



St James's Square News

Keeping our residents up to date...

Issue No. 6 December 2022

Dear St James's Square Residents

Season's greetings! We would like to extend our best wishes for the holidays to all SJS residents, your friends and families, and to wish you health and happiness in the coming year. We are excited to let you know of the following events that we have planned in the Garden in 2023.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, 8th April @ 10.30am

This is one for all the children in the Square, their guests, and any visiting grandchildren! Following the success of our 2022 Easter Egg hunt, we are planning another Easter egg hunt in the Garden on Saturday, 8th April at 10.30am. We will update you with more information about this event closer to the time.

King Charles' Coronation Celebrations – Saturday, 6th May @ 2pm onwards

As with the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we will be making the Square and Garden festive and we invite you to bring your picnics and join us to celebrate His Majesty King Charles' Coronation. While we are not planning anything formal for that weekend, with our Summer Garden Party planned for July, we would invite all residents, friends and family to celebrate this wonderful occasion in the Garden on Saturday, 6th May from 2pm onwards.

St James's Square Summer Garden Party – Saturday, 8th July @ 3pm onwards

Early notice for our 2023 Summer Garden Party. As you all know, we had to sadly cancel our 2022 Garden Party, but we are excited to let residents know that planning is well underway for the 2023 Garden Party, and it is sure to be another wonderful event (weather permitting)!

Litter Picks with coffee to follow – see dates below

We will continue to run our regular litter (and leaf) picks and invite you to come out to help keep our small community tidy and to join other residents of the Square for a cup of coffee at Sam's Café to thank you for your efforts.

Christmas 2023 Drinks & AGM – St James's Wine Vaults, Gallery Room - date TBC

We recently held the St James's Square Bath Limited 2022 AGM (Minutes are available on our website). This event is usually held in early November at the Gallery Room, St James's Wine Vaults. For 2023, we are planning to hold the AGM slightly later in November and follow the very short formal meeting with drinks and Christmas mince pies to kick off the holiday season. We hope all residents will come to this festive event.



Saturday, 7th January 11th March, 13th May, 1st July

Litter Pick & coffee at Sam's, Garden @ 10am

Saturday, 8th April

Easter Egg Hunt, Garden @ 10.30am

Saturday, 6th May

His Majesty King Charles' Coronation picnic tea, Garden from 2pm

Saturday, 8th July

St James's Square Summer Garden Party, Garden from 3pm

St James's Square Garden Update

When the Square is looking rather gloomy as we start the Winter season, it is worth looking back at the wonderful display we enjoyed in the Spring.

The Forget-me-nots which provided a carpet of blue under the Copper Beech were the most impressive. About 600 bulbs have been planted this Autumn and we should be able to enjoy more Tulips under the Tulip tree and blue Anemone Blanda under the Catalpa.

Over the Winter/early Spring there will be a little essential tree work to deal with branches overhanging the road and some dead branches. The precise details of the tree work are on the website.

You will have seen that the Council are now providing us with bags for the leaves which have been covering the pavement and roads. Thank you to all who have helped fill the bags which the Council then take away. This means we don't have to have parking suspensions which we know can be very inconvenient.

Next year, we want to continue to introduce more wild flowers and herbs within the Garden. In order to maintain the woodland appearance of the Garden, plants will only be planted under tree canopies or around the edges where the grass tends not to grow. It would be lovely if more people would like to enjoy some garden therapy, please contact Vicky (on SJS email address) if you are interested. Finally, if you look under the Magnolia tree, you will see bulbs already pushing through, a positive sign to dwell upon when the skies are grey and the temperature drops.



Liveable Neighbourhoods & High Common Updates

Liveable Neighbourhoods (LNs)

As mentioned in previous newsletters, lower Lansdown and the Circus area are one of the 15 schemes short listed for the first round of LN planning. We are hopeful that a LN will help address the displacement of traffic that our neighbourhood streets have seen from the Queen Square traffic light system and protect our historic area from any further displacement of traffic that may arise from future changes to traffic flows in the city center. Approximately 4,000 cars a day now use Cavendish Road, with many of these vehicles travelling at speeds that far exceed the 20mph speed limit. In addition, when traffic builds up at the Marlborough Tavern intersection, vehicles use St James's Square as a cut through to avoid this busy and dangerous intersection. We will keep you advised about next steps in this very important consultation process.

Golf on the High Common

Residents will know that the Council has been looking to return golf to the High Common. Following a procurement process, Swansea Foot Golf has been successful and has been awarded the contract to run this operation. Our understanding is that there will be a 9 hole foot golf course at the bottom of the eastern side (the old 12 hole course), a new café (no liquor licence), public toilets, 18 holes of pitch & putt (15 holes on the western side, and 3 holes on the top of the eastern side below the allotments), and that the remaining 3 holes at the top of the western side will be retained as parkland (golf free!). Right to roam over the entire High Common was never in question as this is common land.

Swansea Foot Golf operators do not use chemicals on their Swansea site, and they do not anticipate using chemicals on the High Common. It is likely that they will open the course in the Spring of 2023. For those of you who do not know what foot golf is, here is a brief description: <https://www.swanseafotgolf.com/how-to-play>

While our residents would have preferred it if the entire eastern side of the High Common had been maintained as parkland for all users and uses, we are pleased that a compromise has been reached and, in particular, that the entire green space will be chemical free and that there will be parkland at the top of the High Common where the most spectacular views over Bath can be appreciated by all users without fear of being hit by a golf ball.