

Your community news from



GROSVENOR

# Belgravia Bulletin

## VOTE WITH YOUR BUTT AT ECCLESTON YARDS

GUMDROP BINS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED around Eccleston Yards to help tackle littering. The bins, which are mounted on walls near the smoking area and coffee recycling bins, are the first bins in the world not only made specifically for the disposal of chewing gum, but that are actually made from waste chewing gum too. The Gumdrops can't be missed as they are bright pink and designed to look like strawberry bubble gum bubbles. Once a Gumdrop bin is full, the whole Gumdrop along with its contents of waste gum is recycled and processed to manufacture new Gumdrops – and the cycle starts again. With the Gumdrop firm's help, recycled and processed chewing gum can become a vast number of things from wellington boots, to mobile phone covers, stationary, packaging and much more. The company has proved that the bins can reduce chewing gum litter by up to 46 per cent in the first 12 weeks of use.

*For those interested to know more about the scheme, visit [gumdroppltd.com](http://gumdroppltd.com)*



IN OTHER WASTE DISPOSAL NEWS, the dedicated smoking area at Eccleston Yards is getting an upgrade to make it more friendly and engaging for smokers. Newly installed Ballot bins display a question with two possible answers. Smokers vote by putting their cigarette butt in the slots underneath their preferred answer, and the butts stack up behind the clear glass front in two columns, showing which answer is more popular. Questions will be changed regularly and might be funny or topical in any given week. Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the world, and not only leak harmful toxins into the environment, but young children and wildlife are also at risk from ingesting them. The Ballot bin seeks to tackle this problem, with independent evaluation showing that it can also reduce litter by 46 per cent.

*More information is available at [ballotbin.co.uk](http://ballotbin.co.uk)*

**EVENTS AND  
SAVE THE DATES**

**Earth Day at Halkin Arcade:**

Visit Halkin Arcade from April 20 to experience our immersive installation for Earth Day 2020. Connecting people with nature in a thought-provoking and interactive display, “The Cycle” will allow visitors to relax in urban nature, even planting their own seeds. The installation will be on display at Halkin Arcade until mid June.

**London Craft Week:**

From April 27 to May 3, Pimlico Road Design District will be lined with artisanal craft makers for London Craft Week. Shops will be hosting exclusive exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations.

**Belgravia in Bloom:**

Our annual floral festival, coinciding with the Chelsea Flower Show, gives Belgravia a floral makeover as shops and public spaces burst with blooms. This year the theme



Belgravia in Bloom at The Berkeley hotel last year

is the Future of Flowers, with displays that will explore how reliant we are on flowers to determine our future, and what the role of flowers will be in the years ahead. Visit Eccleston Yards to see the Floral Imaginarium where flowers will literally glow, and Elizabeth Street where a local artist will be exploring the Future of Flowers theme. Belgravia in Bloom will be live from May 18-25.

**The Daily Dress Edit:**

Isabel Spearman’s cut Instagram series will once again be brought to life in Belgravia, this year popping up on Elizabeth Street for two weeks in May. Shop her curation of exclusive, limited-run dresses for every occasion and have them delivered to your door.

**RETAIL NEWS**

**Motcomb Street**

**Harrys of London**, the contemporary footwear brand, has chosen Belgravia for its London flagship store

**SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION**

**OFFICES**

**22 Grosvenor Gardens**

We know that finding the right office for your company can be a great source of stress and a drain on time and finances. To try and combat the setup pain points for our office occupiers we have launched our Plug & Play initiative at 22 Grosvenor Gardens.

These units have been stylishly designed by office specialists to provide a balance of breakout, meeting and desk space. They are fully furnished, cabled, connected and available on flexible lease terms providing an office solution that is ready to move into immediately.

For further information or to arrange a viewing please visit [22grosvenorgardens.com](http://22grosvenorgardens.com) or email [catherine.griffiths@grosvenor.com](mailto:catherine.griffiths@grosvenor.com).



22 Grosvenor Gardens

and has taken 14 Motcomb Street expecting, subject to planning, to be open in the summer.

In late 2019, all our retailers received a presentation on the various events being organised for 2020 and on February 4, we held the first of six weekly meetings with our retailers so we can work collaboratively on marketing initiatives and events. The next meeting is at the Hari on March 24 at 3.30pm, so please diarise this date. If you have any queries, or moreover, proposals, please send your views to [emma.oconnor@grosvenor.com](mailto:emma.oconnor@grosvenor.com) or [rachel.mcculloch@grosvenor.com](mailto:rachel.mcculloch@grosvenor.com).

