

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE Sunday 12 March 2023 at 3.00 p.m.

PLACE Belsize Square Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of the 2022 AGM (attached) and matters arising.
- 2 Presentation of, and questions and discussions about, the Chair's report (see overleaf).
- 3 Presentation of Accounts 2022 (see the back page).
- 4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for the accounts.
- 5 Election of Trustee and Committee Members.
- 6 Any other business.

SHORT TALK AT APPROX 4 p.m.

Committee Nominations should reach
The Chair at 14C Belsize Square London NW3 4HT by 26 February 2023
Nomination forms can be obtained from info@belsize.org.uk

*ONLY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY CAN ATTEND THE AGM.
OTHERS WISHING TO JOIN OR RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP CAN DO
SO AT THE MEETING.*

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2023

Thanks for your support of the Society during 2022, where there was a wide range of Society activities.

In May, the Society held a local election hustling at which candidates from the main parties were asked about a range of topics, including housing in the area, encouraging local shops and large developments. We were able to conduct a historic walk, led by our former chair Averil Nottage, that covered the artists, spies and refugees that lived in Belsize with wonderful insight about the community in Belsize in the first half of the 20th century. December saw us host a Society carol singing which raised a considerable sum for the Marie Curie Hospice. This year the Primrose Hill Community Choir joined our gathering. The summer party benefitted from a sunny day and it was wonderful to be able to come together after a few years where the event was not possible.

The planning team have continued to look at applications for planning permission made to the Council in the Belsize area, reviewing around 100 and commenting on 15. During the year, the Society supported residents as they objected to plans for Howitt Close. Developers are seeking to build an additional floor. As well as making comments on the plans, the Society has supported an application to Historic England to list the building. The Society has also participated with other resident bodies in commenting on plans at the O2 Centre, objecting to the applications by Deliveroo for a large kitchen in Finchley Road and supporting Camden's work looking at strengthening enforcement.

We have continued to monitor local tree applications, looking at 194 applications and commenting on 31. The Society was successful in an application for Community Infrastructure Levy funding for planting trees in the area to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The funding enables the Council to scope and progress the planting. However, progress has been slow and, for several months, Belsize's Councillors have been trying on behalf of BelSoc to instigate some action from the Council.

The Society has commented on two consultations, a first on the Camden Local Plan and secondly on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The Committee have also engaged with local councillors, both through meetings and as individual Society initiatives have progressed.

The quarterly newsletters continued to be produced, with the 2022 edition of Tradesmen You Can Trust accompanying the May newsletter. The website is keeping a fresh look, but we had to pause discussions with a developer about an upgrade for the website's structure. Throughout the year, our noticeboards have publicised non-commercial local events, services and notices of interest. The year has also seen some repairs to the boards.

Our financial position remains healthy, continuing the improvements reported in the past years. We have made and received a claim for Gift Aid. Like last year, we have made donations to bodies supporting the community in the stressed current conditions. We also made some donations in line with the wishes of a donor.

During the year, 33 new member households joined the Society. The total paying membership is 542, with a further 12 complimentary members.

It is thanks to all the hard work of the Committee and many other members that we are able to maintain the range of activities successfully. We are very grateful to everyone who continued their work for us in 2023 and to all those who took on new tasks. A list of candidates standing for election will be circulated ahead the AGM.

Prabhat Vaze – Chair

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2022 AT 3.00PM VIA ZOOM**

Present: Prabhat Vaze (Chair), Barbara Abraham, Neil Harris, Sanya Polescuk, Anne Stevens, Sarah Courtin, Councillors Simon, Adams, Cooper and about 50 other BelSoc members.

Apologies: AC, AI, MJ, TS,

1. **AGM 2021 Minutes:** Approved, no matters arising. Proposed by Oliver Cooper, seconded by Tom Simon.

2. **Presentation of the Chair's Report for 2021:**

Key issues covered:

- Events: covered the historic walk and the film presentation "Moll King's Belsize Houses"
- Planning: we continue to monitor applications and TS made presentation at 100 Avenue Road appeal. 200 tree applications covered by BA.
- Newsletters included articles from archives for 50-year anniversary. Noticeboards and TYCT continue with thanks to volunteer helpers.

Questions and comments on the Chair's Report included:

- Belsize Neighbourhood Forum & Plan: when last mooted, limited (volunteer) interest. Comment on lack of police in area. BelSoc will re-engage now out of lockdown.
- Request for follow-up to air monitoring exercise.

