

# THE Kensington MAGAZINE

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## Philanthropy

### Noun:

the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.

### Thesaurus:

Benevolence, generosity, humanitarianism, grace, kindness, patronage, big heartedness

Philanthropy in Kensington

# THE Kensington MAGAZINE

There are many different guises to philanthropy here in Kensington; examples of the more traditional type, i.e. of giving large amounts of money to causes, are explained in Nick's fascinating social history article. Maria explores the background of how the Amenian Church of St Starkis came to W8, and Sarah identifies the many local support groups and services available to local residents who might be finding these current times challenging, whether that be by having difficulties accessing food or medicine, or facing mental health/domestic violence. And Ben gives his interpretation of the meaning behind the daffodil, the logo of the Marie Curie, a charity helping individuals and their families, to cope with terminal illness.

We have many new businesses opening in W8 (see Kensington News pages) and we hope you will give them your support, as well as continue to support all our small independent shops and businesses, thank you, Lucy

Front Cover: Philanthropy and its meaning. Background image ([www.quotesgram](http://www.quotesgram))

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#KensingtonMag



Lucy Elliott, Editor  
Hair by Toby of Annie Russell  
(Image: Stephen Rodwell)

Read by 34,500 residents and businesses each month. The magazine is also available at Sainsbury's Local, Boots, RBKC Library, Marks & Spencers, St Mary Abbots, St George's Church, St Philips Church, The Royal Garden Hotel, The Milestone Hotel, Peter Jones in Sloane Square and many other smaller outlets in W8.

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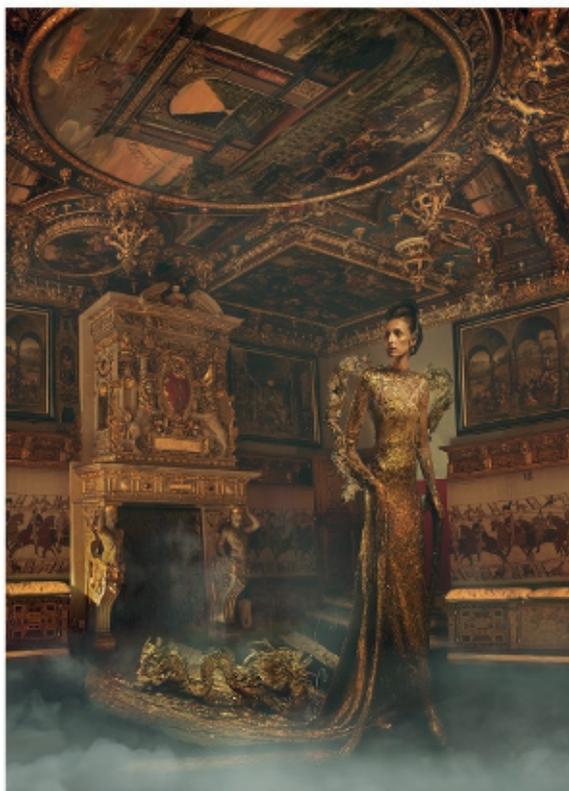
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# “Something must be done”: A historical look at philanthropy in Kensington

By Nick Campailla

One can be forgiven for thinking that before the Victorian social conscience gained momentum, life was unremittingly “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”, per Hobbes, as much the result of human agency as natural causes. Nowadays, the terms ‘philanthropy’, which seeks to address root causes with a long-term strategic approach, and ‘charity’, generally a response to more immediate needs, are often used interchangeably. Whether or not the Norman knight Sir Aubrey de Vere’s bequest in c.1100 of 270 acres of land around St Mary Abbots Church to the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary of Abingdon, Berkshire and his motive (gratitude for the care of his eldest son Godfrey during serious illness) qualifies as a medieval example of the above is arguable. However, it set in motion the uses and transfers of land which have permeated every aspect of Kensington’s history - some, gratifyingly, with benevolent intent.

