

St James's Square News

Issue No. 2 July 2020



Keeping our residents up to date...

This is our second St James's Square News bulletin. While the first bulletin was sent out in early March, so much has changed in the world since then, that March now seems a lifetime ago! Firstly we want to extend our sincere gratitude to all residents for their support of their fellow neighbours throughout the pandemic. When we distributed a letter asking for volunteers to come forward to help neighbours who may be in need during those early days of the pandemic, we were overwhelmed by the amount of support we received. Thank you to all who contacted Sylvia with offers to help, it shows what strong community spirit we have here in St James's Square! Also a big thank you from our local independents who you have supported since the beginning of the pandemic. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic group of local shops and with St James's café, Eades, Hawes & Whiston, and the Newsagent all able to stay open throughout the lockdown, residents were well catered for. We now have our other local businesses opening and we wish them all the best in these uncertain times. Sadly, our annual summer garden party had to be cancelled, but we do hope to hold something in the Autumn if we can. We will update you when we have some more details on this. You will see below that we thought it time for a litter pick (we are hoping we can tackle those unsightly weeds around the pavements of the Square too) on Saturday 1 August. Do join us if you can, everyone is welcome, and the help is most appreciated! As always, contributions and feedback are always welcome. You can email Sylvia Sinclair, secretary of St James's Square Bath on sylviasinclair123@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Saturday 1 August 9.30am – St James's Square litter-pick & weeding of the pavements. Meet at the western gate to the garden – all helpers welcome!

Important Information

Approach Golf Course

Many of you will have seen that the Approach Golf Course is currently closed to golfers. We have been actively working with our local Councillors and are staying abreast of the situation with regards to the golf course and its future. In terms of background, as a result of Covid 19, with lost income and extra spending, Bath & NE Somerset Council has a large £40m+ budget deficit. All Council leisure activities running at a loss, or not making money, are currently under review.

The Approach Golf Course costs the Council some £80,000 p.a to run, with these costs largely in greens maintenance and mowing, and as such, it's future along with Entry Hill Golf Course, is under review. BANES are holding a Cabinet Meeting on the 22nd July where the future of the Approach Golf Course, along with the Entry Hill Golf Course, will be discussed. It is expected that the management contracts for the Approach Golf Course and Entry Hill Golf Course will be put to tender and we are aware that there are currently two interested parties, both of whom are professional golf course operators.

We have been given assurances that the Council is seeking to retain golf use for at least the Approach 18 hole course (bordering Cavendish Road), and we also have been given assurances that there will be no change to the public access/shared space for walkers and dog walkers etc that currently exist on the Approach Golf Course. The future of the Approach 12 hole course (to the west of the main path up to Sion Hill) is a little less certain with Cabinet Meeting papers mentioning that the 12 hole course could be "offered for other potential sporting/community uses". When questioned on this, Paul Crossley, Cabinet Member, mentioned that they may look at a "golf derived" activity for the 12 hole course.

There is currently no intention for the Council to go to consultation with local residents with regards to the Approach Golf Course, as they do not anticipate a significant change of use for either the 18 nor the 12 hole. We will continue to keep abreast of the situation on behalf of the Square and advise residents on any significant developments. Please be aware that the golf course will remain closed to golfers until a new management company is in place which may not be until late in the year, or indeed 2021.



Climbing on St James's Square Garden Trees

One of the lovely sights during lockdown has been seeing so many residents and their children enjoying our beautiful Square garden. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful space for residents to relax, enjoy the sun, exercise, read, and for children to play.

We have a few rules in place with regards to the garden so that it is able to be enjoyed by all. We have new signs on each gate reminding residents of a couple of key things, eg dogs are not allowed, but other rules for the garden can be found on the Square website www.sjsbath.co.uk

One thing we would like to ask with regards to children playing in the garden... As the trees are very old, and in particular the Catalpa tree (on the western side near the gate) is not in the best of health (as is more evident in the winter months when its limbs are on display!) we ask that children refrain from climbing on the trees. We ask this for the safety of your children as much as we do for the preservation of our wonderful trees.