

Britannia  
Square

*Residents' Association*

# Newsletter

SPRING 2026

## New sponsor secured for 2026

A business  
familiar to many  
residents joins us

**T**he Britannia Square Residents' Association is delighted to announce that as of January, 2026 our website is now sponsored by HOWDEN, the renowned local provider of all types of insurance needs.

Howden, formerly known and recognised as "A-Plan Insurance", is based in the same office premises on the corner at 2 Foregate Street. Branch Manager, James Parker, is a well-known and recognisable Worcester figure,

who leads the original team with their local expertise and familiarity with the specialist and bespoke requirements of households in our neighbourhood.



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For more details about Howden's services please visit their comprehensive website, or to request a quotation, use the link at the end of the home landing page on the BSRA website or call 01905 612961.

Very generously, in addition to its sponsorship, Howden will be further supporting our Association gifting £50 for each policy purchased!

**See also: [Introducing Howden](#) on page 9.**

## Trusted Tradespeople

There are frequent requests for recommendations for tradespeople on the residents' WhatsApp group, 'B-SquOSH'. There is also a page on our website, featuring a list of tradespeople recommended by individual residents. The list includes Tilers, Electricians and Builders and can be found here: [Residents Recommend](#)

If you have enjoyed particularly good service from a tradesperson, please let us know so that we can share their details. [Email Robin Dallaway.](#)

## Remembering Michael Hudson

A couple of years ago, Michael Hudson, who lived for over 40 years at 45 Britannia Square moved to a care home in Colchester to be near his daughter, Susan. Last month, we heard from his son, Simon, that Michael had died peacefully. During his time living in the Square, Michael was an active member of the community and the Residents' Association, being Chairman from 1982 to 1988.

After a long period of caring so well for his wife, Jean, he remained a wonderful and gentle man, ever kind and generous to his neighbours.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. You can read Angela Lanyon's poetic tribute to Michael on page 8 of the [Autumn 2024 newsletter](#).



*Photograph by Carol Inman*

## Are you a paid-up member?

Of the current 118 occupied households in Britannia Square, Albany Terrace and Stephenson Terrace, 71 are currently paid-up members. Lifetime membership is £30 per household and annual membership is £5 per household.

Payment of membership automatically includes your household as a member of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which may enable you to claim a discount on your household insurance. Joining the Association helps us to protect our local environment, to develop initiatives to improve our area and helps us to access local authority assistance and resources on your behalf. **Also, priority booking for Wine Club tickets!**

**To join the Association please contact Membership Secretary, Miss Ella Blankstone**

# Forthcoming Events

## STREET SPRING CLEAN

**Albany Terrace & Britannia Square –  
Sunday, 7th June 2026 from 3pm to 5pm**

The City Council has agreed to help us with a Street Spring Clean on Sunday 7th June and Monday 8th June. This will be the first year without the involvement of the Council's Community Engagement Team but we have been promised assistance from their City Cleansing Team. Residents will be notified by the Council ahead of the event and provided with parking permit(s) for free use of the Pitchcroft and Croft Road Council car parks from 1pm on Sunday 7th June until 7am on Tuesday 9th June.

Residents are asked to ensure their vehicles are moved away from Albany Terrace and Britannia Square by 3pm on Sunday when they are all invited to clear weeds and litter from the pavements and kerbsides near their properties. Of course, you are free to do this at any time in advance if you are not around that afternoon.

The Council will send street sweeping teams in on Monday morning to remove everything we have gathered up. It is intended that the gully cleaning machines will also take advantage of the clear access.

Residents are free to bring their vehicles back after 3pm on Monday 8th June. The Council will provide cones to deter parking in the 3-hour non-resident bays and will display warning notices in advance throughout the area.

The latest details about this year's Spring Clean can be found [here](#), along with features about activity in previous years at [www.britanniasquare.org/streetclean](http://www.britanniasquare.org/streetclean)

**BSRA Committee**



Photograph by John Ball.

## SUMMER PARTY

**Sunday, 28th June 2026 from 12 noon**

Please save the date for our summer event which we are planning to hold in the grounds of RGS Springfield.

Further details will be circulated to all households nearer the date and published on the website at [www.britanniasquare.org](http://www.britanniasquare.org) [here](#).