Henry Smith (1549-1628), a successful City merchant, acquired land in his lifetime and set up trusts using rental income for the relief of the poor in Surrey. His will decreed that monies be applied for the relief and ransom of ‘the poore Captives being slaves under the Turkish pirates’, and for the relief of ‘the poorest of his kindred who were unable to work for their living’. His charitable estate purchased 85 acres of land in Kensington (in the Earl’s Court manor) and other parishes later in the seventeenth century and the Henry Smith Charity continues his legacy of helping the disadvantaged today.

The familiar portrayal of a callous, gin-soaked eighteenth-century London sits alongside more humane endeavours: this was also the era of Foundling Hospitals,

Charity Schools and workhouses – Kensington’s first workhouse was established c.1726 – which, despite their fearsome reputation, had the aim of preventing vagrancy and providing a basic education. A new charity school was founded in 1707 in St Mary Abbot’s churchyard (to which Queen Anne subscribed £50 a year) with a new building designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor (1709). In 1842, Caroline Fox, sister of the 3rd Lord Holland founded a school for “children of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes” in what is now Holland Park Road.

As Sarah wrote last month, the elephant in the Kensington room, the notorious Jennings Buildings rookery, was essentially resolved by a private property transaction, though only to the extent of dispersing the unfortunate individuals to other parts of London. A more clear-cut philanthropic enterprise was the Kensington Housing Trust, formed in 1926, and now part of the Catalyst Housing Group, whose first Chairman was Lord Balfour of Burleigh and whose founders were predominantly wealthy residents appalled by the lack of decent, affordable accommodation in Kensington. “I thought it was the Borough Council making my home so decent, and being so generous about it!” said one tenant, in an article about the Trust in the Spectator (31st December 1927). Rents at Crosfield House W11, which opened in 1929, were approximately 20% cheaper than a council flat. The estate managers were invariably “ladies trained in the Octavia Hill method”, a breed of Hattie Jacques-like matrons, firm but fair, of whom we could do with more of today!

## Supporting meaningful employment in K+C for 16-24 year olds

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The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation is an independent charity, supporting impactful local projects that improve the lives and life chances of some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in our borough. Our vision is a borough where everyone has the opportunity to live happy, healthy, fulfilled lives.

Many of our charity partners have worked tirelessly over the summer to provide support to their clients. As the pandemic continues, there is a significant impact on mental health and employment in particular.

In 2017, Kensington and Chelsea already had a higher than average unemployment rate of 6.7% compared to an average of 5% in other London boroughs. In some parts of the borough, 29% of children are living in out of work homes, which is significantly higher than the London average of 12.4%. Following the lockdown, the unemployment rate is growing and concerns about financial security have become a pressing issue for many residents. Foodbanks in the borough have seen their queues triple since lockdown and show no signs of slowing.

Young people aged 16-24 are particularly hard hit, suffering the biggest drop in employment compared with other age groups. We support a highly successful employability course targeted at this group of young people to help them into meaningful work. Each course works with up to 16 young people age 16-24 who are not currently in employment, education or training (NEET). Once they have graduated, they receive personalised support for a further year to help them transition into work.

*"My Spear coaches coached me through my phone interview and application form, and I was offered a week of work experience at the Pony Centre. Now, I have a full apprenticeship with them, pursuing my dream of animal care and working with horses. That wouldn't have been possible without the Spear Programme's coaching and support."*  
Stojancho completed the programme at the Spear North Kensington centre in October 2019.



**As the need in our borough grows, the Skills + Employment programme remains one of the K+C Foundation's key fundraising priorities. If you or your company would like to know more about supporting this work and getting involved, please contact [team@thekandcfoundation.com](mailto:team@thekandcfoundation.com)**

# Nubar Gulbenkian & The Amenian Church of St Starkis

By Maria Perry with illustration by Charles Yorke

Nubar Gulbenkian is chiefly remembered for his flamboyant eccentricities; the fresh orchids changed daily in his buttonhole, the monocle, his extraordinary collection of cars, including two London taxis and a green Rolls Royce covered in basketwork. He was born in the village of Kadi Kevi on the shores of the Bosphorus on 2nd June 1896. The Gulbenkians were the richest and most influential family in the region.

