

The Marylebone Association Newsletter January 2020



Dear {Contact_First_Name}

Happy New Year, we hope you had a good Christmas.

Marylebone News

Real Christmas tree recycling points

Natural Christmas tree drop-off points available city-wide until Saturday 12 January 2019. Opening hours are 8am to 8pm unless they are in parks, which close at 4.30pm. Drop off points can be [checked here](#).

Oxford Street - Westminster proposing part pedestrianisation

Westminster Council have issued the following [release regarding Oxford Street](#).

The Council's desire to pedestrianise the centre of Oxford Street around Oxford Circus seems to be on track in spite of the continuing lack of evidence to justify it. We are somewhat surprised to see that the "two new public piazza schemes at Oxford Circus" have been highlighted in this release when we have been consistently told that these have not been decided on and will not be, "until the council is satisfied that there will be no adverse effects from any increased traffic on Marylebone", from the proposed schemes.

At present, we find it hard to understand how diverting Oxford Street Traffic into Marylebone in order to by-pass Oxford Circus will not adversely affect our area. We have been told that the extensive traffic modelling that is being prepared will show just that. However this traffic modelling, that will show highways impacts, bus passenger impacts, and air quality impacts of the proposals, was originally forecast for June 2019, postponed until October 2019 then put back again, to a date unknown in 2020.

Just why it is taking so long to produce satisfactory data that can justify this large scale intervention is in itself worrying. The traffic modelling is critical as WCC need it to demonstrate that this scheme actually works for the whole area and they have said as much in previous meetings. Now we have an announcement about proceeding to Phase 2, of which the piazza proposal is part- and still no traffic modelling. Again, we have been repeatedly told that we will have plenty of time to digest and question the data produced prior to the commencement of any scheme. With the announcement above this however is beginning to look less likely

Our next meeting with WCC on the Oxford Street proposals is not scheduled until late February/early March and we hope that we will not be confronted at that stage with a TfL style *fait accompli*. In other words, if Westminster say, as they have: "we look forward to continue working with residents, businesses and everyone who has an interest in the area's success" they should mean just that. Working with, implies listening to and engaging with, rather than making the mistake that TfL did a few years ago over Oxford Street of not listening to those who will be most affected by any closure scheme and attempting to plough on regardless. The Council's promise of positive engagement with stakeholders on any future Oxford Street scheme needs to be honoured.

Crossrail opening "likely to be still 2 years away"

Pedestrian numbers are continuing to fall on Oxford Street. Crossrail, now renamed the Elizabeth line, initially scheduled to open a year ago, was meant to change all this. However the initial central section of the Elizabeth line will now not open until some time in late 2021, according to the latest reports. Many software issues still remain to be sorted out before the trial running of trains - itself usually a 9 to 12 month process. This means another 15-24 months at least will likely pass before passengers can board its trains crossing London. The Elizabeth Line has fallen from grace after the boastful overconfidence of previous executives and is heading for a loss of 1.35 billion from the delays. At least this gives Westminster Council plenty of time to carefully consider all of all the available evidence and to consult widely before seeking to implement schemes of permanent closures and other restrictions deemed by some to be necessary to accommodate the increased projected shortfall.

New MP for Cities of London and Westminster.

This month saw the election of Leader of Westminster Council, Nickie Aiken to replace Mark Field as the Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster and we wish her well in her new role. A new Leader of the Council is expected to be announced in January.

New Ward Boundaries Consultation

On the subject of elections- the Boundary Commission review of the present Westminster Ward boundaries is still [open for submissions](#) until the 20th January.

The Commission will consider all representations made on the draft recommendations and has an open mind about amending the scheme if an alternative pattern of wards would better meet the statutory criteria. Further information on drawing up a pattern of electoral wards and putting forward alternative proposals is available in our guidance document: Electoral reviews: technical guidance, which can be [found here](#). There is a practical guide for putting forward submissions called How to propose a pattern of wards which is [available here](#).

The Cato Street Conspiracy

Sunday 23rd February 2020 will mark the 200th anniversary of the Cato Street Conspiracy. 1820 was a time of great political unrest and this conspiracy was a plot to murder the British Cabinet and PM Lord Liverpool at the house of Lord Harrowby where they were supposed to be having dinner. The name comes from the meeting place of the revolutionaries, Cato St, in Marylebone. The plot was thwarted because the Police had an informer and the plotters fell into a trap - 13 were arrested and one policeman was killed. Five conspirators were executed and five were transported to Australia.

Cato Street is in the heart of the Harrowby & District Residents' Association (HDRA), part of the Marylebone Association. Therefore HDRA plans mark the occasion by recreating the street scene with the sounds and sights of the 1820s and rides in a traditional horse drawn tram. Food and drink will be available from noon to 2.30 on 23rd February followed by events in local pubs, an art competition for local schools and a live performance at 3.30pm (details to follow). Children will be most welcome along with all Marylebone residents. It would be great if you came dressed up in 1820s costume. More details will be given in the next Marylebone

If you came dressed up in focus costume, more details will be given in the next Marylebone Association newsletter in February. Please save the date. We promise not to transport anyone to Australia!

Whitbread has won its appeal to build a 294-bedroom Hub by Premier Inn hotel on Old Marylebone Road in London

Whitbread has won its appeal to build a 294-bedroom Hub by Premier Inn hotel on Old Marylebone Road in London. The hospitality group will now forge ahead with plans to redevelop the former office building at 191 Old Marylebone Road into a new 13-storey hotel. The planning application to redevelop the site was submitted to Westminster City Council in May 2017 and refused in October 2018 due to the location of the hotel's servicing bay.

