

THE WESTMINSTER

REPORTER

The Westminster City Council Magazine

Going for green with winter bulb planting

Issue No. 136

F R E E

FEBRUARY 2020

CREATING CALM CLASSROOMS

Special educational needs funding boost

WESTMINSTER GETS BUILDING

City-wide housing projects providing homes for all



City of Westminster

Recycle... it's easy!

Our disposable recycling bags are now clear!



NEW!

Please only put the following in your mixed recycling bags:



no black bags

no garden waste

no polystyrene

Why are the bags now clear?

To help our recycling crews spot when the wrong thing is put in.

Why is it important to recycle correctly?

Putting the wrong thing in the recycling costs much more to manage.

Can I still use my recycling box and blue bags?

Yes, our recycling crews will continue to empty your recycling boxes and collect your blue bags.

How do I get recycling bags?

- Order online:
westminster.gov.uk/recycling-bags
- Pick-up a pack from:
 - o your local library
 - o the mobile recycling centre
westminster.gov.uk/mobile-recycling-centre
- Ask your porter or caretaker.

How do I use them?

- Live in a house or in a small block of flats?
 - o Check your collection day and time via:
westminster.gov.uk/recycling
 - o Leave your bags in clear view for our crews to collect.
- Live in a block of flats?
 - o Take your recycling bags to your building's large black recycling bins.
 - o Ask your porter or caretaker for details.
- Live on an estate?
 - o Use your reusable recycling bags.
 - o Ask your housing manager about how to recycle on your estate.

For further information, visit: westminster.gov.uk/recycling

CONTENTS

The Westminster Reporter is published by Westminster City Council, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Designed by Westco Communications, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Printed by MBA Group Ltd, MBA House, Garman Road, London, N17 0HW.

Printed on FSC® certified material. Please recycle The Westminster Reporter.

The Westminster Reporter wrapping is made from a compostable potato starch – it's better for our environment and can be disposed of in your usual waste collection or in a composter if you have one.

For more information on recycling call the Environmental Action Line on 020 7641 2000.

If you would prefer not to receive future copies of The Westminster Reporter please email reporter@westminster.gov.uk, call 020 7641 6000 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm or write to The Editor at the address below.

To discuss editorial matters, please contact: The Editor, Westminster City Council, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP. Email: reporter@westminster.gov.uk Minicom: 020 7641 2948

Advertising: please contact Claire Appleby on 020 7641 3388, or cappleby@westminster.gov.uk

Westminster City Council does not endorse any product or service marked as an advertisement in this publication.

Reference copies of The Westminster Reporter are available in large print and audiotape format. To have a free copy sent to your home call 020 7641 6000.

The Westminster Reporter is delivered to homes throughout Westminster. Also available from libraries and leisure centres.

If you encounter delivery problems, please call 020 7641 6000.

For general enquiries about the council, call our switchboard on 020 7641 6000.

History in Pictures images supplied by Westminster City Archives.



4 – 5

News in brief

The latest news about the council and its services, plus the Leader's Column

6 – 7

Introduction to the Cabinet

Meet the new team

8

Working hard when the thermometer drops

How council staff keep the city moving



9

Cover story:

Going for green

A round-up of environment-friendly activities

11

Celebrating 100-years of serving Westminster residents

Old Marylebone Town Hall celebrates its centenary

February 2020 – Issue 136



12 – 13

Special educational needs boost

Creating a calm space for pupils

14 – 15

Westminster gets building

Mapping out new homes being built across the city

16 – 17

Giving hope to rough sleepers

West London Mission supports Hidden Network campaign

18 – 23

MyWestminster

Find out about the latest news, events and offers in North, South and Central Westminster

Westminster City Council's email newsletters are a great way to stay up-to-date with the latest news, offers and events. For more information about the range of newsletters visit westminster.gov.uk/stay-informed-westminster-newsletter

@MyWestminster @MyWestminster /MyWestminster

NEWS

IN BRIEF

A future vision for Victoria

A vision for good growth in Victoria that supports job creation, housing delivery and transformation of the station hub and surrounding area is being formulated.

Westminster City Council is working in partnership with Victoria Business Improvement District, the GLA, Network Rail and TfL on the Future Victoria project.

A team will compile a concept masterplan, underpinned by engagement with people who live, work and travel in Victoria, offering them the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the area.

Victoria is home to a vibrant residential and business community. However, the quality of the streets, public spaces and station environment is in need of fresh thinking to be equipped for the future.

To have your say on the future of Victoria – visit futurevictoria.org.uk

Pitch your stall at a Westminster market

Local groups are being offered the chance to take a free stall at a Westminster street market.

The community pitch scheme helps charities and social enterprises to showcase their work to residents, as part of the council's plan to put markets at the heart of their communities.

This is just one activity contained within the plan – and a £4m investment – to breathe new life into Westminster's iconic street markets.

