

A potential life-saver for our area

**A new defibrillator,
accessible 24 hours
a day, is now
available to all**

Anyone walking past the United Reformed Church in Albany Terrace may have noticed a large yellow box on the wall of the church. Yes, we have a defibrillator situated in Albany Terrace which can be accessed at any time, by phoning 999 and talking to the Ambulance Service. No, you do not need training to use it. You will be told the code to open the case and from then on you will be led, step by step, in the use of the defibrillator.

We started raising funds for it at the AGM, but then we were told that a Student Paramedic, Amy Shadbolt, had one that she was unable to site. Thanks to her generosity we have been able to give it a home, and it has already been in use. A very big 'thank you' must also go to a wonderful electrician, Girts of Willox Electrical, who gave three hours of his time, and all the electrical parts needed to fit it, free of charge.



**Britannia Square
Residents' Association**

On-street Electric Vehicle Charging Survey results

A big 'thank you' to all the residents that took part in our survey on EV

charging in the BSRA area.

We had a 54% response rate, which by previous survey efforts was a high response rate and extremely helpful, with many taking the time to give additional and in depth comments besides completing the survey questions.

The questions were designed to be provocative and not a statement of intent from the Committee in order to elicit as big a response as possible. Interestingly, and perhaps not so surprisingly, it tended to be households who already had electric vehicles and therefore had found ways of charging, or who have off-street parking that responded.

The City Council and in particular Councillors Lynn Denham and Adam Scott have taken a special interest in the results of our survey and have been proactive in trying to move things forward on our behalves. In discussion with them and taking on board comments from the survey, it was felt that at this point in time, the best solution might be for EV charging points to be put in to The Moors Car Park which BSRA residents could in theory make use of. This would require the consent and agreement of the University and is currently work in progress.

Also following our survey, Councillor Adam Scott and Dr Paul Collins, the City Council's Conservation Officer, walked around the area to assess the current situation with regards to the fitting of EV chargers. Dr Collins confirmed that *"each case should be treated on its merits, and the best solution found for each property. If necessary for example, a charger could be hidden behind a wall or even appropriately boxed in, as in many cases there is no garden to install a post. The choice of EV socket is also pertinent, as they vary in appearance a lot"*. Please note that as we are in a conservation area, planning consent is required for EV Chargers, although the council is likely to look on this very favourably. What is not possible however, is for cables to be run across pavements from properties where there is no off-street parking.

As an ongoing and ever changing issue, we welcome constructive community comments, and we will keep residents updated. If you haven't already responded to the survey, it's not too late. We appreciate your attention, welcome your comments and suggestions, and look forward to receiving feedback at your earliest convenience so we can co-ordinate our community ideas.



**The BSRA Survey – Finding a solution to on-street
Electric Vehicle Charging in our neighbourhood**

**Ann Cowper, Britannia Square
Residents' Association Committee member**



Gull Report Spring 2025

Now that spring is here, it's time to think about our gull concerns.

You've probably noticed that there are now more gulls flying around in our area; they are looking for suitable nesting sites on our roofs and chimneys. Once they get established, build nests and have chicks they can become very noisy and aggressive as they defend their territory. Our objective is to prevent that happening in our area!

Over the past few years, with the support of our local council, we've managed to remove nests, eggs and chicks from our roofs and (most importantly) to make vulnerable areas "gull proof". This has involved fitting mesh cages, spikes, chimney caps etc.

It's probable that all the vulnerable roofs have now been treated and that we should be OK in the future!!

If, however, you notice gulls trying to make a nest on your roof, the newly appointed gull officer from Worcestershire Regulatory Services (Mr. Chris Green, contact details:- phone - 07917 592887, email - chris.green@worcestershire.gov.uk) has confirmed that they will visit the property and, if appropriate, use cherry pickers to remove the nests and fit gull proofing measures.

The homeowner will be asked to pay for the proofing materials, but the council will pay for the access equipment.

