

THE WESTMINSTER REPORTER

The Westminster City Council Magazine

Love your Local
Westminster is back in business



Issue No. 137

F R E E
AUGUST 2020

A TASTE OF WESTMINSTER
Get cooking with
your community

LET'S GET MOVING
Reopening the city
safely and securely


City of Westminster

Recycle... it's easy!



Please only put the following in your mixed recycling:



Why is it important to recycle correctly?

Recycling helps reduce pollution, save resources and protect the environment.

How do I get clear recycling bags?

- Order online: westminster.gov.uk/recycling-bags
- Ask your porter or caretaker

How do I use the clear recycling bags?

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

- Live on a housing estate?
 - Use your reusable blue recycling bag. Please email estatercycling@westminster.gov.uk for a bag.
 - Empty your mixed recycling from your reusable bag into the communal recycling bins, and keep to use again.
 - Ask your housing manager about how to recycle on your estate.



⊘ No black bags

⊘ No garden waste

⊘ No polystyrene

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.



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

@CityWestminster

@CityWestminster

/CityWestminster

4 – 5

Council Updates

The latest from the council plus the Leader's Column



6 – 7

Cover story:

Reopening Westminster

Getting the city moving again

8

A Taste of Westminster

The community gets cooking

9

Community Spirit

How Westminster came together during lockdown

10

Tying the Knot

Marylebone Old Town Hall reopens

August 2020 – Issue 137

11

Notting Hall Carnival

A virtual celebration for all



12 – 13

Support Your Local Retailers

Shopping and eating locally made easy

14

Climate Emergency

What can we all do to go greener

15

Recycling

Where our waste ends up

17

Keeping the City Safe

How Test and Trace works

18 – 23

MyWestminster

Find out about the latest news and support services available in North, South and Central Westminster

COUNCIL

UPDATES

Keep informed

Our website is updated daily with the latest information and advice. You can also sign up to our regular newsletter at westminster.gov.uk/newslettersignup

Helping rough sleepers

Throughout the pandemic, the council and our charity partners helped more than 260 rough sleepers get off the streets and into hotels and other accommodation. This was backed up by a huge logistical operation that provided thousands of meals, clothing items, medical supplies and other essentials. Since then, we have been working with charity partners, including St Mungo's, The Connection at St Martin's, The Passage and West London Mission, to move the vast majority into more sustainable longer-term housing.

“The coronavirus pandemic has affected so many people,” says Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council, “but it has also given us an unprecedented opportunity to work with rough sleepers – not only to offer them a home but also support them with the services they need to live independently. This includes help finding jobs, maintaining their tenancies, and mental health or drug and alcohol support – all things that do not end once someone is housed.” The council is currently planning a comprehensive review to look at more ways to provide rough sleepers with the best foundation to support them away from living permanently on the streets.



More details on the help we are providing can be found at westminster.gov.uk/rough-sleeping-hidden-network

Better community communication

The council's BAME Network has hosted 300 people from 27 councils to discuss the impact of coronavirus on BAME communities. The event, entitled 'Communicating effectively with communities' included a presentation from Lord Simon Woolley. Network chairperson, Serena Simon, said: “It was inspirational and we are committed to being more ambitious and more demanding to see change.” During the summer, the council has been partnering with Support When It Matters (SWIM) to provide culturally sensitive coronavirus support. We have also been meeting with resident groups, faith groups, cultural institutions and others.



Enjoy a crowd-free Westminster

The council is encouraging visitors to enjoy the best of the West End without the usual summer crowds in a new campaign – #SightseeCrowdFree.

Cllr Rachael Robathan said: “People in foreign cities will often pay extra to get up early to go on private tours to dodge the crowds – in Westminster you have a chance to do that for free before the crowds return in the autumn.”

The campaign shows how it has been made easier to enjoy a safe and enjoyable day out in the West End, to see a site or two and take in a meal at our temporary outdoor restaurants.

Keep an eye on our Instagram, Twitter and Facebook channels as we engage with people from across London who have taken a step back into the city safely to see the West End like never before.



Taking it slow

After careful planning and consultation, the council has begun a roll-out of a city-wide 20mph speed limit, providing safer, greener, and cleaner streets across the heart of London. Limiting speeds will reduce the severity of accidents, make it safer to travel on foot or by bike, help to improve public spaces and encourage healthier, more active lifestyles.