Contact markets@westminster.gov.uk for details of the community pitch scheme



A new approach to busking

Street entertainment is a valuable part of the city, providing free access to music and art and contributing to a vibrant Westminster community. However, the council receives about 2,000 complaints a year from residents and businesses who live and work near some of the busiest busking hotspots. The council is working to find a solution to this problem that allows street entertainment to flourish while protecting residents and businesses.

A new licensing scheme is being proposed in two of the busiest busking areas of the city – Leicester Square/Piccadilly and Oxford Street. Buskers will still be able to busk anywhere else in Westminster without a licence.

The idea for the scheme follows a year of talking to residents, businesses and performers. The council will confirm plans following a public consultation.

Find out more by visiting westminster.gov.uk/busking-westminster





Oxford Street design and build contractor appointed

The council's ambitious £235m plans, kick-started with £150m of council funding, to improve and future proof the iconic Oxford Street District have received an enormous boost by commissioning a joint venture between J Murphy & Sons and Carey Group as the design and build contractors for the area.

The announcement marks a significant step in delivering the council's ambition for the district that will strengthen its world-renowned status as a great place to live, shop, work and visit.

Advice and support on Brexit

Now that the UK has left the EU, if you're one of the 30,000 EU citizens living in Westminster, you need to make sure you've applied to the settlement scheme so you can stay in the UK. The council has plenty of advice and support. There's also information for other residents and businesses on what the UK leaving the EU means for them.

Find out more online at westminster.gov.uk/brexit

LEADER'S COLUMN



Welcome to this edition of The Reporter – my first as the new Leader.

I'm honoured to have been elected – having been a local councillor for a decade and more recently a Cabinet Member, I know Westminster is a special place at the heart of the capital.

My experience together with my passion for our city means I'm ready to hit the ground running to deliver for you – our residents – and maintain our reputation as a council which gets things done.

On that note, in this edition you'll find how funding for our schools is making a real difference to children with special needs, progress in our plans to deliver hundreds of new affordable homes across the city – a key priority for me, and an introduction to the new Cabinet team I've appointed to work alongside me.

Over the coming months, I'll be out in our communities seeing how council services are making a difference and am keen to hear from you. Keep an eye on our website and the **MyWestminster** e-newsletter for the latest.

CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN
LEADER OF WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

Meet the new Cabinet Members

Changes to the Cabinet team at Westminster City Council have been confirmed following the appointment of Cllr Rachael Robathan as the new leader. The new Cabinet brings together a wealth of experience and talent in order to deliver on the council's vision for a City for All

Leader



Cllr Rachael Robathan

Leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr Rachael Robathan, said:

“Westminster is a special place at the heart of the capital, home to 250,000 residents and thousands of businesses including the nation's high street, Oxford Street, and the wider West End. But it also faces complex challenges including climate change, air quality, rough sleeping and affordable housing.

“My new Cabinet brings together a wealth of skills and experience to tackle these issues head on and drive forward our City for All vision relentlessly and with innovation. Working with our partners from the public and private sector, we're determined to deliver at pace in a fast-changing city for our residents.”

Full details about the new Cabinet, including their deputies, can be found online at westminster.gov.uk/cabinet

Finance, Property and Regeneration



Cllr Melvyn Caplan
Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member



Cllr Jacqui Wilkinson
Deputy Cabinet Member
Chair of Westminster's
regeneration company

Adult Social Care and Public Health



Cllr Tim Mitchell
Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member



Cllr Christabel Flight
Deputy Cabinet Member
Older people and
supported housing

Business and Planning



Cllr Matthew Green
Cabinet Member



Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock
Deputy Cabinet Member
Neighbourhood and
community planning

Children's Services



Cllr Tim Barnes
Cabinet Member



Cllr Lorraine Dean
Deputy Cabinet Member
Special needs (SEND) and
Integrated care