I hope that the work done in previous years and any further work identified this year will keep our area a "no-go area" for gulls!

John Ball, BSRA Committee member

Are you a paid-up member?

Of the current 117 occupied households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace: there are now 60 lifetime members and 5 annual members.

Lifetime 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. **Also, priority booking for Wine Club tickets!**

To join the Association please contact Membership Secretary, Miss Ella Blankstone

Forthcoming Events

STREET SPRING CLEAN

Albany Terrace & Britannia Square – Sunday, 8th June 2025 from 3pm to 5pm

Photograph by Ella Blankstone



The City Council has agreed to help us again with a Street Spring Clean on Sunday 8th June and Monday 9th June. All residents will be given an official notification by the Council and parking permit(s) for free use of the Pitchcroft and Croft Road Council car parks from 1pm on Sunday 8th June until 7am on Tuesday 10th June.

Residents are asked to ensure their vehicles are moved away from Albany Terrace and Britannia Square by 3pm on Sunday when they are all invited to clear weeds and litter from the pavements and kerbsides near their properties.

The Council will send street sweeping teams in on Monday morning to remove everything we have gathered up. It is intended that the gully cleaning machines will also take advantage of the clear access.

Residents are free to bring their vehicles back after 3pm on Monday 9th June. The Council will provide cones to deter parking in the 3-hour non-resident bays and will display warning notices in advance throughout the area.

Tools and equipment for those without their own will be provided by the Council from 3pm on Sunday 8th June at the United Reformed Church Hall, Albany Terrace.

More details about this year's Spring Clean can be found [here](#), along with features about activity in previous years at www.britanniasquare.org

BSRA Committee

SUMMER PARTY

Sunday, 29th June 2025 from 12 noon

Please save the date for our summer event which will be held in the grounds of RGS Springfield.

Further details will be circulated to all households nearer the date and published on the website at www.britanniasquare.org [here](#).

