



# Marylebone Association

Newsletter September 2021

## Mound and Fury



The Marble Arch Mound's descent from "showpiece attraction" to public laughing stock has been fast and furious. Westminster had hoped that the Mound would bring accolades, but surely not the type that it is now regularly receiving, such as: "the worst thing that I've ever done in London", and "London's Worst Attraction".

On top of the near universal derision, if that wasn't bad enough, WCC have now admitted that the Marble Arch Mound project is actually costing Westminster taxpayers £6.6 million. This is over three times the revised £2 million cost which itself was a large increase on the £700- 900k figure that we were given at the launch.

Council Leader Rachael Behan is on record as promising that "we will be

Council Leader Rachael Robathan is on record as promising that "we will be able to cover almost all of the construction and operating costs over its six-month lifespan from ticket sales and sponsorship". However the Council appears to be sufficiently embarrassed about the true costs involved to have refused to answer FOI requests (see article below). In addition there will be no costs recovered from ticket sales as the decision has been made to permanently scrap charges for visiting the ill-fated attraction. The figure for sponsorship has been given at £450,000, but will Marks and Spencer, or other companies now want their names associated with a failed project?

Someone needed to be seen to be taking the blame for this mess, and this fell to Deputy Leader Cllr Melvyn Caplan, who spearheaded the project on behalf of WCC. So it is he who has now resigned, but the original idea for the mound was unlikely to have come from him. It would be interesting to hear from Elad Eisenstein, the programme Director appointed to mastermind the whole Oxford Street District on this subject. Mr Eisenstein is a member of the Mayor of London's Infrastructure Advisory Panel, he lectures widely on issues of cities, urbanism and sustainable design and publishes in leading UK and international magazines.

Regardless of where the idea came from, this a scandal that need not have occurred, if only the council had listened to the many sceptical voices against, including warnings, it may be said, made in the pages of this newsletter. Back in March we pointed out that there had been an earlier, unsuccessful, go at mound-building, with the same architects, MVRDV, in 2004, when they proposed covering the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park in such a structure. This project was aborted due to the expense and difficulty of its delivery. The Serpentine Gallery managed to work out what Westminster Council couldn't - that a high speed hillside greening project was a silly idea that was likely to get very expensive and should be avoided.

It is therefore not surprising the Mound has failed - introduced as it was by a few people at the top of the council, without any proper due diligence, not voted on by councillors and without any apparent wider consultation - say, with other landscaping experts. For instance Tony Wood, Garden Club London director, told Pro-landscaper Magazine that the computer generated images were not realistic, he believes "it would take at least between five to ten years to look like that."

The Labour Group have called for an independent inquiry into the council's mishandling of the Mound (since rejected by WCC) and have further supported the united Westminster Amenity Societies call (see below) for an immediate suspension of major schemes in the Council's £150m Oxford Street District project, "such as the Oxford Circus Piazzas, until an independent investigation conducts the necessary root and branch assessment of the Council's ability to handle big projects. At present no resident can trust Westminster Council to deliver what it promises, respond to legitimate concerns or spend public money wisely."

"This latest stunning revelation clearly exposes the hubris, incompetence and unaccountability of Westminster's ruling Conservative administration who have allowed the Mound's costs to triple without telling anyone...residents will have their opportunity at next May's Council Elections to hold Westminster Conservatives to account for their arrogance and mismanagement"

However, the council remains bullish about the Mound and its wider renewal plans, insisting doing nothing is not an option and with a fifth of shops on Oxford Street said to have closed permanently. there is little doubt action

needs to be taken. The problem is that the council needs to select the correct course of action. At least, by a process of elimination they can now discount building any more hills and should equally avoid other grandiose under researched projects.

## WASF Warning to Westminster

Following on from the Mound debacle, above, the revelation of massive cost overruns and the resignation of the Deputy Leader, a [letter](#) has been sent to the Leader of Westminster Council on behalf of 24 Westminster Amenity Societies (WASF) drawing attention to the many problems stemming from WCC's lack of consultation with residents of which this is only one example.

A number of serious concerns with Westminster's governance were listed in WASF's letter, which claimed that many people felt their participation in local affairs is "futile". It alleged that some consultations show evidence of clear manipulation to encourage consultees to arrive at the conclusion the council wishes to see. "The spin put on some presentations is unacceptable, often the information needed for commentators like ourselves to evaluate the proposals is deliberately obscured by graphics and other glossy marketing techniques'".