Cllr Barbara Arzymanow
Deputy Cabinet Member
Schools finance

Community Services and Digital



Cllr Paul Swaddle OBE
Cabinet Member



Cllr Mark Shearer
Deputy Cabinet Member
Community engagement
and City Lions

Environment and Highways



Cllr Andrew Smith
Cabinet Member



Cllr James Spencer
Deputy Cabinet Member
Waste and recycling



Cllr Louise Hyams
Deputy Cabinet Member
Highways

Housing Services



Cllr David Harvey
Cabinet Member



Cllr Jim Glen
Deputy Cabinet Member
Housing engagement



Cllr Richard Elcho
Deputy Cabinet Member
Leaseholder relations

Public Protection and Licensing



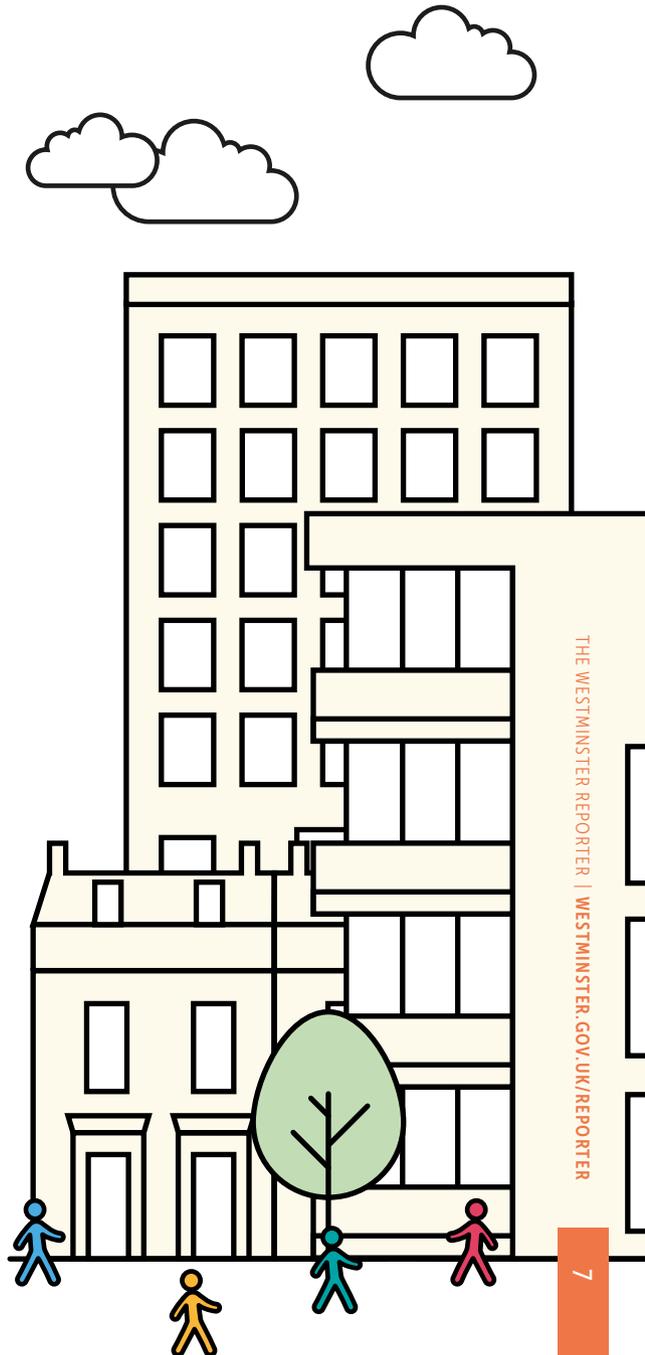
Cllr Heather Acton
Cabinet Member



Cllr Murad Gassanly
Deputy Cabinet Member
Housing standards and
preventing extremism in
schools programme



Cllr Margot Bright
Deputy Cabinet Member
Regulatory standards



Working hard when the thermometer drops



Tom Willoughby, Winter Service Manager, Westminster City Council (centre) flanked by deputies Ed Sweeting (left) and Jon Griffiths with 15,000 tonnes of salt

Even though spring is now on the horizon, the winter still has a sting in its tail – and council staff have been working hard to keep the city moving

With more than one million visitors a day, the council can't afford to have Westminster stalled by the weather.

When the thermometer drops, that's the cue for the council to implement the Winter Service Plan – which means gritting streets and clearing snow from busy areas and pre-emptively salting the pavements around priority hotspots, including schools, hospitals, and transport hubs.

By the end of winter, the council will have gritted nearly 3,000km of roads, with almost 700 tonnes of salt, over about 25 separate nights, whilst most people were tucked up in bed. This is further than the distance from London to Moscow and enough salt to fill about 1,100 bath tubs.

The service includes:

- Eight gritting vehicles with state-of-the-art GPS tracking services
- New electric street cleaning bikes to grit cycle lanes and pavements
- 200 on-street salt bins across the city for sweepers to use on pavements
- A dedicated team of over 200 people

Emergency spaces for rough sleepers

Life is particularly harsh to those sleeping rough on Westminster's streets during winter, and in very cold spells the rough sleeping team triggers its emergency protocol – which means 100 extra hostel places being offered each night in addition to the 400 commissioned beds. Council staff have been out every night to offer help and routes off the street to the 300-plus people who bed down in doorways and underpasses.

This year the council is going a step further, working with funding support from the government's Cold Weather Fund and the GLA Winter Programme, to provide 40 additional emergency spaces throughout the winter period.



GREEN NEWS

UPDATE



Digging for spring colour

The first-ever Westminster housing planting project took place in the autumn. Over 1,000 bulbs have now been planted across 11 housing estates. The community gardening project attracted many green-fingered resident volunteers – including children – all willing to dig in so that residents can enjoy a carpet of colour during the spring months.

Action for clean air

Westminster City Council has developed an ambitious action plan to improve air quality. The council is already leading the way in tackling air pollution in the city through its diesel surcharge, Schools Clean Air Fund and #DontBeIdle campaign.

The plan outlines ambitious actions for further improving air quality, including reducing emissions from buildings and development, leading the way in electric vehicle charging points, encouraging a shift away from polluting vehicles, and working closely with partners such as schools, businesses and universities to reduce emissions.

