

The Belsize Society is a Registered Charity (number 1180842), continuing the work of the Belsize Residents Association.

www.belsize.org.uk

Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Belsize Society.

It was good to see many of you at the double AGM in March and this issue describes how we decided to turn the BRA into a charitable organisation and then held the first Society AGM. The newsletter introduces the trustees of the Society and also gives the members of the committee.

You'll see that we have begun to change the look of the newsletter reflecting the change to Belsize Society. Over the coming months there will be further developments, and we describe some of the areas that we are focusing on.

The newsletter also includes what's on at Burgh House, with a review of the Margaret Rowney exhibit. Members visiting Burgh House will see etchings and watercolours of familiar landmarks. The newsletter also covers the St Peter's Clock appeal, seeking funds to overhaul and refurbish this very local landmark.

At the AGM, we were asked to update members about the latest news on large local developments. We have added a short section, based on reports from committee members and the latest online updates. A feature for many developments has been the increased transparency about pollution, including noise. Camden's Clean Air Action Plan is therefore a timely addition, and we note the evidence base emerging on pollution. (Many members are currently supporting the Society's pollution monitoring project, contributing data for Camden to plan and prioritise. We will report on this work in the next newsletter.)

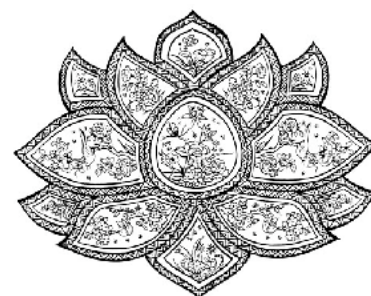
We are really pleased to include TYCT with this newsletter. And we look forward to seeing you at the Society Garden Party at the end of June.

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Belsize Society Annual Garden Party

All members are very welcome to our annual party



3pm - 4.30pm, Sunday 30 June 2019

Flat 1, 4 Rosslyn Hill

**Tea, cakes, strawberries
Members only**

AGM Report: Association becomes a Society

There were two AGMs taking place at Belsize Square Synagogue on Sunday 10 March: the final annual meeting for the Belsize Residents Association and the first meeting for the Belsize Society. During the afternoon, members voted to transfer the Association (its financial and non-financial assets, website, archive, on-going activities) to the new Society and to wind up the Association so that its work can continue as a charity.

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

The meeting did first consider another successful year for the Association. The Chair reported on events that were organised, the continued role of commenting on planning and tree applications, and the publications the Association had produced. During 2018, local election hustings were held; a successful theatre visit took place; and the Association's carol singing and garden party attracted large numbers. The Tradesmen You Can Trust booklet was provided to members, who were kept informed of local issues thorough email, the website and the Newsletter. The Association also initiated a pollution-monitoring project.

The questions and comments raised by members then covered how best to raise concerns about transport issues such as cycling on pavements; the latest progress and next steps for the Swiss Cottage gyratory; and how members could be informed about large developments. The BRA's Treasurer reported on finances, which remained healthy, and there was a discussion about the donations made by the Association to local charities.



When the meeting turned to becoming a charity, the Chair provided some background about the decision. There was a vote agreeing to the motion to wind up the Association and to transfer the work to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. All BRA members were encouraged to join the Society and those attending the meeting - and none left at this stage - became the first members. There was a discussion about how - over the next months - various engagement activities would be undertaken both to encourage new membership and confirm Association members who had not attended the meeting in becoming members of the Belsize Society.

The meeting then agreed the Trustees of the Society (five of the former BRA Committee) and the rest of the Committee for the Society was elected.

The new Committee is: Prabhat Vaze (Chair); Sarah Courtin (Secretary); Neil Harris (Treasurer); Michael Jampel (Constitution and Governance); Sanya Polescuk (Planning); Consuelo Phelan (Trees); Teresa Poole (Community); Anne Stevens (Membership Secretary); Barrie Tankel (Planning). There is a committee position for Events and Newsletter which is vacant, but the newsletter editor will attend committee meetings.

The Society's next steps

You will see us gradually making changes over the coming months as the BRA becomes the Belsize Society. Many aspects will not change - you'll see a TYCT full of members' recommendations as usual with this issue; we're hosting our garden party in June. However, we are busy changing the website and marketing material to Belsize Society. We are letting the organisations we work with about the changes. We have begun to give the Society its own look and feel.