BSRA Committee

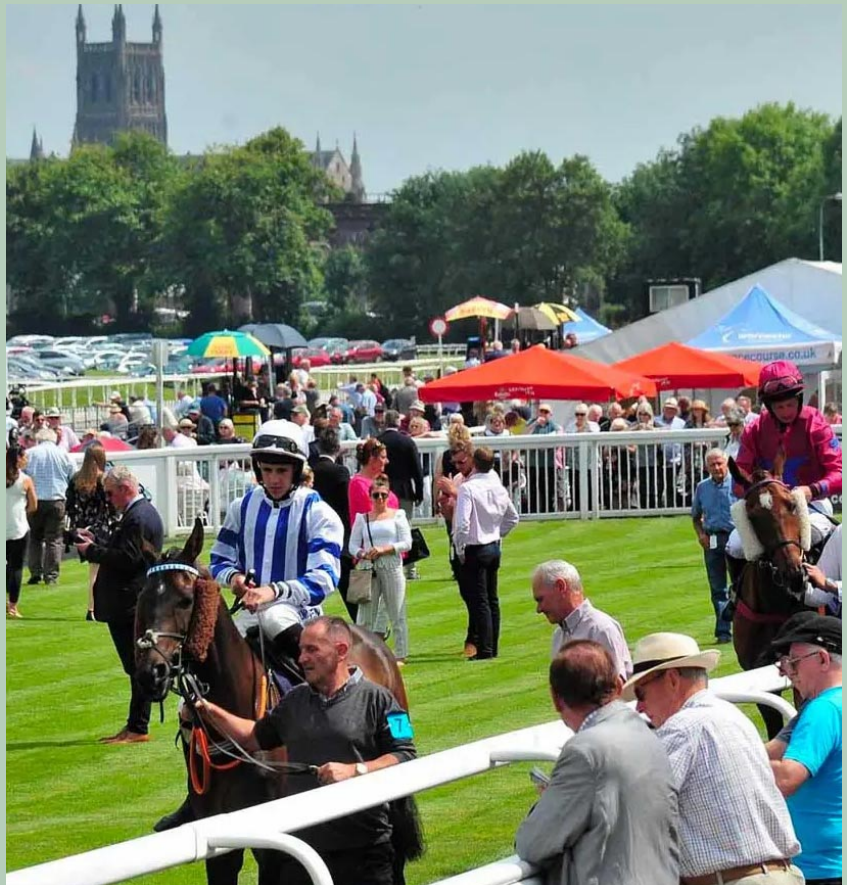


Britannia Square Residents' Association Newsletter – Spring, 2025

Environmental News

PITCHCROFT horse-racing, other events and noise!

For over 300 years, Pitchcroft, our local open space, has played host not only to horse-racing but to a wide range of events including football matches, funfairs and balloon festivals. It is important to be aware that Worcester Racecourse (part of Arena Racing) has a 99 year lease from Worcester City Council covering the track, stables, weighing room and grandstand but the centre area is available for other events, usually not organised by the Racecourse.



It also has to be accepted that living so close to a city centre, as we do, realistically we will not be able to enjoy total silence at all times and some events will cause disruption to residents. However, during 2024, many residents found the level of noise from events taking place on Pitchcroft to be much more intrusive and frequent than in previous years and also that traffic congestion related to certain events caused serious inconvenience, not only to them but to road users across the city.

As a result, the BSRA Committee invited Helen Cameron from Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) to attend our last AGM to explain to residents how events are controlled and monitored.

We learnt from Helen that noise nuisance is a very complicated issue but we can report any noise issues to WRS (details below). It was also reassuring to learn that all organisers of large events held on Pitchcroft have to submit an Event Management Plan ("EMP") for approval. The EMP has to be agreed with WRS and the City Council and must include traffic and noise management plans. WRS also regularly monitor noise at events.

In addition to contacting WRS, representatives from the BSRA Committee recently met with Michael Thomas, General Manager of Worcester Racecourse to raise residents' concerns about noise and traffic. He reassured us that there will be no midweek music events this year and that those held at weekends will finish by 10pm. The 2025 Fixture List can be found at www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk

Michael also informed us that there will be music at the following race meetings and that exact timings would be advertised on their website nearer each date.

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Friday 23 May - Rum & Reggae
Sat 7 June - Ladies Day
Sun 31 August - Family Festival
Fri 5 Sept - Race Back to the 80s

Other events on Pitchcroft already announced for 2025 (with approximate times) are:

Sat 14 June - Fake Festival (11.45 - 23.00)
Fri 20/Sat 21 June - Balloon Festival (Friday 16.00 - 22.30; Saturday 12.00 - 22.30)
Sat 12 July - Worcester Carnival (Parade leaves around 15.00)
Wed 16 July - Pitchcroft 10K & Acorns fun run (from 19.00)
Sat 19 July - Race for Life (from 10.00)
Sat 2/Sun 3 August - Open air cinema (Saturday from 18.00; Sunday from 11.30)
Sun 10 August - Worcester Show (10.00 - 17.00)
Sat 23 August - Worcester Tribute Festival, presented by Social Eats (12.00 - 22.00)

(NB: Please check online & social media for more details of these and other events)

Noise nuisance can be reported to WRS at: [Worcestershire Regulatory Services](#)

The Contact Form is accessed via Step 2 (Request WRS Assistance).

