

# BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2021

## BSRA Events

**BSRA events are returning!** Starting with our Summer Party on 1<sup>st</sup> August, we hope to be holding our usual events this year.

It's an exciting prospect and we look forward to seeing our friends and neighbours, in some cases for the first time in many months. Whilst restrictions have been relaxed it remains important, of course, to take care of ourselves and others by being mindful of the advice about helping to curtail further spread of Covid.

We send best wishes to all residents, and look forward to seeing you.

Britannia  
Square  
*Residents' Association*

**BSRA Committee**

## Summer Party 2021

**Sunday 1st August 2021, 12 noon-5pm, RGS Springfield garden, entry via the North Gate.**

After a gap of two years, the summer party is almost here. The party is free and everyone in our neighbourhood – Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace – is invited. Please come and bring your family and friends. This is a great opportunity to socialise with your neighbours, and newcomers to the area are especially welcome. We will have a bring-and-share picnic. Please bring enough food and drink for you and your guests, plus a bit extra, and some paper cups and plates so people can help themselves. Bring along rugs and deck chairs, tennis rackets etc.

There will be gazebos and tables available to set out the buffet picnic and we are encouraged to enjoy the gardens and the play and games facilities, including the tennis courts. Any help you can give setting up from 10.00am on Sunday morning and clearing up afterwards would be greatly welcomed by the committee. Please note, due to Covid restrictions, we will NOT have access to any of the buildings this year. This means that if you need to use the toilet etc., you will have to go home. *Please remember: No dogs except guide dogs, plastic and paper cups only, no glasses please. Children must be supervised. Everyone participates at their own risk. Please take your rubbish home. As this is an outdoor event, we do not anticipate any problems with Covid regulations, please wear a mask if you prefer.*

The party will take place whatever the weather! We look forward to seeing you there.

## Seagulls – update

The problems caused by urban gulls have had a much higher profile this year, with several articles in the Worcester News and The Telegraph.

worcesternews.co.uk #ThereWithYou

# Worcester News



Thursday July 22, 2021

TRUSTED NEWS READ BY 58,705\* PEOPLE IN PRINT AND ONLINE EVERY DAY

Council brings in reinforcements, page 7



*continued overleaf*

## Seagulls

*continued*

John Ball and Ian Terry attend Worcester City Council's Gull Forum meetings where residents and Councillors recommend plans of action.

The Council's Gull Control budget has been doubled this year and has funded nest clearance operations by "cherry-picker" on several of our roofs. 140 nests have been cleared throughout Worcester. The previous year's hawking activities have moved on to the main road through to the city centre but we believe that we still get a peripheral benefit from the disturbance of nesting gulls induced by the regular flights of a Harris's Hawk. The budget increase may allow hawking to return to our area at no cost to ourselves.

The National Organisation of Residents' Associations, of which we are members, is leading a national campaign to ease the very restrictive licensing conditions operated by Natural England. They are lobbying MPs and Ministers and challenging the current protected status of the two gull species that plague us, asserting that the science on which this is based is flawed and long out of date.

If any resident has gulls nesting on their roof they should contact:  
Gordon Dugan, Technical Officer, Gull Control, Worcester City Council 07917 592887,  
[gordon.dugan@worcsregservices.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.dugan@worcsregservices.gov.uk)



Perfect perch: herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) on a sunset rooftop pondering options

### Gulls are colonising urban roofs at a rapid rate

**SIR** - The two gull species ("Sick note needed to move on nuisance gulls", report, July 10) nesting on rooftops in Britain do the same in France, Netherlands, Portugal and elsewhere. Local authorities in those countries take humane measures that prevent the eggs from hatching. No one outside Britain believes these gulls are endangered, nor does the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Our near-total ban on using such measures is based on a flawed statistical analysis, which has never been peer-reviewed.

These opportunistic species enjoyed a huge population boom that peaked in 1970, due to abundant food waste from small fishing boats and open rubbish tips. Numbers have since fallen to a more sustainable level, but there is no risk of them dying out.

Meanwhile, urban gulls multiply more successfully than others because there are no foxes or other predators on rooftops.

Readers who do not yet live with nesting gulls, be warned: they are

spreading further and further inland. The method that Natural England favours - netting roofs - cannot help us. Net one roof (at huge expense) and the gulls will choose another. There are millions of suitable rooftops across the country.

The Government needs to take responsibility for this matter, rather than leaving licensing in the hands of a few idealists at Natural England who simply don't understand what they are dealing with.

Cllr Richard Cook (Con)  
*Leader, Gloucester City Council*  
Cllr Laura Mayes (Con)  
*Deputy leader, Wiltshire Council*  
Cllr Tim Ball (Lib Dem)  
*Bath and North East Somerset Council*  
Zofia Lovell  
*Chair, National Association of Residents' Associations*  
Robin Kerr  
*Chair, Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (2014-2020)*  
Linda Gamlin  
*Scientific consultant*  
David Kemsley  
*Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations*

**Ian Terry**

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup>

### Birthday, Angela!

On 23rd December 2020, we all helped writer and poet, Angela Lanyon, resident of Albany Terrace to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many friends and neighbours gathered to sing 'Happy Birthday' and deliver best wishes (all 'socially distanced', of course).

