

Arlington air

A new study reveals that Marylebone Road and Hyde Park Corner have the most polluted postcodes in Britain. The analysis by EarthSense claims to be the most detailed model yet for assessing air quality.

Every area is rated from 1 (good) to 6 (heavily polluted). And we are pleased to report that Arlingtonia is rated a creditable 2, meaning there is a low to moderate chance of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels exceeding the annual legal limit. Our air is moderately clean and should not cause health concerns except in very unusual weather conditions. There is a probability of higher concentrations of NO₂ around major roads, which probably explains why Islington as a whole has an average score of 3 (slightly polluted).

The study is largely based on an analysis on traffic emissions, the dominant source of NO₂ in the UK.

What's in a name? (continued)

We're no closer to discovering why Arlington Square is so-called (see back issues of *The Arlingtonian* since about 1976) but while looking at old maps for clues, we've discovered an interesting fact. Nearly half the streets in our area have had their names changed at some time in the last 100 years or so.

Some were minor tweaks: Arlington Avenue used to be Arlington Street, and St Paul Street was originally St Paul's Street. But others involve a complete change of identity. Here's a run-down:

FORMERLY

Ann Street
Hale Street
Union Street
Church Street
Coleman Street
South Street
Dean Street
Frog Lane

NOW

Bevan Street
Rees Street
Rector Street
St Phillip's Way
Coleman Fields
Basire Street
Bishop Street
Popham Road

All of which raises a lot of questions. We suspect that Ann was Dame Ann Packington, but why was she usurped by Bevan? Who decided that Rees should be honoured with a street name instead of Hale? And why Basire? There was an engraver and map-maker called James Basire who was active in the 1860s. Perhaps he just sneaked his name on to a map in place of boring South Street, and subsequent mappers copied it?

Aside from mourning the disappearance of the old Frog Lane, which originally ran all the way from New North Road to the canal, taking in what is now Rheidol Terrace and Danbury Street, we're left wondering: who instigated these changes in names, and when, and why? Any information gratefully received.

Detail of an 1868 Map of London by Edward Weller FRGS



Calendar of events

Arlington Association AGM
Monday 9 April 7pm
St James' Hall, Packington Street

Islington Proms
9-17 June
Mostly at St James', Prebend Street (see page 3)

NGS gardens open for charity
Sunday 17 June 2-5.30pm
Arlington Avenue, Arlington Square (see page 2)

Summer Fete? (see page 3)
Saturday 8 September 1.30-5pm
Arlington Square

Community Gardening Days
(from 10am in Arlington Square)
Saturday 21 April
Saturday 19 May
Saturday 9 June
Saturday 21 July
Saturday 11 August
Saturday 1 September
Saturday 6 October
Saturday 17 November

Do come and do your bit to help us enhance the Square. It's always fun and a good way to catch up with local news and gossip, not to mention a chance for some gentle exercise in the fresh air. We provide hot drinks and choice biscuits. Children, novice gardeners and green-fingered experts are all very welcome.

Tell us what you think

Here's your chance to make your feelings known on local issues, to have your say about how we work together to improve our neighbourhood and to catch up on what's going on in the area. The Annual General Meeting of the Arlington Association takes place on Monday 9 April at 7pm in St James' Hall, on the corner of Prebend Street and Packington Street.

We'll review the past year, explain the AA's finances and discuss priorities and issues for the coming

year – including the future of the Arlington Square Fete and the charities and good causes we want to support with our fund-raising activities this year.

Local Councillor Martin Klute will be there to answer your questions and so, we hope, will Sgt Chris Couling, the new officer in charge of our local Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Everyone is welcome. Do come along to air your opinions and enjoy a glass of wine with friends and neighbours.

You're a member

You automatically belong to the Arlington Association if you live in the westerly part of the Arlington Conservation area – from Prebend Street to the canal, from New North Road to Union Square. Membership is free and you are more than welcome to join in all the AA's community activities.

We have an action-packed website, www.arlingtonassociation.org.uk, a Facebook page, [ArlingtonAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAssociation), and a twitter feed, [@Arlingtonia](https://twitter.com/Arlingtonia). To join our mailing list for regular news and information, simply drop us a line at arlingtonassociation@hotmail.co.uk.

