

# The Marylebone Association Newsletter November 2020

Dear Tim,

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### MA Covid-19 Support Group

Yesterday the government announced a second national lockdown for England to prevent a "medical and moral disaster" for the NHS. If you live in Marylebone and need help with shopping, pharmacy collections, or just a chat about Covid-19 or other matters, 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

## MARYLEBONE NEWS

### White Paper on Planning

In our article last month on the Government White Paper on the future of planning we expressed concerns with a number of its proposals.

We support the desire for planning to become more accessible and the modernisation of planning services in order to make it easier for local communities to access and engage with development plans and planning decisions. However, we feel that the White Paper proposals go well beyond this and remove much that is worthwhile that has been the product of successive government legislation that developed over many years. In its place it is proposed to have an over centralised system in which local communities have little say. We feel that zoning and a national 'one size fits all approach' will be detrimental to our local community.

The proposals therefore seem to be bad for local democracy in that they are going to reduce the opportunity for many to have a say on future developments in their local area.

The Association has now formulated these concerns and its response can be found [here](#).

## Last day to respond to WCC busking consultation

WCC are proposing a new policy for busking and street entertainment in Westminster, and they want to know what you think. If you haven't yet taken part in the consultation, <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/busking> [please go online and have your say](#). Today, Sunday, is your last chance to respond and it is important that you do. The Association supports the new busking proposals as good for residents and businesses in the area. Our article on this appeared in the October Newsletter.

You can find more information on the proposals, including areas proposed for licensing and suggested pitch locations, on the [Council website](#) and in the [draft policy document](#).

## Moxon Street - the excavators arrive





It looks like building works are finally commencing at Marylebone Square. Initial activity started on the 26th October with full commencement of operations scheduled for the 9th November. The project team are in the process of re-applying for hoarding licences.

You are asked to address any correspondence regarding this via [marylebonesquare@fourcommunications.com](mailto:marylebonesquare@fourcommunications.com)

## Luxborough Street loses play space to housing



Westminster City Council have defied a petition of 800 residents, and their own planning policy to approve a housing development on a protected play space. Tom Foot of the WestEndExtra reports:

City Hall had applied to 'infill' the kick-about pitch in Luxborough Street with 14 new 'affordable' one- and two-bedroom homes. The in-house application did not include 'an equivalent or improved' replacement pitch despite Westminster's 'very, very clear' policy designed to protect open spaces being lost to development.

Councillors admitted they had been put in a 'very difficult position' by the application after hearing advice from their own officers that housing should not come at the expense of outdoor play space.

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans, the rector of St Marylebone Church which neighbours the site, told the committee to expect some form of appeal from the Diocese of London. He warned that the proximity of the block to a consecrated burial ground could force the reinterment of thousands of remains. He added: *"This loss of space is for a housing scheme designed pre-Covid. It has been unaltered by the experience of the last seven months. It appears the council has not learned any of the lessons of living in a lockdown in an over-populated city"*

...cesses of living in a lockdown in an over populated city.

The committee heard there had been *“a history of long-standing use of the play space by the wider community”* until 2014 when it was boarded up by Westminster Council. A bungled attempt to build a library on the site was scrapped at significant cost to the taxpayer, but the pitch was never reopened. Officers warned that the council’s application could set a precedent for future developers and that *“no play space would be safeguarded by our policies”*

## Oxford Street- another new chief appointed

A new Oxford Street Programme Director has been appointed, the third such person to hold this post within the last year. This time it's Elad Eisenstein, formally of ARUP, the planning and design consultancy, which has been used extensively by WCC on the previous Oxford Street schemes. His brief is to look afresh at the Oxford Street District to take account of the changing circumstances and have a dialogue with interested parties. Obviously, much has changed since the original proposals came out, but in spite of the present funding crises the Council is still apparently committed to spending £150m of capital funding on schemes on and around Oxford Street. We look forward therefore to a constructive engagement on any of these schemes that will affect our area.

Elad Eisenstein said: “I am grateful for the opportunity to come on board and work with members and partners on shaping such an important piece of London. The unprecedented impacts of the pandemic are challenging us to redefine the way in which we live, work, move around and play in our cities. As one of the world’s leading global destinations as well as being the beating heart of London’s West End, Oxford Street District has all the ingredients to spearhead a wider sustainable recovery of central London and successfully drive forward short, medium and long term plans that will be vital to local communities, businesses and international markets”.