**BSRA Committee**



# Environmental News



## Pitchcroft – events this year & how to report noise nuisance

**F**or over 300 years, Pitchcroft, our local open space, has played host not only to horse-racing but to a wide range of events including football matches, funfairs and balloon festivals. It is important to remember that Worcester Racecourse (part of Arena Racing) has a 99 year lease from Worcester City Council covering the track, stables,

weighing room and grandstand but the centre area is available for other events, usually not organised by Arena.

Over the past few years, the BSRA Committee has engaged with Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) to understand how events on Pitchcroft are controlled and monitored and also with Michael Thomas, General Manager of Worcester Racecourse.

For 2026, Michael has informed us that there will be music at the following race meetings and that exact timings will be notified to residents & advertised on the racecourse website nearer each date.

**Sat 6 June - Ladies Day**

**Friday 10 July - Abba Tribute**

Further details of this season's racing can be found at [www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk)

Other events on Pitchcroft already announced for 2026 (with approximate times) are:

**Sat 13/Sun 14 June - Open air cinema (Saturday from 19.00; Sunday from 10.30)**

**Sat 20 June - Fake Festival (11.45 - 23.00)**

**Fri 3 July - Ibiza Orchestra Experience (18.00 - 23.00)**

**Sat 4 July - Sausage & Cider Festival (12.00 - 22.00)**

**Sun 5 July - Summer in Nashville, Country Music Festival (12.00 - 20.00)**

**Wed 15 July - Pitchcroft 10K & Acorns fun run (from 19.00)**

**Sat 18 July - Race for Life (from 10.00)**

**Sun 9 August - Worcester Show (10.00 - 17.00)**

*(NB: Please check online & social media for more details of these and other events)*

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## Reporting noise nuisance

Living so close to Pitchcroft, we have to accept that some events will inevitably cause disruption and noise, which may occur during set-up, the actual event itself or in the dismantling. If at any time, you consider the noise to be excessive, you can report this to WRS at:

<https://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/all-services/nuisance/noise>

The Contact Form is accessed via Step 2 (Request WRS Assistance).

Alternatively, to complain about any noise coming from Pitchcroft, residents can call 01905 822799 select Option 6 or email [enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk)

## Planning Applications *(changes since last Newsletter)*

Date of application	Address	Proposal	Status
<b>2025</b>			
August	51 Britannia Square	Conversion of single storey garage into a gym	Approved
<b>2026</b>			
January	52 Britannia Square	Replacement single-storey rear kitchen extension (renewal of application previously approved in January 2022)	Pending decision (consultation ended 11 February 2026)

BSRA tries to comment on all applications, when consulted. However, residents should comment directly on the City Council's planning website, if they would like to raise concerns or support any application. [www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search](http://www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search)

## BSRA Committee

### Current Members

<b>John Ball</b> ( <i>Wine Club Chairman</i> )	johnball1@btinternet.com	50 Britannia Square
<b>Ella Blankstone</b> ( <i>Membership Sec.</i> )	ellablankstone@talktalk.net	The Old Coach House
<b>Ann Cowper</b>	annferrier@gmail.com	20 Britannia Square
<b>Robin Dallaway</b> ( <i>Website &amp; Newsletter</i> )	robindallaway@gmail.com	7 Albany Terrace
<b>Carol Inman</b> ( <i>Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch &amp; Highways</i> )	csinman4@gmail.com	4 Stephenson Terrace
<b>Nicky Neville-Lee</b>	nnevillelee@hotmail.com	30 Albany Terrace
<b>Tracy Scott</b> ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	scott.tracy59@yahoo.co.uk	52 Britannia Square
<b>Emily Walsh</b>	emilywalsh24@icloud.com	3 Albany Terrace



## Reporting “rogue” parkers

**E**arlier this year, a number of residents contributed to a chat on our community WhatsApp group about parking issues in the Square and Albany Terrace. Issues raised were around digital permits, residents’ stickers and "rogue" parkers (e.g. vehicles parked in the area but suspected of not having a valid digital permit or vehicles parked dangerously).

*Here are a few points to consider:*

### Digital permits

Worcester City Council, in line with most local authorities, has moved to a digital permit system for residents' parking schemes. There are a number of advantages for both the Council and residents:

- Environmental - savings are made on printing, paper & postage
- Security - a digital permit cannot be copied/altered
- A digital permit cannot be lost/stolen
- Applications/renewals can be effective immediately - no need to wait for a permit to arrive in the post (a particularly worthwhile advantage given Royal Mail’s current poor performance in Worcester!)

