

# Belsize Residents Association

## Newsletter

February 2018

### Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the February BRA Newsletter.

It was wonderful to see many of you brave the rainy evening we chose for the carol singing. We did raise a considerable sum for the Marie Curie Hospice and thanks to Matthew Watts for leading the singing (page 3).

We are getting ready for the Annual General Meeting and in the centrefold is a discussion about the proposed new status that we will discuss in detail at the meeting. AGM also sees us voting in a new committee: the newsletter has details about how to help in running the Association. We hope to see many of you at AGM to help make a decision about becoming a charity.

Featured in this newsletter is the Belsize Community Library (page 2-3). The Friends of the library are seeking views from residents as they plan the library's next steps. Also in this newsletter is an interview with local resident David Gluckman about his life in product development.

Hope you enjoy this newsletter.

[www.belsize.org.uk](http://www.belsize.org.uk)

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## BRA Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 4 March 2018

at 3pm

**Belsize Square  
Synagogue,  
51 Belsize Square**

**Followed by refreshments  
and a chance to meet other  
members from 4:15**

**BRA members only**

# FOCUS ON: BELSIZE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Pat Holden writes:

*"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." -- Albert Einstein*

Belsize Community Library, situated in Antrim Road, was built in 1937, replacing the original library founded in 1897. The design by architects Gold and Aldridge won widespread acclaim for its use of open-plan spaces. The library continues to be owned by Camden Council; but following threatened closure, its management was taken over by the Winchester Project (the Winch) in 2012. In 2016 the library building was granted 'listed' status.

Over the years, many Belsize residents, including some of the most vulnerable, have enjoyed the facilities offered in the library, from older people reading the newspapers and looking for human interaction, to mothers with young children who feel isolated and young people looking for a place to do their homework. The library is now a thriving community centre offering a wide variety of activities with many focusing on children. It is also available for hire. However, due to financial constraints, the library is only open from Monday to Wednesday. The initial grant awarded by Camden to the Winch has now expired and the library continues mainly with the support of generous benefactors. Its future as a library and community space is, therefore, precarious.



The forerunner organisation of the Friends of Belsize Library was established in 1988 in order to fight the closure of the library planned at the time. The library was saved and the Friends have continued to provide voluntary community support to the library to raise its profile as a community resource, and to ensure the retention and development of library facilities in the building. For many years the Friends have organised monthly events with speakers giving talks on literary, historical and cultural topics. Currently the events take place on the third Thursday of every month. These events serve to bring together people from the local community and act as a reminder that the library continues to perform an important local function. Events are listed in the BRA newsletter and displayed on the Village and Haverstock Hill noticeboards.

The continued functioning of the library is likely to depend on financial contributions to the library and on the continuing interest and support of the local community.

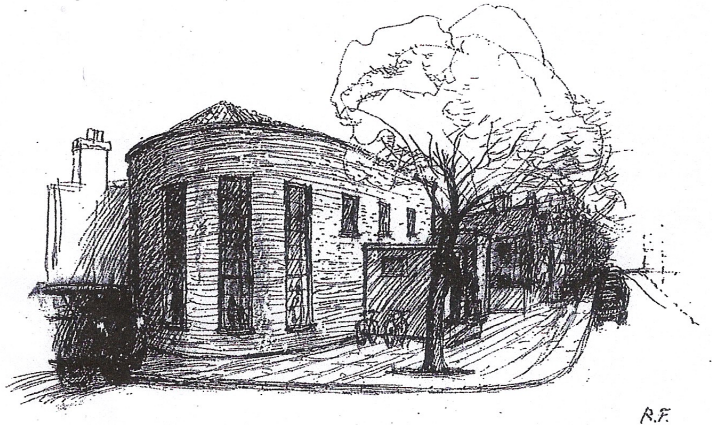
The Friends would love to hear your views on the library and invite you to answer the following brief questionnaire: 1) In the last 3 years have you visited the library? 2) If yes, why did you visit? a) to borrow or browse books; b) to take part in community activities, including Friends' events? 3) How highly do you rate the library as an important facility in the Belsize area on a scale of 1-5? 4) Any other comments?

Please send your replies to [patmholden@hotmail.com](mailto:patmholden@hotmail.com) or leave them at the library in an envelope marked Friends/Questionnaire. If you would like to be added to the Friends mailing list and/or if you would like to join the Friends Committee and help with organising events, contact the same email above.