Alternatively, to complain about any noise coming from Pitchcroft, residents can call 01905 822799 select Option 6 or email enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Planning Applications *(changes since last Newsletter)*

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
2025			
March	9 Britannia Square	Removal of existing extension and replace with a single storey rear extension. Raise boundary wall, and replace gates with folding solid boarded doors.	Pending Decision (Consultation ended 25 April)
March	28 Britannia Square	Rebuilding of the west garden wall, reducing levels and construction of garden store.	Pending Decision (Consultation ended 25 April)
April	33 Britannia Square	To take down an existing wooden pagoda and put in its place a Hartley Botanic heritage 6 pane greenhouse.	Pending Decision (Consultation ends 10 May)

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. www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search

BSRA Membership Report

Spring 2025

Since our last Autumn Newsletter update, we have said our farewells to several long-standing residents and take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to a record number of new residents (ten households!) to our neighbourhood since last summer – including Stuart at 11 AT; Vickie and family at 19 AT; Jim and Lynn at The Stables, 36B BS; Jane and family at 24 BS; Tony and Lynne at 33 BS; James, Hannah and young family at 34 BS; Rob, Nadene and family at 45 BS; Kat and Charlie at 8 ST; Cathy, Andy and young family at 26 AT (formerly of York Place); and tenants “Alex & Alex” in Flat 1, 27 AT. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting together at the various events planned over the year to come.



Photograph by Ella Blankstone

Consequently, we can report an increase of the Membership of the Britannia Square Residents' Association since last year.

Of the current 117 occupied households: there are now 60 lifetime members (51%) and 5 annual members (4%); with 44 households (38%) that are non members, with 8 “lapsed” annual members (7%).

We have seen a significant increase in community engagement in recent years, both in attendance and participation of our regular established neighbourhood events, surveys, and in our successful B-SquOSH WhatsApp group, which is a thriving and helpful proactive neighbourhood resource.

Naturally our aim is to build up our membership, not merely as a modest fund raising exercise to contribute towards costs, but to serve and help ensure we continue to provide representation for all us residents.

Joining as a member is a symbolic gesture whereby the resident acknowledges the aims of the Association. Like many similar organisations, benefits are not always tangible. The membership subs help pay for the website, venue hire, leaflet printing etc. Membership of the Association essentially provides a platform to voice and add clout to all our community concerns and interests – and with the ever-changing demographic and dynamic of the neighbourhood should include more of all residents'

Continues overleaf.

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suggested ideas and initiatives, which would be very much welcomed – **so please support, participate and contribute where you are willing and able!**

We encourage attendance of all residents to our sociable gatherings. In response to demand for tickets to attend our ever-popular Wine Club events, we give priority booking to the current Membership in the first instance before opening up the opportunity to the wider neighbourhood of non-members. We offer annual Membership (£5 per household) if more palatable to consider for this purpose.

Another benefit of membership is our corporate membership of Worcester Civic Society which entitles BSRA Members to attend talks at the members' admission rate (when a charge is made). Some meetings have been publicised via B-SquOSH WhatsApp group, and previous newsletters, but only a few people have ever taken advantage of this perk. Details of Civic Society events can be found at **Worcester Civic Society: A Vision for Worcester.**

If you are not already familiar with the interesting content of the Association website, we urge you to visit our dedicated website www.britanniasquare.org – which has become a very comprehensive resource of neighbourhood matters, that also highlights the reciprocal benefits to us all today, and importance in safeguarding support ongoing into the future.

So, by way of contribution and in support of joining as Members of the Association (without need to have to actively participate), please contact either myself, or any other member of the committee in the first instance.

Thank you.

Miss Ella Blankstone (Membership Secretary)
ellablankstone@talktalk.net 07951 460070



BSRA Committee

Current Members

John Ball (Wine Club Chairman)	johnball1@btinternet.com	50 Britannia Square
Ella Blankstone (Membership Sec.)	ellablankstone@talktalk.net	The Old Coach House
Ann Cowper	annferrier@gmail.com	20 Britannia Square
Robin Dallaway (Website & Newsletter)	robindallaway@gmail.com	7 Albany Terrace
Carol Inman (Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch & Highways)	csinman4@gmail.com	4 Stephenson Terrace
Nicky Neville-Lee	nnevillelee@hotmail.com	30 Albany Terrace
Tracy Scott (Treasurer)	scott.tracy59@yahoo.co.uk	52 Britannia Square