For more information, please visit westminster.gov.uk/20mph

LEADER'S COLUMN



Sat in a Westminster pizza restaurant with my daughter on a recent visit, the mood was buzzing. The venue was busy and only the serving staff in face masks and the socially distanced tables marked the changes.

Scenes like this are being replicated across the city as we slowly edge back to normality. The restaurant I went to is one of 3,700 in Westminster. You can add to that more than 40,000 businesses, large and small, that drive the city's economy.

A council's job is to give people the confidence that it is safe to return. To that end, we've commissioned schemes to make Westminster easier and safer to get around – for example adding 11km of temporary cycle paths and 19,000m² of expanded pavement space.

We have all felt the hardships that came with coronavirus over these past months. Time now then to plan for how we can offer our residents and commuters confidence that there are jobs to return to, a reviving economy and a city they can enjoy once more.

Uncharted waters lie ahead. But with the spirit and enterprise Westminster has shown in recent months, I'm confident we are ready for renewal.

CLLR RACHAEL ROBATHAN
LEADER OF WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

GETTING THE CITY MOVING

Westminster is restarting London's economic engine

Westminster City Council has got underway with extensive and ambitious plans to provide new and additional space for cyclists and pedestrians – part of measures that are safely reopening the city and getting the economy moving again.

The council has been working to develop these temporary proposals in conjunction with local groups, residents and businesses. The move has seen widened pavements, increased pedestrian areas and cycle lanes in some of London's most iconic locations. Oxford Street, Regent Street and Piccadilly have seen traffic lanes turned into pedestrian walkways, as well as signage and guidance on social distancing, and pop up cycle lanes.

Busy transport hubs, such as Paddington and Marylebone stations, are employing strict social distancing measures to ensure people feel safe travelling into the area to shop, work and enjoy the city's world-class hospitality.

The measures have helped restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs reopen to the public safely. Meanwhile, libraries, leisure centres, gyms and playgrounds have also been reopened. All areas of Westminster will be covered by activity to encourage people to move safely around the city.

Cllr Rachael Robathan said: "We are doing all we can to give people confidence that it's safe to return and that there is a lot to return to – the shops are open, galleries and attractions are welcoming tourists, and we've been given the green light for open-air music and theatre."

Some of the initial measures include:

- 'School streets' introduced across the city where cars are banned from roads surrounding playgrounds for short periods of time during the day to reduce traffic and pollution.
- Improvements around major railway stations such as Victoria and Charing Cross.
- Signage and guidance in markets to encourage social distancing.
- More cycle racks and better links to the existing cycle networks.
- A new range of street signage highlighting the need for social distancing in public areas.



See the full list of our initial movement plans at bit.ly/wcc-moving



Keeping this space open for all

Staying active is vital to everyone's physical and mental wellbeing, and the outdoor events, parks, and open spaces available to remain open. To help you and others stay active and safe, please strictly follow the Government's Latest advice:

- Keep a safe distance from other people
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds in a regular flow
- Stay at least 1m from other people
- Don't cough or sneeze into your hands

ACTIVE WESTMINSTER City of Westminster

A Taste of Westminster

We've all been getting more adventurous with our cooking during the past few months and now a brand new, community-based cookbook is helping Westminster residents celebrate the diverse cultural tastes of our city

A Taste of Westminster is filled with tasty dishes from residents, volunteers, organisations and businesses from across Westminster, with easy-to-follow recipes (including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options) created in ways that everyone is able to put together without breaking the bank.

The book also encapsulates the strength and community spirit shown by us all during the COVID-19 pandemic by recording a range of stories and experiences from volunteers, residents, care leavers, council workers and businesses.

This first edition of the book puts the spotlight on Westminster care leavers and the Tuesday Group – a project that brings them together on a weekly basis to share recipes, learn techniques and cook exciting dishes made with delicious ingredients from across the globe.

Ashleigh Marchant, a care leaver and member of the Tuesday Group, shares her squash salad recipe in the book. “The cookbook really gave me a fresh, positive outlet to practice and learn new skills,” says Ashleigh. “I hope it can provide some inspiration and creativity in cooking for people!”

A Taste of Westminster can be downloaded for free at westminster.gov.uk/community-cookbook where you can also make donations to help the Young Westminster Foundation and the Tuesday Group.