While praising the council for its initial response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Forum was critical of the continuing use of temporary experimental traffic orders (ETOs) introduced with no consultation and used to pave the way for permanent changes.

The group claimed that the council's system of cabinet government gave too much power to a small number of people at the top, with other councillors unable to mount effective opposition. "We feel that the existing system of cabinet governance has resulted in the decision-making process being devolved to a small number of people at the top of the council with the majority of our elected councillor representatives being sidelined or too invested in the system to raise effective opposition on behalf of the residents who vote for them."

Certainly the Covid crisis has been used to implement plans which would never normally have been considered, often to the detriment of residents in the West End who endured these changes for the greater good during the pandemic. "In addition, these ETO's, originally used as an emergency measure are now being systematically utilised to bring in very substantial road changes to the West End by edict. Only once these are in place, does the council then claim to consult".

"This is unsatisfactory, as the ETO shifts the burden from why do it, to why remove it. This is compounded by the large amount of public money that has by that stage been spent, giving further weight to keeping the measures in place. What guarantee do we have with this new form of consultation that any real consulting is done, rather than just work to justify the position already arrived at?"

Further, it was stated by the WASF signatories that throughout this crisis WCC has remained too close to landlords and businesses and not close enough to residents. "Whilst there should always be dialogue with landlords and business, it should be more transparent, at arm's length and not to the

exclusion of listening to residents. As a result of this close relationship, the council are unduly focused on maintaining the prominence of the West End.”

On the Mound, this appeared to emerge from a single consultant’s suggestion and was then pushed forward by those running the OSD project. It had almost no support except from the New West End Company and the Marble Arch BID, who naturally welcomed any council money being invested in their immediate area of interest, whatever the justification. “It was not voted on by councillors, it was not consulted on, it was introduced, almost on the spur of the moment by a few people at the top of the council.”

“This top driven approach has now proved to have failed. The Mound project has met with universal, indeed, international disparagement. Now, the further revelation of a massive cost overrun on an already failed project has made the council also look incompetent and unable to properly manage its own finances.” The letter went on to question whether the right person had resigned. The Deputy leader Melvyn Caplin has gone, but he had the job of driving the project through, who actually was responsible for sanctioning it in the first place? “Has the buck stopped at the right place?” the letter asked.

## End the Piazza Folly Now

Will the Mound however be the only such debacle? There are worrying parallels with the Oxford Street Piazza project. This also has many voices warning against it, again with only big business in favour, and in fact helping to fund it. It is seen by residents as a scheme to divert Oxford Street’s traffic through the neighbouring areas in order to provide the Crown Estate with a new central London shopping centre. “Once again it is being forced through as an ETO scheme, without consultation, in the face of sustained opposition. Involving as it does, a major and very complicated rerouting of all Oxford Street traffic there is significant potential here for an even greater disaster”. WASF letter to Council Leader

Cllr Robathan has claimed that Westminster Council “exists to serve its residents, and that is why we seek the views of local people before taking any major decisions”.

That is good to hear, but has a somewhat hollow ring to it. This has not been the experience of residents to date. Whether or not the council is actually listening will be determined by action not words. Residents didn’t want the Mound, but they got it. They don’t want the Piazzas - but will they be heard this time? What better way of showing she is actually listening than by scrapping this untested and inadvisable scheme to divert buses, taxis and commercial traffic through our area for the sake of giving Crown Estates a glorified shopping mall?

Westminster Council now knows the Mound was a mistake, but the Piazzas could turn out to be a far bigger one. This project is on an entirely different level of expense (the actual costs WCC has ominously consistently refused to divulge). The Piazzas are the result of a top driven political decision made on commercial grounds on the back of big landlord lobbying - hardly a felicitous combination. Does Westminster really need to end up with the risk of an even greater disaster in the centre of London than they have inflicted on us already with the Mound?

## Road Closure Double Standards?

Whereas the council are proposing to close a main thoroughfare in central London, Extinction Rebellion have in fact beaten them to it and done so already. The Leader was quick off the mark writing to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime about the ongoing Extinction Rebellion protests: “....We are therefore concerned about any activity which threatens our fragile recovery. Scenes of blocked-off streets and inaccessible businesses do not encourage people to come to the West End..”

