



MSA Newsletter December 2020

Myddelton Square Association (MSA) is a residents' association for residents and property owners in Myddelton Square, London EC1. For more information or to join, please email: hello@myddeltonsquare.co.uk

or see our updated website at:

<http://www.myddeltonsquare.co.uk>

AGM

The 41st AGM of the Myddelton Square Association will take place virtually on Zoom this year, on

Monday 1st February 2021 at 7:30pm

Please save the date. A Zoom link and agenda will be emailed to our mailing list at least a week before the meeting.

If you have not received an electronic copy of this newsletter, and would like to be added to our mailing list or attend the virtual AGM then please e-mail us.

Sadly we will be unable to meet in person, as we have at previous AGMs, but we hope to be able to announce social events later in 2021.

Monica Potts

The MSA says farewell to its former chair of 20 years, Monica Potts, and thanks her for over 20 years of service to the square and MSA. David Plume takes over as chair.

Myddelton Square Gardens

Covid 2020 has been a year that none of us will ever forget. In spite of this, we've had one of our most successful gardening years.

In February before the pandemic, with funds from MSA and advice from Annie Pollock (Landscape Architect) the metal fencing around the central bed was installed. We were able to recycle the wooden fencing afterwards to

protect a newly created wild plant area on the south side of the Gardens.

Then there was total lockdown. We decided to carry on gardening by sowing lettuce and rocket seeds in window boxes.

As soon as we were allowed outside again we started gardening in earnest whilst socially distancing. The ladybird larvae we'd ordered were put in envelopes and attached to the roses we planted last year, and for the first time there were no greenfly.



We've had an incredibly productive year despite the pandemic. We've held six Open Gardening Days (with social distancing) and planted 500 bulbs including a bluebell bank.

We have spent a lot of time restoring the turfed over circular rose bed where we've planted "Peace" roses each donated in a person's memory. In so doing, a beautiful rose bed on the north side of the Gardens has been created for everyone to enjoy.

With no filming because of the pandemic, funds have been limited. We are very grateful to Annie for her advice on the fencing and thank everyone who has given us donations enabling us to continue our work.

Thanks to Myddelton Square Gardening Group for all their hard work during these unprecedented times.

Myddelton Square Gardening Group must also be congratulated for received the Highest Category in the "London in Bloom 2020 Community Gardening Award" and a Myddelton Square Gardening Group Certificate of Recognition 2020 from The Royal Horticulture Society.

If you would like to contribute or get involved please email us at: msq.garden@gmail.com

Gardens an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

We are pleased to report that Islington has accepted MSA's nomination of Myddelton Square Gardens as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011. This renews its previous listing for a further five years.

The ACV listing prevents the freeholder of the gardens, Marcus Cooper, from disposing of the land without notifying the local authority, and allows a moratorium period during which community interest groups could potentially bid for the land.

House of Illustration

House of Illustration, the UK's only gallery and education space dedicated to illustration and graphics, has announced an £8m project to redevelop New River Head in Islington, into the world's largest public arts space dedicated to illustration.

The project will be built on the Thames Water land south of River Street between Amwell Street and Myddelton Passage, which includes the atmospheric remains of London's only surviving windmill and a spectacular 19th century engine house.



House of Illustration has already raised over £3 million of its £8 million target, and has recently secured £1 million in financing from the Architectural Heritage Fund through its Heritage Impact Fund to support its first development phase. The balance is set to be raised through individual donations, grants from trusts, foundations and a public fundraising campaign.

For more news and information, please visit their website, <https://www.houseofillustration.org.uk>. The Amwell Society, which also supports the project, has some excellent news and information on their website,

<http://amwell.org.uk>. A formal planning application is expected in 2021.

Low traffic neighbourhoods

Residents should be aware of Islington's "low-traffic neighbourhood" plans, and the recent introduction of bollards or filters on Great Percy Street, Lloyd Square and Margery Street. The changes will particularly affect those who drive in the area.

Camera enforcement of the new restrictions has already begun, except on Margery Street which will be announced at a later date.

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/roads/people-friendly-streets/amwell>

The measures are currently installed on an 18-month trial basis. A full public consultation is not planned until 12 months after the scheme's introduction (circa October 2021). MSA will consult members and respond to the consultation in due course.

Planning and construction

Building continues on the Chadwell Street car-park site (to the south of Chadwell Street and east of Myddelton Square). Excavation is complete and construction is underway in the main site. The development also will include a new gatehouse replacing the existing gates and fronting onto Chadwell Street. The project is expected to finish in late 2021.

An application to develop the land opposite, on the north of Chadwell Street, was rejected earlier this year.

News from St. Mark's Church

We are pleased to announce that St. Mark's Church is once again open for communal worship. Visitors must still adhere to current tier-2 guidelines, which means they may only socialise with their own household or support bubble.

For more information, please pick up a leaflet from the church or visit their website at:

<https://stmarks-clerkenwell.co.uk/>

Online worship is also available.

Merry Christmas

MSA wishes all our members and neighbours a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.