



THE ST MARYLEBONE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022 Number 365

www.stmarylebonesociety.org

Registered Charity 274082

SCHOOL MONITORS ON AIR WATCH



Figure 1: Map showing NO₂ concentrations in Marylebone [excerpted from London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2019] and locations of six new *Breathe London* air quality sensors near school/youth premises.

Air quality has improved a lot in the seven years since the St Marylebone Society first surveyed nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations in the Dorset Square Conservation Area. At that time, the highest concentration shown in brown-purple on the LAEI map was >98µg/m³. As the key to Figure 1 shows, that colour denotes >58µg/m³ in the LAEI 2019 map – a reduction of 40%. Lockdowns to control the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020-21 reduced traffic volumes and emissions further, but those have crept up again as restrictions eased. Although the air is cleaner, we have also learned more about how harmful pollution is, especially to

children. WHO guidelines now recommend an annual mean target of 10µg/m³ for NO₂. That's why efforts to reduce pollution below the current legal limit must continue.

Three of the schools in Marylebone are located near roads which showed the highest NO₂ levels in 2019 (see Figure 1) and two others are near roads which exceeded the 40µg/m³ annual mean legal limit. In addition, a youth club is located next to the railway tracks which carry diesel trains into and out of Marylebone Station. Recognising parents' natural anxiety about their children's wellbeing, Councillor Barbara

Arzymanow and her Marylebone colleagues have used ward budgets to install *Breathe London* air quality sensors near six school/youth premises. Those new sensors are now "live" and recording, so anyone can check prevailing air quality levels at those locations at any time (see page 2).

The initial NO₂ data from these new sensors were downloaded and charted for comparison against the Marylebone Road reference monitor. Figure 2 shows the average daily NO₂ from 25th March to 19th April 2022, which spans a Sahara dust pollution event and Easter holidays. No meaningful conclusions can