When the change from paper to digital was made a few years ago, Councillors were questioned at the BSRA AGM as to whether paper permits could be provided to give evidence of ownership of a digital one. However, the answer was "No" given all the advantages set out above. There is no reason to expect that their response would be different if asked again, particularly given the budget challenges currently being faced by the Council.

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## Residents' Stickers

A number of you have spotted the yellow "Local resident" stickers which can be seen on a few cars in the Square and asked whether similar stickers could be provided to residents to show that they have a valid permit.

Although this may seem a simple concept, as a number of you validly pointed out, it would only work if there was global take-up i.e. every vehicle with a valid digital permit would need to display a sticker at all times. Distributing stickers and keeping up to date when residents changed their cars or were using a temporary courtesy car would be a mammoth task given that the Zone B parking scheme is open to residents not just of the Square and Albany Terrace but also to properties in 5 other areas including the Moors, Moor Street and Back Lane South. A full list can be found at Residents Parking Permits - Worcester City Council

Stephenson Terrace has a separate parking scheme but given there are only 11 properties, most householders are able to recognise their neighbours' vehicles and spot any visitors.

## Parking Enforcement – how to report “rogue” parkers

It is the responsibility of the City Council's parking enforcement team to police the scheme. The Civil Enforcement Officers regularly patrol our area, both on foot and in their enforcement vehicle. They have instant access to the database that shows all current permits so can quickly check the registration number of a vehicle to establish whether it has a valid permit.

If you suspect that a vehicle parking in our area may not be in possession of a valid permit, you can either speak to an officer, if you see one on patrol, or email the team on [ParkingOffice@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:ParkingOffice@worcester.gov.uk)

You can also use the Team's email address to report any other parking concerns or problems e.g. vehicles parked in the cycle lane in the one-way system, vehicles parked dangerously on double-yellow lines near junctions.

*Carol Inman, Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch & Highways*

# BSRA Membership Report Autumn 2026

**S**ince our Autumn Newsletter update, we take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to more new residents in our neighbourhood – including **Hugh & Iraida and their young children at 10 BS; Helen and adult twin sons, Dan & Luke at 17 BS; Jeff & Sanna and their young children at 27A BS and James & Alex at 13 AT.** We look forward to the opportunity of meeting together at the various events planned for this year. New residents can find out more on our Welcome page of our dedicated Britannia Square Residents' Association website.



*Photograph by Ella Blamkstone.*

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Membership has continued to increase: **of the current 118 occupied households, there are 71 members (60%), made up of 65 lifetime members (55%) and 6 annual members (5%). 41 households (35%) are non-members, with 6 “lapsed” annual members (5%).**

Joining as a member is a symbolic gesture whereby the resident acknowledges the aims of the **Association** (read more “About Us” on our website). Like many similar organisations, benefits are not always tangible. The membership subs help with costs of maintaining the website, venue hire, leaflet printing, etc.

Membership of the Association essentially provides a platform to voice and add clout to all our community concerns and interests relevant to our neighbourhood – examples include representation in respect of local planning applications, noise levels of events held at Pitchcroft Racecourse, highways and parking issues, impact of local businesses neighbouring our conservation area, Neighbourhood Watch and anti-social behaviour, etc.

We encourage attendance of all residents to our sociable gatherings. In response to demand for tickets to attend our ever-popular Wine Club events, we give priority booking to the current Membership before opening up the event to non-members. Annual Membership (£5 per household) is a useful option for this purpose.

Another benefit of membership is our corporate membership of Worcester Civic Society which entitles BSRA Members to attend talks at the members' admission rate (when a charge is made). Details of Civic Society events can be found at **Worcester Civic Society**.

If you are not already familiar with the interesting content of the Association website, we urge you to visit **[www.britanniasquare.org](http://www.britanniasquare.org)** a comprehensive resource of neighbourhood matters, fascinating historical records and local photographs.



The current BSRA Committee is a small voluntary group of residents that currently include John Ball, Carol Inman, Tracy Scott, Robin Dallaway, Ann Cowper, Nicky Neville-Lee, Emily Walsh and myself. We meet just a handful of evenings a year to organise annual activities, and address and co-ordinate a response to local issues concerning residents.

With the ever-changing demographic of the neighbourhood, there is bound to be a pool of diverse talents and expertise that could benefit us all. So, if anyone has fresh ideas and initiatives to offer, we'd very much welcome you to sit in on a meeting simply as an observer to find out more.