Recipes in A Taste of Westminster include:

- Leon's Chocolate and Banana Super Smoothie
- Reham's Homemade Zalabya
- Ahmed's Red Lentil Soup
- Yonas's Spicy Chicken Stew
- Shaun's Jerk Chicken with rice 'n' peas
- Ashleigh's Squash Salad
- Mojahed's Lamb and Okra Curry
- Hayley's Quick 'n' Easy Oreo Cheesecake
- Wilfried's Müsli Chüechli
- Nickie's Italian Sausage Pasta
- Bertie's Aubergine Masala Curry





Westminster shows true community spirit

Throughout the lockdown, people across Westminster showed how strong the city’s sense of community truly is, coming together in unprecedented ways to help and support each other

From providing hot meals to those self-isolating, to shopping for neighbours unable to get outside – our sense of community spirit has never been stronger than in these past few months.

Westminster Connects played a key role in coordinating volunteer efforts throughout the city. Since it began, the service saw more than 3,000 volunteers provide 80,000 meals to residents, conduct hundreds of shopping runs, and make nearly 2,000 comfort-providing phone calls to those most vulnerable, helping overcome feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

Queen’s Park resident, Mung-Nee Yeow, was one such caller. Mung-Nee had five residents to speak to, with conversations ranging from politics to what food they were eating. She says: “People were grateful I was calling every week. I’m not the usual doctor or nurse who just rings up. It’s a break from the normal routine to talk about whatever was happening to them and it helped me to understand what they were going through.”

Farah London has lived in Westminster for more than ten years and volunteered to deliver food to those who were homeless. She was part of a team at the council’s own Unity Kitchen packaging more than 900 meals for those placed in temporary accommodation during lockdown. “It’s great knowing that people like me can help,” she says of the experience. “During this crisis, strangers were volunteering and helping my own vulnerable elderly parents. It was so nice knowing that while I cannot see my parents, I can help someone else’s. There’s truly no greater joy than being able to impact someone’s life.”

Westminster City Council Cabinet Member for Community Services, Paul Swaddle, says: “As we ease out of lockdown and re-open the city to residents and visitors, I hope many of our current volunteers and more residents sign up to continue the spirit of helping others for many years to come. Due to the fantastic response from our communities, we see Westminster Connects becoming a long-term part of the fabric of our city.”

To find out more, visit westminster.gov.uk/westminster-connects

Weddings return to Old Marylebone Town Hall

As weddings and civil partnership ceremonies have been given the green light to recommence, more than 100 couples across Westminster have now been able to say ‘I do’

Kate and Ben Watts tied the knot at the beautiful Old Marylebone Town Hall after they were forced to cancel a large celebration in Italy. Instead, the couple had a more intimate wedding in front of close friends at the Westminster room.

Bride Kate says: “Even if I’d had the chance to have it the way we dreamed of in Italy, I would have still gone with our registry ceremony, it was much more intimate. It wasn’t how we planned, but it was perfect.”

Kate had been through a “stressful” and “emotionally draining” time not knowing where or when she and

