



Myddelton Square Association

Newsletter

January 2023

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, 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 43rd AGM of the Myddelton Square Association will take place on:

Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7:30pm (drinks from 7pm)

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

News from 2022

- In June new black metal railings were installed in Myddelton Square Gardens. Read about the fantastic work of the Myddelton Square Gardening Group in the report overleaf.
- Our friends at the Amwell Society (<https://amwell.org.uk>) celebrated their 50th anniversary in June with a weekend of events, including various walks, talks and a picnic in Myddelton Square.
- Myddelton Square is often used as a location for film shoots, and we sometimes receive donations from larger productions. There were

relatively few shoots in 2022 (2021 was busy), but Netflix were active around Amwell Street, and Myddelton Square was used for a few shots in production called “The Sixth Commandment” in November.

- In July Myddelton Square Gardens unexpectedly played host to an evening theatrical event, part of the LIFT festival. MSA and residents were concerned that it had been approved; on investigation mistakes had been made and correct approval had in fact not been granted. The event was allowed to proceed, but should not be repeated.
- In August MSA hosted its annual Summer Garden Party. This year we were lucky to enjoy fabulous summer weather. The food (much of it provided by our neighbours) was fantastic and we had a great afternoon.



- The Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration received planning permission, and in September hosted a series of events in the New River Head. Read more overleaf.
- The new development behind Myddelton Square on the south side of Chadwell Street was completed and occupied in 2022. The council has recently granted planning permission to build a new house on the land opposite on the north side of Chadwell Street, which will impact neighbours on the north-east side of Myddelton Square.
- In September a contractor had a lucky escape when he drilled through an electrical cable in a block on the north side of Myddelton Square causing an explosion. There was a power cut and emergency services attended, but the man did not sustain serious injury.
- Some neighbours have been affected by anti-social behaviour from vehicles in Myddelton Square at night. If you witness anti-social behaviour you should contact the police (call 101, or 999 in an emergency). 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.

Myddelton Square Gardening Group (MSGG)

It is good to report that 2022 has been an exceptional year in so many ways. The long-awaited protective metal fencing was installed in June. The design is the same as that in the Royal Parks and is a handsome addition to the Gardens. Importantly, the planting in the flower beds is now protected.

Funding is vital for us to continue restoring the Gardens and the following funding was provided in 2021 / 2022.

Funds from Metropolitan Public Gardens Association allowed one third of the large bed backed by the church railings to be planted – and with 400 free bulbs, this gave



a really colourful display from early spring right through to November. Funds from 'Let's Make it Happen' provided a much-needed new watering truck and hoses. These made all the difference during the summer heatwave, saving many plants which otherwise would have died.

In autumn we held an event to thank Barbara Tanska from Planning and Councillor Matt Nathan, who enabled us to get £22,000 funding for the protective fencing. It was a glorious day and they were able to see the fencing in place before enjoying a buffet lunch in the church upstairs.

There are special thanks to all those who gave us individual donations for plants — and most importantly, to everyone who worked so hard throughout the year restoring and creating new beds in the Gardens.

The London in Bloom Awards ceremony was a rather grander affair for us this year! Myddelton Square Gardening Group received 3 awards: Silver Gilt award for a 'Small Park', Silver Gilt award for 'Our Community' and lastly Britain in Bloom with RHS award 'Our Neighbourhood', level 4 thriving. The awards are the result of a really dedicated MSGG and all the volunteers who join us.

Last but not least, we have dug over and started to plant a new bed – a border on the north side of the central paved area, which creates a symmetry with the south side border.

To learn more or get involved, e-mail msq.garden@gmail.com.

Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration

We are excited to see progress on the project to bring the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration (<https://www.qbcentre.org.uk>, formerly the House of Illustration) to Clerkenwell. They acquired the former Thames Water site behind Myddelton Square and Amwell Street back in 2020, and in 2022 were granted planning permission to transform the historic buildings at New River Head into an arts and exhibition centre incorporating studios, an education centre, publicly accessible gardens and a café.

The project team is currently about half way towards its £12 million funding goal. They are expecting to start construction in 2023 and hope to open their doors in 2024.

MSA has made a small donation to the project, which includes funding a new bench. We hope to see it installed on the New River Head platform area on Myddelton Passage in 2023, and later relocated to the main site.

You can find out more about the project on their website at <https://www.qbcentre.org.uk/our-new-home>, or for more information or to donate email Harry Hickmore (harry.hickmore@qbcentre.org.uk).

St. Mark's Church

St Mark's Church, Clerkenwell continues to provide opportunities for worship at the 9.30am service of Eucharist on Sundays when the bells will call you, and also at a 6.30pm BCP service on Wednesday evenings. On the first Sunday of the month Evensong is held with a musical meditation instead of a sermon, played by our excellent organist. On special occasions such as the Dedication Day Service (8th January 2023), a choir joins us for Choral Evensong and refreshments are provided afterwards.

On Saturdays, tea and coffee available in the Parish Room and the "New to You" shop is open selling clothes, household equipment, toys and books.

The church space can be rented for meetings or events such as concerts, club groups, classes and demonstrations, sales or fairs. The World-Wide Centre for Christian Meditation (Meditatio) has an office in the building, and holds sessions every weekday 1pm to 1:30pm. There are also some rentable spaces in Crypt (currently all occupied) which artists/creative people can rent at affordable prices.