**The Pantehnicon** is progressing at speed now and is due to open this summer.

Do try out **Waitrose’s** amazing new offer – the store was completely refurbished last summer and orientated to you and includes a new sushi counter, a new dry-aged beef counter, a new beers and wines department, updated meat, fish and spirits departments and the introduction of a new cash machine.

We have installed a defibrillator in the Halkin Arcade, to the rear of Pétrus.

**Kinnerton Street**

**The Wilton Arms** is expected to reopen in the summer – subject to planning consent – having been taken over by Inda Pubs, a small group of predominantly London pubs

owned by James Corbett. They are known for running great local pubs with an emphasis on fresh seasonal produce. To add yourself to their mailing list and be kept abreast of developments and pre-opening tasters, visit [thewiltonarmssw1.com](http://thewiltonarmssw1.com).

The refurbishment of **63 Kinnerton Street** is progressing on schedule and is due to complete in April 2020. It will create a shop over ground floor and basement levels (with a new shopfront) and a flat on the first and second floors.

**West Halkin Street**

At **8/8a West Halkin Street** – the former Barclays unit – planning consent was

received in the third quarter of 2019 and provides for conversion to two retail units with new shopfronts. Strip-out work has already commenced.

**Eccleston Yards**

**Morena** is set to open soon! Morena is a coffee roaster, brunch and all-day dining restaurant, which serves Latin-American inspired dishes with a contemporary twist. It was founded by two Colombian sisters, Juliana and Valentina Beleño – who bring the happiness and spirit of their home country to Belgravia.

Follow the Eccleston Yards Instagram account for more news on Eccleston Yards: [@ecclestonyards](https://www.instagram.com/ecclestonyards)

**Pimlico Road**

72 Pimlico Road will soon be home to **Wicklewood and Blithfield**, companion companies sharing design and design aesthetics in the creation of exquisite home decor products. Wicklewood is a British-born, female-founded, globally inspired interiors company, specialising in transformational home decor, while Blithfield is the iconic British textile and wallpaper brand, known for its colourful prints and distinctive weaves. The store will host many exciting collaborations and events and will have an added twist - it will be serving coffee!

**Ochre** has taken more space next door at 20 Pimlico Road on a short-term basis to display its new range of rugs. Do pop in to see the beautiful selection of rugs, which are handmade across the world.

**Bonadea** has a short-term, six-month pop-up at 22 Pimlico Road. We are very excited to have its first store on the street offering a gorgeous range of home accessories including dining and tableware, glassware and barware.

**Elizabeth Street**

We are delighted to announce a six-month pop-up at 73 Elizabeth Street. **Loquet** creates bespoke, handmade jewellery and custom lockets where one can add charms in gold, letters, numbers and birthstones to a heart-shaped or round-shaped locket.

**Buckingham Palace Road**

**The Pizza Pilgrims** have opened! Diners are treated to a pilgrimage through the restaurant fit-out to explore the culinary delights of Naples, Florence and Tuscany. We are particularly excited about the Amalfi lemon grove serving homemade limoncello.

**Buckingham Palace Road – coming soon!**

8 Buckingham Palace Road – Welcomes **Maison Beauté**, a family-run beauty provider offering a range of affordable beauty treatments and professional makeup in a chic yet relaxed setting, complete with a soft drinks bar.

**Solar roof tiles**

In a first for Grosvenor and for Westminster, we have started the installation of 252 solar roof tiles along the Buckingham Palace Road terrace of grade-II listed buildings. These innovative tiles look like slate but will provide power for the buildings’ common parts. We are the first landlord and property company in London to retrofit a listed building with these tiles and are very pleased that they will provide sustainable power for the common parts along the terrace.

**DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATIONS**

**Cundy Street Quarter**

Thank you to all those who attended the community

Solar roof tiles



consultation in December; we really appreciate you taking the time to see the latest proposals and giving your feedback. All the consultation material, and lots more information, can be found on our website, [cundystreetquarter.co.uk](http://cundystreetquarter.co.uk) as well as through our project newsletters that are distributed to local homes and businesses. Please look out for further opportunities to see the proposals and engage further throughout the year. As ever, the team can be contacted and you can sign up for updates by emailing [cundystreet@grosvenor.com](mailto:cundystreet@grosvenor.com).

