalance, unblock, and realign and guide you through big life changes. 1 Harley Street
www.belindaaloisio.com

DAN'S Latin dance + fitness studio is back



The boutique dance + fitness studio plus lounge on Cavendish Place will be swinging its joyful doors open again on Monday 17 May.

It's three bright studios offer three fun – and exclusive – class types:

- DAN'S Fitness: enjoy happy, high-intensity workouts to the beat of Latin hits.
- DAN'S School: learn the steps + styling of popular Latin dances like salsa, tango, bachata, samba
- DAN'S Soul: find your feelgood in a slower way, through latin-power yoga.

"We're so happy to be opening DAN'S again. After such a long pandemic Londoners need a place filled with joy, somewhere sunny to smile, sweat and dance more!" - Daniel, DAN'S Founder

Find out more and book at dans.co.uk or email hola@dans.co.uk.
#DANSIntoTheNew

MARYLEBONE & WESTMINSTER NEWS

Euston Road a Year on - and Nothing has Changed





Last summer we wrote about the change that TfL had inflicted on Euston road, reducing the lanes available for non-bus and taxi traffic down to one in each direction. The reason was to create cycle lanes for the anticipated mass switch to travel by bike, or at least to encourage this. However this subsequently failed to occur, at least on Euston Road. Although TfL reluctantly reversed the permanent changes they had made to the westbound carriageway, at no doubt great expense, strangely, the temporary changes to the eastbound carriageway remain to this day.

For a year now eastbound traffic has been forced into one lane at the the Euston underpass, to then sit in a permanent queue right down the road as far as Kings Cross. For a year now the cordoned off lanes have steadfastly remained patently under-utilised by cyclists, giving all those delayed plenty of time to contemplate the Mayor's folly of keeping a whole lane closed for no ostensible benefit. This is all the more galling because the empty lane, the cause of so much congestion, is merely marked out with bollards and could be reversed back at any time. In spite of all the evidence that the experiment has been a total failure these however remain in place, almost as a sort of punishment to those that dare any longer to venture through this way in motorised transport.

However, nearly all of the traffic using this vital thoroughfare is business related, if this is TfL's idea of helping business, as they claim, then business would be a great deal better off without their help. As well as generating needless congestion, this measure, far from providing us with cleaner air, has made pollution here considerably worse. The time wasted on many of millions of journeys over the past year by this particular piece of ill-advised road engineering, must be considerable. It is most concerning that, in spite of the daily demonstration of its abject failure, TfL appear unable to accept defeat and continue to keep it in place.

Westminster Tribute to the Duke

Westminster Council had flags at half-mast its buildings during the Period of National Mourning. The Lord Mayor, Cllr Jonathan Glanz expressed his deep sadness on the passing of His Royal Highness, saying: "The Duke served this nation dutifully for over six decades, as consort to Her Majesty The Queen, with the same dedication, humour and devotion throughout. His Royal Highness' example, from a distinguished career in the Royal Navy, to the longest serving Consort in history, is one to be looked up to with admiration by so many, at home, abroad and throughout the Commonwealth".

"Here in Westminster, many past Lord Mayors of Westminster met His Royal Highness at a great many events, from community engagements to military parades. The Duke's dedication to duty was clear for all to see and I know he

was a fantastic role model for all.”

Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council said of The Duke: “His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was an inspirational figure whose decades of public service touched countless lives. The City of Westminster mourns with the Royal Family for what is a nation’s loss.”

The Duke’s funeral took place on Saturday 17 April at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle along with a national one minute’s silence at 3pm.

