

Marine Gate Newsletter

New boilers & calorifiers | New Year & Christmas spirit | New foyers & lifts

Happy New Year!

The entire staff of your M G Newsletter has been struck down for weeks by the winter plague currently sweeping the land, bringing all production to a standstill for three terrible weeks. Now presses are rolling once more. The nearest we get to pigeon post is the seagull on the post (right) So apologies for the delayed New Year issue - and we hope that you will respond with material for the April issue.

Noise nuisance and traffic hazard

These two rather different issues are being tackled on our behalf by residents led by David & Sylvia Woodcock (F17) whose petition we have all seen, and who have regularly circulated (undated) updates showing the progress of their approaches to the city council and the police. One also included a diagram with the controversial recommendation that the bus stop opposite MG be moved 25 m. eastwards.

We hope that these suggestions will be debated in the next Newsletter along with an update on the efforts to tackle these real problems for Marine Gate residents.



Who were the Mawby sisters? What was their relationship with Marine Gate? And the Irish wolfhound on Shoreham beach? *answers on page 4*

Our own community newsletter needs your input - knock on our door, send an idea, image, or letter, invite the editor for a chat, suggest one improvement to MG, place a small ad, or start our lonely-hearts column. Please do send thoughts or news, pictures or words or just angry letters to the editor!

on paper to: **John McKean, B1**
by email to: **jmlmckean@me.com**
or by telephone to: **01273 - 554278**



above : an earlier view of MG during construction of access to the new marina

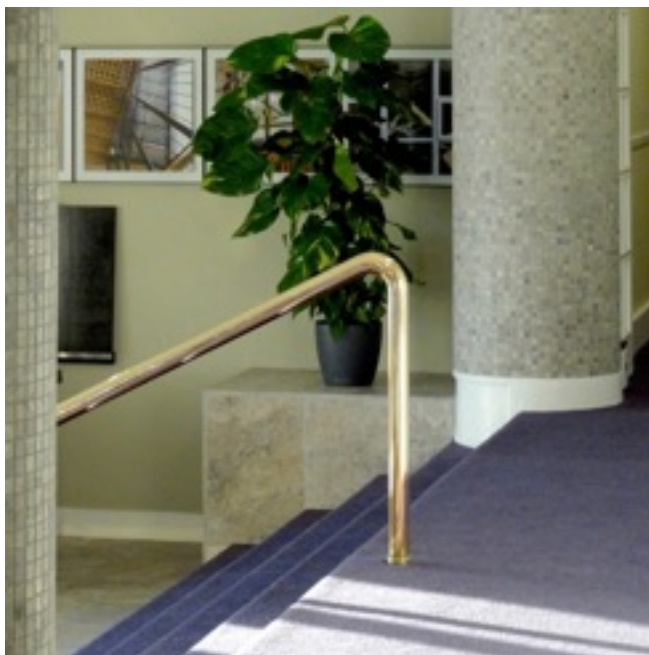
Winter sunshine struggles to make our northern garden sociable at this time of year. But the efforts of the pioneer gardeners are already well taken root. And by the summer we will be astonished at the transformation from two seasons earlier. This never-ending work is just as important and worthy of congratulation as the transformation of our internal public areas currently underway.



East and west entrances

Renewal works for the east and west entrances are on target for spring and early summer, with the east side to be completed first. The preparation of drawings, obtaining of estimates and placing of orders, the repairing of existing surfaces and re-routing of cabling for new lighting are already underway.

Stephen Adutt writes: "By continuing the new ground floor wall and carpet colours it is hoped to continue an underlying affinity between all three new entrances. But from that point, east or west, each entrance, will feature planning layouts, fittings or artworks which will be particular only to the areas own particular function." ... "Seated areas [will be] flanked by even more abstract 1930s artwork on north and south walls."



Letter to the editor: Art work in Marine Gate

In London's Trafalgar Square, permanent memorials occupy three plinths, but the fourth, long empty, now hosts a regularly changed object; sometimes lighthearted and sometimes serious. This, and our newly restored main foyer at Marine Gate, prompts me to make a suggestion. We have a lively artistic community of residents here - painters, photographers and sculptors; writers, flower arrangers and more.