Armenian Christians, their aristocratic pedigree stretched back to the fifth century A.D. They traded with the merchants of the Ottoman Empire, but also with the Christian Powers of Europe. 'The Armenian Question' had become a problem. When Abdel Hamid II became Sultan, he decided the simplest way to deal with the Armenians was to massacre them. Thus, everyone who had the means to do so fled. The Gulbenkians procured papers and passports to get to Egypt where they had relatives. As the ship left Constantinople, baby Nubar was smuggled out in a Gladstone bag. From Egypt the family made for both London and Paris, wintering in the South of France, retaining an apartment in the Ritz Hotel Paris and arriving in London in time to move into the newly built Savoy hotel. Just as the century was coming to an end, they bought their first house, 118 Hyde Park Gardens. They remained there for 25 years. The four year old Nubar could watch Queen Victoria riding across the Park.

His father, Calouste Gulbenkian, already fabulously wealthy from his banking activities was known as 'Mr Five Per Cent'. Determined to bring up his first born son as an English gentleman he sent him, aged six, and after a short period with a governess, to a prep school, and later to Harrow. He also received his first pony for his sixth birthday and was taught to ride by Ashton, the family

coachman. It was impressed upon him that whether walking or riding, an English gentleman must always carry a stick and gloves. His father's philanthropy knew no bounds. By 1938 he had made



so much money from oil, he was able to set up the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon and had also amassed an Art Collection which he kept in his Paris house, on the Avenue d'Iena. It filled four storeys and three basements. By 1936 he had already lent works to the National Gallery in London and Egyptian sculptures to the British Museum. Calouste's philanthropy always benefitted Armenian institutions – schools, hospitals and libraries bore his name all over the world.

Here in Kensington he built the Armenian Church of St Sarkis in Iverna Gardens. It was intended as a memorial in honour of his parents and their names are inscribed above the portico. Nubar once said that his father who built it, and to guarantee it would never lack funds, just endowed it with "a few extra 'hundreds of thousands of pounds'" in perpetuity! Designed by Arthur Davies and erected between 1922 and 1923 it has now become the Diocesan seat of the Armenian Church of Great Britain. Nubar is buried there, but in his lifetime spent much time worrying about his own attitude towards religion. His father built the Church partly in thanksgiving for Nubar's narrow escape from an air crash. During the Second World War, Nubar worked for MI5 helping to re-patriate RAF pilots who had crash-landed in enemy occupied France.



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# The Coronavirus Pandemic: Local Support and Services

By Sarah Goldsmith

As the Coronavirus pandemic worsened and restrictions were put into place in the spring, the residents of Kensington faced new issues which the borough had to address.

As the pandemic now enters a new phase it's worth looking at the organizations, some new and some old, that have adapted to the further needs of Kensington residents.

## Food Banks and Food Delivery

Probably the most pressing issue for most residents in the beginning weeks of lockdown was how to obtain food. Food delivery slots were few and far between as services were strained, and many residents also struggled after being told they needed to shield, or their income disappeared.

Local groups formed what's app groups to organize help, including the Kensington Mutual Aid Group. Their website also has several links to food banks and other organizations, including the Kensington & Chelsea Foodbank ([www.kensingtonchelsea.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.kensingtonchelsea.foodbank.org.uk)). Additionally, the Mutual Aid Group launched a free ebook by Jack Deane with recipes designed to be affordable and meet school food standards. The Mutual Aid Group is using a what's app group to organize volunteers and identify need. ([www.peabody.org.uk/news-views/2020/coronavirus-support-advice/local-information/kensington-chelsea#Food](http://www.peabody.org.uk/news-views/2020/coronavirus-support-advice/local-information/kensington-chelsea#Food)). The website itself is a good resource for other resources dealing with health and wellbeing and families throughout the Borough.