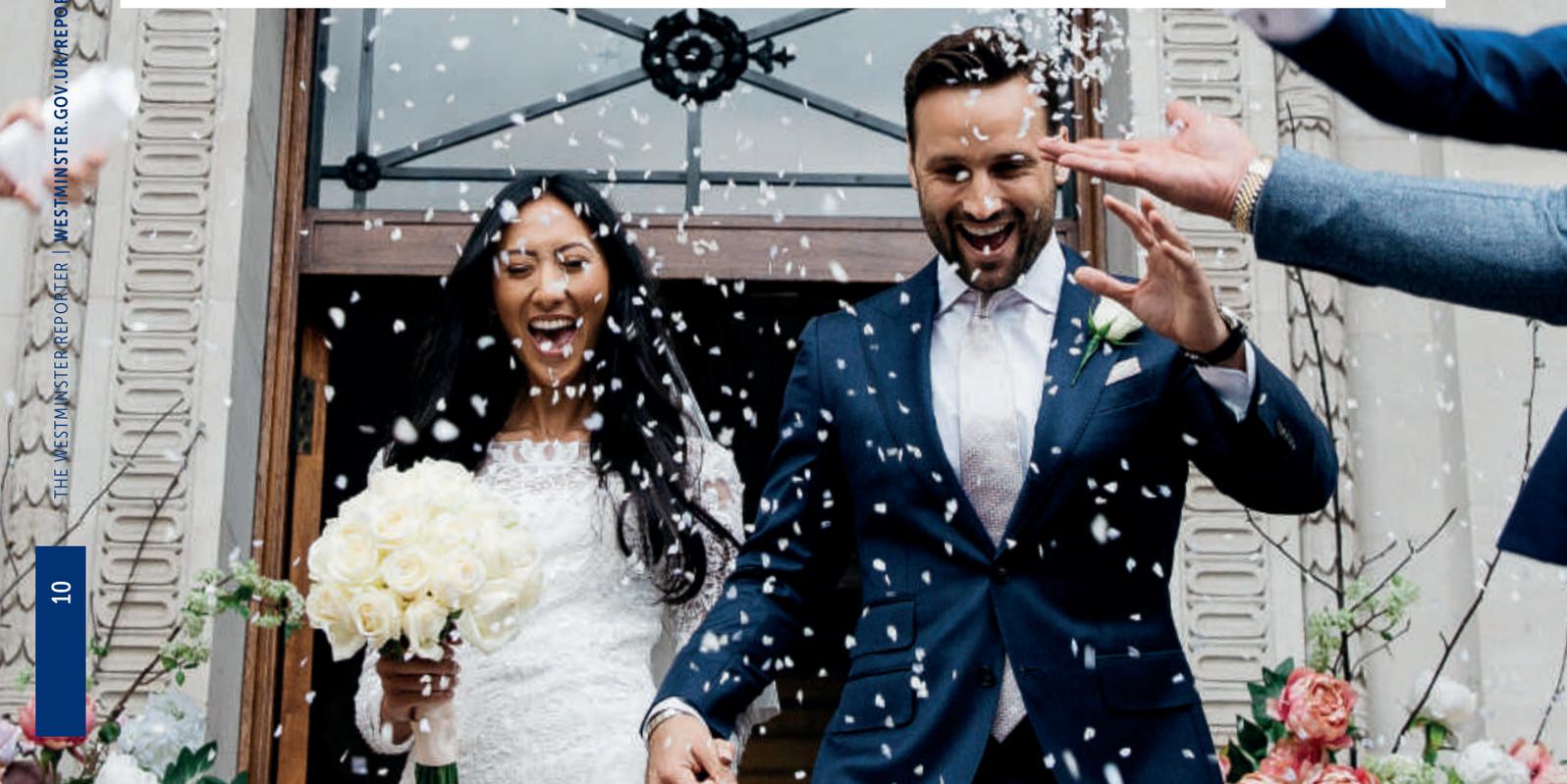
Ben were going to tie the knot. But the Town Hall couldn’t have been more helpful. “They said they would do their best to make it as special as possible,” she says, “and it was amazing. The venue was so pretty, white marble from floor to ceiling.”

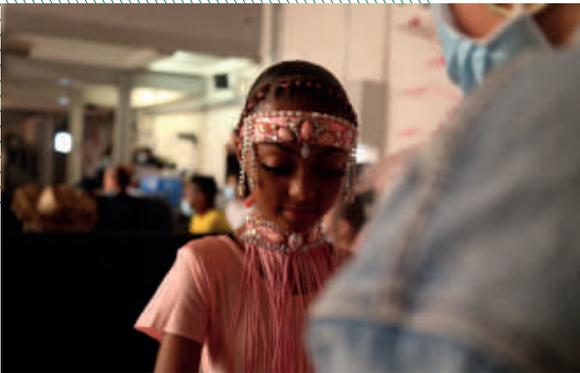
“During lockdown we had the sad task of either rescheduling or cancelling and refunding fees for hundreds of couples who could no longer have the ceremony of their dreams,” says Alison Cathcart, Registration Service Business Development Manager at Westminster City Council. “It has been so exciting to be able to reopen

the Old Marylebone Town Hall in a safe and secure way – albeit for much smaller ceremonies than before.”

Alison has been amazed how many couples have chosen to go ahead and have small weddings, and she feels that it is “a privilege for us to help make that happen for them. We are looking forward to even more couples choosing Old Marylebone Town Hall for their ceremony.”