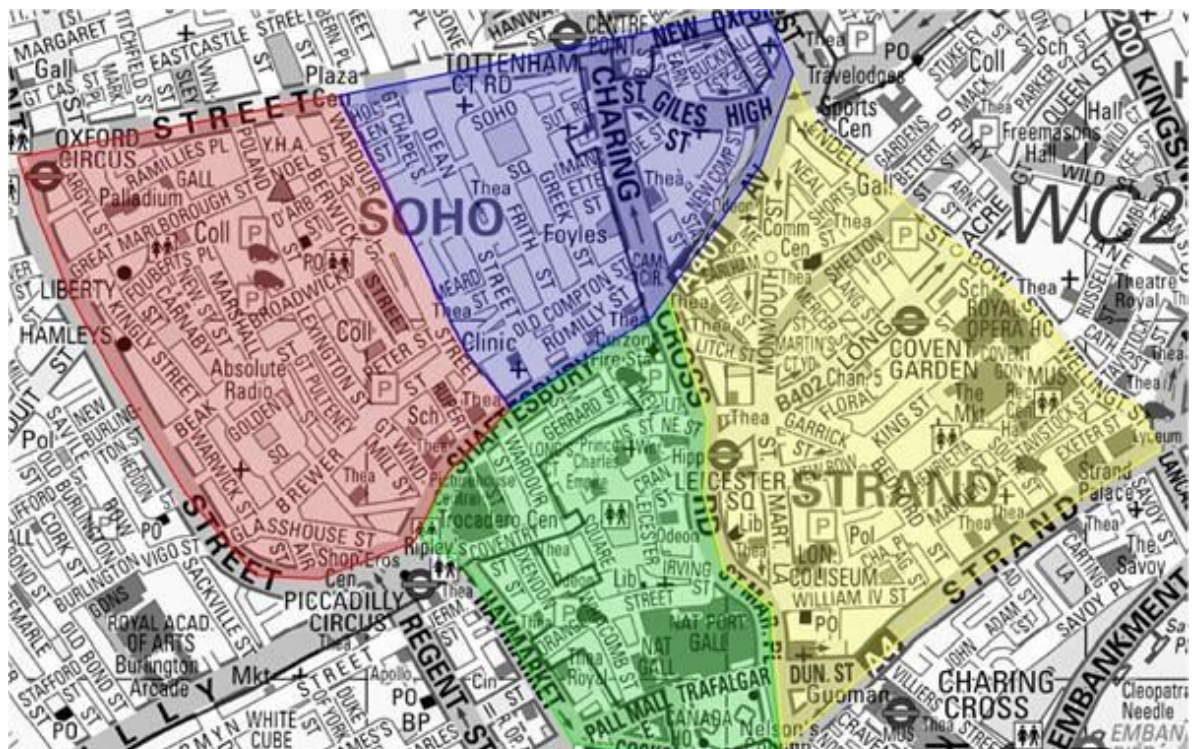
Al Fresco Returns

More than 600 hospitality businesses now have outdoor dining licences and this scheme and residents have been informed it will remain throughout the summer months. The temporary measures were first introduced in July last year, and since then when 60 streets were “transformed” with temporary road closures and pavement widening.

WCC say that will continue to ensure that safety remains a priority: “We recognise these may cause a disruption to some residents and non-hospitality businesses and we will ensure any such impact is kept to an absolute minimum.... City Inspectors and COVID-19 Marshals have been on hand to ensure that those who visit Westminster are able to enjoy the best it has to offer, in a safe way that is considerate to our residents”. However, this has not been the experience of many West End residents, see the article below, which is sadly a not untypical result of the al fresco relaxations.

Anyone with concerns can email covidenquiries@westminster.gov.uk.

Anti-Social Behaviour Returns





The return of outdoor hospitality has also resulted in the return of outdoor inhospitality:

A Section 35 Dispersal was authorised from 1300 hours the 24th of April 2021 until 0700 hours the 26th of April 2021 by the Metropolitan Police. The areas affected covered essentially the whole area of Soho down through Covent Garden down as far as the Strand. The reason cited for the order was an increase in anti-social behaviour connected with licensed premises over recent weeks. "This has come in the form of intoxicated groups urinating in the street, staging street party style gatherings. Other linked groups are targeting visitors with fraudulent activity, stealing from or otherwise harassment."

Plans to Demolish Another of Soho's Iconic Buildings



Over the past 10 years no part of Westminster has seen more large-scale demolition and rebuilding than Soho. In spite of it being a designated conservation area so much its heritage has been lost that even WCC decided that things had gone far enough and made it a Special Policy Area (SPA) in its latest City Plan in which it boldly stated: "Development in the Soho Special Policy Area will reflect its unique character and function and demonstrate how it respects, protects and enhances the existing scale and grain of the built environment and the unique mixture of uses present there."

Soho has few green spaces and one of the most significant of these is Soho Square and in recognition of this the SPA gives it special protection: "Furthermore, Soho Square (is a)... designated London Square that performs an important heritage function. As a result the setting and scale

...the most important heritage element is a room, the rooming and room should be respected in development proposals". WCC City Plan.