## Active and Inactive Transport

If one wanted to find a classic example of the misuse of government funding, then you need look no further than the post-Covid government initiative called the ‘active transport’ policy.

This allowed local authorities for the first time to impose traffic schemes designed to discourage driving -and encourage cycling and walking - without consulting local residents or going through the normal planning process, which can take years. Instead Councils were simply invited to apply for the cash by drawing up projects intended to entice people away from their cars and take more active forms of travel. So back in May the government made a quarter of a billion pounds available to local authorities, who naturally have been keen to spend it on all sorts of schemes. What could possibly go wrong?

When heads of the time questioned the advisability of this measure, but the

wiser heads at the time questioned the advisability of this largess, but the Secretary of State for Transport nevertheless ploughed ahead. And what has the taxpayer got for this money? The results of this misguided policy are becoming clear to see through London and indeed nationwide with proposals of comprehensive idiocy resulting in the isolation of whole areas in the teeth of sometimes [massive local opposition](#).

The Transport Secretary has now admitted too many cycle lanes are being left 'unused' with traffic 'backed up' as a result of his green transport revolution leaving roads blocked and impassable, causing traffic to take tortuous diversions to get where it needs to go and blocking routes for the emergency services. Now Grant Shapps, in a move that will infuriate cycling and green campaigners, has declared the Government is not anti-car, explaining he is 'not prepared to tolerate' badly designed closures and cycle lanes, imposing 'sweeping changes' to entire communities. It is shame that this fairly obvious outcome didn't occur to him earlier.

## U-turn on Euston Road Cycle Lanes



Perhaps the most unused and unwanted of all the new cycle lanes in London is to be found on Euston Road, which brings us to some good news. These much-hated lanes, the cause of considerable congestion to drivers and avoided by cyclists, are to be removed after causing months of traffic chaos.

## Regent Street plans unveiled with new cycle lanes and parking hubs

Another victim of Covid appears to be the public consultation, or even the pretence of one, before going ahead with another unwanted traffic scheme.

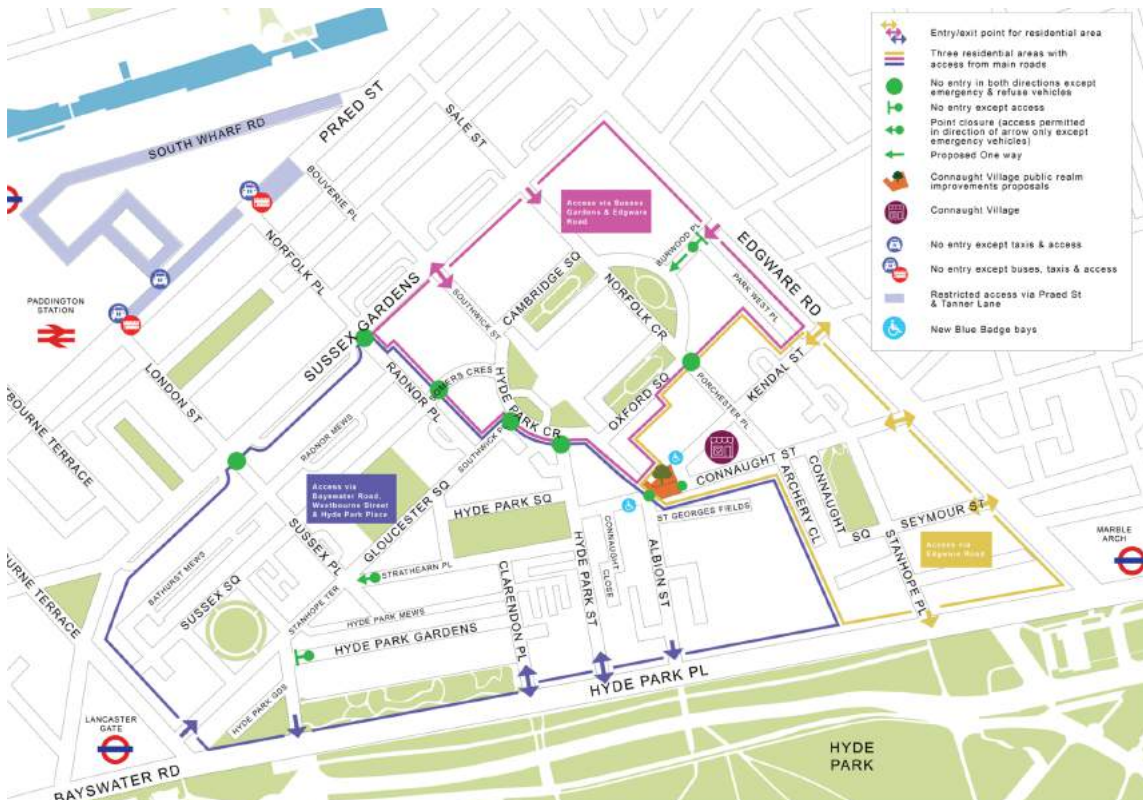
Plans to 'transform' London's Regent Street to become 'greener, cleaner, safer and more accessible' have been unveiled by the Crown Estate and Westminster City Council. The new designs include widened pavements, the introduction of a single-vehicle lane in each direction and "enhanced"