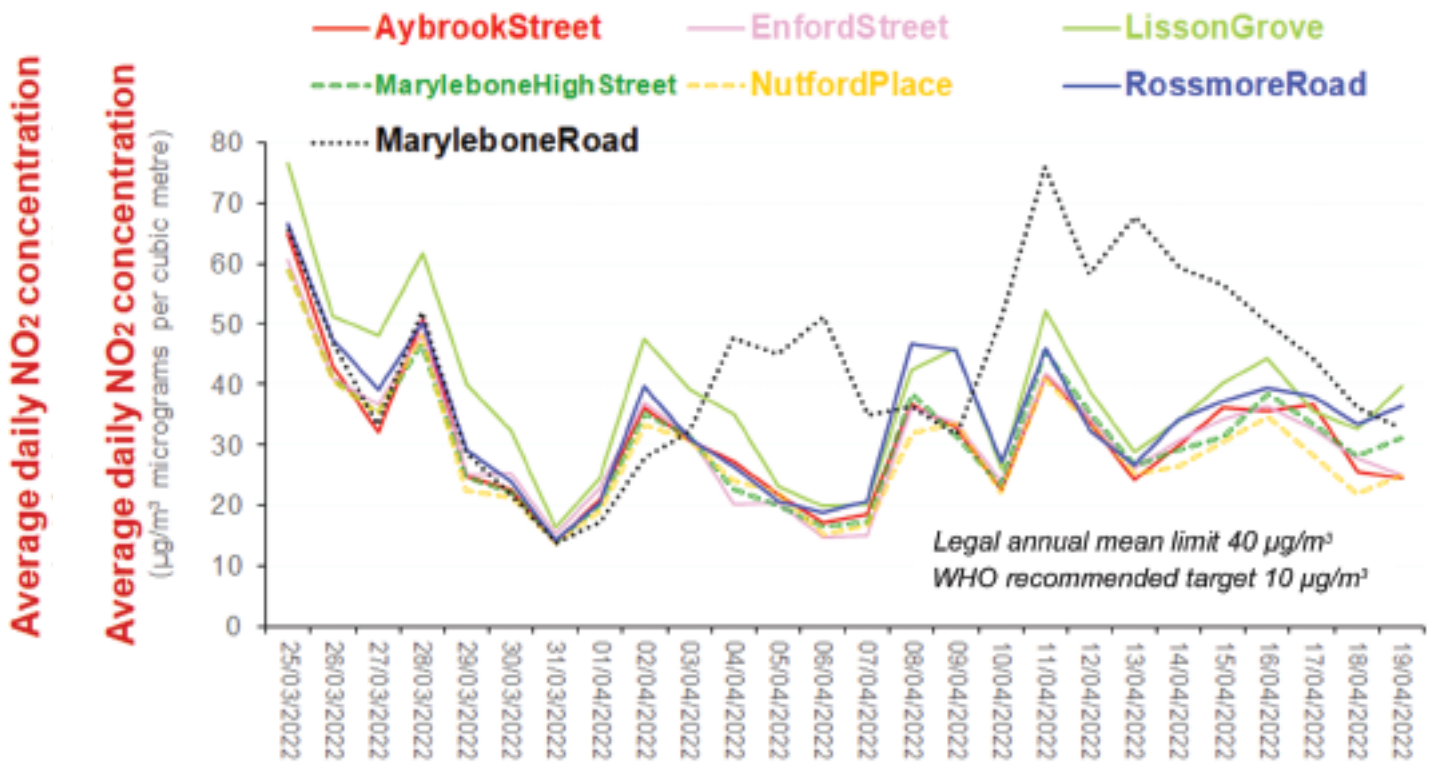


Figure 2: Average daily concentrations of NO₂ from six Breathe London sensors and the reference monitor on Marylebone Road from 25th March to 19th April 2022.

can be drawn from this short period, except to note that average daily NO₂ at most of the locations remained below 40µg/m³ on most days. In other words, Marylebone’s schools may now be below the legal limit for NO₂ whereas, in May 2018, the GLA ranked the two closest to Marylebone Road as the worst polluted schools in London.

Careful ongoing analysis of the air

quality data now being collected across Marylebone could provide valuable new insights into where and how we might improve matters further. The Society has asked the Council and Marylebone Forum to consider commissioning a semi-automated system to process and report results from a network of up to 15 sensors and reference monitors across the Forum Area on a monthly basis. The intention

is to present air quality information from each location in a user-friendly way on the Forum’s website so it’s easy for the public to understand.

We hope that a bespoke reporting service will be developed and made available soon. In the meanwhile, based on Figures 1 and 2, the Report Card from the Schools’ Monitors can state “Has made good progress”.

Keep an eye on pollution trends at your nearest air quality sensor or monitor.

1. Visit <https://www.breathelondon.org/>
2. Zoom in on the map to the location you want
3. Click on that sensor after choosing NO₂ or Particulates
4. A side bar will open to show charts of the latest 7-day readings. Change the dates to see any other period.
5. Re-plot or download the chart by clicking on the icons on the top right of the chart

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
2022**

- Patron:** Lord Montagu
President: Lord Adonis
Co-Chairs: Cynthia Poole and Mike Wood
Hon. Secretary: Mo Parkes
Hon. Treasurer: Liz Queenan
Council Members:
 Gaby Higgs (Planning Co-ordinator)
 Cynthia Poole (Local History, Planning)
 Robert McAulay (Newsletter and Membership)
 Mike Wood (Local History)
 Irene Martin-Smith (Events)
 Ian Wylie (Planning)
 Patricia Kleinman (Planning)

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Able Homecare | Fellowship of the School of Economic Science |
| Alan Higgs Architect | Howard de Walden Estate |
| Altiplano Finance Ltd | Ian Wylie Architects |
| Baker Street Quarter Partnership | Kubie Gold |
| Blandford Estate Residents’ Association | Lisson Gallery |
| CAMBARD RTM Ltd. | Mac Services |
| Chiltern Court (Baker Street) Residents Ltd | Old Philologists |
| Clarence Gate Gardens Residents’ Association | Portman Estate |
| Crown Estate Paving Commission | Royal Parks |
| CWC Enterprises | St Marylebone Parish Church |
| | The Chiltern Firehouse |
| | The Fruit Garden (TFG) |
| | York Estates |

PLANNING MATTERS

At the start of 2022 the St Marylebone Society planning committee met to discuss their future following a break in our regular monthly meetings during the Covid-19 restrictions and when Cynthia Poole stepped down as our formidable Chair. At the first meeting, Gaby Higgs was voted in as Chair and planning coordinator and it was also decided to continue to hold virtual meetings on Zoom for the time being.

Committee members expressed their interests and objectives in volunteering and it became clear that there are two different types of ‘amenities’ we are endeavouring to protect – that embodied in the built environment (architecture, design and conservation) and environmental amenity (air quality, pollution, transport and public spaces). So we have renamed our group ‘The Planning & Environment Committee’.