◆ You can find full details on getting married in Westminster online at adaytoremember.london





Notting Hill Carnival: Access All Areas

For the first time in its 54-year history, Notting Hill Carnival has moved entirely online, opening up to a global audience that can share in one of the world's great events

Founded in 1959 by Trinidadian human rights activist, Claudia Jones, as a celebration of the West Indian communities living in London, the Notting Hill Carnival has always been about one thing – unity. This year, that spirit of togetherness will continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as Carnival heads online.

Notting Hill Carnival: Access All Areas takes place over the August bank holiday weekend, streamed for free over four separate channels from 6pm to Midnight on 29 August, and from 9am to 11pm on Sunday 30 and Monday 31 August. Details on how to register can be found at [NHCarnival.org](https://www.nhcarnival.org)

This spectacle of music, dancing, food and drink will be brought to you by those that have made Notting Hill Carnival the spectacle we love today. There will be exclusive sets from legendary sound systems such as Volcano, Arts-A-Light and Disya Jeneration.

The magnificence of Calypso and Soca comes courtesy of Ms Desire, Brown Sugar and Triniboi Joojie, while the incredible sound of the Steelpan comes from Panash, Pan Nation and Brazilian bands Baque De Axe and Batala.

Meanwhile, the colour and panache of Mas is brought to you by The Bride Outreach, Calabash and Soca Massive amongst many, many more.

These are just a few of the artists taking part with many other well-known UK and international artists also confirmed. Keep checking [NHCarnival.org](https://www.nhcarnival.org) for updates.

SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL RETAILERS

As the city reopens, it's more vital than ever to connect with your local businesses and dining hotspots

While there are many global corporations headquartered in Westminster, the majority of the borough's 46,000 businesses in fact have fewer than ten employees each. With the lockdown measures having changed our shopping habits, many of these smaller shops, companies and outlets have found themselves suffering from a drop in customers.

To help these small businesses out, the council is encouraging us all to Shop Local and Eat Local. The council has introduced a range of measures across the city – including outdoor dining – to encourage people to visit their local area for shopping or a meal. The approach and the measures introduced are unique to each neighbourhood. In St John's Wood, for example, a temporary one-way system has created more space for restaurants and shoppers.

The best way to support your local pubs, restaurants and cafes that have re-opened is by visiting them. The government has launched the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. Until the end of August you can get 50% off your food and non-alcoholic drinks up to a total value of £10 per person if you eat or drink in, and support the hospitality industry at the same time. Remember to make sure to book ahead and to follow all safety measures that these businesses have put in place.

Cllr Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Business and Planning says: "Westminster is at the heart of London's economy and we want to support and encourage a resident-led kickstart of that local economy as we reopen the city."

You can visit the interactive map and help support your local community at westminster.gov.uk/shop-local-eat-local



WESTMINSTER



WESTMINSTER





Help tackle the climate emergency

The council has declared a climate emergency and you can have your say in helping the city become carbon neutral by 2040

Westminster has some of the highest carbon emissions and the worst air pollution in the UK, but we can make big changes if everyone works together.

We are looking at sustainable ways to recover from lockdown that allow us to make improvements in air quality, find opportunities in the green economy and save money at home through less energy use.

Have your say

We will be speaking to residents and businesses about how we can work together to tackle climate change. This will help us set out our priorities and actions around the themes of:

- Homes and communities
- Consumption and waste
- Businesses and workplaces
- Low carbon energy
- Travel and transport

To shape these discussions, we would like to hear your ideas about what can be done to tackle climate change in Westminster.

Visit westminster.gov.uk/climateemergency to find out more and submit your feedback, or email climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk.



Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of Westminster City Council, is a passionate advocate for ensuring the city leads the way in forging a green and clean future. “The council

declared a climate emergency last autumn and my focus is now on making sure that we deliver on the pledge to be carbon neutral by 2040,” she says. “We have already taken steps to tackle emissions and improve air quality in Westminster through the Schools’ Clean Air Fund, plans for a low carbon development at Ebury Bridge housing estate, new electric vehicle charging points and the diesel parking surcharge. We have also allocated an initial £5m for future environmental projects as part of our commitment to tackling climate change. This is not some fashionable fad of the moment; it is our duty to safeguard the city for future generations.”



Giving waste a new lease of life

Recycling your household waste is vital in the effort to protect our planet, but where does your recycling and rubbish actually end up?