## FOCUS ON: BELSIZE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Catherine Lambert writes:

I lived for 39 years in Belsize Grove. I have just had my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday and my daughter has given me the beautifully presented book 'Belsize Remembered'. I was fascinated to read an article by Susanna Duncan on Belsize Library which I am thrilled to see is still open. I chaired the historic meeting in 1988 when we were shocked to learn that Camden Council wished to shut our library to save the costs of the salaries of two librarians. We went on to take legal action with Sydney Kentridge QC, famous for his work against apartheid in South Africa, who agreed to take our action against Camden Council as one of the good causes he did pro bono. Can you imagine our heartfelt joy when the judge granted us an injunction? This splendid little library has been the help and inspiration of so many over the years. Bravo to all those who strive to keep it going.



Picture of Belsize Library by the late Richard Finch.  
Reproduced with the kind permission of Catherine Lambert.  
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### *Library Event: Get to Grips with your Gadgets*

Over 60 and need help understanding your gadget over a cup of tea with our friendly volunteers? Then come down and get to grips with your gadget and information technology at Belsize Community Library on March 7th. Places are limited. Booking essential by contacting: Lucy, Library Manager on Mon, Tues or Wed. Phone 020 7586 6746; or email [friendsofbelsizelibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelsizelibrary1@gmail.com).

### *Fleet Singers*

A local Community Choir open to all. Led by professional conductor Phil Wilcox, learning and performing 4-part classical music and a range of other styles. No auditions, not necessary to read music, all welcome. Rehearsals on Mondays, 7.30 - 9.30pm at Gospel Oak Methodist Church, Agincourt Rd NW3 2NT. Cost: £60 for 10 rehearsals, free introductory rehearsal. Concessions may be available. For more information, please see [www.fleetsingers.org.uk](http://www.fleetsingers.org.uk) or contact Margaret Welbank 020 7267 8658.



### *Carol singing in Belsize Village 2017*

It was a slightly damp evening this year for BRA Carol Singing, but those who braved the rain enjoyed a great night of singing. Over £250 was raised for the Marie Curie Hospice. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A particular thanks to Matthew Watts, who led the singing. Matthew runs the Primrose Hill Choirs, and sings regularly at numerous events, some local. Watch this space for more about his choirs' work.

# A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NEW SOCIETY? COME TO THE AGM TO DECIDE

## Very important information for all members

Since the last AGM in March 2017, the BRA Committee has worked on how we might change from an unincorporated association (the Belsize Residents Association) into a charitable society (the Belsize Society). This would involve a number of very significant changes. A sub-group of the Committee has put together a draft constitution which closely reflects the Charity Commission's model constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees. The draft constitution is too long to reproduce here. Highlights include:

**Name:** A charitable organisation needs to exist primarily for the benefit of the population at large, not just its members. The BRA has always sought to benefit everyone by ensuring Belsize is a good place to live, work and visit, and our membership has never been confined solely to those who live here. The new name would reflect this.

**Objects:** Our charitable objects would be the most important part of the constitution. We have carefully considered what those objects should be and have concluded that the Belsize Society would:

(1) Promote for the benefit of the public high standards of architecture, conservation, planning, design, maintenance and use of buildings and infrastructure compatible with the character and quality of life in and/or affecting Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs; and promote the protection development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in that area including considering and promoting traffic solutions for problems occurring in the area and ensuring the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the streets and public places and the protection of the environment and improvement of air quality; and

(2) Foster interest amongst the public in Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs and educate the public in the history, including natural history and architecture, of the area by organising lectures, visits and other events.

We are confident that this formulation expresses the wishes of members as expressed at the last AGM and sets out objects which will be regarded as genuinely charitable

**Powers and the application of income and property, payments to trustees, conflicts of interest:** Clauses in a new constitution would allow us to fundraise, enter into contracts, own property (eg our sound system and crockery) and also ensure that no trustee can use the Society for personal advantage.

**Membership and liability of members:** There would be no change to who may be a member and how they join. The Society would levy membership subscriptions. It would entail the membership secretary continuing to be scrupulous in maintaining a list of members and

oblige us to notify members whose membership is discontinued (eg for non-payment of subscription). As before, membership would be open only to individuals, and not to corporate bodies or businesses. The only duty laid on members is to act in good faith. Members carry no liabilities.

**Decisions and Annual General Meetings:** Provisions of the constitution would allow for the holding of general meetings on the initiative of either a proportion of the members or the trustees, broadly reflective of what has always been done. The only new element would be the possibility of holding a written ballot on a decision outside a General Meeting. We have no plans to use this power, but have included it in our constitution simply to stay as close as possible to the model constitution provided by the Charity Commission.

**Trustees:** We propose that there should be at least three trustees (this is the Charity Commission minimum). The Charity Commission model expects that one third of the trustees shall retire (but may then be re-elected) every year. This implies that the trustees would normally serve three-year terms. We do not expect that all members of the Committee would need or want to be trustees. Therefore the Trustees would need to use their powers of delegation to empower a committee consisting of the trustees and additional people designated by the AGM.