We welcome new committee members, especially if you have an interest in the following areas of our planning consultation remit: Regents Park, Park Road, Lords Cricket Ground and specific mansion blocks such as Dorset House and Marathon House. If you are interested in joining the committee please get in touch at planning@stmarylebonesociety.org

Removal of BT kiosk and installation of one BT Street Hub, incorporating two digital 75" LCD advert screens on pavement outside of 219 Baker Street.

Today we all have mobile phones, which makes phone boxes redundant and liable to anti-social behaviour, graffiti and fly posting. In their place BT are proposing ‘Street Hubs’ with illuminated advertising screens, USB charging points, information, free phone calls and emergency services support. This unit is 3m high and powered by 100% carbon-free energy and includes environmental sensors to monitor air quality and noise. Will they be useful or will they be problematic and add to the abundant street clutter on Baker Street?

The “BT Hub” proposed at Baker Street has drawn objections from TFL, residents and the St Marylebone Society planning committee. Despite the stated benefits of the ‘urban tools’ it will provide, some think that the BT Hub’s primary *raison d’être* is to facilitate large scale advertising. On such a busy stretch of pavement, popular with tourists and commuters, they are likely to cause a physical and visual obstruction. Additionally, BT Hub’s design makes no consideration of the context or existing street furniture, and in this location could dominate the streetscape and harm the conservation area character. If you wish to add your comments, visit the Westminster Planning database and search under the reference 21/08893/FULL.



The Samaritan Hospital for Women

The hospital was built in 1889-90 by W.C. Haverson & F. Fawcner, an example of “bold eclectic terracotta classicism.” The utilitarian rear elevation is also interesting.

Since it was vacated in 1997 this Grade II listed building has been allowed to fall into dereliction before our eyes. Despite years of querying its situation and future use nothing has been done and it is shocking to see the amount of plant growth on its crumbling facade. An application for temporary use as a homeless centre in 2003 noted that, “... there are no features of historical interest in the building” (02/09791/LBC). Perhaps the St Marylebone Society should request a site visit to check this, as the same analysis of the interior was given to the Landmark Hotel when it was proposed for listing. If anyone has time to research this property please get in touch as we need to get it on the Historic England ‘at risk’ register, enforce maintenance by its owner and support its restoration and future viable long-term use.



Greening streets to improve wellbeing and air quality

At a recent meeting with Chiltern Railways, we learned that it will be some while before they phase out the Class 68 locomotives and switch their other trains to a cleaner fuel or convert them to battery-diesel hybrids. The current situation is always worse in the summer as trains have to idle more to keep the air conditioning on for passenger comfort.

Consequently, residents are calling for action to mitigate the pollution and health issues they are obliged to endure for the foreseeable future.

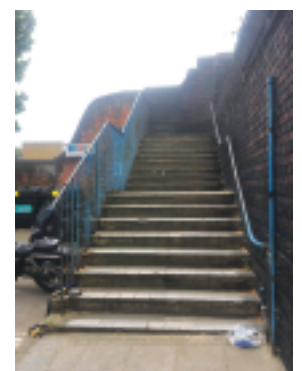
Occupants of homes on Boston Place, Ivor Place, Taunton Place and Balcombe Street, which are particularly affected, are joining forces to come up with ideas that will improve the environment for all. These include additional trees, screening and large planters to increase the greenery in the area to help absorb some of the pollution, in addition to potentially acting as a community focal point.

There are wider benefits to soft landscaping, such as its positive effect on mental health and wellbeing, providing more congenial space for outdoor relaxation, social interaction and children's play. However, if residents take control of public spaces for community use, they need to be ready to accept responsibility for their upkeep and maintenance so this means a commitment to long term involvement.

Wrapping landscaping around Taunton Place, providing better lighting and electric car charging points would increase local activity and help to tackle the problems this area suffers due to anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and neglect. The steps onto Rossmore Road are in dire need of repair as well.

This type of community-led project could qualify for CIL funding and make a difference to our neighbourhood.

We encourage all local residents to join the St Marylebone Society so that we can support each other, communicate better and lobby to get things done, so please tell your friends and neighbours to join us too.