Find out more at westminster.gov.uk/air-pollution

Tackling vehicle emissions

London sightseeing tour operator, Big Bus Company, is the latest business to sign up to the council's #DontBeIdle campaign. Drivers of the 70 open-top buses have pledged not to engine idle while parked.

Additionally, 200 new lamppost signs have been installed across Westminster's engine idling hotspot areas. The eye-catching new signs remind drivers to switch off their engines to reduce pollution.





WESTMINSTER ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE

ENROL NOW

- Free courses available for learners older than 19, residing in London and earning less than £20,572*.
- Make your change by enrolling for a qualification or expanding your creativity with leisure learning.
- Our experts are on hand to offer advice and assist with questions about financing your studies.
- See our higher level programme offer, which can be funded by advanced learner loans.

Drop in to our centres, call us or visit our website – we are here to help.

● **Lisson Grove**

219 Lisson Grove, London, NW8 8LW

● **Amberley**

Amberley Road, London, W9 2JJ

● **Pimlico**

Lupus Street, London, SW1V 3AT

www.waes.ac.uk

info@waes.ac.uk | 020 7297 7297 | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)



Celebrating a 100-year anniversary

Its famous doors have seen a cavalcade of celebrity weddings – Paul McCartney, Cilla Black and Pink Floyd’s Dave Gilmour among them

And now the Old Marylebone Town Hall – home to Westminster City Council’s most famous registrar’s office – is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a landmark of the city.

Opened in 1920, it has become a celebrity who’s who of weddings – and it is no stranger to Hollywood A-listers, hosting the wedding of Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith.

The town hall hosts 2,000 weddings a year and was the first venue in the UK to host an evening wedding. It also carried out the most same-sex civil partnership registrations on the day legislation came into effect in December 2005.

Alison Cathcart (pictured centre right) has spent 29 years with the service – as superintendent registrar and now business development manager: “This building is so special, and the huge refurbishment we had five years ago has made it fit for the next hundred years. I have an absolute passion for this building and all the weddings we host within its four walls – it is a truly magical place in which to tie the knot.”



Old Marylebone Town Hall at a glance:

- The town hall was opened by Prince Albert (the future King George VI) on Saturday 27 March 1920
- The Grade II building underwent a £60m refurbishment in 2013
- There are seven ceremony rooms to choose from, seating 15 to 100 guests
- Ring bearing dogs make regular appearances at ceremonies in the town hall

If you, your parents, grandparents or any other friends or relatives got married at the town hall and are happy to share your photos and story, get in touch with Alison Cathcart at acathcart@westminster.gov.uk

To find out more about booking a wedding, civil partnership or naming ceremony visit adaytoremember.london/old-marylebone-town-hall

When calm came to the classroom

We normally think of a successful classroom as a stimulating, lively, colourful place designed to inspire wonder and learning in young minds

But for some children, such a space can be overwhelming and anxiety provoking, not the right environment for them to learn and develop to the best of their ability.

So, when one school said it wanted funding to create a neutral, calm and uncluttered space, in addition to the traditional soft play room, Westminster City Council was quick to support its application. It is after all for children with autism.

All Souls Church of England Primary School in Fitzrovia has benefited from a £270,000 grant for children with special educational needs to provide two classrooms, a sensory room and a play area.

Alix Ascough, Headteacher, said that the money will mean that there will be spaces for 10 autistic pupils who may have otherwise struggled to thrive within a mainstream school environment.

This low sensory, tranquil environment is best suited to youngsters with the condition, specifically designed to assist with any sensory needs the individual children may have. It's also designed to help with communication, including lots of visual supports.

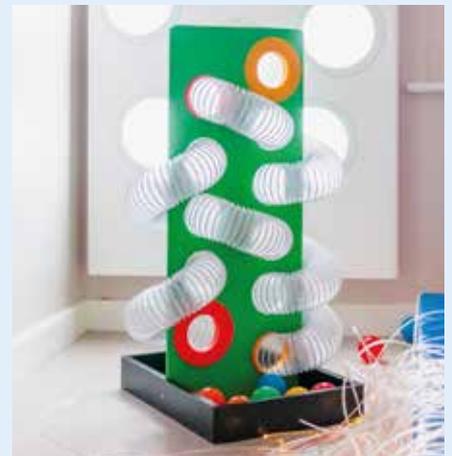
Alix Ascough said: "Every child is different but many will have difficulty dealing with sensory information. Sometimes this can mean they may be overloaded – hypersensitive – whilst others can be under-sensitive – hyposensitive.

"It varies from one individual to another and according to other factors such as mood and levels of stress and stimuli.

"Our new facilities – thanks to the council's funding – means that for children who may struggle to manage in a mainstream environment full-time can now join their peers at play and lunchtimes, as well as for certain subjects within the classroom with their link mainstream class.

"We also give our mainstream pupils the chance to spend time in the new classrooms as part of reverse integration. It's all part of our plan to become an autism-friendly school."