Angela has written a verse each day during the pandemic. We have published 365 of them on the BSRA website at: <http://britanniasquare.org/angelalanyoncoronaversedhome.aspx>



# Street Spring Clean 2021

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Street Spring Clean in early July. By moving your cars, the City and County Councils were able to move in on the Monday and deep clean the gutters and pavements and clear out the drains. Many residents came out on the streets to sweep and clean, despite the heavy rain which fell later in the afternoon.

Our award-winning Street Clean is now in its eighth year (unfortunately we weren't able to organise one in 2020 because of the pandemic) and we are delighted that the City and County Councils were able to support it again this year. Thanks also to Lisa Smith and Nathan Gunnell at the City Council Community Engagement Team for their help, support and resources. We hope to plan another Street Spring Clean in 2022.

More photographs of the cleaning in progress can be found at our website here:

<http://britanniasquare.org/EventInfo/street-spring-clean-2021/104>



# BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Planning Applications

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
<b>2020</b>			
December	14 Britannia Square	Single storey rear extension	Approved
<b>2021</b>			
February	36 Britannia Square	Lower ground and ground floor rear extension to form a garden room with study above.	Approved
March	52 Britannia Square	Replacement single-storey rear kitchen extension	Pending decision
April	51 Britannia Square	Single-storey rear extension	Approved
April	47 Britannia Square	Replacement of existing garages and part garden wall	Approved
June	28 Britannia Square	New garage	Pending decision
July	38 Britannia Square	Rebuild piers and entrance gate. Upgrade coachhouse and outbuildings to form new utility space.	Consultation until 4 August
July	22 Britannia Square	Insertion of light well; 3 replacement windows, garden shed and feature wall	Consultation until 4 August

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>

## Farewell to a long-serving Committee member

The Committee are very sorry to lose the expertise and wisdom of Clive Collings, who has moved away. Clive had been a Committee Member for literally decades and has always brought a keen and tutored eye to planning applications, much to the benefit of our area's heritage. We will miss Clive and Noreen as friends and neighbours.

**BSRA Committee**

## Paid up Member?

Of the 121 households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace, 56 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)	<a href="mailto:iannterry@aol.com">iannterry@aol.com</a>	14 Albany Terrace
John Ball	<a href="mailto:johnball1@btinternet.com">johnball1@btinternet.com</a>	50 Britannia Square
Robin Dallaway (Website)	<a href="mailto:robindallaway@gmail.com">robindallaway@gmail.com</a>	7 Albany Terrace
Carol Inman (Secretary, NW & Highways)	<a href="mailto:csinman4@gmail.com">csinman4@gmail.com</a>	4 Stephenson Terrace
Ann Cowper	<a href="mailto:annferrier@gmail.com">annferrier@gmail.com</a>	20 Britannia Square
Ella Blankstone	<a href="mailto:ellablankstone@talktalk.net">ellablankstone@talktalk.net</a>	The Old Coach House Britannia Square

## Neighbourhood Watch

### 'Neighbourhood Matters'

West Mercia Police has recently launched a new messaging service which has just gone live.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables local policing teams to keep in touch with residents, businesses and community groups. Updates are issued on crimes, on-going incidents and information shared about what the Police are doing locally.

As your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, I have registered for this new service and will share relevant updates with members of the BSRA Neighbourhood Watch mailing list. However if you would like to register for the new service yourself, further details can be found at: [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – please use the link on the West Mercia Police website at [www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/) or dial 999 in an emergency.

The mobile police station has been reintroduced and its first event will be the Worcester Show at Pitchcroft between 10 am and 5 pm on Sunday 15th August.

**Carol Inman, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

# B-SquOSH

## Britannia Square Organisation for Self-help

B-SquOSH has been a valuable point of communication for residents in our local community over the past year and a half and we believe it has brought many closer together.

It has been funny, poignant, helpful and informative and as such we intend to keep the WhatsApp group going for any who wish to remain in it, as well as communicating important notifications by email from time to time for residents not using WhatsApp. Special mention must be made again of Angela Lanyon's incredible contribution of daily poetry throughout lockdown and beyond - an impressive feat which has been inspirational to us all.

We do ask that WhatsApp communications between group members remain friendly, thoughtful and caring and users remember the spirit behind the group's inception. Do mention B-SquOSH to any new-comers and ask if they might like to join.

*Many thanks,  
**Ann and Carol***

If you are interested in joining, please contact either:  
Ann Cowper: 07724 610529, email: [annferrier@gmail.com](mailto:annferrier@gmail.com) or  
Carol Inman: 07772 210891 email: [csinman4@gmail.com](mailto:csinman4@gmail.com)

Britannia  
Square  
*Residents' Association*