One of the most iconic buildings in Soho Square, built just before the Second World War, is the 20th Century Fox building still standing strong and sturdy on the south west corner of the Square at the top of Frith Street. There is now an application, shortly to be heard by the WCC Planning Committee, to demolish this building to make way for a new, more land intensive, development.

The City Plan Policies, both under the general heritage provisions and those in the Soho SPA should render this application untenable. However, sadly, we have witnessed many examples of City Plan Policies being overridden in cases like this and the Soho Society is understandably concerned that another part of its built heritage is about to be lost and a great deal more pollution generated in the process: "It is evident to the Society from the process adopted by the council that it is minded to grant the permission as it wants increased rent and rates rather than the protection of the Soho conservation area and the environment. The demolition of this 1937 building, rather than its refurbishment, will release thousands of tonnes of CO2 and exacerbate the climate crisis (also in direct contradiction to the council's stated policies)....Under the council's new approach no building in any Westminster Conservation Area is safe unless it is listed" And not necessarily even then - as experience in Marylebone has taught us.

You can find more about the application on Westminster City Council's planning page which is [here](#). Find the application with reference 19/04164/FULL.

Any Objections must be filed by 4 May 2021

Home delivery - 24/7- What's not to like?



Many readers will have noticed the sudden upsurge in 24 hour a day delivery services replicating the traditional corner shop such as - Snappy Shopper, Getir, Gorillas and Zapp. Unlike Deliveroo or UberEats these apps (which is what they are) will deliver anything within 20 to 30 minutes direct to your door - OTC medicines, loo paper, frozen peas and ... alcohol. Alcohol sales require

these operators to apply for a licence but the current licencing laws really do not cater well for this activity.

Usually licencing is about public nuisance or the prevention of crime so off-licences have to close at 23:00. However, if these services were to create a nuisance it may be absolutely nothing to do with alcohol sales as they can deliver anything else they like at any time. The fulfilment centres they need to use can be restocked during normal daytime hours so are unlikely to be an extraordinary nuisance. Zapp has one in Old Brompton Road, and is applying for a licence at locations in Finchley Road and Great Portland Street.

Some of issues that have been raised with us are:

- Airbnb renters, say, ordering alcohol to extend parties in the small hours
- Delivery drivers ringing the wrong doorbell in a block of flats at 3:00am
- Delivery bikes blocking pavements at fulfilment centres

It is also clear that the fulfilment centres may not be very attractive in the context of their location. For example the Zapp premises on The Old Brompton Road are shown above.

Libertarians may welcome the new-found convenience and maybe if the businesses are well run they won't be a nuisance. We believe Westminster needs to think about what sort of policies should apply to these operations, if any, and would be interested in hearing the views of members.

MA Interviews London Mayoral Candidates

As normality slowly returns to London, 2021 will see the city face some of its biggest challenges since the war. At this critical point, the Marylebone Association thought it would be interesting to speak to candidates for London Mayor to find out a bit more about their motivations for standing and their key concerns for London over the next few years. The London Mayoral and Assembly Election is on Thursday May 6th. The MA is interviewing some of the candidates over the run-up to find out why they want to be Mayor of London and how their policies may affect us. Read the interviews [here](#).

Here is the full list of 20 candidates in the order they will appear on the ballot paper (alphabetical) with their chosen party or independent description.

BAILEY Shaun - Conservative Party

BALAYEV Kam - Renew

BERRY Sian - Green Party

BINFACE Count - Count Binface for Mayor of London

CORBYN Piers - Let London Live

FOSH Max - Independent

FOX Laurence - The Reclaim Party

GAMMONS Peter - UKIP

HEWISON Richard - Rejoin EU

HUDSON Vanessa - Animal Welfare Party – People, Animals, Environment

KELLEHER Steve - Social Democratic Party

KHAN Sadiq - Labour Party

KURTEN David - Heritage Party

LONDON Farah - Independent

BROWN Valerie - The Burning Pink Party

OBUNGE Nims - Independent

OMILANA Niko - Independent

PORRITT Luisa - Liberal Democrats

REID Mandu - Vote Women's Equality Party on orange

ROSE Brian - London Real Party

Support Your MP on the Caxton Walk Challenge



MP Nickie Aiken is undertaking the #10for10 Challenge on behalf of Caxton Youth Organisation, a specialist youth service for children and young people with learning disabilities and autism from across Westminster. They have a youth club in Pimlico and their own island in Surrey where they offer residential trips. They work with those aged 6-25 who can take part in activities such as dance, cooking and art and make friends, while their families get much needed respite. Demand for their services have tripled since the pandemic began.

