

BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2020

BSRA Cancelled Events

As we have become all too aware, the Covid19 virus has changed many aspects of our lives, including the possibility of holding multi-household events. Whilst, along with the rest of the world, we look forward to the chance to enjoy physical rather than 'online' meetings, it is necessary in the meantime to cancel our tentatively planned events, including:

BSRA AGM – 13th November

Christmas Party & Carols – 13th December

Reports which are usually presented at the AGM detailing the work of the Committee, along with other AGM documents, are available at our website: *Residents' Area – Document Library*.

We send best wishes to all residents, and hope to see you all soon.

BSRA Committee



Christmas Shoeboxes for Homeless People

A Message from Liz Prosser

We have been providing these boxes for the last 15 years. We began with 20 in the first year and increased to over 70 last year. This year we have been asked to provide 60, mostly for men. As we are unable to have our enjoyable box-covering coffee morning together this year, I will be doing them at home. I will leave a large box on my doorstep at 32 Albany Terrace.

Please put items in this with a note of your name and address, so that I thank the right people. If possible, please leave any shoeboxes you can find, covered if possible. If you would find it easier to leave money, please put it in an envelope in the white postbox. My dog chews things that come through the door!

Items needed no later than **SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER:**

• **Warm socks** • **Scarves** • **Woolly hats** • **Gloves** • **Shower gel (small size)** • **Hand sanitizer** • **Chocolates** • **Biscuits** (*N.B. Any edible items must be within sell by date*).

Many thanks, Liz (T: 01905 20387)

BSRA Committee and The United Reformed Church

Seagulls – A Review of 2020's Gull Control Programme

The Committee were very pleased that so many residents supported our involvement with the Council's Gull Control programme and made financial contributions totalling nearly £3,000 which the Council match-funded. We believe that the measures have been very successful in deterring gulls from successfully nesting on the roofs of our properties and reducing nuisance and noise disturbance.

The weekly "Hawking" exercise was probably the single most visible and successful element as it appears to have discouraged gulls from choosing our area to nest and breed. The contractor's falconer used both a Harris's Hawk and falcons in the area to disturb the gulls while they were trying to pair up and nest.

The use of a second contractor with his elevating work platform to carry out egg replacement was also very helpful and residents who benefitted from this intervention reported success.

The third element, the gull distress call megaphone, was beneficial initially, although it became obvious to John Ball, the resident who operated it, that the long-established pairs soon got used to the disturbance and started to ignore his attempts to make them lift from their nests.

A further deterrent was tried for a few days, a flag on a long pole waved near the nesting Herring Gulls on 47/48 Britannia Square. It did not seem to be very effective and was soon discontinued.

The combination of these disturbance methods is probably the main reason that little or no successful breeding and fledging occurred in our area. Most of the birds that built nests did not appear to successfully raise chicks, due to the disturbance of their routines.

The gulls' residual nest material was removed from accessible roofs on 6 November, to make it more difficult for the birds to start a new nest next season. At the same time, the upper surface of the chimney stack between 47 & 48 Britannia Square has been painted red, as this is known to deter nesting gulls.

continued overleaf



Photograph by Ella Blankstone

Seagulls – A Review of 2020's Gull Control Programme

continued

We have contacted various residents who were most affected by gulls in previous years for feedback. All those who responded were positive and several said that if a similar plan is in place for next year, they would be happy to contribute to the costs. This view has been reinforced by other residents. We have not received any negative feedback.

We are all very grateful to the City Council's Gull Control Officer, Gordon Dugan for setting up and operating this programme.

Plans for next year

The Council have confirmed that the Gull Control budget will roll on at much the same level into next year. They intend to determine more scientifically whether it was hawking, nest and egg removal or a combination of both that was the key to success. Therefore next year they will move the hawking activities to the Tything / Upper Tything area, subject to some funding from the organisations and residents' groups there, which only benefitted from nest and egg removal last year. They will not undertake nest and egg removal in that area.

Conversely, they do not intend to arrange for hawking in our area, only to continue nest and egg removal on four days commencing in May at 21-day intervals. This will be funded by the Council's gull control budget and we will not need to raise any money from our residents in 2021, though if hawking is deemed necessary in 2022 we will be asked to contribute again.

It is anticipated that hawking along the Tything will still have some disturbance effect on the gulls in our area.



Photograph courtesy of Liz Price and Ed Llewellyn

John Ball & Ian Terry

BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VE DAY – 75th Anniversary Celebrations

In 2020, The Royal British Legion called on the nation to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day from home. On Friday 8 May residents of the Britannia Square area paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of the entire Second World War generation, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front. Here are some photographs of the day, taken by Richard Cowper.



BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Planning Applications

2019

Feb	9 Britannia Square – Refit two internal bathrooms	Approved
June	36A Britannia Square – Variation of Condition 5 of P18D0286	Pending
June	36A Britannia Square – Demolition of garage & new annexe in rear garden	Approved
Aug	3 Albany Terrace - Refurbishment of previously converted basement	Approved
Aug	27b Britannia Square – Removal of small window from plans of P18D0326	Approved
Oct	27b Britannia Square – Amendment of Condition 6 of P18D0326	Approved
Dec	23 Britannia Square – Single storey rear extension	Approved

2020

Feb	53 Britannia Square – Internal alterations & 2 replacement windows	Approved
March	RGS Springfield, Britannia Square – Erection of timber round house	Approved
April	39 Britannia Square - Alterations to existing conservatory	Approved
May	5 Britannia Square – Replace conservatory with timber orangery	Approved
June	21 Britannia Square – Replacement garage building	Approved
July	27b Britannia Square – Various minor alterations	Pending
July	10 Albany Terrace – Internal alterations (basement flat)	Approved

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>

New House Painting Guide Now Available

At the Residents' Association AGM in November 2019, there were a number of questions from the floor with regard to the choice of house paint colours in Britannia Square Conservation Area. Whilst the committee was able to cite the current guidance (for 'stone-coloured' paint), there were requests for more information, and some form of guide for reference.

With this in mind, the committee has developed a set of recommendations. These have been developed over six months or so, drawing on the expertise and knowledge of committee members, with input from former Conservation Officer, Will Scott.

'A Guide to Painting Stucco Rendered Façades in the Britannia Square Conservation Area' has now been approved by the current Conservation Officer, Dr. Paul Collins, who will be using it for reference. It will also be included in the information packs sent to residents applying for planning permission.

The guide can be found on our website at: <http://britanniasquare.org/housepaintingguide.aspx> and may also be downloaded as a PDF document via the link at the bottom of the page.

Robin Dallaway

Paid up Member?

Of the 121 households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace, 58 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.

To join the Association please contact the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

BSRA Committee

Ian Terry (Treasurer & Membership Sec)	iannterry@aol.com	14 Albany Terrace
Clive Collings	clive.collings@yahoo.com	52 Britannia Square
John Ball	johnball1@btinternet.com	50 Britannia Square
Robin Dallaway (Website)	robindallaway@gmail.com	7 Albany Terrace
Carol Inman (Secretary, NW & Highways)	csinman4@gmail.com	4 Stephenson Terrace
Ann Cowper	annferrier@gmail.com	20 Britannia Square

Neighbourhood Watch

Do you have a car with keyless entry?

In the summer there was an incident in the Square where three youths were spotted attaching a laptop to a car with a view to hacking into the code for unlocking and starting it. Fortunately a passer-by spotted them and they ran off.

If your car has keyless entry, below is some general advice from the ABI.

What can I do to protect my car?

- Don't forget the basics – ensure that your car is properly locked and consider low-tech security measures, such as a steering wheel lock or locked gates, which can make life harder for thieves and could act as a deterrent for criminals who may move on to try to find an easier target.
- Make sure your car keys are kept as far away as possible from doors and windows and, if possible, shut inside a drawer when you are at home.
- You can also purchase Faraday pouches and containers to keep your keys in, which can help block the signal given off by your keys.
- Some keys also have the option of turning off the wireless signal. Consult your vehicle manual or contact the manufacturer to check if your key comes with this feature.
- If the worst should happen and your car is stolen, having a tracking device fitted can help your vehicle to be recovered.

B-SquOSH

Britannia Square Organisation for Self-help

Britannia Square area residents' response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus

B-SquOSH was set up in March 2020 to offer help and support to those isolating at home during the first lockdown and continues to operate as a community group for all those living in our neighbourhood.

We communicate mainly via WhatsApp but also use email and phone. It is a useful means of sharing a variety of information including a daily verse from Angela Lanyon, offers of plants/produce, recommendations of local retailers, tradespersons etc.

Over 60% of households in Albany Terrace, Britannia Square and Stephenson Terrace have joined up, most opting to be part of the WhatsApp group with others preferring email or phone contact.

If you are interested in joining, please contact either:

Ann Cowper on 07724 610529 email: annferrier@gmail.com or
Carol Inman on 07772 210891 email: csinman4@gmail.com

BSRA and B-SquOSH Support the Food Bank

The food fairies have continued to deliver items to the box outside Anna and Lars' house, 19 Albany Terrace, for their weekly trip to the Food Bank on Fridays.

Please do continue to support this vital community life line, especially in the run-up to Christmas when extra special goodies would also be welcome such as biscuits, boxed minced pies and Christmas puddings, chocolates and sweets. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Thank you!
Ann Cowper

Britannia
Square
Residents' Association