For those residents (non-members) who still wish to support the efforts of the Association without wish or need to actively participate – we encourage you **to become a member**. Please contact me in the first instance. Thank you.

**Miss Ella Blankstone** (Membership Secretary)  
**[ellablankstone@talktalk.net](mailto:ellablankstone@talktalk.net)** 07951 460070



## Introducing Howden: new sponsor of the Britannia Square Residents' Association

Local insurance broker Howden Worcester is the proud new sponsor of the Britannia Square Residents' Association. As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves, the team is delighted to partner with the BSRA: helping preserve and enhance one of the city's most historic neighbourhoods.

Branch Manager James Parker and his 16-strong team pride themselves on helping Worcester residents feel protected, understood, and genuinely looked after.

Howden does things differently; delivering positively personal insurance advice for you and your business.

Because insurance isn't just about policies and premiums – it's about people. That's why Howden focuses on understanding what matters most. Whether it's help finding the right cover, navigating complex risks, or simply feeling seen and heard, Howden goes the extra mile to make sure clients never feel like just another number.

It's a mindset that runs through the entire business – from high street branches to specialist teams across the UK and Ireland – and why Howden was named Insurance Broker of the Decade. Each team is proud to serve local people, locally, including here in Worcester and is always evolving to meet clients' needs.

***"We're delighted to do our part to support the BSRA... helping ensure this historic community continues to thrive for generations to come."***

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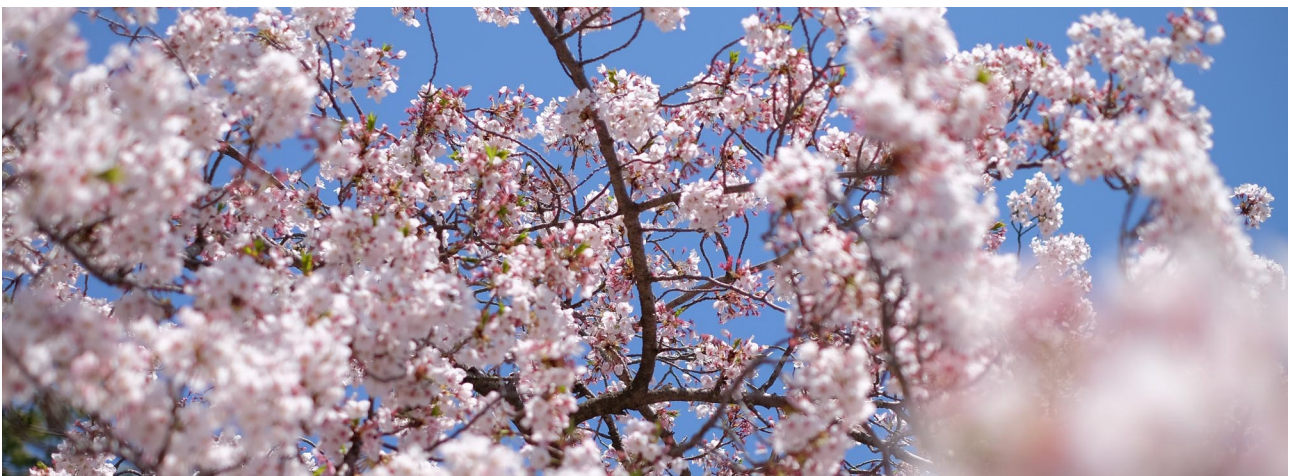
James explained: “At Howden, we take a no-limits approach to caring for our clients. Whether that’s the little things, like enjoying a cup of tea in branch while we sort your cover, or stepping up when disaster strikes, we’re here to make insurance feel reassuringly personal.

“We understand that our clients like knowing that we’re there when they need us, however they need us. We believe in real human connections and local, personalised service, rather than being on comparison websites, to help you get the right advice when it comes to covering the things that mean the most to you.

“We’re delighted to do our part to support the BSRA through our donation scheme, helping ensure this historic community continues to thrive for generations to come.”



Visit the **Howden Worcester team** at 2 Foregate Street, call 01905 612 961 or learn more online at [www.howdeninsurance.co.uk/worcester](http://www.howdeninsurance.co.uk/worcester)



*Spring Blossom. Photograph by Claire Dallaway.*