The challenge is to undertake 10 walks of 10,000 steps. The #10for10challenge, was set up by fellow MP Guy Opperman, after he collapsed from a brain tumour in the House of Commons. Nickie says, "many

collapsed from a brain tumour in the House of Commons. Nickie says, "Many of us have walked more over the last year as it was often the only exercise we could do! I think it is so important to get out and exercise for our physical and mental health so being able to undertake 10 10,000 step walks will be a challenge but a worthwhile one. I visited Caxton earlier this week to discuss the campaign and they are hoping to join me on one of my forthcoming walks too!"

Anyone who wishes to help support our MP's challenge and the Caxton Youth Organisation can do so at:
www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/nickie10for10caxton

House Price Slump - It's Worst in Westminster

While the rest of the U.K. appears to be enjoying a housing boom during the pandemic, central London has seen the reverse, as sliding rents weigh on prices - and the best bargains are to be found in City of Westminster, where prices have tumbled by as much as 37% compared with a year earlier. This is the sharpest drop seen in the capital according to a report by chartered surveyors e.surv.

Other central areas have been hit, house prices in the City of London slumped 10.8% in the year through January, while Tower Hamlets, where rival financial district Canary Wharf is based, saw values drop 9.5%, it is reported.

Rents have also taken a battering as lockdowns spurred residents to move to greener areas with more space and thousands of workers are leaving London, meaning investors have avoided central city deals. The resulting house-price dips have occurred even as the government provided a series of support measures to bolster the market. "The regions have benefited as city dwellers have opted to embrace working from home with far less commuting," said Richard Sexton, director at e.surv. "Lifestyle changes and the stamp duty change have worked together to underpin the price rises of the last year."

Local agents however hope that with the end of lockdown in sight the flight to greener pastures will slow and indeed reverse in the months to come. Our favourite local agent already reports a 40% increase in properties let over last year's pre-covid spring figures and a large increase in people looking - so maybe we are in for a summer boom.

West End footfall - rises above expectations

Property Week reports that according to footfall data compiled by the New West End Company, the number of visitors was higher than the anticipated 40% expected in the first week since non-essential retail was allowed to reopen. The first Saturday after the reopening saw footfall of around 70% of the usual April visitors and compared with last year's June reopening, overall footfall climbed by 125%.

However in Oxford Street 28 out of 212 shops - over 13% - are either boarded up or their occupants have clearly left for the last time: Topshop, Debenhams and Evans are brands that have closed for good. John Lewis and Marks and Spencer are downsizing and many other companies have consolidated their store portfolios on the street. Gone are the days where brands would sport multiple outlets along Oxford Street. Next, River Island and Boots have one flagship store, whereas before the pandemic they had two or three.

By comparison, the only shop boarded up on Regent Street is US fashion store J Crew, which closed before the pandemic. On Bond Street there are a few boarded-up stores but it is mainly open for business. For other consumer chains, there is an upside - vacant shops and lower rental costs mean they can now open in locations that were once prohibitively expensive.

Before Covid, the area represented by the New West End Company - Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street - turned over about £10bn a year, half of which was from tourism. With foreign tourists unable to return for the foreseeable future and 15 outlets on the street catering only to foreign exchange or souvenirs, retailers are facing an uphill struggle. The New West End Company hopes to see sales return to normal in 2023, but others think that even this date is optimistic.

129 -137 Marylebone Road



129 - 137 Marylebone Road is a nine-storey 1930's building with 1960's rear extensions and a three-storey car park/storage) has received approval for the creation of 1,395sqm of office space.

This entails the retention and refurbishment of the existing 1930's building

This entails the retention and refurbishment of the existing 1960's building, with a roof extension and terraces towards at the rear, a demolition of all but the frame of the 1960's building, demolition of the three-storey structure to the rear and construction of new three-storey and part four-storey "Mews" building for office use.

