

Britannia
Square

Residents' Association

Newsletter

AUTUMN 2022

The Residents' Association Committee urgently needs two new members

CAN YOU HELP?

You just need to be a resident of Britannia Square, Albany Terrace or Stephenson Terrace and be interested in taking care of this special part of the City of Worcester. A willingness to assist in organising various community events would also be helpful.

The Committee usually meets about 4 times a year and covers a range of issues including planning, highways, Neighbourhood Watch, special campaigns (e.g. gulls) and the organisation of social events such as the Summer Party and Christmas Carols Party.

In particular, we need a Committee member willing to act as Treasurer/Membership Secretary to take over from Ian Terry, who will be retiring at the AGM. Most members have opted for Life Membership so compared with similar organisations there are relatively few financial transactions each year, with the majority being related to social events.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the committee, please contact **Carol Inman, Secretary** (csinman4@gmail.com or 07772 210891).



Forthcoming Events

BSRA AGM

Friday 11th November at 7.00pm at the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace.



Everyone living in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace is welcome to our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 11th November 2022. The meeting will be at the United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace. Drinks (for a donation) and nibbles will be served from 7.00pm so that we can start the meeting promptly at 7.30pm. Agenda and reports will be available on our website [here](http://britanniasquare.org), along with features about all our projects and initiatives in the 'Residents' Area' and 'BSRA Initiatives' sections at <http://britanniasquare.org>

Our guest speaker this year is RIBA architect Nick Carroll, on the subject of reducing energy use in historic houses (see more on page 3).

We are grateful to our sponsors, Fisher German, who continue to support us this year. This is your Residents' Association and a great way to get together to socialise and exchange views.

New neighbours are especially welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

BSRA Committee

BSRA Christmas Carols & Party

Sunday 11th December at 6.00pm at the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace.

Our Christmas Party will be on Sunday 11th December from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

Please bring and share Christmas food and we will provide wine and soft drinks for a donation. There will be carol singing around the piano with lots of well-known tunes so that everyone can join in. Everyone is welcome and please bring your families and friends who are with you on the day. Latest details may be found [here](http://britanniasquare.org).

If you are new to the area you are especially welcome.

BSRA Committee



How Does Britannia Square prepare for ‘Carbon Neutrality’?

Residents have been thinking about how to make our historic, listed houses more energy efficient for some time. These questions have been brought into even sharper focus by recent energy price rises and discussions about energy scarcity and security. Through the efforts of committee member Ann Cowper, we have been lucky enough to persuade Worcester RIBA architect Nick Carroll to speak at our AGM about these problems. Nick has recent experience of these issues, having recently acquired a Georgian period property on the The Foregate as a location for his business.

Particular areas of concern for residents may include:

- Insulation
- Double Glazing of Regency Windows (preserving original glass)
- Solar Panels – how are they best used and sensitively fitted, how many needed etc.
- best heating options (boilers, heat pumps, other)
- electric charging points for vehicle owners with no drive way – what options are available.

We look forward to hearing Nick’s thoughts about these issues, and answering other questions which residents may have on this subject. We hope everyone will offer Nick a warm welcome and be kind and courteous with questions. An article previously featured in ‘Living’ magazine about Nick’s practice can be found [here](#).

Nick Carroll RIBA – Chartered Architect and Property Developer.

Arguably Worcester’s most maverick and entertaining architect whose designs continue to provoke positive public reaction both locally and nationally.

Exuding both bonhomie and practical expertise in equal measure, he has championed the built environment in numerous magazine articles (Living magazine), radio (BBC H&W) and TV appearances (Grand Designs Malvern 2017)

As a property developer, Nick is very “hands on” with the construction and cost of residential property. His recent acquisition of the former Thursfields offices on The Foregate, Worcester, a listed Georgian building, is under consideration for how best to adapt and future-proof the existing fabric for residential living.

www.nickcarrollarchitects.co.uk
nickcarrollarchitects@gmail.com



Photograph by Ella Blankstone



Gull Report – Autumn 2022

Following the article circulated in the Summer 2022 Newsletter, we are now at the end of the “gull season” and most of the migratory Lesser Black Backed Gulls have now left us and gone to their wintering grounds further south.

The City Council Gull Control Officer (Gordon Dugan) is about to retire and his successor has been announced, it is Mitchell Wright who is known to many local residents as he is the falconer who has been flying his hawks in the City for the last few years.

During 2022 our area has had the following gull control measures: hawking during the early mating/nesting season, egg and nest removal and (particularly successful) nest exclusion by placing mesh cages over vulnerable chimneys. There are one or two vulnerable sites which have yet to be protected with exclusion cages due to difficulties in gaining access. The Council hopes to carry out those measures before next year’s gull season with innovative solutions to solve the access issues.