Westminster City Council is committed to a comprehensive and effective recycling service. Mixed recycling gets sorted at local facilities and goes on to enjoy new leases of life. The recycling we collect gets turned into brand new products, while food waste is processed at an anaerobic digestion facility, being turned into biogas (used to generate electricity and heat) and biofertiliser for farmland. Food recycling is currently being trialled in parts of the borough, with an eye on further expansion in the future.

Rubbish or general waste, meanwhile, is treated and sent for incineration. This produces steam that powers homes in London, businesses and even the Tube network, and ash that is used in road construction.

TEST YOUR RECYCLING KNOWLEDGE!



1. Recycling one drink can could save enough energy to power a TV for...
1 hour 4 hours 10 hours



2. Recycling one plastic bottle could save enough energy to power a lightbulb for...
1 hour 4 hours 9 hours



3. How long does it take for a recycled newspaper to return as a new edition?
1 day 7 days 30 days

Quiz answers:
1. 4 hours 2. 9 hours 3. 7 days

Visit westminster.gov.uk/recycling for information including collection schedules and guidance on how to recycle.



WESTMINSTER ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE

SUPPORTING YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

- As a way of supporting our communities during this difficult time, we are offering all courses up to Level 2 **TOTALLY FREE** for all London learners until November 2020*.
- We are here to help learners prepare for employment and retrain for new careers.
- Our programmes are offered in an agile way so that we can learn online and remotely, or meet in a safe environment, as needed.
- Our experts are on hand to offer advice and assist with questions about careers, progression and leisure learning.
- Our higher level programme offer is still available, funded by advanced learner loans.
- We are committed to support all our learners prepare for employment, learn new skills and combat isolation.

ENROL NOW

- Visit our website to have a look at our full offer and complete an application form.
- Or you can phone or email us and we will help with any questions you have.
- We are here to help and support you.



www.waes.ac.uk

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

Lisson Grove, 219 Lisson Grove, London, NW8 8LW



City of Westminster



Test and Trace – keeping our city safe

As Westminster reopens, NHS Test and Trace will reduce the spread of coronavirus by helping the NHS keep the rate of reproduction – the ‘R’ number – below 1

If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus you must stay at home and ask for a test by calling NHS **119** or booking online at nhs.uk/coronavirus

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a long cotton bud.

If you test positive, the NHS will help gather contact details of who you have been in contact with. You must then self-isolate for 10 days. People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay home for 14 days.

By playing your part, you will directly help to contain coronavirus. Find out more at westminster.gov.uk/test-and-trace

MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



THE MARKET THAT REFUSED TO DIE

Portman Market, on the left of this 1834 sketch by draughtsman Robert Blemmell Schnebbelie, began life as a covered repository for hay and straw, used to feed the horses of the mid-19th century. It quickly expanded to become a commercial provider of butter, vegetables, poultry, butcher's meat and other provisions to the nearby artisan classes of Lisson Grove and Edgware Road.

Planned as a rival for the more popular Covent Garden, fortune sadly failed to smile on the vendors and the market closed its doors in 1907. Not to be deterred, the enterprising salesfolk simply moved out into the adjoining street and continued to trade in what has grown today to become the far more popular Church Street Market.

Harrow Road housing scheme approved

A new housing development on Harrow Road has been given the go-ahead as part of the council's in-house housing company, Westminster Builds. Designed by architectural firm Chris Graddon Lewis, and to be built by Willmott Dixon, the new complex comprises three new buildings that include 112 new homes, with more than 50% being genuinely affordable. The homes will range from studios to three-bedroom apartments, with the majority of the larger, family-sized dwellings coming under the affordable category.

The buildings are designed to retain and enhance existing community facilities such as nurseries, public green spaces and commercial outlets, and are aiming to improve the connections between Harrow Road and the nearby canal area. Both Chris Graddon Lewis and Willmott Dixon were behind the construction of the affordable housing complex, Dudley House.



LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Westminster Talking Therapies

Providing a free and confidential talking therapies service for people who have concerns about coronavirus. The support is offered by qualified therapists and counsellors, and most consultations are provided by phone or video call. We will discuss with you the best way to offer help and practical strategies to help you cope with the current situation.

 cnwltalkingtherapies.org.uk

Contact: 030 3333 0000 or
westminster.iapt@nhs.net

Bayswater COVID-19 Support Network

Providing a local network to support one another, with Street by Street WhatsApp Groups, regular updates, shopping delivery and prescription collection for our vulnerable residents, telephone partnering, entertainment and volunteering opportunities.

 bayswatercovid19support.com

Contact: 07899 299856 or
emilyp4yne@gmail.com or
bayswatershopping@outlook.com

The Mosaic Community Trust

Providing phone-based support to BME women in North Westminster. Helping to identify the signs of COVID-19. Explaining self-isolation and the value of social distancing. Providing active listening to help overcome anxiety, depression, fear and worry. Facilitating physical support with regard to shopping, laundry, collecting medicines and helping with contacting health and public services.

 mosaiccommunitytrust.org.uk

Contact: 020 7289 1170

Paddington Development Trust

PDT is providing communication services through online networks. It is also reaching out to hard-to-contact residents through telephone support and networking. PDT is also offering support to small businesses.

 pdt.org.uk

Contact: 020 8092 4466 or hello@pdt.org.uk

St Mary's London

St Mary's has a team of ten volunteers who are willing and keen to provide help and support for people in the local area of Bryanston and Dorset Square Ward (but are happy to help with other requests in NE Westminster). From getting food and medical supplies to providing a friendly chat.

 stmaryslondon.com/covid-19

Contact: 020 7258 5040 or
parish@stmaryslondon.com

W9W2 - The Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society

Matching volunteers with residents who are quarantined and need assistance in the Maida Vale and Little Venice area. Will help out with hot and cold food deliveries. Also provides support for the staff at St Mary's hospital.

 w9w2.co.uk

Contact: contactw9w2@gmail.com

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL GROUPS PROVIDING SUPPORT
PLEASE VISIT [WESTMINSTER.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS-SUPPORT-MAP-LOCAL-ORGANISATIONS](https://westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-map-local-organisations)

MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



Image courtesy of Imperial War Museum

THE END OF THE WAR

On 15 August 1945, the Second World War finally drew to a close with the surrender by Japanese forces in the Asia-Pacific theatre of operations. At the time, there were 365,000 British and more than 1.5 million Commonwealth troops deployed in the region. The surrender came following the dropping of two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The end of the war was met with a mixture of joy and relief by the West, with central London seeing impromptu parties, civilians and military personnel dancing in the streets and even Allied soldiers forming conga lines along Regent Street. We continue to commemorate the date, this year seeing the Red Arrows perform a fly-over and Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall leading a two-minute silence.

Hare-raising encounters at Berkeley Square

A striking artwork installation, designed by artist Sophie Ryder, has been erected in Berkeley Square, Mayfair. The sculpture, Lady Hare, depicts the body of a woman (modelled on Sophie's own figure) with the head of a hare and was created by the artist as a counterpart to the Minotaur of Greek mythology.

Originally created in 1999, and continuously updated over time, the larger-than-life sculpture is constructed from wet plaster, old machine parts, scavenged toys, tangled wire and torn scraps of paper. Discussing the work, Ryder says: "It encompasses so many emotions. Sculpture should adapt to its surroundings and work from every angle. Crawling does all of that in my opinion and so she is a piece I am incredibly proud of."

Those who are interested in showcasing their own artworks as part of the City of Sculpture can apply here: westminster.gov.uk/city-sculpture



LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Westminster Talking Therapies

Providing a free and confidential talking therapies service for people who have concerns about coronavirus. The support is offered by qualified therapists and counsellors, and most consultations are provided by phone or video call. We will discuss with you the best way to offer help and practical strategies to help you cope with the current situation.

 cnwltalkingtherapies.org.uk

**Contact: 030 3333 0000 or
westminster.iapt@nhs.net**

West End Community Trust

Runs a chat line for Westminster residents (primarily in the West End Ward and the elderly) to call for a chat or for help with their digital skills. Manned from Monday to Friday during office hours.

 sohocaf.org.uk

**Contact: 07502 106713 from Monday and
Wednesday / 07768 907525 from Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday**

Lancaster Gate Next Door Group

Community volunteers wanting to support the most vulnerable in the Lancaster Gate area with errands and food and information distribution, emotional comfort and wellbeing support and telephone befriending.

 nextdoor.co.uk/g/xc1eop1rm (requires sign-up)

Knightsbridge and Belgravia Mutual Aid Group

Community volunteers wanting to support the most vulnerable with errands, information distribution and emotional comfort. Available to anyone in need in the Knightsbridge and Belgravia area.