THE LIFE & TIMES OF A RAFFISH MARYLEBONE MP

In 2020 Paul Dimoldenburg wrote an article for us about the 1945 General Election in Marylebone, when the incumbent MP, Alec Cunningham-Reid, (referred to as “C-R” in this piece) lost his seat to Sir W. Wavell Wakefield (“WWW”). He also lost his deposit, a massive come-down from his previous majority of 23,175. How did things come to this?



Alex Cunningham-Reid in 1924.

Alec “Bobby”¹ C-R (1895–1977) was the son of a well-connected Norfolk clergyman. He and his brother Duncan joined the Royal Flying Corps in the first world war. Duncan died in an aerial battle in Belgium at the end of 1915 but C-R survived and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After WWI, he became parliamentary private secretary to the Conservative politician Sir Wilfred Ashley, and was thus introduced to both the British political scene and to Ashley’s daughters, Edwina and Mary. Edwina married Lord Louis Mountbatten in 1922. The family was immensely wealthy, and Mary, who inherited half of her banker grandfather’s fortune, was expected to make a similarly glamorous marriage. But she was “smitten with the dashing air ace working for her father”² – who promptly sacked him and made Mary a Ward of Court so that she could not marry without permission.

C-R then went into politics, winning Warrington for the Conservatives in 1922. UK politics were fractious then, and he lost to Charles Dukes in 1923, and won again in 1924.

Mary Ashley remained besotted with C-R, and her family remained opposed to him. Apparently³ Lord Mountbatten told C-R that he could marry Mary if he had capital of £10,000. C-R immediately



CAPTAIN AND MRS. A. S. CUNNINGHAM REID

Marriage to Mary Ashley in 1927 (Tatler Cover 18 May).

borrowed the sum, and the couple were married by permission of the Court in 1927 when Mary was 19 and C-R was 32. The event made a huge splash at the time⁴. They moved in with the Mountbattens for a while at Brook House, the huge Park Lane mansion Edwina had inherited from grandfather Sir Ernest Cassel in 1921. Mary had inherited Six Mile Bottom, an estate near Newmarket, and many of the sisters’ country events and parties were hosted there.

C-R enthusiastically embraced the gilded life of moneyed aristocrats and film stars: their honeymoon on Mary’s yacht lasted a year. He also met people like Douglas Fairbanks Junior, with whom he had a film project, and Mary Pickford. Family film shows the Duke

of Windsor, (C-R gave him flying lessons) and many other celebrities and millionaires of the time. There were house parties, balls, Ascot, holidays in St Moritz and Davos, and visits to Hollywood and to William Hearst’s ranch – all faithfully reported in Tatler. Two sons were born – Michael in 1928, and racing driver Noel in 1931.

Barbara Cartland was in their set, and recalled: “Bobby was the most good-looking man you’ve ever seen and Mary just adored him. Of course, he was an adventurer.” Julian Fellowes, screenwriter of *Downton Abbey*, said: “She had the connections, the power and the money. He had a good quickstep.”⁵

C-R never let his parliamentary duties interfere with his pleasures, and seldom attended the House of Commons.



Brook House, Park Lane, c.1870s. Home of Edwina Mountbatten c.1922.

At the 1929 election, he stood in Southampton and lost to Labour. His next chance to stand was in 1932 when the sitting MP for Marylebone retired. He was chosen by the local Conservative organisation, but many members preferred another candidate. This led to a split in the local association, and a number of people left to form the rival St Marylebone Conservative Association. Both candidates claimed to be the official Conservative nominee and Stanley Baldwin, then leader of the party, did not endorse either of them as they were the only candidates for the seat. C-R's charm won him a 4.6% majority. He held this seat for 13 years, gaining a huge majority of 23,175 over Labour in 1935.

By the mid-1930s, his marriage to Mary was failing. When they first married, she had shared her fortune with him, foolishly, as it turned out. At that time her yearly income was around £80,000 a year (£5,300,000 today), while he had only his MP's salary. They had opened a joint bank account about a week after their marriage, agreeing that any savings made out of their joint income should become C-R's so that he could build up a capital sum. Neither Mary's father or her trustees were informed of this. Then at C-R's suggestion, a company was set up in 1930, into which Mary's entire income was paid⁶, and later a deed was executed by which she directed the company to pay her husband one-third of the dividends of its ordinary shares. In 1935, a further deed was executed to make certain additional one-off payments to C-R from the company.

Mary left him in December 1936 and, two weeks later, revoked those deeds and filed for divorce. C-R filed a cross-petition, as well as a separate case claiming the deeds were not revokable.