All these measures have resulted in a significant reduction in gull nuisance in our area. The cost of the hawking has been shared between the City Council and local groups like ours. BSRA will be making a contribution of £540 towards this. The committee is most grateful for the contributions given by local residents.

The success of the gull control measures has been noted by many local residents, who have reported a much lower incidence of gull problems this year, we hope that with your support we can continue these measures in 2023, as it is known that successfully raised chicks return to their nesting area in the following years to try to set up their own territories. It’s therefore important that we continue to be vigilant, to prevent all the recent good work being undermined.

John Ball, BSRA Committee member

Worcester Civic Society

Mayor’s Charity Lecture on 19th October 2022,
7 for 7.30 pm at Worcester Guildhall

Britannia Square Residents' Association is a corporate member of Worcester Civic Society
www.worcestercivicsociety.org.uk

Each year the Society organises a lecture in aid of the Mayor’s charities. This year’s lecture will be given by Ben Oakley on behalf of Executive President of SAVE Britain’s Heritage, Marcus Binney CBE, HonFRIBA. There is no admission charge but fund raising donations for refreshments would be welcome. There will also be a retiring collection for the Mayor’s nominated charities which are Severn Arts and Onside Advocacy.



Planning Applications (changes since last Newsletter)

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
2022			
May	8 Albany Terrace	Rear single storey extension and internal alterations, replacement windows to frontage.	Approved
June	36A Britannia Square	Non-material amendments to garden annex	Approved
June	37 Britannia Square	Re-build front right hand garden wall.	Approved
June	27 Britannia Square	Removal of existing garage, reinstatement of garden and construction of boundary wall.	Approved
July	18 Albany Terrace	Retrospective approval for new front entrance gate	Approved
August	18 Albany Terrace	New timber screen to rear boundary wall, internal alterations, new door opening to rear, new window in lieu of bi-fold doors to rear, new rooflights to rear lower ground floor roofslope, new external fireplace, new hard landscaping to rear	Approved
August	7 Britannia Square	Non material amendment to planning approval 21/00761/HP to change the pitched roof to a flat roof with roof lanterns.	Approved
August	22 Britannia Square	Extension to second floor to provide bathroom and installation of glazed canopy over front entrance door.	Approved
September	12 Britannia Square	Rear extension and alterations	Consultation ends 2 Nov

BSRA tries to comment on all applications, when consulted. However, residents should comment directly on the City Council's planning website, if they would like to raise concerns or support any application.

<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search>

NORA

Britannia Square Residents' Association is a member of **NORA**, the National Organisation of Residents' Associations. NORA was founded in 2003 by a group of town centre residents' associations who were concerned about the local threat to their environment and needed advice on issues such as:

- Planning
- Licensing
- Traffic management
- Car parking
- Community safety.

Newsletters received from NORA are available to view on BSRA's website. These cover a range of topical issues including planning reform and parking legislation.

<http://britanniasquare.org/nora.aspx>

Neighbourhood Watch

Home security cameras & smart doorbells

Recently footage from a resident's security camera was helpful in assisting Police to apprehend an intruder at another property in Worcester.



CCTV or wireless security cameras can be an extra security measure to put burglars off. There is a wide range of wireless security cameras available both mains and battery-powered. Recordings are either stored remotely online or via an internal SD card.

Another product to consider is a smart doorbell, as they can act as a digital guard for your front door, checking for suspicious characters while also alerting you to legitimate visitors.

If you have footage showing anyone behaving suspiciously on your premises, this can be uploaded on the West Mercia Police website (Report section).

When to contact the Police

- Call the Police on 101 if you see anyone acting suspiciously.
- Call 999 if you feel at risk or a crime is in progress.

Paid-up Member?

Of the 121 households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace, 55 are current paid up members.

Life membership is £30 per household and annual membership is £5 per household. Payment of membership automatically includes your household as a member of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which may enable you to claim a discount on your household insurance.

Joining the Association helps us to protect our local environment, to develop initiatives to improve our area and helps us to access local authority assistance and resources on your behalf.

To join the Association please contact the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Ian Terry: iannterry@aol.com



BSRA Committee

Current Members

Ian Terry (<i>Treasurer & Membership Sec</i>)	iannterry@aol.com	14 Albany Terrace
John Ball (<i>Wine Club Chairman</i>)	johnball1@btinternet.com	50 Britannia Square
Ella Blankstone	ellablankstone@talktalk.net	The Old Coach House Britannia Square
Ann Cowper	annferrier@gmail.com	20 Britannia Square
Robin Dallaway (<i>Website & Newsletter</i>)	robindallaway@gmail.com	7 Albany Terrace
Carol Inman (<i>Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch & Highways</i>)	csinman4@gmail.com	4 Stephenson Terrace