**Electronic communications:** The constitution would permit the Committee to communicate with members by email.

**Further provisions:** The Society would be required to keep proper records. The methods for dealing with disputes and for amending the Constitution would be set out in the constitution which would also make provision for the Society to be dissolved or wound up.

We would encourage all members to attend the AGM in order to contribute to discussion and to the decision about whether we change our name and status. If you have any questions which require a specific answer, please email them in advance to [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk). This will enable the sub-committee to provide considered responses.

## JOIN THE BRA COMMITTEE

*Would you like to help steer the Association? We'd be delighted to welcome members to shape what we do through joining the new 2018/9 BRA Committee. We're always on the lookout for people with an interest in BRA work, such as representing residents' views to Camden, organising events and contributing to the Newsletter. If you would like to stand for the Committee or just find out more about what the Committee does, then please contact us at [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk).*





## Interview with David Gluckman

What do Baileys Irish Cream, Le Piat d'Or and Purdey's have in common? They were all created by long-time Belsize resident David Gluckman. Born and educated in South Africa, David came to England in 1961 to work in advertising.

He changed career to become a product development consultant and in 1973 set up his own business in Soho. His first client was drinks company IDV, which eventually became Diageo. He worked for them for nearly forty years and claims to have had one of the most enjoyable jobs in the world. "I travelled everywhere; Mauritius, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Korea, the US and all over Europe. I even managed four trips on Concorde. And all the time I was looking for new ideas in the drinks business."

One of his first briefs was to create a new drink for IDV's Irish company. It was looking for a brand for export. David and his partner's approach was simple and inspirational. They decided to try an unexpected mix of Irish whiskey and..... cream. The Jameson's and tub of cream were bought from International Stores on Berwick Street. When the mix didn't work, they improvised further by adding sugar and Cadbury's Drinking Chocolate. And that was how Baileys was born. It would become the world's biggest-selling liqueur. The name came from the restaurant Baileys Bistro below their Greek Street office.

In the 1970s most of the wine consumed in England came from France. The French made few concessions to English consumers who found it hard to distinguish one brand from another because of staid labelling and difficult brand names. David helped create a French wine tailored to English tastes at the time. Its distinctively-shaped bottle with its stylish gold label made it easily recognisable. It was simply named Le Piat d'Or and its taste reflected the 'Exceptionally Smooth' claim on the neck label. The brand became a best-seller and many readers will remember the slogan "The French adore le Piat d'Or" – even if they didn't.

In a career that saw over 80 brands brought to market, some of the more familiar ones include Aqua Libra, one of the iconic drinks in the 1980s and a favourite of Princess Diana, The Singleton single malt, Smirnoff Black Label, Ciroc grape vodka, Sheridan's cream liqueur and Tanqueray Ten gin. And after his spell with IDV/Diageo ended, he

teamed up with two ex-colleagues to introduce the world's first Premium cream liqueur, Coole Swan, named after the famous poem by W B Yeats.



How did David go about the creative process? The answer is instinct and judgment. His ideas flowed from his own thinking and came more easily from watching and playing cricket than from a structured day in the office surrounded by textbooks from business schools. (He played for local pub team, Washington CC till he was 75 and many of his ideas were first sampled by his team mates.)

David has lived in Belsize Park since 1974 and appreciates its quiet, convenient location. He recently published a book about his unique career "That s\*it will never sell!" (Prideaux Press). The title comes from the first reaction of a New York pundit to Baileys – somewhat surprisingly in light of the fact that Baileys is now the US's most successful cream liqueur.

This beautifully designed book is written in a light-hearted and anecdotal style, which make it an enjoyable and highly engrossing read. An extract published in the Irish Times was rated the top culture story on the paper's website in 2017. The Guardian rated the book as one of the best on drink last year and interest in the book has led David to be invited to speak at the Dalkey Literary Festival and at various universities and business schools. We wish it every success.

*The book is available at Waterstone's for £25. And it can be ordered from [www.thatshitwillneverse.com](http://www.thatshitwillneverse.com). Or, if you live in Belsize Park, the author will be happy to deliver a copy (email: [david@thatshitwillneverse.com](mailto:david@thatshitwillneverse.com)).*

# CRIME AND SECURITY

The Police write: Modern phones are more than just for calls or texting and some people can spend hours on their devices. Unfortunately this includes when walking around central London and potentially into the path of criminals. Simply look around prior to and whilst using your phone and try not to become totally engrossed in whatever it is you happen to be using it for. If you are going to use it for more than a few seconds, perhaps stop walking and lean against a wall or bus shelter and keep your phone tucked in away from the open road or pavement. Using street furniture and other obstacles can make it much harder for moped thieves to swoop and snatch your phone as they go. Anything that makes it harder for moped thieves to surprise you will make it harder for them to be effective.