The Georgian Society and a number of local residents objected to proposals on the grounds of perceived harm to the Portman Estate Conservation Area and the setting of listed buildings in the surrounding streets as well as over intensification of the site, residential amenity, servicing and construction/noise disturbance. Cllr Eoghain Murphy (Bryanston and Dorset Square) spoke to the committee to object and echoed the aforementioned points.

WCC Officers stated that the proposals represented a great improvement on the existing building which fitted in more comfortably with the surrounding listed buildings and noted the servicing measures would safeguard residential amenity.

The committee ultimately agreed and believed the application's land use, design and bulk were all acceptable. Cllr Barraclough noted that it was heartening to see companies still wanting to invest in Westminster and bring forward high-quality office space. The sensitivity of the application for the local community was recognised, nonetheless the application was approved unanimously.

Beware E-scooters

E-scooters are a growing problem for the police, and the public. They are increasingly used as the criminals vehicle of choice in muggings and bag and phone snatches. If you see one on the streets exercise caution it could well be stolen and being used to commit crimes. Because they are virtually silent people are often unaware that there is a problem until it is too late.

John Lewis brings Easter Cheer

For the second year the staff at John Lewis have generously donated a number of boxes of Easter eggs and hot cross buns to the Marylebone Association Covid Help Group. Their Easter donations have been distributed to the local homeless and rough sleepers who were really touched by their very kind gesture towards the local community.

The Homeless Club at Hinde Street Methodist Church and the Jesus Centre, Fitzrovia also received donations. Others have gone to the The Marylebone Project, Cosway Street - Women's Refuge and to various churches, and elderly people living alone

We would like to pass on our appreciation and thanks to the staff at John Lewis - their kindness is greatly appreciated and has helped to make Easter that bit better for many.

Become a Vaccine Marshal

The NHS needs volunteers to help as vaccine marshals at the ETC venue, Marble Arch on Tuesdays and Fridays. The NHS needs new volunteers to start on Tuesday 4th May and Friday 7th May and be committed to their selected slot until the final week of May.

As a vaccine marshal, you will be helping people make their way safely through the vaccine centre to get their vaccines. You will be working both in the centre and outside to support people when they arrive to queue safely, and to let them know what to expect. You will be on your feet for the duration of the shift, apart from short breaks, so we advise that only volunteers who are willing and able to do this register. You will be asked to do a lateral flow test when you arrive. Lunch will be available on site in the form of sandwiches but there are also microwaves in the staff area if you prefer to bring your own. Tea and coffee will also be available.

Location: ETC venue, 86 Edgware Rd, London W2 2EA

Start Date: Tuesday 4th May or Friday 7th May, committed to selected slot until final week of May.

Time: 7:30am - 2pm OR 1:30pm - 8pm

Slots available: 8 volunteers for Tuesday AM, 8 for Tuesday PM and 6 for Friday PM

Registration form to confirm your availability –

The first few volunteers to sign up will be given an Induction Pack to their registered e-mail address before starting in addition to confirmation of their slot - the sooner you register the more likely you are to get a spot!

<http://bit.ly/WCCNHSETCMarbleArchMarshallsMay>

Marylebone Mums & Dads

The Marylebone Mums & Dad group has been running for nearly 8 years now and is over 2,800 members strong! The group provides friendship, support and advice to local families about parenting and navigating life in the big city as well as sharing un-influenced recommendations about services and products.

“We are a friendly, active community and welcome parents and carers to join our ‘village’

The last 12-18 months have been hard for people with babies and little ones so we hope to find lots of opportunities for our youngest members to enjoy some socialisation!”

“As we move towards normality not only will we be setting up meet ups (in line with Government guidelines), but also spreading the word about classes and activities for kids in the local area. We are so pleased to see many of the long-term class providers returning with fun sessions for kids of all ages.”

Please join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylebonemums> or on Instagram @MaryleboneMumsDads or email marylebonemums@gmail.com to find out about our lively Telegram groups.

Samaritan Hospital, Marylebone Road

There is a petition on the Council's website calling on the Council to make better use of vacant land and buildings, including the Samaritan Hospital on Marylebone Road which could be turned into accommodation for essential workers.

<https://petitions.westminster.gov.uk/nospacewasted/>

The Marylebone Association understands the reason it has yet to be developed is because the basement of the building houses the plant and machinery for the next door West London Eye Hospital.