The Kensington and Chelsea Social Council has also compiled a list of foodbanks, which can take donations. These include Bay 20, Chelsea Methodist Church (on King's Road), Dad's House (open for single fathers and all

families), Dalgarno Trust Foodbank, and the Venture Centre. A full list can be found at [www.kcsc.org.uk/food-banks-rbkc](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/food-banks-rbkc).

Food delivery has also proved an issue for 'shielding' residents, who are now termed 'vulnerable'. RBKC has compiled a list of businesses offering collection or delivery and the website offers links to various charities that continue to support vulnerable residents, including the Venture Centre ([www.venturecentre.org.uk/](http://www.venturecentre.org.uk/)) and My Hungry Valentine ([www.myhungryvalentine.com/coronavirus-london-food-businesses-offering-delivery](http://www.myhungryvalentine.com/coronavirus-london-food-businesses-offering-delivery)), which has compiled a list of London restaurants offering delivery.

## Medicine

Particularly for people classed as 'vulnerable', obtaining necessary medicine without leaving the house is proving problematic. RBKC suggests liaising with your local pharmacy first, which can often arrange delivery at no extra cost, but if this is not available, an NHS volunteer can be requested using a form online [www.goodsamapp.org/NHSreferral](http://www.goodsamapp.org/NHSreferral).

## Domestic Violence

An unfortunate side effect of lockdown was the increased risk of domestic abuse, as many victims or potential victims could no longer access the support or escape routes typically available. Whilst police support continued as normal, it was not always possible to reach out to them depending on someone's circumstances. Several services have stepped up to provide further support. Amongst those services are The Angelou Partnership ([www.angelou.org/](http://www.angelou.org/)), Women's Aid ([www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/)), Hestia's Bright

Sky App ([www.hestia.org/brightsky](http://www.hestia.org/brightsky)), Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), ([www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/resources/](http://www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/resources/)), as well as additional local and national helplines available on the RBKC website ([www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/council-services-and-disruption-updates/covid-19-domestic-abuse-support](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/council-services-and-disruption-updates/covid-19-domestic-abuse-support)). Additional support from Family and Children's Services and from Housing Support is also listed.

### Mental Health

Many people suffer from loneliness and mental issues stemming from an inability to lead their normal lives, even if they are not alone. Local charities filled the need as people's mental health began to suffer with the increased stresses lockdown engendered. The RBKC website ([vulnerable-people\) offers a few websites and apps on way to self-soothe, addressing sleep, anxiety, and stress which RBKC has identified as the most common mental issues. The website also offers numbers for people to call for the NHS Single Point of Access, the Community Living Well service, and in an emergency, the Samaritans. Additionally, NHS GPs have other resources designed to help residents with their mental health.](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-hub-and-support-residents/covid-19-clinically-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

### Volunteering: What You Can DO

Potential volunteers can register on the Volunteer Centre Kensington Chelsea website ([www.voluntarywork.org.uk/volunteering/coronavirus-community-response/](http://www.voluntarywork.org.uk/volunteering/coronavirus-community-response/)). Additionally, many volunteers have found that through their volunteer work, mental health that suffered during lockdown improved as they found a renewed purpose in life.



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# Marie Curie and the (Philanthropic) Daffodil logo

By Benedict Bull

The daffodil, *Narcissus Triandrus*, grew wild in medieval times, and as with people today, it was considerably smaller than now. It symbolised the end of winter and the start of the warmer season, if not summer itself. By the same token the daffodil is the recognised symbol of hope for cancer sufferers. Marie Curie UK use it as their logo. A Marie Curie UK social media post by Nurse Paula identifies the bearers of the daffodil symbol as supporters to the families of those affected by cancer. They are identified like the daffodil itself bringing light and warmth after the cold winter dark.

