



Myddelton Square Association

December 2023 Newsletter

The Myddelton Square Association (MSA) is a Residents' Association for residents and property owners in Myddelton Square, EC1. For information about us or to join, please visit our website at <http://www.myddeltonsquare.co.uk> or email hello@myddeltonsquare.co.uk. This newsletter is distributed free to all letterboxes in Myddelton Square and emailed to members.

AGM

The 44th AGM of the Myddelton Square Association will take place on:

Thursday 29th February 2024 - 7pm for drinks, formal proceedings from 7:30pm

Our meeting will be held in St. Mark's Church in the square. Please join us to meet your neighbours over drinks and nibbles, and discuss matters affecting our neighbourhood. An agenda will be circulated by email before the meeting.

Membership

If you are not already a member, we welcome you to join the Myddelton Square Association. There is a modest annual membership subscription of £10, payable in January (or at the AGM). Further information can be found on our website at <http://www.myddeltonsquare.co.uk>. If you have any queries or wish to raise any issues relevant to the Square, then please speak to a member of the committee or send an email to membership@myddeltonsquare.co.uk.

News from 2023

- In May, Myddelton Square celebrated the King's coronation with a picnic, games and decoration in Myddelton Square Gardens. Our neighbour Amy applied for a council grant and organised the event, which was co-funded and supported by MSA.
- The New River Head platform (accessible via the right hand gate on Myddelton Passage) was re-opened with a new bench, donated by MSA, and some new information panels. The area will eventually be incorporated into the new gardens in the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration.

- In August the MSA hosted its annual Summer Garden Party. We were lucky with the weather again with excellent food and company provided by our members.



- Some significant tree damage occurred in late summer. Three large branches fell, damaging a van and the railings. The affected trees have been felled/trimmed.

- Sadly burglaries occurred in Myddelton Square in late August. An intruder gained access to several properties via their first floor balconies. The suspect has since been arrested and taken to court. We remind neighbours to be mindful of home security and be careful letting unexpected callers in.

MSA is represented on the Clerkenwell Safer Neighbourhood panel – a liaison between the community and local police team; if you wish us to raise issues about crime or anti-social behaviour in the area then email hello@myddeltonsquare.co.uk.

- No filming occurred on the square in 2023, but a film crew is expected on Monday 29th January 2024. Parking suspensions will be minimal, but there will be road closures on Myddelton Square and Chadwell Street which may cause disruption. The film crew is contacting residents by post in the coming weeks with more info and to address any concerns.

200 years of Myddelton Square

During the year, we have received several enquiries from people, as far afield as Australia, researching their family history. We are fortunate to live in a historical area that is well documented, with much information accessible on-line and the London Metropolitan Archives close by for a deeper delve. Two hundred years ago, the plans for Myddelton Square were underway with the building of the houses, as well as the church and ornamental gardens, completed between 1824-1836. During this significant anniversary period, we would like to hear any stories you may have to share about the Square, perhaps through research of your house history or memories of the Square in earlier years. You can contact us using our email address: membership@myddeltonsquare.co.uk or by speaking to a member of the committee. We hope to publish any contributions in future editions of Square Roots. We look forward to hearing from you.

Myddelton Square Gardening Group (MSGG)

We're pleased to report that 2023 has been a very rewarding year.

The RHS offered us 50 free plants at the end of the Hampton Court Flower Show. All have been planted throughout the Gardens, including the North Border.

This border has also been planted with numerous bulbs including narcissi, tulips, and alliums, which will provide a colourful display in spring 2024. Planting here is challenging – the bed is dry and mostly in deep shade. We are trialling various plants to see which cope best with these conditions.

This year, the South Border was colourful from early spring to December. The large bed at the back of the church was a mass of colour. Both beds have benefitted from donated plants.

Unwelcome events have been turned to our advantage! Wood from the fallen tree was recycled and the mulch spread onto the beds.

We have started creating sensory beds in the garden near benches, including lavender and scented herbs. Amanda Gray, a resident in the Square, donated a bed of scented bushes including evergreen Sarcococca as edging with small sweet-scented flowers in winter. This is to the left of the main gates.



Thank you to all who have given donations for plants, and the volunteers who've given so much of their time working in the gardens.

Myddelton Square Gardening Group has received several 'London in Bloom' awards: Silver Gilt for 'Small Park', Silver Gilt award for 'Our Community' RHS award' and 'Our Neighbourhood' Level 4 Thriving and lastly – a 'Gold' award for 'Achievement'!

To learn more, give a donation or get involved in one of the gardening days, please e-mail:

msq.garden@gmail.com

Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration

This has been a busy year for Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration who are working to restore the historic New River Head waterworks, behind Myddelton Square and Amwell Street, and open it up into the public as galleries, learning spaces, publicly accessible gardens, a shop and café. Following the granting of planning permission last year, the plans have been further developed with extensive input from local residents and community groups. With significant progress made towards achieving the funding goal, work is due to begin in early summer, with the aim of opening towards the end of 2025.

In the meantime you can learn about New River Head's fascinating history at the Viewing Platform, off Myddelton Passage. The Platform is usually open Thursday to Sunday, with a bench funded by MSA and new information panels illustrated by Nina Chakrabarti. Illustration projects are underway with local schools and community groups, a further open day was held in September and the Centre recently hosted a pop-up studio at the Angel Central shopping centre.

You can find out more about the project and sign up to the newsletter, including information about future events, on their website at <https://www.qbcentre.org.uk> and follow them on social media at @qbcentre. You can also support the Centre in its exciting plans by making a donation or joining the Friends: <https://www.qbcentre.org.uk/support> or email Bryony Barratt—bryony.barratt@qbcentre.org.uk.

St. Mark's Church

St Mark's church warmly welcomes everyone to its two services a week: a Eucharist with music on Sundays at 9.30 am, and a said Eucharist on Wednesdays at 6.30pm. On the first Sunday of the month it also has a Choral Evensong at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments. The next one is on Sunday 7th January 2024 when St Mark's celebrates its 195th anniversary.

On 17th December, St Mark's holds its Family Crib Eucharist when everyone is invited to attend dressed as a shepherd or angel, and on Christmas Day, a Festal Eucharist at 9.30am.

Every Saturday, St Mark's holds a "New to You" shop from 1100 am to 4.00pm, offering a huge variety of pre-loved clothes, kitchenware, books, DVDs and toys at bargain prices.