 westminstermutualaid.co.uk

Contact: pimlicomutualaid@gmail.com

St Marylebone Parish Church

Co-ordinating volunteers to meet the needs of local residents. Including access to medicine and health services, mental health support, telephone befriending, dealing with social isolation and other forms of emotional wellbeing aid. Also provides a regular 'virtual church' service.

 sstmarylebone.org

Contact: 020 7935 7315

Senior Care Ministry All Souls

All Souls provide befriending support and shopping for essentials to the over-60 within and around the West End. If you are an older person in need of care or assistance, please see contact details below.

 allsoulsclubhouse.org

**Contact: 020 3920 6986 or
sally.jacobs-black@allsouls.org**

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL GROUPS PROVIDING SUPPORT
PLEASE VISIT [WESTMINSTER.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS-
SUPPORT-MAP-LOCAL-ORGANISATIONS](https://westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-map-local-organisations)

MYWESTMINSTER

NORTH — CENTRAL — SOUTH

HISTORY IN PICTURES



LONDON'S LAST COMMERCIAL CANAL

In the early 1900s, this lock-keeper's cottage used to stand beside the Grosvenor Canal, a stretch of waterway that ran from the Thames near Pimlico all the way up to the present-day site of Victoria train station. Opened in 1824, its purpose was to transport goods to and refuse away from the inhabitants of what is today Ebury Bridge.

Progressively shortened as the years rolled on, the canal still continued to be used for waste removal until 1995, making it the last canal to be in commercial operation in London. Despite retaining a working swing bridge, the remaining portions of the waterway today go nowhere and are flanked by the Ebury Bridge housing estate and the high-end Grosvenor Waterside development.

Getting Westminster's build back on

Construction sites across Westminster are on the move again (in line with social distancing of course). That's good news for the residents of Ebury Bridge where work is underway on a major renewal scheme.

Cllr Robathan and Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Melvyn Caplan, visited the site recently to see the latest work on the development, which will create 758 high quality and energy-efficient homes, 386 of them affordable. Construction company, Bouygues, will also deliver a sports hall and community venue as part of the estate's renewal. The first phase of construction is due for completion in 2023.

Cllr Caplan said: "The much-needed new homes built as part of the scheme will contribute to our target of 1,850 homes over the next three years. We want the Ebury Bridge renewal scheme to create a new high standard in estate regeneration."



LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Westminster Talking Therapies

Providing a free and confidential talking therapies service for people who have concerns about coronavirus. The support is offered by qualified therapists and counsellors, and most consultations are provided by phone or video call. We will discuss with you the best way to offer help and practical strategies to help you cope with the current situation.

 cnwltalkingtherapies.org.uk

**Contact: 030 3333 0000 or
westminster.iapt@nhs.net**

Cardinal Hume Centre

Telephone advice on housing and benefits issues; referrals to local foodbank. Available to vulnerable families and young people in Westminster.

 cardinalhumecentre.org.uk

**Contact: 020 7227 1673 or
info@cardinalhumecentre.org.uk**

Abbey Community Association

Abbey Community Association provides multilingual support primarily in the South Westminster area. Includes mental health support, homelessness support, financial support and guidance.

 theabbeycentre.org.uk

**Contact: 020 7222 0303 or
enquiries@theabbeycentre.org.uk**

St Andrew's Club

The world's oldest youth club focuses on providing a virtual service for young people aged 5 to 18, their friends and helpful support for their parents. Offers support with physical and mental wellbeing via the club's website.

 standrewsclub.com

**Contact: 020 7222 6481 or
info@standrewsclub.com**

St. Michael's Church Chester Square

Provides tech coaching (help to get online and stay connected) for residents of the St. Michael's Chester Square parish (the area of Belgravia in the immediate vicinity of Chester Square/Elizabeth Street).

 stmichaelschurch.org.uk

**Contact: 020 7730 8889 or
office@stmichaelschurch.org.uk**

In-Deep

In-Deep volunteers are collecting shopping for elderly or vulnerable people in the south of Westminster who are self isolating. Also offers telephone befriending services and emotional wellbeing support.

 in-deep.org.uk

**Contact: 0207 834 5204 or
emma.chapman@in-deep.org.uk**

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL GROUPS PROVIDING SUPPORT
PLEASE VISIT [WESTMINSTER.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS-SUPPORT-MAP-LOCAL-ORGANISATIONS](https://westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-map-local-organisations)



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