

Worcester Community Garden confirmed as 2023 AGM Guest Speaker



Photograph courtesy of Steve Dent.

Britannia Square Residents' Association is delighted to welcome a representative of the Worcester Community Garden to speak at this year's Annual General Meeting. Steve Dent, chair of the Garden's trustees, has kindly agreed to talk to us about this fascinating initiative.

Steve will offer the opportunity to learn more about the project, a registered charity running a half acre site on the edge of Pitchcroft which recently won a BBC Hereford & Worcester's 'Make A Difference' Green Category Award.

The Garden forms part of 'Transition Worcester', which is committed to developing resilience and a more sustainable way of living within the community, in the face of climate change and fossil fuel depletion (*more details overleaf*).

We hope you will join us for our usual lively annual meeting to listen, air your views and perhaps for a glass of wine. **BSRA AGM, Friday 10th November, 7pm for 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, Albany Terrace.** (*more details [here](#)*).



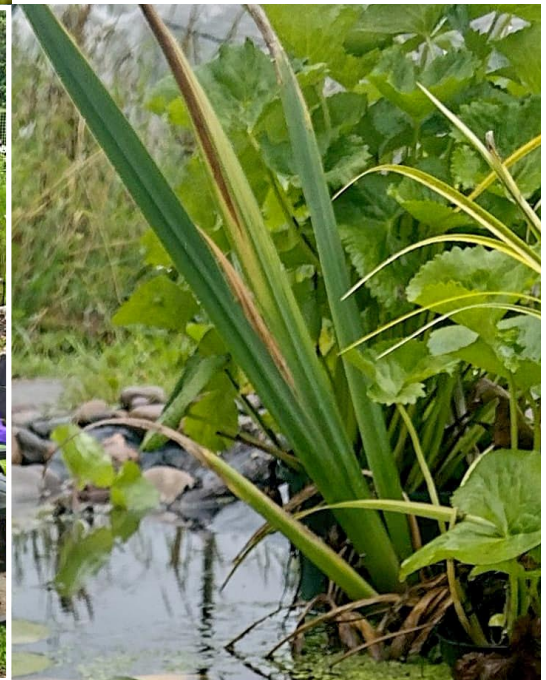
More about Worcester community garden...

'The community garden site follows organic and 'no dig' principles to produce vegetables, fruit and flowers with zero chemicals and zero air miles.

The community garden is open every day of the week between 10 am and 2 pm, and provides a perfect opportunity to enjoy the fresh air, be active, use existing skills and learn new ones and, best of all, to meet lovely like-minded people.'

Discover more at the BSRA AGM, on Friday 10th November.

Photographs courtesy of Steve Dent.



Forthcoming Events

BSRA AGM

Friday 10th November at 7.30pm 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 10th November 2023. The meeting will be at the United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace. Drinks (for a cash 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://www.britanniasquare.org) nearer the date, along with features about all our projects and initiatives in the 'Residents' Area' and 'BSRA Initiatives' sections at <http://www.britanniasquare.org> Our guest speaker this year is Steve Dent, chair of Worcester Community Garden's trustees, (see more on pages 1 & 2).

We are grateful to our sponsors, Fisher German, who continue to support us this year, through their presence on our website.

This is your Residents' Association and the AGM is great way to get together to socialise and exchange views. New neighbours are especially welcome. If you not already a member, you can join on the evening but please bring cash to pay your subscription.

We look forward to seeing you there.

BSRA Committee

BSRA Christmas Carols & Party

Sunday 10th December at 5.00pm at the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 10th December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Please bring and share Christmas food and we will provide wine and soft drinks for a cash donation. There will be carol singing around the piano with lots of well-known tunes so that everyone can join in. Also this year, we would like to invite residents engaged in arts, crafts, decorations, gifts etc. to have stalls to sell their creations in the Hall. Space is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like to book a stall, please contact Ann Cowper as soon as possible, contact details on page 7. Stall-holders will be encouraged to make a donation to a local charity.

Everyone is welcome and please bring your families and friends who are with you on the day. If you are new to the area you are especially welcome.

BSRA Committee



Neighbourhood Watch

Cyber Security – Maintaining Your Privacy and Safety

The Suspicious Email Reporting Service was launched by the National Cyber Security Centre and the City of London Police in April 2020 to enable the public to forward suspicious emails to an automated system that scans them for malicious links. Since its launch, almost 21 million reports have been made to the service.

Commander Nik Adams, from City of London Police, said:

“Every year, thousands of people in the UK are scammed by a fraudulent email or text message. Phishing scams, whether it’s a text message claiming you have missed a delivery and are required to pay a redelivery fee, or an email claiming to be from your bank are common security challenges that both individuals and businesses across the UK face on a daily basis.

If you receive an email or text message that you think might be a scam, don’t respond to it or click any links in the message or email. Instead, contact the organisation directly using contact information from the company’s official website, and not the links or numbers provided in the message itself.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud at:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040. By reporting phishing scams or suspected fraud, you are directly helping us in our work to identify and stop these criminals and helping us protect others from these scams.”