**News on's Yard**

Following submission of the planning application in November last year, we continue to meet with local residents and retailers to update them on project news. The scheme includes a publicly accessible 'Yard', seven retail units - including a food and beverage offer - and nine residential flats from the existing five. Subject

to receipt of planning, we anticipate that building works will commence in late June this year and complete in the summer of 2022, with some internal retail fit-out works anticipated following this. Grosvenor and their contractor are currently working with Westminster City Council to agree the management plan during construction, according to their Code of Construction Practice. This includes policies in relation to dust and noise emanating from the site, the coordination and management of site deliveries and working hours. Confirmation of the start date, further details on the construction plan agreed and the stages of works will be issued to immediate neighbours in Spring. Please do not hesitate to contact [NY@grosvenor.com](mailto:NY@grosvenor.com), if you have any questions in relation to the development.

**27 Eccleston Place**

Following the granting of planning permission for the redevelopment of 27 Eccleston

**MAJOR WORKS**

Grosvenor is carrying out the following external repairs and redecorations across Belgravia during the next few months. Your property manager will have been in contact with you to discuss these and will provide further communications before the works commence. While we appreciate these works and particularly scaffolding can cause some disturbance, it is necessary that the works take place to maintain the building fabric and the beauty of the Belgravia estate. We will aim to keep the impact of these works to a minimum. If you require any further information, please contact your property manager who will be able to assist.

Address	Anticipated start date	Estimated duration (weeks)
Kinnerton Yard	30/03/20	8
2 Chester Street	06/04/20	6
1/3, 2/4, 4a/6, 8 Frederic Mews	06/04/20	18
1, 2, 7, 8/9, 10/10a, 11, 14, 16 Kinnerton Place South	06/04/20	18
Bradbrook House	01/06/20	11
13 Upper Belgrave Street	01/06/20	16
32/34 Eaton Square	15/06/20	12
74/75 Eaton Square	15/06/20	12
91 Pimlico Road	10/02/20	10
101 Pimlico Road	10/02/20	10
126/128/130/132/134/136 Buckingham Palace Road	24/02/20	12
54 Pimlico Road	02/03/20	10
96 Ebury Street	02/03/20	10
125 Ebury Street	09/03/20	10
145 Ebury Street	16/03/20	10
25 Lower Belgrave Street & 18a Ebury Street	01/04/20	12
40 Lower Belgrave Street	01/04/20	8
142/144/146/148/150 Buckingham Palace Road	01/05/20	12

Last years Belgravia Dog Show



Place last year, construction works are due to commence in early April 2020. The building contractor will be appointed shortly and their works are due to complete by late 2021. They will be undertaken in line with Westminster City Council protocols for construction. The former ice factory and coach works will be extensively refurbished to provide two new restaurants at ground and roof level, with three floors of offices between. These will complement the creative hub at Eccleston Yards and will bring new investment and employment opportunities to south Belgravia. The building will be delivered in line with modern sustainability standards including green walls, solar panels and recycled floors.

**GARDENS**

This year's charity Open Garden Squares Weekend will be taking place on June 6 and is, as usual, open to all. We will be opening Belgrave Square, Eaton Square, Chester Square and Wilton Crescent gardens.

**Belgrave Square Garden summer events**

The **10th annual barbecue dinner** will be held on June 18.

The **Belgravia Dog Show** will be on June 20.

Our first **Belgravia Food & Trade Festival** will be taking place on June 21.

Invites to garden members will be dispatched imminently. Any non-members who wish to attend any of the above events should contact [events@bsgc.london](mailto:events@bsgc.london).

**COUNCILLORS**

**News and views from your Knightsbridge and Belgravia ward councillors**

One of the very good things about being a ward councillor, at this time of the new financial year, is the topping up of the ward budget. Each of the 20 wards within Westminster City Council is allocated £46,000 to be spent on projects in the ward that will benefit residents. Although there are some parameters as to how the money can be spent, unlike many other council budgets, this one has a reasonably high degree of flexibility. The council has a few criteria for eligibility of proposed projects: they must benefit local residents, they must not be against council policy, and they must be managed by an organisation or club - not by individuals. But other than that, there is a wide scope for proposals.



Cllr Tony Devenish

We, as ward councillors, can think of ways to spend this money, but it is always preferred if the suggestions come from residents. Is there a community group in Belgravia that needs funding for a special project? Can you identify a part of the ward that needs a bit of improvement - with the provision of more bins to keep the streets clean or the deep cleansing of the streets? Would you like more greenery and planting?



Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock

We want to hear from you - please do get in touch with any of us. Alternatively, please go on to the recently revamped Westminster City Council website for ward budget information and the application: [westminster.gov.uk/ward-budgets](http://westminster.gov.uk/ward-budgets). Together, let's come up with some good projects for Belgravia, to further improve the already wonderful place that it is.