the introduction of a single vehicle lane in each direction, and enhanced bus stops. The designs also include tree planting and greenery.

Construction has already begun on this and is due to be completed by Christmas. We have received no information at all on this scheme to this major through road located in the centre of the West End so are not able to comment further at present and await with interest to see how traffic will cope this and the 'enhanced' bus stops.

Like the Oxford Circus piazza proposal, the primary motivation for this scheme is to facilitate shopping with little regard how it affects traffic in the surrounding areas. Whilst we have every sympathy for the plight of retail, both from Covid-19 and the long-term structural decline that was apparent long before that, it is unlikely to be reversed simply by pavement widening.

## Low Traffic Scheme proposed for Hyde Park Estate



Another scheme being introduced with inadequate consultation is the plan to trial an experimental low traffic scheme across the Hyde Park Estate.

The scheme includes internal traffic barriers which will divide the Estate into four separate areas. This will prevent vehicles (excluding cyclists, emergency services and waste collection) from using any residential streets for 'rat running'. All traffic trying to cross the Estate will be pushed onto Bayswater Road, Edgware Road, and Sussex Gardens, already busy streets. Cameras will be installed at barriers to ensure compliance.

This is a Westminster City Council initiative but has been sparse on local engagement and many of those who actually live and work in this area feel

that their submissions have been ignored. The Church Commissioners, who have a substantial freehold interest here, have sounded a note of caution and told WCC that the aims of the scheme could be achieved by less invasive measures and have asked them to explore this further.

The Hyde Park Estate Association, Westminster's recognised amenity society for the residents covering the estate, having tried to engage with the Council on the scheme, also have significant concerns, as they have made clear in an open letter to Westminster Council: "Notwithstanding the fact that we remain committed to promoting cycling and walking wherever possible, WE HEREBY AGREE to notify the Council in writing that we are opposed to its proposed Experimental LTN scheme and request the Council to delay the implementation of any scheme until a broader and more inclusive process of consultation has taken place and a more equitable solution can be found to deal with the increasing problems of traffic rat running through our residential neighbourhoods, causing air and noise pollution. We specifically do not wish to have the scheme implemented on a trial or experimental basis until a more suitable and appropriate scheme can be found."

Full details of the scheme can be found at the following link, including a map of the planned changes, the email address and feedback survey, [here](#).

If you wish to do so, please ensure you provide your feedback via the [online survey](#) before Wednesday 4th November 2020.

## Seymour Leisure Centre- reduced opening hours



Westminster City Council have announced that due to changes in the current circumstances the opening hours of Seymour Leisure Centre are to be reduced and will be changing from Sunday 1st November 2020.

This will see the Leisure Centre only open for 2 hours on Sunday and 5 hours on Saturdays and it is particularly disappointing for the areas regular swimmers who have been relying on the pool for much needed exercise through the lockdown period.

We understand that the popular Climbing Wall is also to close for the moment from 1st November due to budget cuts. Please click [here](#) for

details on the new opening hours. Update - We understand the centre will close for 4 weeks from Thursday following yesterdays announcement.