Society committee members are reaching out to similar charitable amenity bodies to find out more about being a charitable organisation. This will support us as we develop policies for the Society. We will start with the BRA policies but then develop these to ensure they are consistent with charitable objectives. We are making some changes to membership processes, such as incorporating Gift Aid, will integrate this into joining forms and, in the autumn when we collect annual subs, establish arrangements for on-going members. (Our bank account remain the same, with the bank accepting payments to the BRA, so no need to change standing orders etc.)

We do need help! If you can spare time, provide expertise or give support, then please do get in touch with us at info@belsize.org.uk.

About the Belsize Society Trustees

Prabhat Vaze is an economist working in his own consultancy which specialises in statistical and economic analysis of public policy. He is a former civil servant having worked in statistics, transport and defence. Prabhat grew up in the Midlands, and worked in India, Scotland and South Africa before he moved to London. He has lived in Belsize Park since 2010 and has been involved with BRA since 2012 as a committee member and chair. He is keen to support BelSoc strengthening its volunteer base, and is chair of the trustees.

Neil Harris has been a North London boy all his life (born in what was St Mary's Hospital in Heath Street), and has lived in Belsize since 2003. He was a civil servant for nearly thirty years, working in the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government. As Treasurer of BelSoc as well as a Trustee, Neil is interested in exploring ways that our charity might help residents make better use, through local Councillors, of the local funding available for projects such as improvements to streets and spaces (this funding is already being used to support BelSoc's ongoing air pollution project).

Michael Jampel was a civil servant for 20 years and now works for a regulator; he has a particular interest in governance. Michael is also a trustee of a community energy financing charity (Pure Leapfrog). Michael has lived in the area since 2005, and has lived in postcodes beginning with N all his life. Michael is keen for the charity to undertake further informal educational events such as guided walks discussing the architecture, trees, and so on.

Anne Stevens has lived in Belsize since 1998, part-time (weekends only) for 10 years and then full-time. She joined the Belsize Residents' Association committee in 2009, having retired after 30 years of university teaching and research. She keeps a foothold in academia through occasional work as an academic translator. She strongly supported the move to set up a charitable incorporated organisation. She hopes the Belsize Society will continue to ensure really good communication between trustees and members, and will grow its capacity to develop and express good ideas about what the area should be like. But she knows that will depend on the willingness of many members to volunteer their skills and time to the Society.

Barrie Tankel FRICS, a Chartered Project Management Surveyor for the past 30 years originally qualified and practiced as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. Barrie has lived in Lancaster Grove for 35 years and developed an interest in planning when successfully defeating a major planning application in Lancaster Grove. He subsequently fought two further applications in LG resulting in major changes to the designs. Barrie assists the committee by reviewing planning applications, raising comments with Camden where applications are of concern. He is a keen Bridge player and a Trustee of Kiln Theatre in Kilburn High Road.

Focus on Burgh House, Hampstead

Margaret Rowney: The Art of Drawing and Printmaking

The one-room exhibition of Margaret Rowney's work is well worth a trip to Burgh House. Born in 1908, Margaret Rowney grew up in Hampstead. Her father was an amateur painter and ran the family business manufacturing art supplies. Margaret studied at St John's Wood Art School and then at the Slade School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture in the University of London, gaining a Diploma in Fine Art in 1930. Her principal subject at the Slade was drawing and painting, with ornamental design as a subsidiary. She was taught by Henry Tonks, the renowned Professor of Fine Art who a couple of decades earlier had taught artists such as Mark Gertler and Paul Nash at a time when (in Tonks' words) the Slade suffered from a "crisis of brilliance". In a reference for a teaching job, Tonks was to describe Rowney's figure drawing as exceptional, and it is apparent throughout the exhibition that she was a careful and committed draftsman. Her small-scale works convey lively details of the built and natural environment. The exhibition shows watercolours, oil paintings, woodcuts, etchings, aquatint and felt tip pen - the last of these giving a sense of geometry, lines and boundaries.