Scenes of blocked-off streets? In that case, she might like to look again at the streets that her council has blocked-off and the ones that she plans to close in the Oxford Street District - surely this, albeit more legal activity, also threatens our fragile recovery?

## Mound costs hidden behind Environmental legislation

Westminster Council have refused to answer some basic Freedom of Information (FOI) requests about the cost of the Marble Arch Mound, choosing to hide behind Environmental legislation.

FOI requests were made in February about the costs and answered on 12 May without any issues. “The construction costs for the project are approximately £2m”.

However, FOI [requests](#) made in June about the cost of the architect and details of £450,000 of sponsorship arrangements have been refused following an internal review claiming they are “environmental in nature” and fall under different legislation:

“(WCC) considers that the information is environmental in nature, i.e. it relates to the state of elements in the landscape and to a built structure. As a result the request should have been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 [EIR]... as a result, at this time the information you have requested is excepted from disclosure under the course of justice and inquiries exception at regulation 12(5)(b) of the EIR.”

So much for open, honest and transparent!

## Next, Pedestrianise Park Lane?

The Mayfair Times recently held a “Future of Mayfair” roundtable discussion, a group of business leaders from various sections outlined their future vision for Mayfair across a range of subjects. From sustainability, luxury retail to the



local community, various ideas were put forward.

Architect Liam Hennessy proposed to pedestrianise the Mayfair side of Park Lane to create a “really elegant avenue like Constitution Hill”. Expanding on the idea, he stated that a two-way traffic system would be put on the Park side whilst the Mayfair side would have a “fantastic, tree-lined, west-facing avenue full of restaurants, cafes, art exhibitions, or anything else you want.” This of course is not a new idea, it was last proposed by Grosvenor Estates in their neighbourhood plan where it got precisely nowhere and was widely dismissed as unworkable.

Westminster has had a bruising experience in the past when trying to pedestrianise key thoroughfares - but now in this new era of Mounds and Piazzas, who knows?

## Plea to Reduce Hours for Outside Tables



Westminster is hearing rather a lot from groups of amenity societies at present. Following on from the WASF letter above, the West End Community Network, (WECN) a body representing the West End Amenity Societies, of which Marylebone Association is a member, is now up in arms about the disturbance to residents, particularly in Soho, from Al Fresco activities. They have written to Westminster Council asking them to bring their pavement licence hours into line with other London Boroughs.

They want the standard (or default) end time for Pavement Licences changed to 22:00 from the current 23:00 to reduce the disturbance caused to residents. The letter emphasises that this is not in any way supporting the al fresco concept, to which it remains opposed, it is simply trying to mitigate it.

The letter outlines the two different legislative schemes which permit tables and chairs on the street.

The first gives licences for tables and chairs under the City of Westminster Act 1992. The second gives licences for tables and chairs under the City of Westminster Act 1992.

1999. The guidance states that applicants need to take account “the likely effect on local residents, businesses and the general amenity of the area” and limits hours to acceptable times. It also makes clear that tables and chairs will not normally be allowed on the highway after 23:00. However this time has become the default time for tables and chairs.

The second is under the Business and Planning Act 2020 - a fast-track process introduced to permit tables and chairs to help businesses to trade through Covid. This was also much cheaper for the applicant than the previous licensing system. This process allowed WCC to set a default end time as part of the standard conditions and WCC set this at 23:00, in line with the latest time permitted under the tables and chairs guidance.

The result has been that where tables and chairs are permitted in Westminster they are usually allowed to be in use until 23:00. Other London Boroughs within the Central Activities Zones apart from the City of London, have chosen 22:00 as the default end time for Pavement Licensing. Where a reason is given it is to reduce the risk of nuisance being caused to residents.

The Amenity Societies in the areas with the highest concentration of outdoor tables and chairs, feel that reducing the “standard” times by 1 hour will help significantly reduce the negative impact on residents of outside dining.

This is a separate issue from that of whether road closures and bay closures should be made to facilitate al fresco.

## Review of Sites for EV charging and Cycle Parking





WCC is reviewing its sustainable transport on-street assets across the borough. These include electric vehicle (EV) charging points, secure cycle parking ('hangars') and cycle stands. They are also looking at spaces for e-bikes to avoid them being left on pavements. With all of these, it is key that they are placed where they are most needed. We have been informed that the council is willing to listen to local requests to aid them in identifying in-demand and suitable locations.