Whitbread argued that the servicing bay should be located on Harcourt Street, a street adjacent to 191 Old Marylebone Road, rather than on Old Marylebone Road, as was preferred by Westminster City Council. In his judgement the planning inspector stated that using Harcourt Street to service the hotel would not result in harm to traffic or pedestrians nor result in the loss of a street tree as had been claimed by the Council.

Derek Griffin, head of acquisitions for Whitbread in Central London, said: "With planning permission now granted we will move quickly to redevelop the site and start to deliver a package of local benefits to the area including 60 new jobs on opening."

Herd of Elephants at Marble Arch

Don't worry, there hasn't been a break-out from London Zoo.* These 20 baby elephants, and one mother elephant, camped out on Marble Arch Lawn are a sculpture installation, creating awareness of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. The herd of elephants will be on display until December 2020.

This Month in Marylebone History

The Landmark Hotel on the Marylebone Road has enjoyed an interesting history. Originally called, The Great Central, it fell out of hotel use for over forty years. It was a convalescent home during the Second World War and served as a military office building for many years afterwards as well as the headquarters of the British Railways Board, and was referred to by railway staff as "The Kremlin".

Hansard report from 24th January 1960 - Sir Wavell Wakefield MP for St. Marylebone

"The Minister of Transport and his Parliamentary Secretary, as the House well knows, are very much preoccupied with roads and dealing with the congestion of traffic, not only in the City of London, but in the other great cities in the United Kingdom. It may, therefore, seem a little unkind that I should take the opportunity on the Adjournment to raise the subject of the future of Marylebone railway station, a matter for the British Transport Commission and the railways to determine.

However, I point out that this 44-acre site is on the edge of the Pink Zone and proper regard for its future development could play not only an indirect, but perhaps a direct and very important part in trying to help solve the problem of traffic congestion in Central London, particularly some of the traffic problems which plague my constituency of St. Marylebone.

Last year, there was considerable correspondence in the national Press drawing attention to the fact that the railways were short of capital, but had considerable frozen assets in land which was being inadequately used. Among the editorials, letters and articles of one kind and another were suggestions that in certain respects a few take-over bids might not be out of place, so that some of those so-called wasted assets could be made profitable instead of unprofitable.

Arising from that correspondence and publicity, I had considerable representation made to me by my constituents who said that here, right in our midst, indeed, right on the doorstep of the Commission's own head office, the former Great Central Hotel, was a supreme example of the wasted asset, an inadequately used asset, which could be put to far better use.

Particularly during the General Election, when I was touring the streets of my constituency and making numerous short speeches, people raised this matter with me. Indeed, they were very rude about it, asking what I proposed to do about it, what the Government proposed to do about it, and what the Commission proposed to do about this site. At the General Election, I undertook that if I was returned I would communicate with the Commission and take an early opportunity to raise the matter which my constituents had brought before me. I am grateful for now having that opportunity.

My constituents are complaining about the inadequate use of Marylebone Station, one of the great main line termini of London. I have received, not from the Commission but from my constituents, a lot of information which I believe to be reasonably accurate and which I will now give to the House. How many express trains leave Marylebone Station and to what extent does that London terminus provide a suitable and adequate service for long-distance passengers?"

Openings and Closings

Wulf & Lamb a vegetarian restaurant is opening at 66 Chiltern Street.

Association Events

[New Year Drinks Party](#)

Wed, 22 January 2020 7:00 PM *The Oriental Club, Stratford Place, W1*

Join us for the annual wine and canapés party in the elegant atmosphere of the Library at The Oriental Club. This Grade 1 listed private members club is one of the most impressive surviving examples of Georgian architecture in this part of London. All residential and business members are welcome with the opportunity to meet old friends and new, along with members of the Committee. We can look forward to a very enjoyable evening. The cost is maintained at £30 per person with the event this year organized by Lois German. To reserve your place please email Lois on lois.german@marylebone.org or telephone 0207 487 2706. Cheques for £30 payable to The Marylebone Association should be sent to Lois German, Flat 99, 15 Portman Square, London W1H 6LL. When booking please advise if you prefer to pay direct to the MA in which case details can be provided.

[Coffee Morning](#)

Tue, 25 February, 2020 10:30 AM *108 Marylebone Lane, W1*

Our first coffee morning in 2020

Everyone welcome – no need to book. £5.00 per person.

Regular Association Events

(For more details click on the event)

[Book Club](#)

Tue. 07 Januarv. 2020 6:30 PM *The Kina's Head pub. Westmoreland Street. London W1*

[Pub Evening](#)

Mon, 13 January 2020 6:30 PM *The Prince Regent, 71 Marylebone High St W1U 5JN*

[Scrabble Club](#)

Tue, 14 & 28 January 14, 2020 5:00 PM *The Natural Kitchen, 55 Baker Street, W1*

Marylebone Events

(For more details click on the event)

[The Wallace Collection: Princely Arms and Armour](#)

Tue, 11 February, 2020 1:00 PM *The Wallace Collection (organised by the BSQ)*

[SOF and the Secret Service](#)

Wed, 26 February, 2020 1:00 PM *55 Baker Street (organised by the BSQ)*

[Pop, Rock and Roll](#)

Thu, 26 March, 2020 1:00 PM *55 Baker Street (organised by the BSQ)*

Mailing Address: Marylebone Association, 229 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PN

If you have news get in touch by emailing news@marylebone.org

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