Belsize Society members will appreciate the works that relate to NW3. The etching and watercolour of the old Vale of Health Hotel, and the picture of the old Castle Hotel (formerly part of Jack Straw's Castle) are interesting both from an artistic and also historical perspective. After living in Hampstead, Rowney moved to Pinner and painted local scenes there as well as in the English countryside and in Canada. This is an interesting exhibition giving us a restrained though affectionate view of Hampstead in the twentieth century.

Exhibition runs until Sunday 8 September; Burgh House is open Wednesday to Friday and Sunday, 12-5pm. www.burghhouse.org.uk; New End Square NW3 1LT

Did you know?

Burgh House has three paintings by Lancelot Ribeiro (1933-2010). Born in India, Ribeiro first came to England in 1950 and eventually settled in Belsize Park in 1964. You can find his paintings on the first floor landing, near the matchstick model of Burgh House.



Other exhibits

The Ponds: Photos from the Hit Documentary

Until 25 August 2019

An exhilarating exhibition of photographs from the hit documentary The Ponds about the year-round swimmers at the ponds on Hampstead Heath.

Hampstead in Summer

Until 30 June 2019

This mini exhibition features paintings and photographs that explore the local area in Summer, will transport you to a warm, fun-filled Hampstead.

Small Paintings & Fine Art Prints of Hampstead & the Sussex Coast

1 to 12 May 2019

New small paintings in oils of Hampstead & the Heath, and Fine Art Prints of North West London and the Sussex coast.

The Second Before

15 to 19 May 2019

A collaboration of mixed media, exploring the temporary, fragile essence of life, expressed through eyes of various artistic mediums.

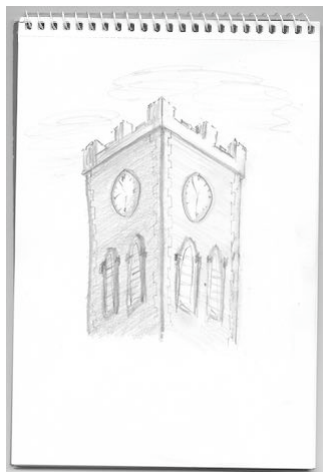
Impressions of a Misty Beech Glade

26 to 30 June 2019

London Chinese Brush Painters

22 May to 9 June 2019

ST PETER'S CLOCK APPEAL



St Peter's Church Belsize Park is a Grade II listed building, and the tower and clock are part of the original Victorian design.

The Church Council has plans for extensive repairs and improvements to St Peter's fabric and fittings. Alongside a scheme of roof and masonry repairs, the tower clock will be dismantled and given a complete overhaul and refurbishment. The four faces of the clock will be brought back to life and redecorated in sky blue and gold leaf.

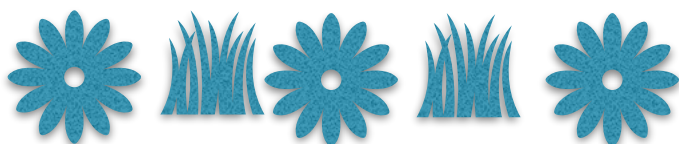
The Church Council invites the congregation and local community to support the Clock Appeal, which aims to raise £25,000 so that the clock may be restored to a fully working condition and redecorated this year. The work will be carried out by Smith of Derby, long-established clockmakers.

Cheques (made payable to "St Peter's Church Belsize Park") or cash may be handed to the Treasurer or Churchwardens at St Peter's during these coffee times:

- Sundays from 12.30-1.30pm and Thursdays from 11.00am-12.00noon;
- or delivered by envelope to the Treasurer through the vestry letterbox on the south side of the church.

Gift aid may be added to donations by completing a gift aid envelope.

The aim is that the restored clock will again be an adornment to Belsize Park by November, when we will celebrate the 160th anniversary of the opening of the church.



New planning guidances

The Council adopted a number of new Camden Planning Guidance (CPG) documents on 15 March 2019, following consultation on draft documents between November 2018 and January 2019.

These provide advice and information on how Camden will apply its planning policies.

The documents adopted included:

- Access for all
- Air quality
- Altering and extending your home
- Design
- Developer contributions
- Energy efficiency and adaptation
- Housing
- Trees.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Council: planningpolicy@camden.gov.uk

HELPING THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Would you like to help steer the organisation? We'd be delighted to welcome members interested in shaping what BelSoc does in 2019/20. We're always on the lookout for people with an interest in representing community views to Camden, organising events and contributing to the Newsletter. If you would like to join the Committee or help the Society, then please contact us at info@belsize.org.uk.