Cllr Rachael Robathan

Twitter: @KandBWard  
Facebook: @knightsbridgeandbelgraviamatters  
Instagram: @knightsbridgebelgravia

Cllr Tony Devenish [tdevenish@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:tdevenish@westminster.gov.uk)  
Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock [ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk)  
Cllr Rachael Robathan [rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk)

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## ESTATE AGENTS AND PROPERTY CONSULTANTS



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With over 30 years' property experience we bring an unrivalled combination of expertise for our clients with access to solicitors, banks, surveyors and other specialists.

We have recently moved from Mayfair to Belgravia and would welcome the opportunity to work for clients in the nearby vicinity of Westminster, Victoria and Belgravia.  
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[www.primeportfolio.com](http://www.primeportfolio.com)

### Beauchamp Estates

Beauchamp Estates is a multinational firm selling, acquiring, investing and letting exclusive residential and commercial property.  
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[www.beauchamp.com](http://www.beauchamp.com)

### Henry & James

Henry & James is an independent estate agency that has been assisting clients in finding their dream homes since its establishment in 1950. Based in the original Motcomb Street office we specialise in the finest properties across Belgravia and the surrounding Prime Central London areas.  
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[www.henryandjames.co.uk](http://www.henryandjames.co.uk) 020 7235 8861

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Halkin Street, SW1X 7DJ  
[www.comohotels.com/env/thehalkin](http://www.comohotels.com/env/thehalkin) 020 7333 1000

## The Wellesley

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### The Wellesley

11 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LY  
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[www.thewellesley.co.uk](http://www.thewellesley.co.uk)

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020 7235 8000

[www.childandchild.co.uk](http://www.childandchild.co.uk)

## MEMBERS' CLUBS



### THE CALEDONIAN CLUB

Founded in 1891, the Club has occupied the splendid mansion in Halkin Street since 1947. The Club house is brought to life by magnificent art work throughout and a vibrant sophisticated events programme. In addition there is a superb dining room boasting an excellent wine list. There are 39 bedrooms and exceptional private dining, enabling Members to enjoy a haven of style and elegance. The Club proudly retains the original ethos and etiquette of a traditional Private Members' Club. Membership is open to Scots, those of Scottish descent and close association and empathy with Scotland and things Scottish.

### The Caledonian Club

9 Halkin Street, Belgravia, London SW1X 7DR  
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020 7764 0708 [www.askarisecure.com](http://www.askarisecure.com)



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## STATIONERY



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HR Stokes has moved from Belgravia but would like to let their many loyal customers know that they still offer a comprehensive printing service for invitations, letterheads and correspondence cards.  
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## VETERINARY PRACTICE

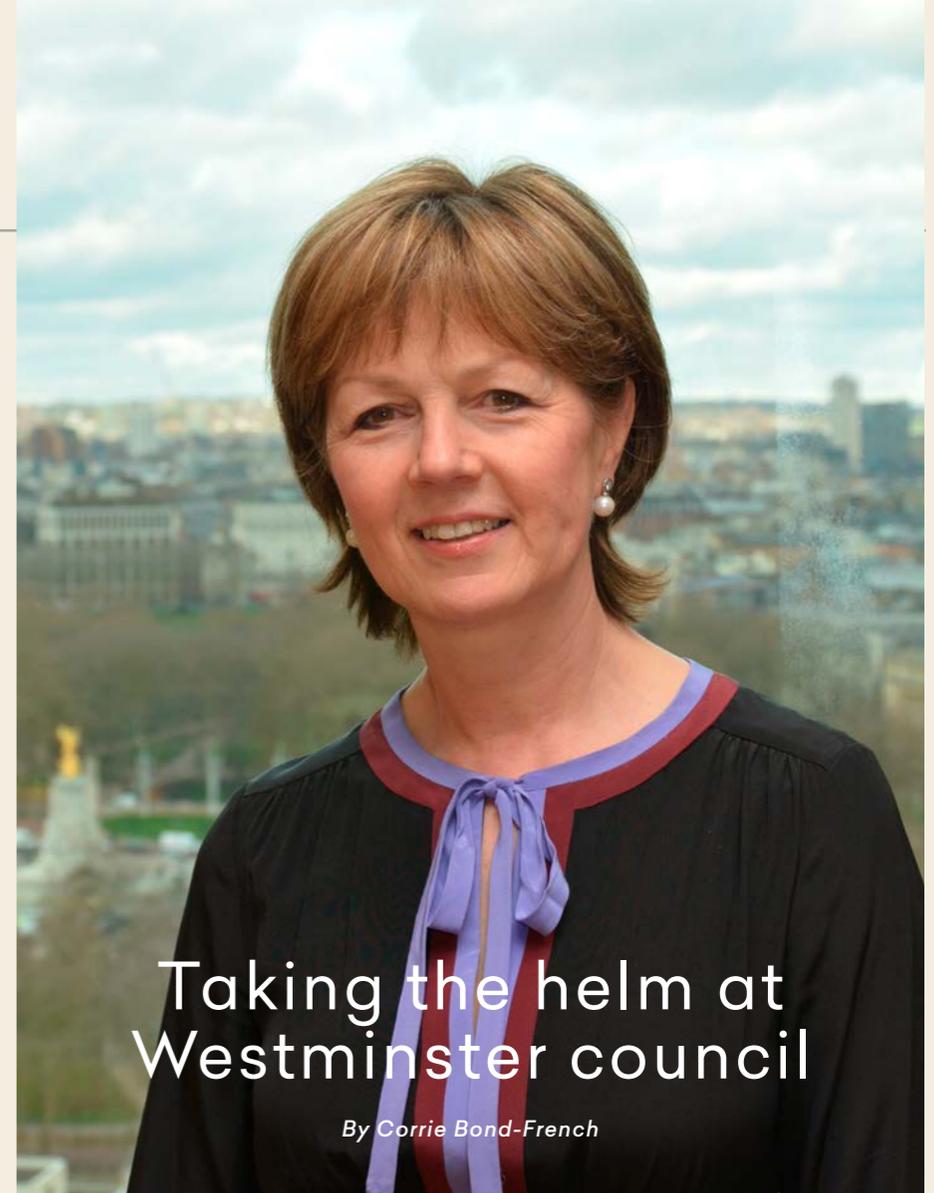
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# Taking the helm at Westminster council