The work at All Souls, which also includes a room for parents to mix and hold meetings, was completed ahead of the start of the new school year and the first four pupils are happily settling in.



It is one of 11 projects costing around £2.1m taking place across the city to create new and enhanced spaces for special educational needs (SEN) pupils in Westminster by 2021. When all works are completed it will bring a total of 50 new SEN places across the city.

The funding, which comes from central government, aims to improve special provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

For more information visit westminster.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families



“It’s all part of our plan to become an autism-friendly school.”

Alix Ascough, Headteacher, pictured right with Kate McCarter, Special Education Needs Co-ordinator



WESTMINSTER GETS BUILDING

The council is committed to delivering or enabling at least 1,850 new affordable homes in Westminster by 2023

This ambitious affordable housing programme includes homes for social and intermediate rent, at a below-market rate for people and families who would not otherwise be able to afford to live in Westminster. Building a range of housing creates mixed communities to transform Westminster into a City for All, where people from all backgrounds can make their home.

These projects are part of that programme and a full list can be found on the website westminster.gov.uk/housing-renewal



Key

- Completed
- Under construction
- In consultation
- Planning application submitted

- 1 Ebury Bridge, SW1W**
750 new homes, 50 percent of which will be affordable
- 2 Dudley House, W2**
197 new affordable homes
- 3 Tollgate Gardens, NW6**
195 new homes, 86 of which are affordable
- 4 Parsons North, W2**
60 new homes, 19 of which are affordable
- 5 Luton Street, NW8**
171 new homes, 62 of which are affordable
- 6 Ashbridge Street, NW8**
26 new affordable homes
- 7 Ashmill Street, NW8**
Two new affordable homes
- 8 Cosway Street, NW8**
49 new homes
- 9 Lisson Arches, NW8**
59 new homes, 44 of which are affordable
- 10 Helmsdale House, NW6**
Six new affordable homes
- 11 Melrose House and Keith House, NW6**
Six new affordable homes
- 12 Queen's Park Court, W10**
23 new affordable homes
- 13 300 Harrow Road, W2**
112 new homes, 51 of which are affordable
- 14 Torridon Car Park, NW6**
21 new affordable homes
- 15 Ordnance Mews, NW8**
Three new affordable homes
- 16 Luxborough Street, W1U**
14 new affordable homes
- 17 Blomfield Villas, W2**
Four new affordable homes
- 18 Lanark Road, W9**
Eight new affordable homes
- 19 Lapworth Court, W2**
Seven new affordable homes
- 20 Desborough Close, W2**
Two new affordable homes
- 21 Balmoral Castle, SW1**
Approximately 50 new affordable homes
- 22 Farm Street, W1**
14 new affordable homes
- 23 Glastonbury House, SW1**
One social home
- 24 Noel Coward House, SW1**
Four new affordable homes

Working together to help the city's rough sleepers



One of London's most historic organisations set up to help the homeless has swung its weight behind the council's Hidden Network campaign, highlighting the professionals and volunteers providing life-changing help to rough sleepers

West London Mission (WLM) – set up 132 years ago – hopes to use any money raised by donations to the Hidden Network to help rough sleepers with housing and job applications.

Based in Marylebone, WLM runs six major services, including the Seymour Place centre in Westminster which looks after homeless people who may have issues with poverty, alcoholism or different kinds of trauma.

'Mark', (pictured right), is being helped by the WLM. He said: "Being on the streets is harder than doing a 10-hour work shift. When I am on the streets all day I am exhausted, I feel like there is a war in my head.

"What I really need is the strength to keep going. WLM Seymour Place helps me to do that and my case worker has been a great help.

"It is about going upwards and keeping the hope and belief in what you are doing."



People who are begging may give a variety of reasons when asking for money, however giving money to local services and registered charities means long-term help is provided to rough sleepers. Please think about giving directly to the Hidden Network campaign instead.

📍 **“I need a few quid to get into a hostel tonight”**

Hostels in Westminster are free at the point of access to people who are sleeping rough and willing to engage with local services. The council provides over 400 commissioned beds, staff to provide supported services 24-hours and night shelters.

📍 **“Hostels are dangerous. It’s safer to sleep on the streets”**

Sleeping on the street is not safe and no one should be doing so. People who sleep rough are more likely to face physical and emotional abuse. Long-term exposure to the elements can lead to severe medical conditions. The average age of death of a rough sleeper is just 47.

📍 **“I’m ex-Armed Forces”**

Westminster City Council has a strategic partnership with Veterans Aid, which provides accommodation on the same night that someone is identified and confirmed as served in the UK’s Armed Forces.

This partnership has played a large part in keeping ex-service personnel off the streets. Less than 3% of people over the course of one year who are sleeping rough have been in the Armed Forces.

📍 **“I need the money because the hostel won’t take my pet”**

The council provides over 100 bed spaces to people who are sleeping rough with their pets.