## Edgware Road - Licensing Stress Area to Go

Westminster City Council is updating its Licensing Policy. The Licensing Policy aims to support licensed premises, while preventing crime and disorder, ensuring public safety and protecting children from harm. Under the Licensing Act 2003, the Council is required to review its policy by January 2021. Most things stay the same, but one change is that there will no longer be the restrictions on new licence applications as previously in the Edgware Road area. The Edgware Road Stress Area is to be removed, in spite of levels of crime at 4 times the borough average however it appears that WCC's hands are tied due to the fact that their Cumulative Impact Assessment, which is necessary in order to justify having a licensing stress area could not link the level of crime to the large numbers of licensed premises there.

On the surface it would appear likely that the higher incidence of crime might be linked to the large number of shisha cafes in the area. These cafes can be tremendously profitable, especially if the tobacco consumed is acquired without the payment of duty. High profitability invariably leads towards higher crime rates. The lack of a licensing regime for shisha bars therefore continues to be of concern to us and obviously the current exercise does not address this.

The Stress area is to be replaced by a 'special consideration zone' which will require licencees to show how they are going to contain any potential nuisance. Sadly, this is unlikely to be effective and will put the onus on residents to show why a premise should have its licence restricted rather than on the licensee to show why an additional licensed unit is justified.

## Baker Street 2 Way Review

Baker Street Two Way Post Scheme Implementation Analysis has looked at the effect the 2-Way scheme has had in some depth and at some length and has reached the conclusion that it has had a neutral impact on traffic volumes for most roads within the study area.

There are some exceptions, with more traffic on Portman Square eastbound in the AM peak York Street and Montague Square northbound in the Inter and PM peaks, yet the Marylebone High Street corridor has also experienced a reduction in traffic flow and so the report thinks that changes are possibly a combination of multiple small scale effects across the district.

The scheme however appears to have had a dramatic effect on traffic speeds- they have generally fallen by approximately 25-30% in the area, which may be considered beneficial for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists if not for motorists



systems, in fact for motorists.

There are plans for further cyclist facilities as proposed by the Cycle Quietway and Oxford Street Neighbourhood Improvement schemes. The BS2W scheme, in spite of introducing new cycle lanes has not yet witnessed any significant increase in cyclist traffic, it says though it has provided the infrastructure to enable these schemes to bring additional improvements to cycle connectivity within the area.

This analysis shows that there has been an increase in the number of pedestrians using the pedestrian facilities for the majority of locations within the study area. Most of the increase in pedestrian crossing activity occurs on Baker Street where new/improved pedestrian facilities have been introduced. On average pedestrian crossing activity on Baker Street has increased by 29% in the AM peak, 20% in the inter peak and 35% in the PM peak.

The Air Quality study concluded that: when compared against the measurements made in 2017 (pre-scheme), very significant reductions in annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentrations were observed at all the sites, ranging between 35-50%. These however are likely to be due to the reductions in diesel vehicle and the imposition of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Reductions in nitrogen dioxide have also been measured across all central London, particularly within the ULEZ and it was noted that the overall reductions outside of the study area tended to be greater than those within the study area. In other words, this area has seen less improvement in air quality than most of the surrounding areas in central London.

We would add that It would be nice if the utility works on Gloucester Place would finish some time soon. One junction that was overlooked and has only worsened is the Gloucester Place/George Street crossroads. The Association as well as local families and residents have continued to notify WCC and TfL about the hazardous situation there, so far to no effect.

## John Lewis applies for office use

The present plight of Retail in the West End has been highlighted by the recent John Lewis Partnership application for office use. This flagship store on Oxford Street has applied for and obtained the dual/alternative use of the part sub-basement, part ground and third to eighth floors for either retail use and/or for office purposes. This would be accessed via a new entrance at the corner of Holles Street and Cavendish Square.

The Westminster Planning Committee agreed exceptional circumstances exist to justify the loss of retail floorspace in this instance and that the external alterations were acceptable in design terms and supported the idea of giving flexibility to retailers at the current time. Although some concerns were raised about the message that this sends to other retailers, the committee concluded this would ensure the continued existence of John Lewis on this site and approved the application unanimously.