The Association is putting forward a list of preferred sites, if you have any suggestions that you would like us to forward for consideration for new EV charge points, secure cycle parking and cycle stands across the borough, please email [info@marylebone.org](mailto:info@marylebone.org) and we try to include them in our submission. The deadline for submissions is Friday 10th September 2021, so please let us know your thoughts before this time.

# AROUND WESTMINSTER

## Forum Referendums

Both [Soho](#) and [Fitzrovia West](#) are to hold referendums on their proposed Neighbourhood Plans on 2 September. As Business Neighbourhoods both Soho and Fitzrovia West will involve a separate referendum of businesses. Only if a positive vote is received from both groups will the plan go forward. In the case of one group only approving the plan, the final decision will be made by WCC.

There has been a flurry of successful referendums in London following the easing of lockdown restrictions and neighbourhood plans have recently been made in Camley Street (90% for, 7.2% against, 30.8% turnout), Isle of Dogs (86%, 14%, 38%), Redington Frognaal (88%, 12%, 19.2%) and West Finchley (83%, 17%, 28.6%).

It may be asked what has happened to the Marylebone Forum's Neighbourhood Plan?

## Conservatives candidates announced for West End ward

Westminster Week reports that Cllr Timothy Barnes, Cllr Eoghain Murphy and Julie Redmond have been selected as the Conservative candidates for the West End Ward leading up to the 2022 local elections.



Next year's elections will be contested on new boundaries following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission to ensure that councillors represent approximately the same number of voters. The updated West End Ward will represent largely the same area as it currently does but will incorporate more of Fitzrovia and Marylebone. You can view the updated ward boundaries [here](#).

Cllr Barnes has represented the ward since 2018, he is currently the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Lead Member for Soho. Cllr Jonathan Glanz is the present Lord Mayor and will be stepping down after 13 years of service in the West End ward as a councillor serving on a variety of committees, and for some time as a cabinet member.

Cllr Eoghain Murphy and Julie Redmond will be the two new Conservative candidates for the ward. Cllr Murphy currently represents Bryanston and Dorset Square Ward (which will be lost as a result of the boundary changes) and also sits on the Planning Applications Sub-Committee. Julie Redmond lives in Marylebone and is a member of the Marylebone Association Committee, responsible for Business Liaison and Community Engagement and is a qualified A&E nurse.

In the 2018 local elections, Westminster Week reports, Cllr Pancho Lewis (Labour) broke a 32 year stretch of unanimous Conservative representation for the ward. In a tightly fought election, the Labour candidate secured 984 votes compared to 990 for Cllr Barnes and 973 for Cllr Glanz.

It remains to be seen how the boundary changes will affect next year's vote but local issues such as the Mound, al fresco and Oxford Street diversions will no doubt be on residents' minds.

As at the time of writing we have not been informed of the candidates selected for the new Marylebone Ward.

## Signs of Office Revival in the West End

The latest West End Office [Market Watch](#) from Savills has shown that there are 'tentative signs of recovery'. The report notes that take-up in June reached 216,467 sq ft across 24 transactions which makes Q2 of 2021 the strongest quarter since Covid restrictions began in March 2020. A large number of office occupiers are beginning to re-activate their searches for space, with the total number of active requirements reaching 5.57m sqft (a 13% increase from the previous month).

The New West End Company(NWEC) feel that one reason for the Oxford Street area lagging behind many other areas in recovery is partly down to the continuing absence of office workers due to the fact that many offices in the area are still shut. Jace Tyrrell (Chief Executive of NWEC) says it will take "quite some time" to get spending in the area back to pre-covid levels, which is partly down to the absence of office workers. Short-term pop-ups from unorthodox but "really interesting brands" were due to open on Oxford Street across the next few months which the NWEC Chief Executive said would be good for the area

good for the area.

However the Estates Gazette reports that London landlords are being forced to give away between 12 to 16 month in rent free periods in prime rent areas, thus propping up the headline rental figure.

## Congestion Charge Update

The Mayor of London promised that the hours for the Congestion Charge, the fee and the exemptions would revert to their pre-pandemic levels this September.

However TfL has now launched a consultation which, if confirmed, will mean from 28 February 2022 the charge will stay in force from noon until 6pm at weekends and the increase to £15 will be retained. This is widely seen as harmful to many businesses within the congestion zone.