Each accused the other of adultery. The Times Law Reports of the case in January 1938 gave a fascinating glimpse into their extravagance. They disputed ownership of a London house (12 Brook Street), bought with Mary's money for £39,000, but in C-R's name, a £100,000 life insurance policy on Mary which paid out to C-R, and ownership of their "sea-green" speed boat, built to his specifications. Both of them gambled heavily as well.

Counsel for C-R argued that at the time of their marriage, Mary's capital had been held in trust for her so she couldn't settle any on her husband, whereas he had settled £10,000 on her, and that she had wished to reciprocate. No mention was made of the fact that he had borrowed £10,000 to secure the wedding and repaid the loan after their joint account had been set up. Over their ten year marriage he had drawn at least £100,000 from the account in cash, claiming that anxiety about the economic situation had required him to make provision for them in other countries. He also produced copies of his love letters to Mary to prove his affection and blamelessness to the court. Mary's Counsel wondered why someone should make copies of their own love letters, and produced a letter in which C-R had reminded Mary of what he claimed was their original agreement - and told her how often she got things wrong. Counsel suggested that business letters written by Mary were dictated to her by C-R.

Unfortunately for nosy researchers, the parties settled out of court so the final terms were private. It is likely that C-R benefited hugely from his marriage: he received a fixed sum, waiving his rights to a life interest in one third of Mary's income⁷. He got the speedboat, and she got the dogs and furniture at Six Mile

Bottom. He also got 12 Brook Street and custody of their sons. The divorce was granted to C-R on 21st March 1940, and the co-respondent named as actor, Henri Garat. Two years later, C-R got one third of Mary's income settled on their two children, then aged 11 and 14 - and she had to pay costs⁸.

In Marylebone, the local Conservative Party's unease about C-R's behaviour led them to consider replacing him as MP and in mid-1939 they decided not to support him in the next election.

Meanwhile, C-R had developed a close friendship with Doris Duke, the American tobacco heiress, whose wealth made Mary Ashley's look modest. She had inherited perhaps \$80 million dollars, (over \$1 billion today) in 1925, and increased that fourfold by shrewd investing⁹. Six feet tall and good looking, she was also intelligent, had many interests and numerous affairs. Joe Castro, a bebop pianist, Errol Flynn and General George S Patton were among her paramours.

In 1940, she offered to support 500 British child evacuees, although it is not clear whether this happened. At any rate, C-R travelled to Canada in July 1940 with 2000 evacuated children, and went on to her Honolulu estate with his sons, who stayed in the USA¹⁰ until 1945. By the end of 1940, Doris was estranged from her husband, and there was speculation in the British press linking her with C-R, but they did not marry¹¹.

C-R's 14 week absence from the UK did not go unnoticed: the Blitz began in September 1940, and questions were asked in the House as to "why the Children's Overseas Reception Board had chosen as their representative a member of this House whose division record is under 5%, whose association [...] has passed a vote of censure on him, and who also happens to be a reserve officer"¹².



Divorce from Angela Scott Williams 1949.

Michael Foot wrote *“The world woke up one morning to find out that Hitler was in Holland. Some weeks later, Marylebone was almost equally baffled to learn that their representative was in Honolulu”*¹³. At the end of October, the local party asked him to resign as Marylebone’s MP by 83 votes to 24. He refused, and continued as an “Independent Conservative”. Despite everything, he retained the Conservative whip until 1942. The last straw was his campaigning in support of W.J. Brown (Ind), who defeated the Conservatives in the 1942 Rugby by-election, and joining forces with Brown and others to form a “People’s Movement”¹⁴. The whip was withdrawn, his constituency association disaffiliated, its rival recognised, and in 1945 their election candidate finally displaced him.

Meanwhile, resentment simmered on in Parliament over his shenanigans, with MPs chanting “Honolulu! Honolulu!” whenever he spoke, and in July 1943, he and Oliver Locker-Lampson (Cons) came to blows in the House of Commons lobby over the Hawaii trip. Both MPs apologised to the House the following day, but the incident received world-wide coverage.

In October 1944, he met and secretly married Angela Williams, a 24-year-old wartime ambulance attendant, referred to as “Blitz Girl” in the newspapers. They had two children, John (b.1945), and Roberta, (b.1946). C-R bought Westmeads, a manor house in Butlers Marsden with a 200 acre farm, and in London, they lived at 32 Gloucester Place, which was also C-R’s constituency office. In early 1949, Angela sued him for divorce alleging cruelty. He countersued, and the divorce was granted to C-R in November 1949 on the grounds of his wife’s adultery with an unknown man¹⁵.