The elision of medieval iconography of Spring and Christian hope of rebirth and modern fundraising of the Great Daffodil Appeal for cancer sufferers is a natural progression. Queen Elizabeth First of England consented to herself being styled as Flora, where she personifies the bounty and beauty of the land itself. And in *Sir Gwain and the Green Knight*, the rebirth that the daffodil represents is most rhapsodic:

“On the face of the fields; flowers appear.  
The ground and the groves wear gowns of green;  
Birds build their nests and blithely sing  
that solace of all sorrow with summer comes ere long.  
And blossoms day by day  
Bloom rich and rife in throng;  
Then every grove so gay of the greenwood rings with song.”

The sheer power of the yellow of daffodils in Spring, in southern England in early March absolutely matches in terms of transformative power, ornament and colour what the philanthropic process of Marie Curie brings for cancer sufferers

and survivors. The extension of meaning through language and symbol in this case is seemingly transparent, with quantifiable beneficiaries and a process that is accountable and simple and specific. Families receive support and help in their homes from the charity.

However heraldic devices of individuals, families and nations, these are more complex in their devising, because their motive is self-interested and opaque. Where is the consensus in the casting of Elizabeth as Flora beyond the courtier and the monarch? Take the role of the monarch with respect to the treatment of the unpaid navy veterans several years after 1588. Did the monarch manage to conceive of the well-being of these loyal servants of the nation at all once the threat of invasion was gone?

Flora is the subject of aristocratic masques. In fact, the letters of the monarch now available to scholars reveal the limited scope of the monarch's ability to benefit her subjects beyond her own elite circle. In this context the symbol was deliberately removed from ordinary life and a denial of ordinary concerns was incumbent on its power. It was an elite preserved from its own society by its differentiation. This Flora is capricious like an Olympian deity.

Marie Curie UK in this second Elizabethan age make conscious contact with ordinary people in their lives and in their own homes. Here the personification of Christian virtue is not intellectual and exclusive but based in actions and unswerving altruism. Yet the daffodil blooms the same in wet cold March.



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# Kensington News I

## NEW BUSINESSES IN KENSINGTON

The future of matchmaking is coming to Kensington. Local entrepreneur, [Alexander Flint Mitchell](#), along with his team of 15 experts, is creating an app, [Blind Cupid](#), that found 80% of its test-group users their long-term partners. Alexander's team is creating brand new AI that could also be used by huge corporations and in defence as it enables the accurate understanding of individuals far beyond what has previously been achieved. [Blind Cupid](#) will soon be launched exclusively in Kensington. You can join its waitlist or invest in [Blind Cupid](#) Please see pages 16/17 for more information.

The home of expertly crafted chocolate drinks, [Knoops](#) will be opening a second London site in Kensington this month. This branch on the High Street will offer a range of different percentage chocolates and milk – resulting in a velvety smooth drink catered to customers' varying tastes and requirements. Preparing for the festive period ahead, [Knoops](#) has created several gifts ideal for chocolate lovers including their [Knoopifier](#) – a German designed kitchen gadget that allows everybody to make the very best [Knoops](#) hot chocolate at home. [www.knoops.co.uk](http://www.knoops.co.uk). Also In Kensington High St we have [Repose Space](#) and [Roar](#), both of which are fitness operators and in Melbury Road there is the [Melbury Deli](#) (formerly Gas n'Water).

In addition to the above, in Kensington Church Street, [Caroline Andrew](#), bespoke tailors for men and women has set up her second shop, the first being in Mayfair; and [Mooboo](#) provides customers with Bubble Tea. We wish them all every success.