On the positive side, following much outcry TfL now plans to re-introduce the residents' discount after withdrawing it to new applicants in August 2020. For more information on the proposals, you can [visit the TfL](#) consultation page. The consultation will run until Wednesday 6 October.

## The reality of the New City Plan

It is becoming clear that the new City Plan gives strong support to the retention of office use within the Central Activities Zone (CAZ). An application in Mayfair, Leconfield House - to turn M15's former Mayfair headquarters into a private members club has been dealt a blow after Westminster Council rejected it for breaching the new policy framework it adopted in April.

The building contains around 96,000 sq ft of commercial space, most of which is offices. In February, councillors voted to approve the plans for a private members club. However, prior to issuing the decision, the new City Plan was formally adopted. In light of the new plan officers then felt there was insufficient information submitted to justify loss of office use to hotel and private members' club use within the Central Activities Zone (CAZ) and therefore recommended refusal.

The committee agreed and said that they had previously expressed concern about aspects of the application but felt there was no policy basis to refuse - now there was and they refused the application unanimously.

## TfL to increase fines on Red Routes

London's red routes are roads managed by TfL and make up five per cent of roads but carry 30 percent of the traffic. TfL intend to increase the maximum fine for contraventions of the rules from £130 to £160. Fines would be reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days.

There is of course a consultation on this, which is [now open](#) until 19 September.

Fine levels were last increased in April 2011 from £120 to £130.

## Westminster Landlords now Required to Register

A borough-wide additional licensing scheme covering all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Westminster came into force on 30 August 2021. Landlords need to be aware that the term HMO's now cover the great majority of rental properties.

Broadly, the scheme includes all properties shared by three or more people who are not all related and share facilities. As usual, the rules are complex.

The council estimates the scheme will cover around 9,000 properties including house and flat shares, bedsits, and some buildings converted into flats. Smaller house and flat shares will now require a licence if they are occupied by three or more people forming more than one household. The definition of household however is different from that found in the dictionary. Under these rules a household only exists if the people in it are related.

The scheme, which is part of the council's wider private rented sector strategy, to enforce higher standards and to protect private renters in HMOs across the city will apply to both new and existing tenancies, including properties occupied on a single group tenancy.

A consultation on the additional licensing scheme was held earlier this year, and the scheme was approved at Westminster City Council's full council meeting.

To ensure compliance, applications should be submitted by 30 August. Operating a HMO without a licence and failing to comply with licensing conditions can lead to a civil penalty of up to £30,000 per offence, or prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Tenants can also reclaim their rent during the period the property was in breach of the licensing scheme.

Cllr Heather Acton, Westminster City Council Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, said: "We want to ensure our residents and communities are living in the highest standards possible in Westminster. The Additional Licensing Scheme gives us a greater ability to monitor and regulate this specific part of the housing sector."

"The scheme puts the safety of our residents first, protecting private rented tenants living in shared properties from poorly managed and badly maintained housing. This helps Westminster have good accommodation so that it is a diverse and desirable place where people want to live. It will help the sector create sustainable tenancies with empowered tenants and reputable landlords."

It remains to be seen how many landlords will be deterred from renting to

empowered tenants by all the additional costs, ferocious penalties for getting it wrong, and red tape that comes with the new legislation. That is, once they become aware of it.

## Westminster Planning Unit Slowest

Estates Gazette reports Westminster City Council is the slowest of all inner London boroughs at handling planning applications and is among the worst performing in the country. Of 330 planning authorities across the country, Westminster is ranked 298..

Across London, councils manage to consider 91% of planning applications within a 13-week deadline, while at Westminster only 75% are considered during this period.

The lacklustre results were revealed in the latest annual update from Westminster's planning and city development committee.

However, Westminster has outperformed the thresholds set by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government. These stipulate that 60% of major applications should be decided within 13 weeks, rising to 70% for non-major schemes. The government body also insists that no more than 10% of decisions are appealed.

While Westminster's major decisions climbed a percentage point during the pandemic – up from 74% at the same time last year – non-major decisions appear to have been put to one side with the council only just meeting the 70% target with a 71.7% rate.