We also have glass cabinets, flush with the wall, in the entrance lobbies. They currently provide directions to flat locations. Could we consider them as our 'fourth walls' displaying a resident's work for, say, some months? There would have to be thoughts about selection processes and security, of course, but that's not insurmountable. The first thing coming to mind is the old images of the building curated by John and Mary McKean's MG historical research. What does everyone think? Just an idea, please feel free to be as critical as you wish!

David Browne (E6)

All comments/suggestions are welcomed by MG Newsletter.

Starting the Christmas spirit early

On 2nd December 2016 our Christmas luncheon outing began with the arrival of a 22 seater minibus onto which we were herded by Sue Wallace and Evelyn Parker, and in glorious sunshine via a scenic route we arrived at the Dyke Golf Course clubhouse overlooking the downs, just in time for a pre-lunch drink. Our tables were laid out in eights, and we were joined by others of our party who had made their own way to the venue.

Once seated, crackers were pulled, jokes read out, and in some cases paper hats were worn. The staff had arranged that we should go table by table to be served from the buffet, and ours being the last we were concerned that there mightn't have been much left, so we made sure we had refreshed ourselves thoroughly from the open wine bottles on our table.



We needn't have worried, the supply of each of the roasts was still ample, and we did not go hungry. By the time we had reached the intercourse interval it seemed that every table had caught us up on the refreshment front. The puddings were deliciously decadent, in keeping with the biscuits served at coffee mornings. Unlike at those events, none of us had to stay behind and clear up!

On the way home, perhaps to stop any raucous singing, the driver told us the tale of how the Devil's Dyke was created, supposedly to drown the good and pious of Fulking with seawater. The devil was foiled by a wise widow lady opening the door of her cottage before sunrise, the devil mistaking the light from her doorway for the sun so fleeing before the Dyke was finished.

Patrick Wallace

East and west foyers prepare for their 2017 makeovers led by Stephen Adutt (right)

The MG staff are most grateful for the Christmas Fund which, organised and collected on all our behalves by Eric Stowe (below), raised £2342 for staff this year.





The engine room of SS Marine Gate



Marine Gate's 2017 Calendar

On December 3rd, the Gardening Club invited us to the west foyer for a most convivial mulled wine and mince pie. Here they were selling Sean Smith's 2017 Calendar, from which all profits are generously being donated to the Gardening Club, and they were going like hot pies.

Special offer! There are still some unsold, and from the 16th of January the price is being slashed right down to £5! With profit going to our own gardens, it is what they call a no-brainer. Buy from the concierge or (evenings) from R7.

Our building's festive spirit was enhanced by the trees each differently decorated for us by Terry and Debbie - the east foyer, welcoming Christmas (left, below), seems also to be slightly lost in the prompt start of its 2017 makeover.



One winter's dawn, two vast halves of a new calorifier are craned off a delivery lorry - the most amazing magic, brain-and-brawn-power, find them joined and finally fitted in place alongside its twin in our boiler room - Colin is seen welding a joint (right).

What goes on in our engine room, deep in the bowels of Marine Gate, is a mystery to almost all of us, but it ensures the essential services for heating and washing for our street's-worth of apartments. We take for granted our reliance on Colin and his colleagues, and also our good fortune that our chairman, Nick Law, as an engineer understands and leads on our behalf.

It is suggested that some of us might enjoy knowing a little more, or at least see (and hear) these monsters at work. Guided tours of the boiler-room, for small groups only, are being proposed.

Are you interested? Get in touch via M G Newsletter.

Around the Gate

We welcome new arrivals to our community Ms Matilda Urie (G10) and Mr & Mrs Spencer-Hewett (G12).

We note with sadness the death of Georgina Brooks-Herrington, in late November 2016 and shortly before her 100th birthday.



