

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE Sunday 3 March 2024 at 3.00 p.m.

PLACE Belsize Square Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of the 2023 AGM (attached) and matters arising.
- 2 Presentation of, and questions and discussions about, the Chair's report (see overleaf).
- 3 Presentation of Accounts 2023 (see the back page).

Resolution: "This Society permits the Committee to raise the annual membership fee to at most £20 with any raised fee being applied to 2025 membership at the earliest."
- 4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for the accounts.
- 5 Election of Trustee and Committee Members.
- 6 Any other business.

Committee Nominations should reach
the Chair at 14C Belsize Square London NW3 4HT by 26 February 2024
Nomination forms can be obtained from info@belsize.org.uk

*ONLY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY CAN ATTEND THE AGM.
OTHERS WISHING TO JOIN OR RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP CAN DO
SO AT THE MEETING.*

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2024

Thanks for your support of the Society during 2023, where there was a wide range of activities.

We were very saddened this year when Neil Harris, BelSoc Treasurer, Trustee and Committee member passed away. The Society celebrated his considerable contribution and helped in various arrangements after his passing. The Committee and Trustees have worked hard to fill the gap for Society business and transfer the responsibilities Neil held.

The Society's historic walk, led by our former chair Averil Nottage, took us through the Eton College estates and covered the developments there in the context that, until relatively recently, these were open fields. We were also pleased to be able to host events jointly with the Belsize Community Library, with a talk by the local historian Fabian Watkinson about the Goldfinger House. The Society has contributed to some refurbishment costs and is planning to support the Library as it adopts a phone box, using this for a mini book centre. December saw us host the Society carol singing which raised a considerable sum for the Marie Curie Hospice, and again featured the Primrose Hill Community Choir. The summer party benefitted from a sunny day and was well attended.

The planning team has continued to look at applications commenting on around 10 this year. The Planning Inspector held an inquiry, as the rejection of an application to add flats into the mansard roof at Howitt Close was appealed. The Society made significant representations at this, and the appeal and other similar applications made by the developer were unsuccessful.

There have been 243 tree applications reviewed, of which comments were made on 16. The Society were pleased to have three trees planted under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative at the beginning of March on the 'island' at the junction of Eton Avenue, Lancaster Grove, Lambolle Place and Eton Garages.

The Society has commented in consultations, such as by the Council about understanding/experience at community level as plans are made to prepare for climate change. We also participated in various other local meetings including the campaign to save Scratchcards, Camden's short-term parking permits, and have publicised initiatives to retrofit older properties, including events allowing residents to see premises that have progressed retrofits.

The quarterly newsletters continued to be produced, with the 2023 edition of Tradesmen You Can Trust accompanying the August newsletter. The website is keeping a fresh look, publishing newsletter articles and other notices online. Throughout the year, our noticeboards have publicised non-commercial local events, services, and notices of interest. The year has also seen some minor repairs to the boards.

Our financial position remains healthy, following the improvements reported in the past years. We have not been able to reclaim Gift Aid, partly due to HMRC access issues, as we replaced our Treasurer. Like last year, we have made donations to bodies supporting the community.

During the year, 35 new member households joined the Society. The total paying membership is 508, with a further 16 complimentary members.

It is thanks to all the hard work of the Committee and many other members that we are able to maintain the range of activities successfully. We are very grateful to everyone who continued their work for us in 2023 and to all those who took on new tasks. A list of candidates standing for election to committee and to become a trustee will be circulated ahead the AGM.

Prabhat Vaze – Chair

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023 AT 3.00PM**

Present: Prabhat Vaze (Chair), Sanya Polescuk, Anne Stevens, Tom Symes, David Thomas, Sarah Courtin, Councillors Simon and Dixey, and over 50 BelSoc members

Apologies: Barbara Abraham, Michael Jampel

1. **AGM 2022 Minutes:** Approved, no matters arising, proposed by Handley Stevens, seconded by David Percy.

2. Presentation of the Chair's Report for 2022:

- **Events** included two historic walks by Averil Nottage, our annual Summer party with homemade cakes and tea and the seasonal carol singing.
- **Planning:** about 100 planning applications reviewed, 15 comments made. Major applications were for the O2 Centre and for Howitt Close with Society supporting listing though unsuccessful. Noted a request for change of use of the England's Lane launderette and BelSoc discussions with Camden to improve enforcement of conditions in medium-sized scheme.
- **Publications.** TYCT, Newsletters published, latter themed around 50 year BelSoc/BRA anniversary. Planning for improvements to website. Thanks to volunteers in newsletter, noticeboard, events.