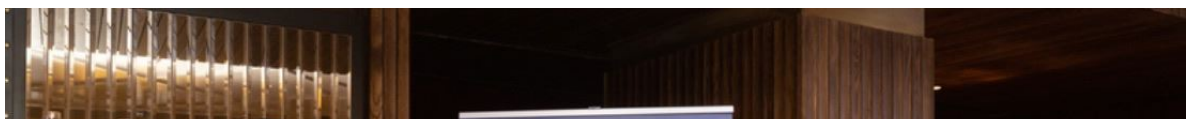
WCC said the reason for its performance was due to the “high volume of major applications”. However, comparative data from other London boroughs shows Westminster received fewer than those that performed better.

During the 24 months ending 31 March this year, 84 major applications were lodged with Westminster, of which 63 were decided within the 13-week target.

However, Wandsworth and Southwark each received 86, with Wandsworth deciding 96% within the deadline and Southwark 92%. Tower Hamlets, which received the most major applications of any London Borough at 97, decided more than 90% of its applications on time.

Its record on non-major applications was also well below the London average of 84.7%, with only Kensington & Chelsea behind it on the leaderboard on 70.5%.

## The Harley Street Area Partnership







The Harley Street Area Partnership is developing a business improvement district for the area either side of Harley Street. As the Partnership moves through the legislative process and following the successful launch of the BID proposal earlier in August, they hope that local businesses and stakeholders will be supportive of the BID at the ballot in November.

“We are looking forward to working collaboratively with the Marylebone Association and other stakeholders as we move forward to become a formalised business vehicle. If you would like to discuss this with the Partnership team please do contact Nicki Palmer (07944 386903)”

nicki@hsm Partnership.com or visit [www.hsm Partnership.com](http://www.hsm Partnership.com)

# The Marylebone Diary

## Companions of the Order of Malta

The casual passer-by at Spanish Place Church on a Monday or Thursday at 6pm will hardly realise that the line of people queuing are in fact members of the homeless community waiting for food and supper organised, made by and distributed by the Companions of the Order of Malta.

It wasn't until we visited Helena Letman and her team at the breakfast club in Soho Square, on a Wednesday morning at 6am did we realise they organised supper clubs in Marylebone too. The Companions take part in all The Order of Malta's charitable activities in Great Britain. Their work focuses but is by no means limited to helping the homeless, the hungry, the disabled, the elderly and the lonely. The volunteers did a fantastic job over the summer months especially as they had an increased number of guests.

## Companions Café

Companions Café, 22 George Street, Spanish Place are always in need of cooks and bakers or helpers. They are not looking for Master chef professionals!

Open Monday and Thursday 6pm-8.45pm

Open Monday and Thursday 9pm-10pm.

Please volunteer and help if you can in some way. Contact Liz if you are free on Monday [elizaleonard@hotmail.com](mailto:elizaleonard@hotmail.com) or Kate on Thursday [companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk](mailto:companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk)

## VV Rouleaux

Richard and Annabel Lewis, husband and wife team and owners of Rouleaux are excited about the next few months between wedding celebrations and commissions and are already in demand for Christmas party commissions. It is without doubt one of the most beautiful shops in Marylebone and always aesthetically pleasing to the eye. We love all the creations in the window, and love to explore inside. They always have amazing exteriors embellishing the outside like a magical fairy tale that awaits within.

Rouleaux is the leading ribbons, trimmings, and accessories shop in Europe. They have supplied products to most of the well-known high street and designer fashion retailers like Burberry, Dior, Alice Temperley. They will have been thirty years in business next year and we cannot wait to celebrate that with them.

VV Rouleaux 102, Marylebone Lane

Finally, the 1888 pub is finally open on Devonshire Street. Looking forward to seeing you all there soon!

# Social

## Long Standing Committee Member Steps Down





Sheila Green (right), one of the leading lights of the Marylebone Social Team is standing down. She has given long and valuable service to the Marylebone Association over the years, both on and off the MA committee. She handled many events during that time including holding the first January drinks party at The Oriental Club in 2018.

Sheila also booked the December Christmas afternoon tea for many years at The Wallace Collection plus many coffee mornings there. Also through her contacts she ran coffee mornings at The Marylebone Hotel (108 Marylebone Lane). In addition, coffee mornings and January drinks parties for several years at The Arch Hotel (now Prince Akotiki). She has also organised the highly popular annual wine tasting lunch at Ishtar for some 14 years, plus organising the Larrik pub nights.