📍 **“I just need money to buy some food”**

There is no shortage of free food available across London. If people engage with our services there is food available alongside other essentials such as clothing, medical care, job searching and advice.

Chief executive Roger Clark, (pictured right), has two decades of experience working with the homeless and currently chairs a consortium of the main charities and organisations working in the sector in Westminster.

Roger said he backed the council’s Hidden Network campaign with its emphasis on giving to specialist charities working in the area, rather than direct to the street population.

“It isn’t for me to judge what people want to do as they pass a rough sleeper asking for money,” said Roger.

“But as chief executive of an organisation like WLM, I’m going to say: If you give us a donation, we will work to empower those individuals and tackle the issues that led to them living on the street in the long term.”

WLM is looking to step up its preparations for cold spells. Together with Westminster City Council, it has applied to the Mayor’s Winter Programme for a grant which would



“Hidden Network is a strong example of partnership working.”

Roger Clark
West London Mission

see 27 extra hostel places provided for periods of extreme cold weather at Seymour Place.

This complements the council’s own emergency protocol for cold weather during which it provides extra emergency hostel places.

“Hidden Network is a strong example of partnership working,” Roger said, adding: “With numbers of rough sleepers continuing to rise, this kind of joint approach is something we are going to need more of.”

📍 Visit hidden-network.help/reporter to make a donation or find out more about the campaign or use the QR code below



MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



BLOW UP BRIDGE AT REGENT'S CANAL

The Macclesfield Bridge crosses the Regent's Canal at Avenue Road, to the west of London Zoo. The original bridge was destroyed in an explosion in October 1874 by a flotilla of barges travelling from the City Basin towards Paddington. One of the barges was carrying gunpowder and this was accidentally ignited as the flotilla passed under the bridge throwing out mud, brick, stone and iron-work and timber from the barges.

A new Macclesfield Bridge was built in 1876 using the original iron columns which had been salvaged. The image is an engraving by I L Marks from a drawing by Thomas Hosmer Shepherd circa 1830.

Safer walking route recognised

A pedestrian tunnel, conceived at an early stage in the development of Regent's Park, has been awarded Grade II listing for its special architectural and historic interest and design quality.

Built in around 1821 and believed to be among the earliest surviving pedestrian tunnels in London, it links Crescent Gardens and Park Square Gardens, providing a safe route under the busy Marylebone Road.

Of architectural interest are the stucco portals fluted by Doric columns and the interior retains iron hooks and chains embedded in the walls, thought to be the original lighting scheme fixtures for oil lamps.

The subway gained the name 'nursemaids' tunnel' due to its popularity as a route for women walking their children around the park.

Green Plaques

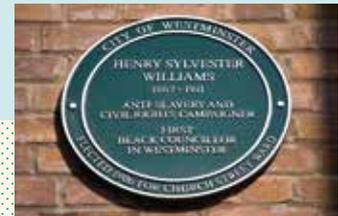
Henry Sylvester Williams

Henry Sylvester Williams was a lawyer, civil rights campaigner and in 1906 became the first black councillor in Westminster for the Church Street ward.

Williams founded the African Association and organised the first Pan-African Conference which took place at Westminster Town Hall in July 1900 'to bring in closer touch with each other the Peoples of African descent throughout the world...'. He later set up branches in Jamaica, Trinidad and the USA before moving to South Africa where he worked as a barrister.

A Green Plaque marks the site of his former home at 38 Church Street.

westminster.gov.uk/green-plaques



WHAT'S ON?



Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company

Until Sunday 19 April 2020

The Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN

Guest-curated by renowned writer and historian William Dalrymple, this is the first UK exhibition of works by Indian master painters commissioned by East India Company officials in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

[wallacecollection.org](https://www.wallacecollection.org)

COST: FREE FOR UNDER 18S / £12 FOR ADULTS



Pilates

Every Monday, 7 – 8pm

Little Venice Sports Centre, 10 Crompton Street, W2 1ND

Slow and measured movements help create lean and stronger muscles around your torso. A gentle but highly effective session for improving posture, flexibility and preventing injury.

active.westminster.gov.uk

COST: £8.38 PER CLASS



Church Street Library Lego Club

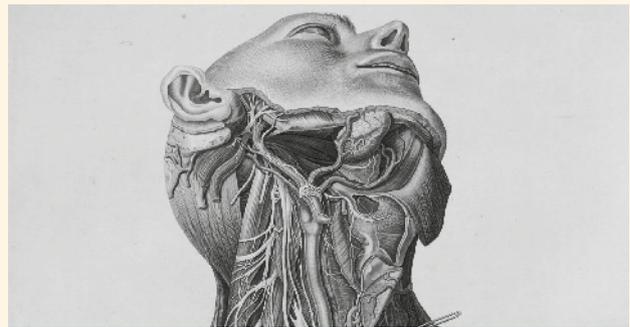
Every Friday, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Church Street Library, 67 Church Street, NW8 8EU

For all aspiring builders aged between four and 14, spend the early evening at Church Street Library and let your child's imagination run wild. There are loads of Lego bricks and pieces, a weekly Big Plate build, and also Duplo bricks for toddlers.

westminster.gov.uk/library-events

COST: FREE



Under the Skin: Anatomy, Art and Identity

Until Friday 3 April 2020

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, NW1 4LE

An exhibition exploring the unsettling beauty of the human body from the medieval age to the contemporary world. Featuring works from a dozen contemporary artists, placed alongside more than 60 rarely seen anatomical drawings, books and objects spanning over 500 years.