Questions and comments on the Chair's Report included:

- Trees and TPOs: TPOs largely protect trees from felling but nevertheless many applications made to fell trees, and BelSoc comments. Discussion of pollarding and whether greater than the usual limit (30%), and concerns of visual damage. Councillors have tried preventing this happening but to little avail and welcomed advice/experiences from residents.
- NW3 Community Land Trust: BelSoc contributed to this organisation, which started six years ago with the intention of developing affordable housing, using a not-for-profit model for developments.
- Bus stop suspensions and concern of lack of alternative nearby stops making stretches unserved.
- Planting of trees using CIL funding in triangle at end of Lancaster Grove.

3. **Presentation of 2022 Accounts:** Outgoings included venue rentals for events, refreshments for the historic walks. Accounts agreed nem. con. Proposed by Barry Buzan, seconded by Tom Simon.

4. **Appointment of independent examiner:** Motion that Justin Barrington should continue as independent examiner. Proposal approved nem. con, proposed by Judy Dixey, seconded by Barry Buzan.

5. **Election of Trustees and Committee Members for 2023/24:** ten members, including four trustees stood for Committee and were elected nem. con, proposed by Tom Simon, seconded by Jonquil Stewart.

6. Any other business:

- E-bikes and annoyance of parking on pavements: photo/upload system to let Council know.
- Suggestion for a bench in honour of former chair Diana Self.
- Notices made: Belsize Community Library's regular speaker events, Councillors' Wednesday surgeries.

7. **Presentation:** Camden Council Clean Air Action Plan by Tom Parker, Programme Manager. Take looked at recent pollution trends and effects on health and environment. Four-year plan puts in place monitoring, awareness raising, as well as targeted interventions to transport, buildings and behaviours. Questions covered: transport and pollution especially in areas of high pedestrian use, uses of barbecues in public spaces, domestic heating effects, engine idling and localised effects.

Belsize Society Trustees and Committee Members 2023/24

Prabhat Vaze (Chair, Trustee)	Peter Wallace (Joined May)
Sarah Courtin (Secretary, resigned April)	Tom Symes (Planning)
Neil Harris (Treasurer, Trustee, passed March)	Barbara Abraham (Trees, Trustee)
Anne Stevens (Membership Secretary, Trustee)	David Thomas (Retrofit, joined as Trustee Dec)
Sanya Polescuk (Planning support)	Michael Jampel (Trustee only)
Eva Papadopoulou (Treasurer, since Dec)	

The Belsize Society
ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	2023	2022	2021
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£5,456.00	£5,160.00	£5,200.00
OVERSEAS EXCESS	£15.00	£30.00	£5.00
INTEREST	£328.85	£111.35	£47.94
GIFT AID	£0.00	£0.00	£354.29
NOTICEBOARDS	£0.00	£1,275.00	£0.00
DONATIONS (from members)	£0.00	£80.00	£95.00
OTHER (filming)	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£5,899.85	£6,656.35	£5,702.23
EXPENDITURE			
PROVISIONS FOR EVENTS	£39.36	£0.00	£190.08
STATIONERY	£99.58	£131.97	£88.19
PRINTING	£1,640.00	£1,660.04	£1,356.09
PHOTOCOPIES	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
POSTAGE	£183.78	£227.24	£488.94
GIFTS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
HIRE OF ROOMS	£661.00	£643.00	£284.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS REFUNDED	£0.00	£10.00	£0.00
WEBSITE	£362.44	£95.40	£110.40
DONATIONS (see below *)	£1,450.00	£2,330.00	£2,100.00
ENTERTAINMENT	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
INSURANCE	£242.00	£231.00	£231.00
NOTICEBOARDS (Inc. Printing)	£410.28	£2,062.13	£111.84
STORAGE & REMOVAL (Account Records & NH Books)	£413.43	£0.00	£0.00
OTHER (Carols Leader's Fee/Bank charges)	£164.00	£150.00	£485.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£5,665.87	£7,540.78	£5,445.54
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	£233.98	-£884.43	£256.69
BALANCE SHEET AT:	31/12/2023	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
BANK BALANCES	£15,626.30	£15,520.77	£16,445.20
LESS UNPAID DONATIONS	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00
TOTAL NET BALANCE	£15,626.30	£15,320.77	£16,445.20
REPRESENTED BY:			
SURPLUS AT START OF YEAR	£15,320.77	£16,445.20	£16,188.51
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	£233.98	-£884.43	£256.69
SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	£15,554.75	£15,560.77	£16,445.20

* Donations Made in 2023

NW3CLT	£250.00
Belsize Village lights	£200.00
Camden Age UK	£250.00
C4WS Homeless Project	£250.00
BCL	£500.00
Total	£1,450.00

Evangelia Papadopoulou
Treasurer



Date 5/2/2024

Justin Barrington
Independent Examiner



Date 5-2-24.