He had lost the 1945 election to Sir Wavell Wakefield, who was personally endorsed by Winston Churchill: Marylebone was plastered in huge Churchill posters carrying WWW’s name¹⁶ and Churchill drew huge crowds when he visited to campaign. After losing, C-R occupied himself with the house and farm in Warwickshire, and became involved in local politics. After divorcing Angela, he sold the farm to Loel Guinness¹⁷.

By that time he was 56. What could he do for the next 25 years? He considered contesting North Kensington in 1951, but never did. After 1951, he all but disappeared from the newspapers, although his children were noted at society events in the 1960s¹⁸. He never married again, and died in Valbonne on 26 March 1977.

NOTES

- ¹<https://fionacunninghamreid.com/the-real-country-house/ film>
- ² The Story of Warrington, by Bill Cooke
- ³ The Real Country House (film)
- ⁴ There is even Pathé film of the happy couple <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/the-wedding-of-the-season-1/query/Ashley>
- ⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2002/jul/05/broadcasting.ourcritics> review of film, the Real Country House, 5th July, 2002
- ⁶ Edwina had made a similar arrangement on behalf of Louis Mountbatten
- ⁷ The Evening Standard, quoted in C-R’s bio, “He Walks Alone” (1946)
- ⁸ Mary was married to Major Ernest Gardner from 1940-1943, and to Thomas Cholmondeley (1944 -1955). His family owned the vast Soysambu ranch in Kenya. Mary returned to her Cambridgeshire house in 1955, but her son Michael became a rancher in Kenya.
- ⁹ On September 1, 1947, while in Paris, Duke married Porfirio Rubirosa, in 1947. Her fortune was so large that the U.S. State Department, insisted that Rubirosa sign a pre-nuptial

agreement. They divorced a year later.

- ¹⁰ There is extensive correspondence between DD and C-R in the duke University archive.
- ¹¹ She was reportedly involved with Errol Flynn by 1941
- ¹² Mrs. Mavis Constance Tate, M. P : “In no conceivable circumstances should members be allowed for any personal reasons to leave this island when it is threatened with invasion – for that is not representative of the British people. It is only representative of the rat.”
- ¹³ Evening Standard, 5th Nov, 1940.
- ¹⁴ Stuart Ball, “Portrait of a Party: The Conservative party in Britain 1918-1945
- ¹⁵ The named co-respondent was Eric Louis Pariser 1922-2004, soldier, who denied it, and provided proof.
- ¹⁶ See “He walks Alone”, Epilogue, p249. Bio of C-R by R.J.Ellis, clearly with C-R’s involvement.
- ¹⁷ One of the Irish Guinness family, then married to Isabel, daughter of the 9th Duke of Rutland. MP for Bath until 1945.
- ¹⁸ There is one mention of a party he held in the 1960s at an estate with a swimming pool (unidentified).



St Cyprian’s Church, Glentworth Street, London NW1 6AX



The
St Marylebone Society
 presents
 a concert
 by the
Halcyon Quartet

with works by Joseph Haydn,
 Henry Purcell
 and
 Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

at St Cyprian’s Church
 on 10 June 2022
 at 7.30pm

Tickets, £25 per person, to include a glass of wine,
 are available through

Eventbrite

www.eventbrite.co.uk

search for **The St Marylebone Society** or scan the QR code



Doors open 7.00pm.

EVENTS IN MARYLEBONE



Guided Walking Tour: Royal Connections in Marylebone

Thursday 2 June

13.00 - 14.00

In person **Free**

To celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are hosting a special Royal Connections in Marylebone Guided Tour on Thursday 2 June at 12.30pm.

Learn the Royal history of Marylebone as the country celebrates The Queen's historic reign. Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Fingers crossed the traditional RAF fly-past will be overhead while you are on this Guided Tour.

Meet at 55 Baker Street at 12.30 and Mark our Blue Badge Guide will lead you through the streets of Marylebone.

<https://www.bakerstreetq.co.uk/event/guided-walking-tour-royal-connections-in-marylebone/>

Guided Walking Tour: Open Garden Squares within Marylebone

Wednesday 15 June

13.00 - 14.00 In person **Free**

To celebrate Open Garden Squares Weekend on 11 and 12 June, we are hosting a Gardens guided tour within Marylebone.