Sheila has finally decided to take life a little easier from now on so our thanks go out to her for all her valuable service through the past years- and all good wishes to her for the future.

The annual Summer Wine Tasting and Lunch was also a huge success at Ishtar, the modern Turkish Restaurant in Crawford Street. A selection of summer rose and white wines, plus some light reds, were discussed and of course enjoyed.

Thanks go to Sheila Green for organising this event – amazingly now in its 14th year!

# EVENTS

**Bright Courtyard Club, 43-45 Baker Street, W1U 8EW**

Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7pm

Building on the success of our last gathering here, in March 2019, this event was originally scheduled for April last year! No prizes for guessing why it was cancelled but finally it's happening. Enjoy a sumptuous feast at this elegant restaurant in the airy glass-roofed courtyard. We will be treated to a selection of starters, a second course of crispy aromatic duck followed by a selection of main courses finishing with a fruit platter, on a typical Chinese-style sharing basis, all at the special price of £30. A service charge of 14% is to be added and a limited bar service will be available on a pay as you go basis.

You do need to book in advance so to reserve your place, please contact Lois German by email on [lois.german@marylebone.org](mailto:lois.german@marylebone.org) or by phone on 020 7487 2706.

**A Guided Tour of Kensal Green Cemetery, Harrow Road NW10 from 2-4pm**

Friday 1st October 2021

A cemetery, an architectural treasure trove or a wildlife park? Kensal Green Cemetery, with its 72 acres of land, could justifiably claim to be all three. Modelled on the famous Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, the General Cemetery of All Souls, Kensal Green, is one of England's oldest and most beautiful public burial grounds, dating back to January 1833 and still in the same ownership. It spreads from the Grand Union Canal to Harrow Road, boasts some extraordinarily fine examples of Victorian Gothic architecture - as well as two conservation areas with some 33 species of birds and other wildlife. Although mainly for burials within the established church, a smaller section of land was allocated to Dissenters with a Chapel for each section.

Our customised tour begins at the Anglican Chapel and we will be guided amongst the listed monuments to hear tales of Royalty, Celebrities, Artists and Authors, with an eye to the famous ex-residents of Marylebone. We end with tea/coffee and biscuits in the Dissenters' Chapel.

The cost is £12 per person (to include tea/coffee) payable in advance. If you would like to join the tour please contact [liz.queenan@marylebone.org](mailto:liz.queenan@marylebone.org). An added bonus: it's a 25 minute direct bus ride (no. 18) from Marylebone Road to the cemetery gates.

Other events coming soon. We haven't forgotten:

Tour of Selfridges with breakfast at The Brasserie of Light

## **REGULAR ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

### **COFFEE MORNING**

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 10.30 am

Holmes Hotel, 83 Chiltern Street, W1U 6NF

Join us at this exciting new venue for an informal gathering for coffee and pastries to meet with old friends and new. Cost to be paid on the day of £5.00 per person. As this is a new location for MA members you will need to book, as numbers are limited. Please either email [lois.german@marylebone.org](mailto:lois.german@marylebone.org) or phone on 0207 487 2706.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 6.30 pm

At last members are meeting up again 'for real' upstairs at The King's Head pub in Westmoreland Street. Anyone who is interested in joining in should contact Liz Queenan. Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30

This month's choice is Agent Sonya, Lover, Mother, Soldier, Spy by Ben MacIntyre. 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**



Monday 13th September 2021 from 6.30 pm

The Prince Regent, 71 Marylebone High Street, W1U 5JN

Continuing our regular bi-monthly pub evenings at this popular London pub with plush bar menu and real ales. Everybody is welcome so do come along, whether you are a regular or new to our pub evenings, our hostess, Anne Hamilton will be there to greet you with a warm welcome. A great opportunity to meet local fellow residents in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

### **SCRABBLE CLUB**

Tuesday 14th and 28th September 2021 at 5.00 pm

The Duke of Wellington, 54a Crawford Street, London W1H 2HQ

The Scrabble Club is alive and well in our new upstairs venue at The Duke of Wellington pub in Crawford Street. Members normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 5 until 7, with Scrabble sets and dictionaries provided – and all levels of players welcome. Anyone interested in joining and/or wanting further information should contact [rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org](mailto:rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org) or 0788 789 1977.

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If you have news get in touch by emailing [news@marylebone.org](mailto:news@marylebone.org)  
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