Jollity and charity at Yuletide

Another Christmas season, another jolly Fair in the Square. Our small band of hard-working volunteers were presented with one unexpected challenge when they woke up on 10 December to see Arlington Square covered in snow. There was much shovelling of slush before Elf and Safety could give the Fair the go-ahead.

And go ahead we did – with gusto. Santa and his five Elves, Arl and Tonia, Rydon and Linton, and little Rees, made everyone welcome as we drank mulled wine to keep warm, lustily sang carols (many thanks to pianist Adam Dickson for his sympathetic accompaniment),

and enjoyed wonderful home-made cakes provided by neighbours and the Islington Women's Institute.

Charitable donations and the sale of local produce raised £1,000 to support two good causes, the Mildmay Mission Hospital and Pack Up, the Monday lunch club for the disadvantaged and homeless at St James' Church Hall. We also raised £250 to support our work to green our neighbourhood.

The Pack Up co-ordinator Toni Parker emailed us to say: 'I don't think I can express how much this support means to the clients we serve at Pack Up. My sincere thanks to you all.'



Local beekeeper Renny Harrop sold her honey to boost our charitable giving

Gardening in the Square



DEE AUSTIN

The planting in Arlington Square appears not to have suffered unduly from a few days' covering by inches of fluffy snow (left). The plans for spring include planting roses along the cleared fence on the south-west side of the Community Garden. The three varieties we can look forward to are Crown Princess Margareta (right), Bathsheba and Teasing Georgia. Our volunteer gardeners will also plant some climbers and perennials between the roses. With luck, by summer what was once a wall of dull privet hedging will be a mass of fragrant flowers.

All the beds in the square seem to be benefiting from the many large bagsful of Black Gold compost that have been spread by our energetic volunteers.





Lights, camera, action!

Troubled cop DI Harry Clayton hurtles out of an Arlington Square house towards the camera, pursued by a barefoot female. The west side of the Square was closed for two days in November while James Nesbitt as Clayton did his stuff, watched by a crew of more than two dozen. He repeatedly got into a car, got out of a car, entered the house, left the house... all very exciting drama. We reckon the two days' filming for season three of *Stan Lee's Lucky Man* yielded at least a minute of footage. See if you can spot it on Sky 1 later this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- We are delighted to announce that the Arlington Association has won £1,000 of funding from the Aviva Community Fund. We will use the money to continue our work greening the neighbourhood for the benefit of all residents. Our grateful thanks to the AA's chair Gordon McArthur for compiling our entry and to everyone who voted for us.
- There's a gardening morning organised by Islington Council planned for Union Square on Wednesday 25 April. If you are interested, just turn up between 10am and 2pm.
- Did you know that there are serious plans to make London the world's first National Park City in 2019? London is already one of the greenest cities in the world, and one of the principal aims of becoming a National City Park is to make more than half of the capital city's area green. We are in favour of this venture and have registered the Arlington Association as an interested party. For more information take a look at www.nationalparkcity.london.
- And talking of green areas, the first Natural Capital Account for public green space in London estimates that our public parks have a gross asset value of £91 billion, and that for every £1 spent on parks and green space, every Londoner receives £27-worth of benefits. The value is based on recreation, amenity and the effect of green space on people's physical and mental health. The report was commissioned and funded by the Mayor of London, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Trust.
- Yet more changes for our local Safer Neighbourhoods Team: Sgt Chris Couling will now cover the St Peter's and Bunhill wards with PCs Audrey Forester and Stevie Bull. In January the number of crimes per 1,000 residents in our ward was eight, the same as the London average – although the figure for all Islington was 11 per 1,000 residents.
- Whatever estate agents may say, it's not all rosy in Arlingtonia. We are urged to report all crimes and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Please report ASB in local parks to the Parks Patrol on 020 7527 7272 (24 hours) or email LBI-ParksPatrol@parkguard.co.uk and cc Gavin in at Gavin@parkguard.co.uk. You can report ASB elsewhere by emailing stpeters.snt@police.uk or calling 101. Fly-tipping and litter problems should be reported to david.rawlings@islington.gov.uk.
- Our neighbours in Wilton Square and some Arlingtonians have reported problems with some of the service users at the St Martin of Tours Hostel in the New North Road, a residential care home for men with complex mental health needs. Our local councillor Martin Klute has reported the matter to the Care Quality Commission.