By Corrie Bond-French

The old adage that a week is a long time in politics has been played out in glorious technicolour in recent times, not least for Lady Rachael Robathan, who now surveys her Belgravia ward and beyond through panoramic windows in the leader's office, a mere 18 floors up at City Hall, Westminster City Council's Victoria Street HQ.

It has, she cheerfully concurs, been a bit of a whirlwind. It is just months since her predecessor, Nickie Aiken, relinquished the role of council leader to cross from local to central government, standing as Cities of London and Westminster MP following Mark Field's decision

to stand down at the last general election. Whirlwind aside, Rachael's enthusiasm for the role is evident: "I'm loving it! It's the best job in the world, isn't it?"

"We are the heart of the capital, so Westminster has its fair share of challenges, but to be the leader of Westminster City Council is a tremendous honour. I'm so proud of the team of officers we've got here, working their socks off and so dedicated to delivering the best services. To be leading that team is something that I'm tremendously proud to be doing."

With years of service as Conservative councillor for Knightsbridge and Belgravia ward

and as cabinet member for finance, property and regeneration under her belt, Rachael officially took office as leader of Westminster City Council in late January.

“I’ve been incredibly lucky. What an honour for me to represent this fabulous place. I love Belgravia. I love shopping in Belgravia. I’ll go to Motcomb Street to get my hair done or pop into Ottolenghi. There are so many things to do. We’re very lucky Belgravia has some fabulous services to offer and some wonderful

quiet little residential streets where you would never think you’re in the heart of London.”

Rachael’s City career and marriage to former minister Lord Andrew Robathan helped inform her move into local government, but political activism features in her earliest memories: “I grew up in one of those families – very staunchly Conservative, where my parents always believed that it wasn’t enough to hope for an outcome, but that you had to do something to

deliver it. At every election from when I was too small to remember, we were always delivering leaflets or doing something.

“I was politically active while I was at university. When I first moved to London my first flat was in Maida Vale and I campaigned for the then MP John Wheeler, giving out leaflets at Little Venice Tube station.

“Then I met this soldier, who happened to say ‘Well, actually I’m leaving the army and I’m going to be an MP’ so I ended up married to an MP. Then he was a minister as well for the armed forces and Northern Ireland. It was really interesting, and obviously you have a very good insight into how the politics of this country operate.”

Raising two children and a desire to not have to travel so extensively prompted Rachael’s move into local government: “Eventually this seemed to be the right route and I was delighted to be doing it because it opens you to so many new areas of challenge and interesting things. Local government in particular, I think, really gives you the opportunity to work with things that affect people’s everyday lives.”

We meet the day after Nickie Aiken’s maiden speech in the Commons, a subject of mutual interest for them. Did Nickie give Rachael any gems of advice?

“She gave me lots – I’m not sure many of them could be published! Nickie is a very old friend and what I would say is that it’s great to have her in parliament because she really understands the granular level of the issues we’re facing in Westminster, so to have an MP and a leader of the council working together really proactively to tackle the issues we’re facing is something that I hope will really benefit the city and we’re certainly very excited to be doing it.”