Take a peek behind some of Marylebone's loveliest leafy gardens and explore some of Marylebone's hidden garden treasures that are not normally open to the public. Learn the history behind the gardens, and how they were each used in days gone by.

Meet at 55 Baker Street at 12.30 and Mark will lead you through the streets of Marylebone.

<https://www.bakerstreetq.co.uk/event/guided-walking-tour-open-garden-squares-within-marylebone/>

Guided Walking Tour: LGBTQ+ History in Marylebone

18.00 - 19.00 Thursday 30 June

In person **Free**

Celebrating the anniversary of Pride, explore the LGBTQ+ people and places of Marylebone's history.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Pride Month, and ahead of this year's Pride in London Parade, join us on this guided walk visiting the history of LGBTQ+ in Marylebone from rock stars to royalty and royal spies to writers. Explore the LGBTQ+ people and places of Marylebone and celebrate Pride Month's 50th anniversary and you will learn how Marylebone is the proud host of pubs and swish pads that attract LGBTQ+ legends.

Meet at 55 Baker Street at 12.30 and Mark will lead you through the streets of Marylebone.

One of the largest gay pride events in Europe and the world, Pride in London Parade, is a parade that closes traffic to famous Oxford Street. Held in early July, it features over 300 groups and hundreds of floats going from Baker Street and Portland Place in Marylebone to Trafalgar Square.

<https://www.bakerstreetq.co.uk/event/guided-walking-tour-lgbt-history-in-marylebone/>

55 Baker Street Food Market

Every second and fourth Thursday

12.00 - 14.30 *Vegan and meat options available*

A small but perfectly formed 'mini' market, featuring independent street-food stalls. Everyone is welcome to drop by for a bite to eat.

Summer in the Square in Portman Square Garden

Free and open to all

12 - 20.00 Wednesday 22 June

Tuesday 5 – Sunday 10 July *there will be a big screen to watch Wimbledon*

Wednesday 17 August

Wednesday 7 September

Come and relax in the Square and enjoy a drink from the bar, a picnic or food from one or two of our specially chosen street food stalls or join in with one of our wellbeing activities.



St Marylebone
Parish Church

Between the dates of 17th - 22nd July St Marylebone Parish Church welcomes you back for our annual St Marylebone Festival!

Every year our festival (brought to you as part of the St Marylebone's Changing Lives project), tells the stories of our local community in creative and vivid ways. Join us for a week of music, dance

and drama. There is something of a South-American flavour to this year's programme. Indeed many of the South American 'Liberators' of the early nineteenth century, such as Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín, lived in the parish. With this in mind, come and learn how to tango with experts from the neighbouring Arthur Murray Dance Studios, or join Joanna MacGregor and her amazing band of musicians for their 'Tango Nuevo' evening, or even enjoy food, drink and music at our 'South American Soirée'.

This year we welcome back John Rutter, our festival patron (who was born above the neighbouring Globe Pub) to lead a 'Come and Sing' afternoon; we celebrate the 150th birthday of Ralph Vaughan Williams with *The Joyful Company of Singers* and the *English Folk Dance and Song Society*. Hear the premières of some exciting new com-

missions too: new Marylebone-themed songs by current and recent students from the neighbouring *Royal Academy of Music* performed by international counter-tenor Andrew Watts; and a new piece based around the characters on the Charles Dickens mural on Devonshire Terrace written and devised by composer Martin Bussey. We are also delighted to welcome the world-renowned *Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford*, in a concert that charts the well-known St Marylebone connection with the Wesley family. And if that was not enough, we celebrate some of our lesser known, and perhaps more surprising, local figures such as Vaslav Nijinsky, Florence Nightingale, the late clarinettist Alan Hacker, and even Madonna!

For more information and to buy your tickets, see here:

<https://www.stmarylebonefestival.com/>

EVENTS IN MARYLEBONE



LONDON SQUARE OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

www.londongardenstrust.org

11-12 June 2022. Go through the garden gates of historic buildings, roof gardens, allotments, gardens with family activities, faith gardens and more. See Baker Street Quarter's walking tour of local gardens on p7. Go onto their website or scan the QR code to see the participating gardens and to book tickets for their events



REGENTS PARK

www.royalparks.org.uk.

