



Myddelton Square Association

December 2024 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 45th AGM of the Myddelton Square Association will take place on:

Thursday 27th February 2025 - 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 to 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 2024

- In March, The Times named Clerkenwell as the "[Best place to live in London 2024](#)" with a name-check for Myddelton Square. It is exciting to see new independent businesses starting to appearing nearby on St. John Street.
- In May, Myddelton Square hosted a film crew filming "Christmas Karma" - a Bollywood musical inspired retelling of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The film is directed by Gurinder Chadha (director of "Bend it like Beckham"), and stars Charithra Chandran, Kunal Nayyar and Hugh Bonneville. It is due for release in 2025.

- In August, the Myddelton Square Association once again hosted its annual Summer Garden Party. With excellent food brought by our members, and drinks and other snacks from MSA we enjoyed a beautiful summer afternoon and the opportunity to meet neighbours. We plan to repeat the event in 2025.



- 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. Please also report crime or suspicious behaviour directly to the police. This helps our police team, and can lead to direct results – for example the police recently convicted a woman who stole from neighbours on Myddelton Square during 2023.

Myddelton Square Book Group

Myddelton Square now has its own book group. It was started in June by our neighbour Amanda, has 17 members, and meets every 4-6 weeks.

Books so far: “The House of Mirth” (Edith Wharton), “The Parasites” (Daphne du Maurier), “Trust” (Hernan Diaz), “Old Babes in the Wood” (Margaret Atwood), “Half a Yellow Sun” (Chimanda Ngozi Adiche) and “Christmas at Thompson Hall” (Anthony Trollope). Next book: “A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush” (Eric Newby).

If you are interested in joining, please email amandac.gray@hotmail.co.uk

Hire bikes

Dockless hire bikes are a regular sight around Islington, but less mobile neighbours may struggle with improperly parked bikes blocking pavements. If you can, please take the time to report badly parked or tipped over bikes. Instructions can be found online by searching “reporting badly parked lime (or forest) bikes”.

200 years of Myddelton Square

Did you know that Myddelton Square is now 200 years old? The houses were built between 1824-1836 by thirteen different builders, and the church in 1825-1827. Our friends at the Amwell Society are planning an exciting program of events in 2026 to celebrate 200 years of the New River Estate.

Myddelton Square Gardening Group (MSGG)

We're pleased to report that in spite of unforeseen problems 2024 has turned out to be a rewarding year for the gardening group.



Three new trees, Crepe Myrtles, were planted near the fence to the west of the Gardens, and bushes have been planted there — a winter flowering one and others for autumn colour.

Coping without a working standpipe (and fountain) to water from was a real concern over the summer.

During a particularly dry period the new trees were watered using watering cans; we will have to wait until spring to see if two of the Crepe Myrtles have survived. Emails have been sent to both the water board and the council requesting that water is restored by the spring, which MSA plans to follow up in the 2025.

More bulbs (narcissi, tulips and alliums) were planted in the North Border. Deep shade and very dry conditions mean that this border is at its best and most colourful in the spring. We are still trialling plants and bushes which will cope in the summer. The two acers donated by Sally Hull, along with one previously planted, will transform the bed in autumn.



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

Myddelton Square Gardening Group once again received several "London in Bloom" awards: A Silver Gilt award for "Our Community" and a Silver for 'Best Park', and also an "It's Your Neighbourhood Award of Level 4 – Thriving" award from Britain in Bloom with RHS. We were awarded a gold for Achievement last year but sadly that category wasn't included this year.

If you would like to get involved in a gardening day, or if you would like to make a donation of plants or money please e-mail:

msq.garden@gmail.com

You can also look out for posters on the gates for upcoming Gardening Days.

Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration

The Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration reached its £11.5 million funding goal in 2024, including a £3.75 million grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Construction has now started on their exciting project to build a permanent national centre for illustration on the New River Head land just south of River Street. They hope to open their doors to visitors in early 2026.

The Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration is a charity, founded by Quentin Blake, which exists for illustration. Their work includes exhibiting original illustration, nurturing talent, diversity and innovation in illustration, educating and empowering young illustrators, and community engagement projects.

The New River Head site features a magnificent engine house, a windmill base and derelict stores which be repurposed as galleries, learning spaces, a café and a shop, set within half an acre of new public gardens. In addition to a programme of exhibitions and hosting some of their educational work, the site will also provide a home for the 40,000 work archive of Quentin Blake.

Construction began in November, and you can already see work taking place. The New River Head platform on Myddelton Passage (south of Myddelton Square) is now permanently closed, and the space will be incorporated into the main site forming one of the two entrances (the other being on Amwell Street).

You can find out more about the centre and their project and sign up to the newsletter, including information about future events, on their website at <https://www.qbcentre.org.uk>. Alternatively 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 emailing Emily Curran—emily.curran@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. There are also Christmas services on:

- Sunday 22nd December 9:30am – Family Crib Eucharist (come dressed as a shepherd or an angel!)
- Weds 25th December 9:30am – Christmas Eucharist

Every Saturday (11am—4pm) St Mark's holds a "New to You" shop, offering a variety of pre-loved clothes, kitchenware, books, DVDs and toys at bargain prices.