## Marylebone House redevelopment

## MARYLEBONE HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT



Beltane Assets have posted up their second stage of online consultation for the redevelopment of Marylebone House and are inviting comments on their proposal. It runs until the 21 October 2020. If you have any further comments on the proposals, they invite you to share them via the 'Have Your Say' section of the [website](#), or to [marylebonehouse@kandaconsulting.co.uk](mailto:marylebonehouse@kandaconsulting.co.uk). Any feedback will be considered before they submit their planning application to WCC. One of the main issues of concerns for residents is that the increased size of the new building will lead to an unsustainable level of traffic in the area.

# WESTMINSTER NEWS

## COVID-19 Local Alert Level

Effective from Saturday 17 October, Westminster, along with the rest of London, will be moving to a High Local COVID Alert Level. The Government's [website](#) contains full guidance for High alert level.

Click [here](#) to view the latest guidance for clinically vulnerable people.

Click [here](#) to view the latest childcare guidance here.

**Latest guidance can be found at [here](#).**

## Covid Help - a message from the Council Leader

*I wrote to you last week with information regarding our extensive package of help for the hospitality sector over the winter months. I am pleased we can now share the details of what businesses need to do in order to access this support.*

*We have included all relevant information in our updated one-stop brochure as a handy guide for hospitality businesses and residents. It*

*includes information on:*

- *Our support for heaters and umbrellas over the winter and the associated application process.*
- *Our call for `winter appropriate' scheme proposals to support al fresco hospitality for the next six months*
- *Our process for permitting outside tables and chairs*
- *Updated advice as the Covid Alert Level has recently changed*
- *The brochure can be found at [here](#).*

*We're introducing all these initiatives to provide businesses with the support they need in these difficult times and hope our hospitality brochure gives them the clarity they need to access this help. We'd urge everyone who has an interest in Westminster's hospitality sector to read this information carefully and act quickly.*

*If you have any queries about this e-mail or the content contained within the brochure, please contact the team at [movementstrategy@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:movementstrategy@westminster.gov.uk)*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Cllr Rachael Robathan - Leader of Westminster City Council*

## New Covid Testing Centre Opens

A new testing centre has been opened at Greenside Community Centre to increase the number of tests available for residents in Westminster. The walk-through testing centre will be open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm.

Two more testing sites are being set up at Grosvenor Hall and Lydford Tenants and Residents Hall. Further details will follow later this week. Existing bookings and regular users of the community halls are being provided with alternative community spaces so that their activities can continue. Read more here about local testing sites.

## Volunteers wanted to help find the vaccine for COVID-19

You can be part of the fightback against the virus by volunteering to be contacted by researchers to take part in COVID-19 vaccine research. There are a number of vaccines being identified and safety-tested at the moment, but only large-scale studies can give researchers the information needed about how effective they are.

The NIHR is working with the NHS and aims to recruit half a million people onto the registry by October, which will allow people to be put in touch with the vaccine studies in the coming months. Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK - including both people with or without existing health conditions - to take part in vaccine

studies, to make sure that any vaccines developed will work for everyone.

The service is available to anyone aged 18 or over, living in the UK. There is no obligation to join in any study, if you are contacted. But by taking part, you could help researchers find vaccines to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives. You can sign up [here](#).

## Westminster Council's housing director leaves to head new development company

Barbara Brownlee, Westminster City Council's housing director has accepted a position to become managing director of the recently launched Westminster Builds development company. Ms Brownlee was formerly executive director of growth, planning and housing at the local authority, where she led on its regeneration programme starting in 2015.

Westminster Builds intends to deliver nearly 2,000 sustainable and high-quality homes over the next five years and is involved in the regeneration of the Ebury Bridge Estate.

## Cycle Mechanics wanted

If you're between 18-24 and looking at building a new skill that is in high demand, Westminster Wheels offers a paid six-month programme in cycle mechanics. By joining the project, you will be able to (1) learn how to refurbish unwanted bikes and provide affordable high-quality bikes for Westminster residents and (2) get a training and employment experience to help prepare you for a career in the growing cycle industry.  
<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-wheels-programme>

# BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## New West End Company announces Christmas lights dates

Christmas Lights dates when they will be 'turned on' (sadly no events this

year):

- Oxford Street – Monday 2 November 2020
- Bond Street – Thursday 12 November 2020
- Regent Street – Saturday 14 November 2020

Further Events:

NWEC normally hold around 10 traffic-free days a year in the West End with our partners at The Crown Estate but given COVID we've held none this year.