Borough Clean Air Action Plan

The need to improve air quality in London remains in the news. On Friday 26 April, Camden Council launched its new Clean Air Action Plan, at a meeting attended by a Belsize Society representative. This is the first of three Clean Air Action Plans that aim to move the borough to the World Health Organization (WHO) compliance by 2030.

Camden Council's announcement can be read at: <http://news.camden.gov.uk/camden-commits-to-achieve-world-health-organization-who-guidelines-for-air-quality/>.

On that web page, there are click-through links to the key documents, such as the Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022, available at: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/0/CAMDEN+CLEAN+AIR+ACTION+PLAN+2019-2022.pdf/d372ac97-fca6-f5bd-f8c7-ea9222331381>

There are also links to three supporting documents:

- What is Camden doing on air quality? - Ana Ventura, Senior Air Quality Officer, Camden Council: Camden's new Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022.
- What is happening in London? - Dr Rosalind O'Driscoll, Greater London Authority: What is the policy landscape for air quality in London and what is the Mayor doing to drive improvements in air quality?
- Can we meet our WHO targets? - Dr David Dajnak, King's College London: KCL's modelling exercise to support Camden's Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022 and Transport Strategy

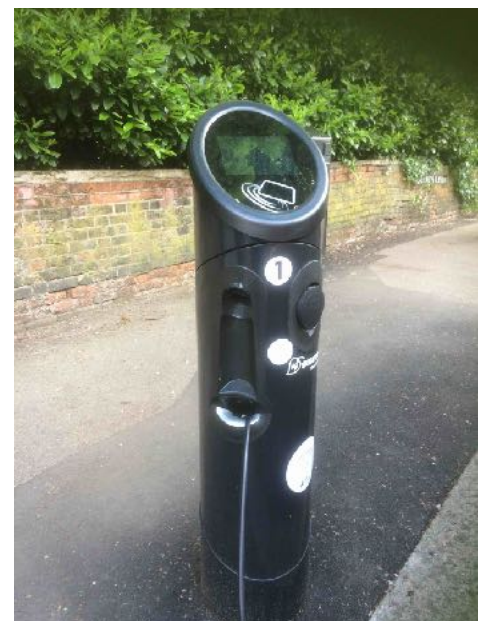
Meanwhile, Belsize Society's own air quality project, funded by Camden Council, successfully completed its fifth month of monitoring. The survey covers 10 local pollution monitoring locations and involves more than 30 local volunteers. For the first time since we started the project in January, the volunteer teams carrying out the monthly dispersion tube changeovers at two of the monitoring sites each found that one of their tubes had disappeared. We are unsure whether this is the work of idle human hands or even possibly birdlife attracted by something unusual for nest building. If anyone sees anything strange at a monitoring station please let us know on localservices@belsize.org.uk. Thank you.

Electric vehicle charging in Belsize

Camden currently has 139 on-street electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) in the borough comprising 89 residential lamp column chargers and 50 Source London EVCPs. About a dozen are in Belsize.

The council successfully bid for funding for the charging points from the Go Ultra Low City scheme, organised by London Councils. The new charging points have been installed on roadsides and lamp posts predominately on residential streets in the borough.

Users can either charge by pay as you go or sign up with Ubitricity for a reduced (kilowatt hour) price. A map of the locations is at: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/3452947/EVCPS+April+2019+%281%29.pdf/d90d4684-0eaa-70bf-e673-f096d73dbd53>



Planning matters

At the AGM, members asked for regular updates about large developments in Belsize

Since February, construction workers at the 100 Avenue Road site have begun to demolish the present building. May 21 will see the High Court decide whether a full judicial review of the legality of the 100 Avenue Road Construction Management Plan will be heard. Save Swiss Cottage have contested the number of lorry trips that the plan envisages and whether decisions made at the November Camden Planning Committee meeting that approved the Plan by a single vote had all the information needed.