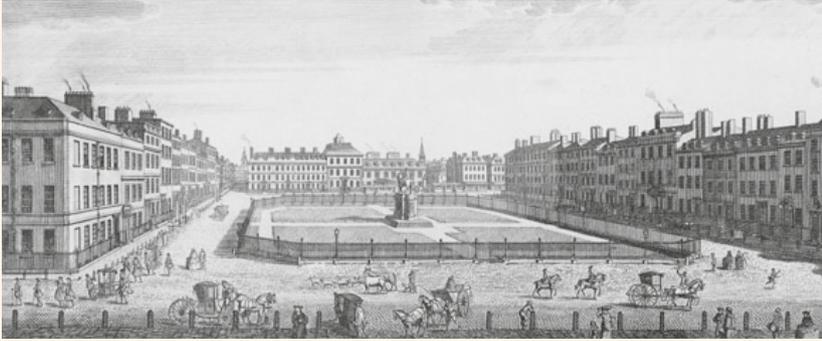
history.rcplondon.ac.uk

COST: FREE

MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



LEICESTER SQUARE'S EARLY BEGINNINGS

This engraving shows Leicester Square circa 1750. Originally called Leicester Fields, from Leicester House, the mansion of Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester, which stood on the north side, was built about 1635, the south side not being completed until 1671. The statue in the centre is of George I, erected in 1758.

By 1872 the square had become a very neglected place and Baron Albert Grant purchased the rights from the proprietors in 1875, and made the open space into a garden at a cost of £30,000. The engraving and drawing are by John Bowles.

Jumbo-sized sculpture highlights extinction threat

Twenty one life-size bronze elephants have been unveiled in Marble Arch. The jumbo-sized sculptures have been created by artists Gillie and Marc to raise awareness of the disappearance of Africa's elephants from the wild.

Each elephant featured in the sculpture is based on a real orphaned elephant currently in the care of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, many of whom have been orphaned at the hands of humans. Wild elephants face extinction by 2040.

The herd will remain in Marble Arch until December 2020 as part of the Westminster City of Sculpture scheme, bringing art outside of galleries and onto its streets and open spaces.

 westminster.gov.uk/city-sculpture

Green Plaques

Lady Jane boutique

A Green Plaque to mark the site of the former Lady Jane boutique has been unveiled by former co-owner Henry Moss (pictured below) at 29 Carnaby Street.

Lady Jane was the first women's fashion store on Carnaby Street and contributed to the street's global reputation during the swinging sixties.

The boutique was opened in 1966 by Henry Moss and his financial partner Harry Fox on the site of a former dairy.

 westminster.gov.uk/green-plaques



WHAT'S ON?



Chairobics

Every Monday, 10.45 – 11.45am

Seymour Leisure Centre, Seymour Place, W1H 5TJ

An effective class designed for sitting and standing (if desired), using the chair for support. Suitable for those less mobile, wheelchair users and those with joint problems or injuries.

active.westminster.gov.uk

COST: £2.10 PER CLASS



Gallery 31: I Should Be Doing Something Else Right Now

Until Sunday 31 May 2020

Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA

Bringing together digital collage, print material, sound and sculpture, the exhibition explores the idea of change and its transformative or violent power through dynamic layered compositions.

somersethouse.org.uk

COST: FREE



Covent Garden Comedy Club

Every Saturday, 8pm

Heaven Nightclub, 11 The Arches, Villiers Street, Charing Cross, WC2N 6NG

The Covent Garden Comedy Club at Heaven has been making London laugh since 2002 and has seen impromptu performances from the likes of Jack Whitehall, Michael McIntyre and Alan Carr. Be one of 200 in attendance watching the very best in stand-up comedy within a fantastic intimate atmosphere.

coventgardencomedy.com

COST: FROM £17



George III and the Law of Nations

Tuesday 17 March 2020, 6.30 – 8pm

Bush House (S) 1.01, King's College London, Strand Campus, 30 Aldwych, WC2B 4BG

Join David Armitage, the Lloyd C Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University, for a lecture examining how George III, from his early years as Prince of Wales in the 1750s, was educated in constitutionalism and the law of nations.

bit.ly/3aWrX5u

COST: FREE, BUT REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



PANTOMIME PLAYING AT THE LYCEUM

Billed as a new comic pantomime of Jack and Jill, this coloured engraving from 1812 shows Master Kirby as Clown and Master Parsloe as Grasshopper. The pantomime was staged at the Theatre Royal Lyceum. The engraving was published in August 1812 by W West at his Theatrical Print Warehouse, 13 Exeter Street, Strand.