Reporting scam emails and texts

1: Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk . Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam.

2: Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 (it’s free of charge). Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

3: If you’ve lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud [here](#) or by calling 0300 123 2040.





Gull Report – Autumn 2023

Following the article circulated in the Spring 2023 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 Worcester City Council Gull Control Officer, Mitchell Wright (in previous years he was our “Hawker”) has now taken over from Gordon Dugan, who has threatened to retire several times, but is still in post part-time. They continue to provide expertise and knowledge to Worcester, but also to Bath and North Somerset (which apparently has an even more acute gull problem than we do!)

During 2023 our area has had the following gull control measures: hawking during the early mating/nesting season and later egg & nest removal - followed by nest exclusion (placing mesh cages over vulnerable chimneys) for two properties: Springfield School (paid for by RGS) and 52a Britannia Square.

These measures, along with similar activities from earlier years, have meant that there have been no successful gull nests in our area this year. It has also been mentioned by several residents that there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of gulls that pass through our area and significantly less noise and disturbance!

The cost of all the gull control measures is shared between the City Council and local groups like ours. This year BSRA has been asked to make a contribution of £550 towards this. Earlier in the year we asked residents to contribute £10 per household towards this sum and I’m delighted to announce that we have raised sufficient funds to pay our contribution, plus a little more which will be carried forward to next year, specifically ear marked for future Gull Control costs. The committee is most grateful for the contributions given by local residents.

We cannot afford to be complacent and think the problem is solved, as it is known that successfully raised chicks return to their nesting area several years later to try to set up their own nesting territories. It’s therefore important that we continue to be vigilant, to prevent all the recent good work being undermined.

Thank you for your continuing support.

John Ball, BSRA Committee member

More information about Gull Control may be found at the Worcestershire Regulatory Services website [here](#).

Planning Applications (changes since last Newsletter)

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
2022			
February	23 Britannia Square	New buttresses to southern boundary wall and repointing works; adaption to shared downpipe (with 24 Britannia Square)	Approved
March	33 Albany Terrace	Listed Building consent sought for roof-mounted solar PV system on south-facing slate roof pitch	Approved
May	8 Albany Terrace	Listed building consent for the removal of an internal wall in the entrance hallway.	Consultation ended. Pending decision.
May	34 Britannia Square	Installation of metal gates across driveway and erection of glazed canopy over rear lower courtyard.	Approved
May	10 Britannia Square	Alterations to the rear of the house including doors and windows, timber pergola to courtyard, raised brick wall to rear, boiler flue, wall-lights, security camera and double-switch socket.	Approved
June	36 Britannia Square	Application for a non-material amendment to planning approval 21/00088/HP. Amendment is to reduce the width of study room, modify roof-light design and extend existing garden room window to form external door.	Approved
July	15 Britannia Square	Listed building consent for alterations involving internal dry-lining and general refurbishment.	Consultation ended. Pending decision.

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.

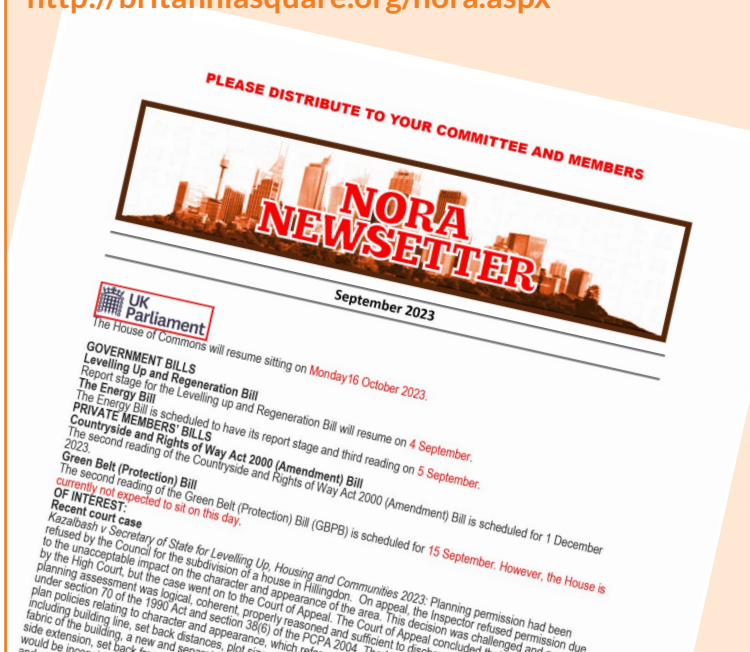
<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search>

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>



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 Membership Secretary, Nicky Neville-Lee:
nnevillelee@hotmail.com



BSRA Committee Current Members

Nicky Neville-Lee (<i>Membership Sec.</i>)	nnevillelee@hotmail.com	30 Albany Terrace
John Ball (<i>Wine Club Chairman</i>)	johnball1@btinternet.com	50 Britannia Square
Ella Blankstone	ellablankstone@talktalk.net	The Old Coach House
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
Tracy Scott (<i>Treasurer</i>)	scott.tracy59@yahoo.co.uk	52 Britannia Square