Arlington gardens open up

Four local gardens will be opening their gates to the public on Sunday 17 June from 2 to 5.30pm, as part of the National Gardens Scheme (www.ngs.org.uk).

Our four contrasting local gardens reflect the diverse tastes and interests of the gardeners, who got to know each other through our community gardening in Arlington Square. For a £5 ticket you'll be able to nose round the gardens of 26 Arlington Avenue, 25 and 30 Arlington Square, and the garden at the vicarage, where there will be teas, home-made cakes and live music.

D. JEDAMZIK



This year the entertainment comes from Broomdasher (left), an *a cappella* vocal group who sing traditional English folk songs. Especially for NGS events, they have devised a special 'garden set' of songs about flowers, harvest, the seasons and love.



Have you seen Kes?

Our latest wildlife sighting is a *Falco tinnunculus* – a kestrel! It has been spotted flying over the Square and perching on an Arlingtonian garden wall. Kestrel numbers have been declining since the 1970s, probably as a result of changes in farming, and it is included on the RSPB's Amber List of endangered birds.

Kestrels have adapted to man-made environments and are known to survive in city centres. They don't build their own nests but use old or disused nests of crows or similar, or holes in buildings. They often use the same nesting site every year, so let's hope that our Falco finds a mate and becomes a resident.

Worldwide stars to play at the Proms

This year's Islington Proms have a distinctly international flavour. Performers from four continents contribute to this series of concerts and recitals, which this year are compressed into a short season, instead of being scattered over many months.

They kick off on 9 June with the traditional late-afternoon Pocket Prom in the Vicarage garden (1a Arlington Square). Bring a picnic and enjoy the usual cocktail of chamber music and jazz in the open air. All the remaining Proms are in St James' Church, Prebend Street, starting with an early-evening concert on 10 June by Gut Instinct, a baroque chamber group who will be playing Buxtehude, Biber, Pachelbel and others on period instruments.

Then on 12 June there's a recital by the Korean violinist So-Ock Kim accompanied by the Proms' new artistic director, pianist Yoon Chung; 15 June sees Italian-Australian pianist Jonathan Ferrucci playing the second Anthony Hill Memorial Recital; on 16 June the annual Youth Prom brings together all the finest young musical talent in the neighbourhood; and the season concludes on 17 June with a con-



cert by the Canadian operatic tenor Colin Ainsworth, accompanied by Suna Chung.

Tickets for most events are £15/£12 but you can save money by becoming a Friend of the Islington Proms. A donation of £50 will get you free admission to all six events, free drinks at the St James' Proms, priority reserved seating where appropriate, an acknowledgement in the printed programmes, and the eternal gratitude of the Proms committee. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please email info@islingtonproms.org.

More details of the 2018 season will be available soon on the Proms website: <http://islingtonproms.org>.



Korean violinist So-Ock Kim and Canadian tenor Colin Ainsworth are among this year's visitors to St James'

Canonbury comes to Arlington

In sunny February a delegation from the Canonbury Society visited Arlingtonia to learn how our volunteers have successfully renovated our Square. Saddened by the forlorn state of their own green space, they have launched Friends of Canonbury Square to give it back its sparkle.

The Canonbury Society was created in 1971 to be a pressure group against inappropriate development. Their principal aim remains the preservation of the special character of Canonbury and its conservation area. If you are interested in helping revitalise Canonbury Square, or you know anyone who might be, you can contact them at info@canonburysociety.org.uk.



Can you help to make the Fete happen?

We're still looking for someone to help coordinate all the activities that go to make our Summer Fete such a popular annual event.

Whoever takes on the task won't be alone. We have a team of regular volunteers who take care of various elements of the Fete. We just need someone efficient to keep tabs on everything. There's a template for the organisation of the day, and you will have plenty of experienced helpers to assist you.

In return, you will earn the admiration and gratitude of your friends and neighbours, not to mention local good causes (the Fete is our biggest fund-raising event of the year).

If you'd like to find out more, talk to a committee member at the AGM or email arlingtonassociation@hotmail.co.uk.