There will be marshals and security measures in place each day all funded by business. The 'events' will take place from 12noon – 8pm with implementation of the closures prior and reopening after.

The message is very much come and visit the West End in a COVID secure way with more space to move and enjoy the West End!

- Oxford Street – Black Friday 27th November 2020
- Regent Street District– Saturday 5th, Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th December

All details at: <https://www.newwestend.com/community>. WEC are still working through the operational details for the traffic-free days with colleagues at Westminster City Council, Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police so these are all still subject to final approvals – so timings and streets may change).

## DAN'S - boutique dance + fitness studio in Marylebone



"Dancing makes us happy," confirms Dance Psychologist Dr Peter Lovatt.

And that's how everyone who comes to DAN'S feels. The new boutique

And that's how everyone who comes to DAN'S feels. The new boutique dance and fitness studio on Cavendish Place brings the natural, open-hearted joy of Latin America to central London. It's three bright studios offer three no-experience-needed class types for adults:

- DAN'S Fitness: enjoy happy, high-intensity whole-body workouts to Latin pop hits.
- DAN'S School: explore the steps, footwork + styling of popular Latin dances like salsa.
- DAN'S Soul: find your feelgood in a slower way, through yoga.

Pronounced dance, DAN'S believes that dancing is the ultimate body-mind-soul workout. In every colourful class, the invitation is connect: to the music, your movements, the moment – and feel ALIVE! Start your dancefloor adventure with two DAN'S classes for £20. #DANSIntoTheNew

Find out more at: [dans.co.uk](https://dans.co.uk)

## Get Fit with Aggie

If you are confined to the house why not try a well-being workout from the comfort of your armchair with Agneta Lindberg, a member and volunteer, who has developed a short indoor session to help lubricate those joints, build strength and improve your balance. and refresh the mind. Starting on Tuesday 3rd Nov at 9.30am every week for 30 minutes.

Agneta says: 'Anyone can join in, do as much or as little you like, stand up or sit down. Make sure you are well and contact me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you in front of the screen!

Loose clothing, camera optional. This will be a pilot session running for 4 weeks. So do let us have your feedback. Any questions contact Aggie [Agneta@agnetalindberg.co.uk](mailto:Agneta@agnetalindberg.co.uk).

Register in advance for this session [here](#). Download Zoom to your computer if you do not already have it.

## Private COVID-19 Swab tests now available at Cavendish Health Centre

Cavendish Health Centre are delighted to now be able to offer Covid swab testing on a private basis.

The Covid swab test is to confirm whether you have coronavirus (COVID-19) now and cannot tell you about past infections or immunity. The test may be undertaken on a private basis for:

- People who may need it prior to travel (we can provide a flight letter too)
- People who require it for their work environment
- People who may have symptoms of Covid which include a high

temperature (above T37.8C), a continuous cough and/or loss or change to your sense of taste/smell. Please note you need to get the test done within the first 5 days of developing symptoms.

We recommend that people who have symptoms of Covid-19 try to access a test on the NHS for free via the gov.uk website or by calling 119. Unfortunately we cannot offer NHS Covid swab tests at this time.

The test is competitively priced, easy to perform and results are received within 24 hours of the laboratory receiving your swab test.

For more information please visit our website  
[www.cavendishhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.cavendishhealthcentre.co.uk)

## NVS Pharmacy



46 Baker Street, London W1U 7BR

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.

## Home Grown Club offer for Marylebone Association Members

This new club is opening its doors to us all during the month of November.