3. **Presentation of 2021 Accounts:** NH compared 2021 with 2019 because of covid and overall subscriptions appear down. This is in part because payment processing taking longer for new members. Financially, the last three years have each produced small excesses.

Accounts approved nem con. Proposed by David Percy, seconded by Tom Simon.

4. **Appointment of independent examiner:** Our assessor for 2021 accounts sadly passed away. Noted that this role not a requirement but agreed that external assessment should continue. Proposal for Committee to appoint new examiner outside meeting.

Proposal approved nem. con, proposed by Judith Gubbay, seconded by Oliver Cooper.

5. **Election of Trustees and Committee Members for 2022/23:** eleven members, including two trustees, for Committee were appointed as a slate, nem con, proposed by Tom Simon, seconded by Oliver Cooper.

Trustees: Michael Jampel and Barbara Abraham were elected nem con. proposed by Barry Buzan, seconded by Judith Gubbay.

6. **Any other business:**

02 Centre planning application: Oliver Cooper reminded members that comments can be made until 20th March 2022 and afterwards by different route.

- Plans for coming year including hustings for local elections on 1st May 2022 and website development will include a Members Area where registration necessary.
- Queen's Green Canopy: proposal for trees to be added to triangle at end of Lancaster Grove. Discussion about mature trees being felled in back gardens then being replaced with saplings.
- Comments about the provision in the area for young persons.

Belsize Society Trustees and Committee Members 2022/23

Prabhat Vaze (Chair, Trustee)	Artur Carulla (Planning)
Sarah Courtin (Secretary)	Tom Symes (Planning)
Neil Harris (Treasurer, Trustee)	Barbara Abraham (Trees, Trustee)
Anne Stevens (Membership Secretary, Trustee)	David Thomas (Camden Liaison)
Sanya Polescuk	Anthony Isaacs (BCL Link, resigned July)
Michael Jampel (Trustee only)	

The Belsize Society

ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	2022	2021	2020
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£5,160.00	£5,200.00	£5,330.00
OVERSEAS EXCESS	£30.00	£5.00	£15.00
INTEREST	£111.35	£47.94	£69.79
GIFT AID	£0.00	£354.29	£357.00
NOTICEBOARDS	£1,275.00	£0.00	£0.00
DONATIONS (from members)	£80.00	£95.00	£1,459.00
OTHER	£0.00	£0.00	£266.97
TOTAL INCOME	£6,656.35	£5,702.23	£7,497.76
EXPENDITURE			
PROVISIONS FOR EVENTS	£0.00	£190.08	£117.50
STATIONERY	£131.97	£88.19	£92.07
PRINTING	£1,660.04	£1,356.09	£1,423.96
PHOTOCOPIES	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
POSTAGE	£227.24	£488.94	£21.72
GIFTS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
HIRE OF ROOMS	£643.00	£284.00	£239.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS REFUNDED	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00
WEBSITE	£95.40	£110.40	£263.40
DONATIONS (see below *)	£2,330.00	£2,100.00	£1,900.00
ENTERTAINMENT	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00
INSURANCE	£231.00	£231.00	£220.00
NOTICEBOARDS (Inc. Printing)	£2,062.13	£111.84	£70.80
OTHER (Carols Leader's Fee)	£150.00	£485.00	£516.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7,540.78	£5,445.54	£5,015.29
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	-£884.43	£256.69	£2,482.47
BALANCE SHEET AT:	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
BANK BALANCES	£15,520.77	£16,445.20	£16,188.51
LESS UNPAID DONATIONS	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL NET BALANCE	£15,320.77	£16,445.20	£16,188.51
REPRESENTED BY:			
SURPLUS AT START OF YEAR	£16,445.20	£16,188.51	£13,636.59
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	-£884.43	£256.69	£2,482.47
SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	£15,560.77	£16,445.20	£16,119.06

* Donations Made in 2022

Royal Free Charity (2 Donations)	£500.00	Chalk Farm Food Bank	£250.00
The Winch	£250.00	Camden Age UK	£250.00
St Mary's Primrose Hill	£250.00	C4WS Homeless Project	£250.00
NW3CLT	£380.00	Belsize Village Lights	£200.00
		(carried over to 2023)	
		Total Donations	£2,330.00

Neil Harris
Treasurer



Justin Barrington
Independent Examiner



Date

24 January 2023

Date

24 JANUARY 2023.