## New Year! New TYCT!

Tradesmen You Can Trust is one of the most popular benefits from BRA membership. The numerous and various tradesman listed in the booklet help many of you find the appropriate trade and the right person to do your home renovations and household repairs and that's all thanks to the recommendations from BRA members to their fellow members.

Unfortunately the number of recommendations has decreased significantly over the last couple of years so TYCT is in danger of becoming a bit thinner. Of course most people do not use many trades very frequently but whenever you do use a listed or unlisted tradesman, good (or bad), please remember to let us know by sending a completed form. There is one enclosed with this newsletter or you may print it from the website (under publications>tradesmen you can trust) or just email details to 'tyct@belsize.org.uk'. The 2018 issue deadline is 30th March, otherwise any time during the year is fine for the following issue.

**To all members: help keep TYCT thriving, current and useful!**

## NOTICEBOARD ON HAVERSTOCK HILL

The BRA Committee wishes to extend great thanks to Deirdre Yager who has kept the Haverstock Hill noticeboard up to date over many years and who is now stepping down. We are looking for a volunteer who lives in the Haverstock area to take on this important task. Full instructions and support will be provided. Please contact [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk) if you are interested.

**Royal Central School of Speech and Drama:** You may have seen the building works at Central School which will form a new North Block. When completed, the building will provide a major increase in rehearsal and performance space for students and mark 60 years of Central at Swiss Cottage. The School will be celebrating its Diamond Anniversary with the completion of this project in 2018. Meanwhile, look out for the School's productions at the Embassy Theatre on Eton Avenue which include A Chorus Line (5-10 March); [www.cssd.ac.uk/events](http://www.cssd.ac.uk/events) or 020 7722 8183.

## Dates for your diary

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, Saturday  
7 April, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Jonathan Baldock invites the public into his studio at Camden Arts Centre to see works-in-progress

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Thursday 8 February, 2018, 7.30pm

"Belsize Remembered" A talk to Camden History Society by Rane Barr on her project and newly published book. Tickets £1 at the door

Thursday 1 March, 2018, 7.00pm "Lifelines with Piers Plowright". BBC broadcaster and producer Piers Plowright has been questioning and obtaining stories from all his guests over the years. Clare Lynch interviews him on his career. £12 online. Lifelines next talk with Sir Keir Starmer on Tuesday, 22 March.

Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 7.00pm Middlesex University Singers Ensemble. Celebrating the centenary of Leonard Bernstein's birth in a programme of songs and instrumental pieces by Bernstein and more. Free.

### Belsize Community Library

Over 60 and need help understanding your gadget over a cup of tea with our friendly volunteers? Then come down and get to grips with your gadget and information technology at Belsize Community Library on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Places are limited. Booking essential by contacting: Lucy, Library Manager on Mon, Tues or Wed. Phone 020 7586 6746 or email Myra at friendsobelsizelibrary1@gmail.com

### Regent's Park Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Tuesday, 6 March 2018 "Virginia Woolf" Virginia Woolf never painted or drew. But closeness to her sister, Vanessa Bell, would stimulate her passionate curiosity. Karin Fernald discusses. She is well-known for lectures on late 18<sup>th</sup> and early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century writers connected with the arts.

Tuesday, 3 April 2018 "As Good as Gold" This lecture is in celebration of NADFAS's Golden Jubilee. The story of gold - its significance and symbolism – within the history of art. Talk by Alexandra Epps, who is a Graphic Designer, Guide and Lecturer.

Lectures in St John's Wood Church Hall, St John's Wood Roundabout NW8 7NE at 8.00pm. Coffee is served from 7:30pm. £8.

## Contact Us

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For Newsletter submissions and letters:

[info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk). Deadline for next issue is: **15 April 2018**

To send posters for noticeboards:

[haverstockboard@belsize.org.uk](mailto:haverstockboard@belsize.org.uk)

[villageboard@belsize.org.uk](mailto:villageboard@belsize.org.uk)

To send details for Tradesmen You Can Trust:

[TYCT@belsize.org.uk](mailto:TYCT@belsize.org.uk)

For planning matters:

[brapanning@gmail.com](mailto:brapanning@gmail.com)

Interested in keeping up with Belsize news and events? If we have your email address, we will send you occasional emails with news about Belsize and BRA. If you wish to receive emails and are not already on our list, please send your email address to [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk).

To find out the latest about Camden Planning: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/planning-and-built-environment/>

[www.belsize.org.uk](http://www.belsize.org.uk)