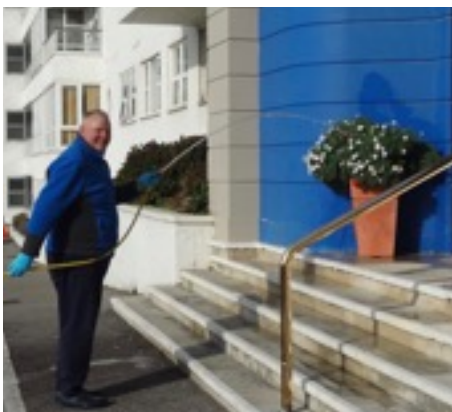
Having tracked down two of our concierges for the last newsletter, we have now caught a third, Jay (left), and hope to be able to find our fourth, Daryl, before the next one.

As announced on 3rd January 2017, six more of our lifts are now going to be modernised, joining those already recently upgraded.



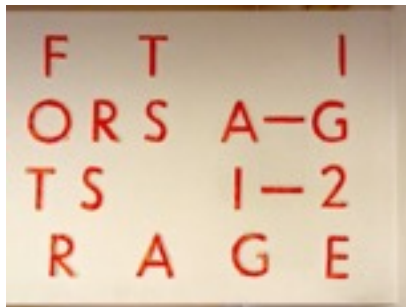
Sadly our tradition of carols around the Christmas tree or in the west foyer did not happen this year. And particularly sadly we say goodbye to our most brilliant resident musician, the maestro of the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra (whose life-enhancing CD's remain on sale: <http://www.pdo.org.uk/Store>). Michael and Alan Bennett-Law are planning to move to distant Rottingdean. We thank them for all they've added to life at MG (not least the little patch of flower garden behind their flat) and send them our good wishes.

Our stalwart gardeners continue their attention throughout the year; Paul Ripley in carefully colour-appropriate attire (below).

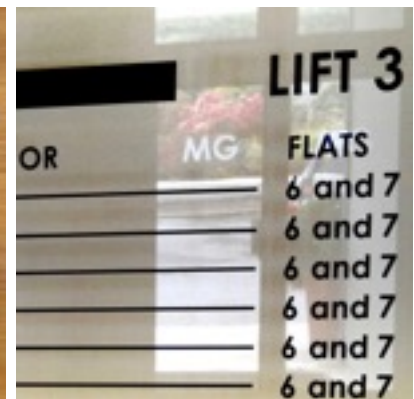


Particularly to help new residents

here is the Newsletter's visual guide to our building's visual guides:



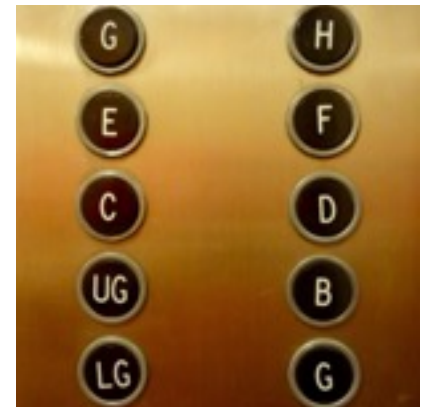
The key thing to know is your lift. It may not appear on your address but it is the first thing at the top of every sign, even if the words below might appear slightly out of order. The examples above may not change, but as part of our current refurbishment, some signs are being transformed, as:



Once in the lift, however, especially if heading for level G, you will enjoy having multiple choice answers (see right).

Does anyone understand why our actual address doesn't start - as every other flat in the world does - with the route to it (e.g the lift or stair and then a number on that stair), rather than with an abstract letter (like "D" where there is no way of connecting D5 to D6)?

Is there any logical explanation?



The Marine Gate Film Group (led by David Browne, E6) and the **Marine Gate Book Group** (Miriam Beza, G4) try to co-ordinate their monthly meetings. The next films are on 19 January and 9 February, and the BAFTA Film Awards on Sunday 18 February 2017. Usually the bibliophiles to meet on the third Thursday evening, and the cineastes on the first Thursday evening of each month. All are welcome, but with the Film Group it is always worth checking with David.

However there is never any doubt that the popular **Coffee Morning** are on the first Monday of each month. Recent arrivals particularly welcome - bring mug or cup to the West Foyer for coffee & biscuits.

The Mawby triplets were Hollywood child stars - one of whom, Claudette, died when a bomb hit Marine Gate in August 1942 flinging her to the foot of a lift-shaft.