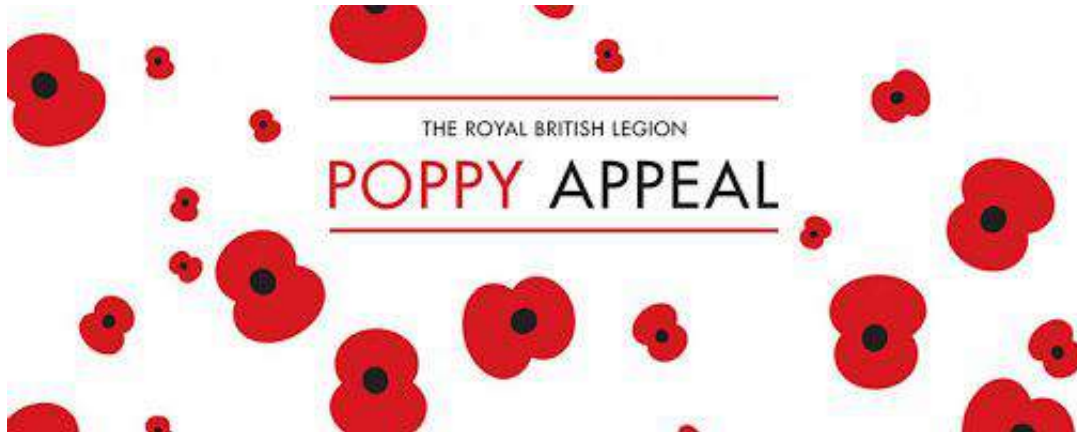
Available all day Monday to Friday to book between 12-9pm.

Up to 6 people, subject to availability and must be from the same household (in accordance with Government guidelines). Complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival To book call 020 3928 8000 and quote Marylebone Association Or [reservations@homegrownclub.co.uk](mailto:reservations@homegrownclub.co.uk)

HOME GROWN 44 Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 7BS  
[homegrownclub.co.uk](http://homegrownclub.co.uk)

# MARYLEBONE EVENTS

## The Poppy Appeal 2020



Anyone expecting to buy their annual poppy from the volunteers standing patiently outside Waitrose will be disappointed this year. In view of the Covid situation, the Royal British Legion has decided to organise their collection in a different way, only via banks, stations and some supermarkets. We did try! And as part of that effort a special mention goes to Dean Perrott, the manager of Waitrose in Marylebone High Street, who really went the extra mile to try and help us maintain our usual spot – but all to no avail. The good news however is that Waitrose is contributing £50,000 to this very worthy cause. Anyone who is interested in purchasing a poppy or other merchandise should go [here](#).

Below is the Royal British Legion circular:

*Covid-19 has impacted the ways in which we can deliver the Poppy Appeal this year, and in line with our priority of keeping our vulnerable volunteers protected, some of you will be unable to take part; nevertheless, Major supermarkets, banks, and regional retailers will offer poppies directly to the public via more than 10,000 outlets this year. In addition, there will be a range of poppy merchandise available in selected stores and online. The pandemic has prompted us to look at different ways to deliver the Appeal so that we can reach communities in every situation. For the first time, a downloadable poppy is being developed so that families, businesses and those unable to take part in the Appeal in the usual way can still donate and show their support by displaying a poster in their windows. Please see the Royal British Legion [website](#). New for this year, supporters will also be able to make cashless donations by scanning a QR code (which poster is attached) or using the Text to Donate number (to donate £2, text **POPPY2**, to donate £5 text **POPPY5**, or to donate £10 text **POPPY10** to 70545).*



# Association Events

Lockdown, 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 are two more to enjoy from the comfort and warmth of your own sofa:

## From Destruction to Reconstruction, Executions to Excavations

Thursday 19 November 4pm

Janice Liverseidge our local Blue Badge Tourist Guide will be taking us on another virtual walk exploration this time taking us from St Paul's Cathedral on a journey which reveals the story around the Great Fire of London and Newgate Prison, through to the damage caused by the Second World War. We visit part of St Bart's Hospital (celebrating its 900th anniversary very shortly), see local churches including the wonderful interior of one of them and learn about the history of Smithfield market and executions through the centuries. We'll also find out about the impact of gin drinking through the centuries whilst also discovering the plans for the new Museum of London. We end our walk with the old and new - site of Black Death burials and the new Crossrail line. All this together with a few extra detours in just an hour!

Fee: £10 per household. For further information contact Lois German on 020 7487 2706 or email: [lois.german@marylebone.org](mailto:lois.german@marylebone.org)

## London Christmas lights, customs and celebrations

Thursday 10 December 4pm

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!

Fee: £10 per household – for further details contact Rosemary Forgan on 020 7916 9353 or email: [rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org](mailto:rosemary.forgan@marylebone.org)

# Regular Association Events

## Book Club Tuesday 3 November 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's book is: The Various Haunts of Men by Susan Hill, the first in her series featuring Chief Inspector Simon Serrailer

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