Royal Free Trust continue to consider options for Queen Mary's House - including sale. A present issue is the current planning designation for the use of the site. There is not clear evidence of the approved use in Camden Council's records, which is not uncommon for buildings of this age. The Trust has applied to the Council to designate the use as C2 Residential Institution with Ancillary Staff and Accommodation, covering the whole site. Local bodies and residents have expressed concerns that this would miss the use as a hospital, i.e. mixed use. Classification as a residential building would carry the risk that Camden would lose control over the later planning decisions leading to intensified residential use.

Another Royal Free development in the area continues as the Pears Building moves the construction of the concrete frame for the building, rising above the hoardings. The website <https://www.royalfreecharity.org/pears-building> provides updates including notes of meetings about the construction, pollution and noise monitoring data and images of the build.



Camden ward boundaries consultation

As of July 2018, the Local Government Boundary Commission has begun a three-year programme of electoral reviews of London Boroughs that it has not reviewed in the last 5 years. This will mean that 25 of London's 32 Boroughs - including Camden - will be reviewed before the end of 2020.

The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters and ensure that the ward boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government.

Earlier in the year, the Commission consulted on ward arrangements. They have concluded that the Borough should continue to have 54 councillors and they are due to make draft boundary recommendations in May, consulting again on these from 28 May to 5 August. BelSoc took part in the first consultation, making written representations opposing the proposals. We will respond to the next consultation when we have seen the revised proposals.

Those Trusty Tradesmen are here again

Yes! You will have found your copy of the new edition enclosed with this first BelSoc Newsletter.

Not many changes this time but more than 30 new tradesmen to keep the booklet refreshed, including a piano tuner and the highest number of handymen we've ever listed! We hope you find it as useful as ever.

During the coming year, do please remember to combine using a tradesman with a note for TYCT, then we should have a bumper crop of new ones and re-recommendations for the 2020 issue. These commendations can be made on the centre-page form in this booklet, or on the same form downloaded from our website (www.belsize.org.uk/publications/tradesmentyoucantrust), or just an email with full details to TYCT@belsize.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3
www.camdenartscentre.org

29 May, 7pm. Talk: Judith Carlton and Jonathan Baldock. Carlton, Director CGP London, and Jonathan Baldock discuss the influences and processes that have informed Baldock's exhibition and work. £5

12 June, 7pm. Talk: Dr Robert Hale, Director of the Tavistock and Portman Trust between 1994 and 2001, and art therapist Taiseer Shelhi discuss Grace Pailthorpe's pioneering work in psychoanalytic criminology, and its significance and impact today.

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Sunday 19 May, 7pm Marmara Piano Trio return for their annual spring concert. £15 online.
www.burghhouse.org.uk.

Sunday, 2 June, 2pm. Travis Elborough: The Joy of Maps. Join the author of the Atlas of Improbable Places for an illustrated talk. £10.

Thursday 13 June, 7.30pm. Lifelines with Daniel Finkelstein. The Associate Editor of The Times talks about his life and work. £12

Thursday, 20 June, 7.30pm. Camden History Society: Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley in Somers Town. Charlie Forman talks about the home Wollstonecraft set up on radical principles with the proto-anarchist William Godwin. £1 on the door.

St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, NW3

Sunday 23 June, 6.30pm. Belsize Baroque play music by Albinoni, Veracini, Vivaldi, Sarro. Tickets £12 available www.belsizebaroque.org.uk or at the door.

Keats House, 10 Keats Grove, NW3 2RR

Thursday 6 June, 6.30pm. Keats and the Sea. Nicholas Roe, the poet's biographer and Chair of the Keats Foundation, will explore Keats's lifelong fascination with the sea. £4.50, booking recommended.

Saturday 15 June, 11am – 1.30pm, Shelley: 'The Trumpet of a Prophecy' Guided Walk. Experience the stirring life and poetry of another great radical Romantic poet, visiting landmarks in the lives of Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Shelley. Meet outside King's Cross station by the Henry Moore statue. £10, booking essential.

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For Newsletter submissions and letters:
info@belsize.org.uk. Deadline for next issue is: **21 July 2019**

To send posters for noticeboards:
haverstockboard@belsize.org.uk
villageboard@belsize.org.uk

To send details for Tradesmen You Can Trust:
TYCT@belsize.org.uk

For planning matters:
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 BelSoc. If you wish to receive emails and are not already on our list, please send your email address to
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