Meet friends and have a coffee at one of the cafes in the park. There are bandstand concerts every Saturday and Sunday until the 18 September. Adults and children can play football, tennis; attend exercise classes, and bicycle groups. There are several junior and adult sports clubs based at The Hub and there is also a public Tennis and Netball Centre called Will to Win. The Friends of Regents Park also arrange very interesting outings from time to time.

www.friendsofregentspark.org

The Regents Park Open Air Theatre

www.openairtheatre.com

will be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year

Until 2 July: the musical "Legally Blond" directed by Lucy Moss (her play "Six" is currently running in New York).

12 July – 28 August: "101 Dalmatians" a new musical story written by Dodie Smith, set in Regents Park.

3 -24 September: Antigone is a retelling of the epic story from the writer of the "Barber Shop Chronicles" writer, Inua Ellams and directed by Mark Webster.

Sundays – "More Outdoors" are additional one-off comedy shows and other events at the theatre. On the **26 June** there will be a screening of "Star Wars. Episode IV – A New Hope". For details and tickets look at their website

THE LONDON ZOO www.zsl.org

Visit the zoo and help repair the financial

damage inflicted by Covid restrictions. As well as walking around to see the animals you and your family can have an "Experience" at the Zoo. You can feed the Gorillas, go behind the scenes for a unique experience with a Komodo Dragon be a giraffe keeper or meet the monkeys, the Meerkats or the penguins or even stay at one of the London Zoo Lodges. "Twilight at the Zoo" Adults only late opening to the Zoo from 30th June until the 22 July on Thursdays and Friday evenings from 6-10pm. Find out more and buy tickets on their website

BAKER STREET QUARTER

www.bakerstreetq.co.uk

See page 7 for a full list of events.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

www.ram.ac.uk

The RAM has a wonderful and extensive programme of concerts and master classes during term time. All are open to the public. Tickets must be booked in advance

There is a full Season of Summer Concerts up to the end of July. This includes:

27 -29th June: the Academy's Annual Piano Festival with the Tchaikovsky Piano Trio playing Tchaikovsky on the **27 June at 10am.**

3 July at 12 am in The Dukes Hall: a performance of Bach in Leipzig Cantatas by the Royal Academy of Music directed by John Butts

24 June at 8 pm: The Academy Big Band with Julian Siegal with music from his jazz orchestra's latest album

6 July at 6.30pm: Gwilym Simcock directs the Academy percussion Ensemble in a selection of his own work

HELLENIC CENTRE in Paddington Street www.helleniccentre.org

26th June 12-2pm and 3-5pm. The Summer Children's Event with Asterakia (mainly in Greek with translation available) Book tickets online.

ST CYPRIANS CHURCH

Glentworth Street, NW1 6AX www.stcyprians.weebly.com

St Cyprians hold a Choral mass on Sundays at 10.30am. Their great mixed voice choir not only provides music at their services but also holds concerts throughout the year.

LORDS CRICKET GROUND

www.Lords.org

Summer Season returns to Lords with all the Middlesex County Matches and a Special Armed Forces T20 Cricket Day on the **16 June** as well as England v. India Test Match which starts on the **14 July.**

THE COCKPIT THEATRE

in Gateforth Street,

www.Thecockpit.org.uk

4-5 July 7.30pm: Bodens College of Performing Arts produce and present The Winters Tale by William Shakespeare.

19-20th July at 7pm and 9pm: Hooky productions produce and present Experiment Human A surrealist black comedy

1-21st August: The Camden Fringe 2022 (alternative to Edinburgh) please see www.camdenfringe.com

23-27 August at 7.30pm: Capital Ballet produce and present an evening of exciting new ballets pushing the boundaries of classical ballet

THE NEW DIORAMA THEATRE

15-16 Triton Street, Regents Place NW1 3BF www.newdiorama.com

At the time of writing information about productions in June is not available. Please see their website.

LISSON GALLERY 27 Bell Street. www.Lissongallery.com

26 April – 25 June. The gallery has two exhibitions on. Painting Rocks by Rodney Graham, an artist and musician associated with the Vancouver School and Helio Oiticica (a survey of the work of one of the most innovative Brazilian artists of the 20th century). See their website for more details

Shame on the vandals!



This historic fountain on Allsop Place installed by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association in October 1903, and restored to working order during the Baker Street Two Way Project, and with the help of Cllr Robert Rigby, has been thoroughly vandalised. There is little point in restoring it in its present location given that this could happen again, so its future is now uncertain.