There has been a theatre in the Covent Garden area called the Lyceum since 1765.

Award-winning green spaces

Westminster boasts a wealth of parks and gardens and two housing estates in Pimlico are the latest to be celebrated for the green oasis they provide to residents.

Lillington and Longmoore Gardens estate has been awarded a Green Flag for the thirteenth year running. It was recognised as a hub of wildlife and biodiversity, including hosting their own beehives on the estate, producing a crop of honey every year.

Churchill Gardens received its Green Flag for the seventh year running. Its gardens are a haven for wildlife in a large and complex urban estate.

To keep the grounds looking their best, residents of Lillington and Longmoore Gardens took part in an autumn community gardening project, planting thousands of bulbs in the gardens to ensure a colourful spring.

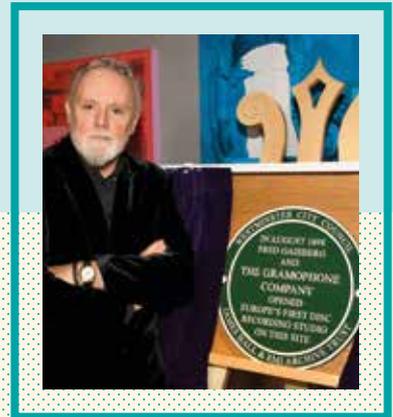
Green Plaques

Europe's first recording studio

Europe's first recording studio opened in 1898 at 31 Maiden Lane in Covent Garden. The studio was run by recording pioneers from the Gramophone Company who made the country's first disc recordings. Artists would sing into the recording machine's trumpet shaped horn that also captured music from a nearby piano.

The Gramophone Company later became known as His Masters Voice and then EMI, which opened the world-renowned Abbey Road Studio three decades later. A Green Plaque was unveiled in December 2019 by Queen drummer, Roger Taylor.

westminster.gov.uk/green-plaques



Dave Hogan for Getty Images / Universal Music

WHAT'S ON?



British Baroque: Power and Illustration

Until Sunday 19 April 2020

Tate Britain, Millbank, SW1P 4RG

This is the first time that Tate has staged a show devoted to the later 17th century. Many of the works will be on display for the first time. This exhibition will include the work of leading painters of the day – Peter Lely, Godfrey Kneller and James Thornhill amongst others.

[tate.org.uk](https://www.tate.org.uk)

COST: £16 / MEMBERS: FREE / CONCESSIONS: £15 / FAMILY – CHILD 12 – 18 YEARS: £5 OR UNDER 12S: FREE (UP TO FOUR PER FAMILY ADULT)



November Project Weekly Fitness/Exercise Session

Every Wednesday, 6.29am

Green Park, Bomber Command Memorial, SW1Y 5AJ

Every Wednesday join trainers Joe and Andrea for a free fitness workout in Green Park that caters to all abilities. This is part of the November Project, a free fitness movement in 51 cities around the world.

[november-project.com/london-uk](https://www.november-project.com/london-uk)

COST: FREE



Mindful Painting

Every day, classes between 11.30am – 9.30pm

MasterPeace Creative Studios, 12 Eccleston Yards, Belgravia, SW1W 9NF

At MasterPeace guests can paint their favourite photos with help from our team of professional artists and tech-hacks in just 90 minutes. Offering private 1-to-1 classes, as well as group drop-ins for adults and kids. Prosecco, refreshments and nibbles included.

[masterpeace.studio/book](https://www.masterpeace.studio/book)

COST: £49



Everyone Active Hot Yoga

Every Monday 7 – 8am, Tuesday 7.30 – 8:30pm and Wednesday 7.45 – 8:45pm

Queen Mother Sports Centre, 223 Vauxhall Bridge Road, Pimlico, SW1V 1EL

Beat the cold weather and spend 60 minutes in a 100F heated room where you can channel your inner calm whilst strength building. With a variety of different yoga exercises available you will leave feeling focused, strong, balanced and flexible.

[active.westminster.gov.uk](https://www.active.westminster.gov.uk)

COST: £15 PER CLASS



BloomsburyLaw
S O L I C I T O R S



London's Leading Solicitors Specialising in

- Commercial / Residential Property
- Personal Injury
- Employment Law
- Immigration
- Wills, Probate and Trusts
- Intellectual Property
- Motoring Offences
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Family and Children Law
- Medical / Clinical Negligence
- Education Law
- Media and Entertainment Law
- Tax Advice and Disputes
- Speeding Offences

Call us Today to arrange a Consultation
+44 (0)207 998 7777

Trusted Legal Advisers to the Residents of the City of Westminster

17 Manchester Street
London W1U 4DJ

For further information visit our **website:** www.bloomsbury-law.com
Email: info@bloomsbury-law.com **Tel:** +44 (0)207 998 7777

Follow us on: @BloomsburyLawSolicitors @bloomsburylaw @bloomsburylawsolicitors @BloomsburyLaw17