Jewish life in the West End

A group of former West Enders, working in association with the London Museum of Jewish Life, have recorded evocative memories of the social life they enjoyed during their formative years in the 1920s and 1930s. Dr Gerry Black has set their recollections in the perspective of the broader history of West End Jewry.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Living-Up-West-Jewish-Londons/dp/0951161369>

Oxford Street History

The final instalment of the four-part review of The Survey of London volume devoted to Oxford Street, focuses on numbers 164 to 212 — the area between Winsley Street and Great Portland Street.

<https://fitzroviaanews.com/2021/03/01/oxford-street-from-winsley-street-to-great-portland-street/>

Regent's Park

Edward Kellow and Sue Blundell write about the secrets of St John's Lodge Garden

<https://fitzroviaanews.com/2021/03/08/the-secret-of-st-johns-lodge-garden/>

<https://fitzroviaanews.com/2021/03/15/dont-go-near-the-water-the-story-of-hylas/>

Two WLM Sponsored Events

A message from WLM (West London Mission): This May you can run, roll, walk, cycle or even swim... it's completely up to you. It's all about getting out and feeling good while you're doing it!

Run For Heroes has raised more than £7 million for NHS Charities and now partners with WLM and is launching its latest challenge by turning the month of May into a celebration of physical activity with the 5kMay campaign.

As the name suggests, it's all about getting fit and hitting that 5km target.

It's not just about running though - you could walk, roll, skip or even swim your 5 kilometers if you wish!

All that matters is getting your body moving and raising vital funds for WLM, supporting us to empower people affected by homelessness, poverty and trauma to make positive changes in their lives.

To get more information on the challenge or to sign up please visit WLM's website <https://www.wlm.org.uk/>

One of WLM's six services is the WLM Kathrine Price Hughes (KPH) service, a 24-hour/7 day-a-week Independent Approved Premise with capacity to house 20 ex-offenders leaving prison. Here residents receive high-level support during their journey in transitioning from custody to the community.

Diana O'Flynn, 98 years old, has taken up the 'Around the Sitting Room in 80 Days' challenge to raise funds for WLM Kathrine Price Hughes (KPH) service. The service was set up by Diana's great grandmother Katherine Price Hughes back in 1887, so she wishes to honour her work by fundraising for WLM.

Diana's aim is to cycle for at least half an hour every day until June 30. She started on Monday, April 12 and her 80-day challenge can be followed on Instagram: @aroundthesittingroomin80days.

You can support Diana via her Go Fund Me page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/around-the-sitting-room-in-80-days>, all donations go directly to WLM empowering people to make positive changes in their lives.

Watch the video about WLM Katherine Price Hughes service on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIPKvxqf-ZQ>

EVENTS

Saturday 22 May 2021 at 11.00 am - King's Cross Walk

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This is just the start – and fully in accordance with current Government regulations – but watch this space for next month when we're planning:

An open-air picnic in the Park (June 8th or 9th)

An informal gathering outside, you're invited to 'bring your own' refreshments OR buy from the Regents Park cafe

Alfresco dinner at Anacapri (June 16th)

Put the dates in the diary now, full details to follow.

We also haven't forgotten:

Dinner at Bright Courtyard

Tour of Selfridges with breakfast at The Brasserie of Light

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday 4 May 6.00 pm

Members normally meet at The King's Head pub in Westmoreland Street – but recently have been meeting 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 next Zoom meeting starts at 6.

This month's choice is One More Croissant For The Road by Felicity Cloake.

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

PUB EVENINGS The good news is they too will be returning after June 21 – look out for further details

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 23 June 2021 10.30 am

The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square W1U 3BN

Our first coffee morning in 2021 will be held in the wonderful Atrium Restaurant surroundings. An opportunity to meet new members and old friends. No need to book – £5 per person. Everyone is welcome.

SCRABBLE CLUB

had got used to meeting twice a month (the second and fourth Tuesday of each month) at The Natural Kitchen. Then Covid struck and sadly The Natural Kitchen is now firmly closed. However we are planning our next session for 22nd June (all being well on the Covid front) and we're looking for a new venue. We have a few possibilities but all suggestions are still very welcome. Further details, contact rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org or 0788 789 1977

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