



St James's Square News

Issue No. 3: May 2021

Keeping our residents up to date...

Dear St James's Square Residents

It has been a while since our last bulletin and, as we write, spring is finally here, the trees in our beautiful Square garden are in blossom, the days are warming up, and Bath is starting to see some return to normality with shops and eateries beginning to re-open!

We are excited to announce that planning is well underway for the **2021 St James's Square Summer Party**. More will be revealed in the coming weeks but do pencil **Saturday 26th June 3pm** in your diaries. As with previous Summer Parties, there will be live music and entertainment, and all residents, their families and friends are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you all and hope the weather is as magnificent as it has been in previous years! Please look out for emails from our Social Director, Colyn Moore, with further details.

Along with our annual Summer Party, we are looking to add an **annual Christmas celebration** for residents and their guests in the Square garden. We are investigating the cost of an electricity supply put into the edge of the garden which would light a large Christmas tree, and also offer electricity supply for future SJS organised social events. The cost of supplying electricity to the garden is in the vicinity of £5,000 (upfront cost with small annual running costs) and planning consent will be required. We are also investigating battery supplied power to the tree, which would be a cheaper solution but offer fewer options for future social events. We will present a proposal to the membership in due course, but please do email Sylvia if you have any initial thoughts including whether you think this is something you would support.

We are also recommencing our St James's Square **litter picks** in the coming weeks. Do join us if you can, everyone is welcome, and the help is most appreciated! Colyn will also email out a reminder.

Finally, we are launching a new website for St James's Square Bath Limited and hope to go live with this in July. We are going with a new platform which will enable us to write blogs, frequent updates on important news, and generally communicate better with you. We will be in touch when the website goes live and hope that you find it useful. As always, contributions and feedback are always welcome. You can email Sylvia Sinclair, secretary of St James's Square Bath on sylviasinclair123@gmail.com

Directors
St James's Square Bath Limited



- Sunday 30 May**
Litter Pick 10am Meet at Western gate of garden
- Sunday 20 June**
Litter Pick 10am Meet at Western gate of garden
- Saturday 26 June**
St James's Square Annual Summer Party 3pm onwards
- Saturday 18 September**
Litter Pick Meet at Western gate of garden
- Sunday 12 December**
Litter Pick 10am Meet at Western gate of garden

Important Local Information

High Common/Approach Golf Course

We recently circulated a questionnaire asking residents how they use and would like to use the High Common. The very large majority of responses said a mixed use would be the best use of the space, with parkland on the 18-hole course and golf on the 12-hole course. We are unsure of the Council's future plans for the High Common, but we will ensure that we are part of the ongoing discussions and planning for this iconic greenspace.

Cleveland Bridge Closure

Cleveland Bridge is closing for essential engineering works to repair this Grade 2* bridge. The bridge will be closed to all vehicles from late May for approximately 12 weeks, possibly longer. As this bridge carries some 17,000 vehicles a day, its closure will no doubt cause significant disruption and we expect traffic displacement to our area.

B&NES On-Street Parking Consultation

The Council is seeking views on proposed changes to on-street parking including the introduction of emissions-based parking permits for residents zones; extended residents parking operating hours to include Sundays; a review of hotel, guesthouse and holiday let permits and relocating these to public car parks; and an increase in resident parking guest permit charges. Residents can have their say on these changes until 24 May on

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/parking-permits-consultation-april-2021>

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)

The Council has asked for submissions from neighbourhoods who feel that they are subject to rat-running and would like to be considered for a LTN to make their residential streets safer.

While St James's Square does not need a LTN in isolation, it is clear that the wider lower Lansdown area does suffer from rat-running and speeding traffic, particularly Cavendish Road which our western-side houses border and our residents cross daily to access the High Common.

As such we have been working closely with a group of Residents Associations in lower Lansdown, coordinated by Lansdown Crescent Residents Association, and with our ward Councillors, who have submitted a Pro-forma application to Council for the area to be considered for a LTN. We are aware that our neighbouring areas have also submitted LTN Pro-formas via their ward Councillors.

At this stage we are unaware of the timeframe and process for areas to be short listed for trial LTNs but we have highlighted to our ward Councillors that any LTN, even as a trial, needs to take the wider area into account in terms of displacement to and safety of other neighbouring residential streets.

St James's Square Garden Update

Gardens

You may have noticed that I have been starting to create more areas under the trees which include a wider variety of woodland plants rather than just grass, moss and whatever plant has managed to make a home there. The advantage of having woodland "beds" under the tree canopies is that it will enable mulch to be applied round the trees in the Autumn to help nourish them as well as providing a little more colour in the Square. In the Autumn, I intend to plant more woodland bulbs and rhizomes under the trees. I am also experimenting with a little more planting around the edges of the Square where the grass doesn't grow. This is an ongoing project and I will review its success as the seasons progress.

For the first grass cuts this year, I have asked the gardeners to leave those areas which have bulbs and/or wildflowers. The uncut areas will not magically become meadows as that is not, sadly, how the process works. At some point the areas will have to be cut, but I am waiting to see to what extent we can keep areas under the tree canopies looking more natural.

Trees

The good news is that our most elderly trees were examined in January and should not require further attention until the Winter season of 2022/23. The full report will be uploaded onto the website when we move to the new host.

The bad news is that the Catalpa (Indian Bean Tree) is in a poor state of health. The trunk is not solid and we have had to remove two large branches for reasons of safety. The tree will be closely monitored during the year, but it is likely that it may have to be cut down in the Winter and replaced by another tree. Whilst this is unfortunate, it will be lovely to have a new tree which will provide somewhere to sit safely in its shade.

If anyone is interested in helping with the garden, please email me on: smith.clarke@icloud.com
Vicky Clarke, Director Garden/Trees