[Educated Households](#), a higher-tier nanny, tutor & household agency catering for the global élite, deems education as an absolute priority. They place full-time supremely educated staff with VVIP, UHNW, Royal families and Royal Palaces: Europe, Russia, Middle East & China. All candidates hold degrees (BA, Masters or PhD) from the most prestigious universities and business schools. [Educated Households](#) "are the port of call for demanding parents leading high-octane lifestyles, wishing their children to thrive and achieve beyond expectations in school." Requesting Norlanders, tutors, butlers, Palace managers worldwide? Their team of educated experts, teachers, chief school inspectors, psychologists & linguists can help. Please visit [www.educated-households.co.uk](http://www.educated-households.co.uk).

[Natasha Durlacher](#) is a local portrait photographer working on a series of [Doorstep Portraits](#) photographing families with small children, teenagers, people living alone as well as dogs and other pets. It is a fun 20 minute photo session and a perfect opportunity to have a few moments of social interaction during these times. The cost for a [Doorstep Portrait](#) is £95 which includes 5 digital files, 7 x 5 inch print and £20 donated to Age Uk via my Just Giving site. There are examples of her work on [www.natashadurlacher.com](http://www.natashadurlacher.com) or please call Natasha on: 07939 134327

## CHARITY/COUNCIL NEWS

Update from the [Kensington & Chelsea Foundation](#): Their Covid-19 Emergency Appeal is now closed and with local residents' help they have reached over 17,000 residents in need since March and

## Kensington News II

their food delivery partnership remains on stand-by in the event of a further lockdown. Your support provided food parcels to elderly people and to families who were struggling; digital equipment to provide care and company online; safe spaces for children to play and exercise; online literacy lessons for children whose reading was behind; and employment and debt advice to the increasing numbers of residents who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain future.

Sadly, the pandemic is far from over and there are concerns about the long-term impact on the lives and life chances of local people. Digital exclusion is a significant issue in our borough; many families are living in homes without wifi, let alone laptops and resources for learning. As schools are moving more towards an online homework system to be Covid compliant, this means children without access fall further behind. It is also impossible for their parents to access online support from home such as applying for Universal Credit, applying for jobs or making virtual GP appointments. Bridging the digital divide is a key priority and K&C Foundation are collaborating with local partners to tackle this issue. [www.kandcfoundation.com](http://www.kandcfoundation.com)

CW+, the official charity for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, has launched their new #ScarfUp project in collaboration with nine talented artists who have designed unique scarf patterns to be knitted by local volunteers. The #ScarfUp project aims to help patients with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and COVID-19, particularly as we enter the colder autumn and winter months and face

a second wave of Coronavirus. Patients with respiratory illnesses are particularly vulnerable during colder weather, and these scarves should aid in forming a barrier to cold air, helping to avoid further illness. Learn more at [cwplus.org.uk/scarfup](http://cwplus.org.uk/scarfup)

Results of a trial of the mental health app, [MeeTwo, at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) show its benefits amongst young patients. The MeeTwo app trial is part of CW Innovation, which focuses on introducing innovations that improve patient care and experience. The award-winning MeeTwo mental health app provides safe, fully-moderated peer support to users to anonymously share their feelings and help each other in a safe, moderated digital environment. Rebecca Taylor, Hospital Youth Worker at the hospital explains: "Interventions such as MeeTwo are necessary as they allow young people the support they need in a way which feels comfortable and accessible."

[Art on a Postcard \(AOAP\)](#) will return with its annual Winter Auction this November in partnership with Dreweatts Auction House to raise funds for the Hepatitis C Trust helpline. AOAP have teamed up with art exhibition platform [gowithYamo](#) to present an online interactive show. The Winter Auction is no longer anonymous, providing an opportunity to discover in-depth the background and practices of the artists taking part. To accompany this year's auction there will be a full programme of podcasts, artists talks and an opportunity to discover the emerging talent that AOAP are so proud to highlight. [www.artonapostcard.com](http://www.artonapostcard.com)

# Kensington News III

Local groups have received funding to host [Black History Month](#) events in Kensington and Chelsea this October: The Council has allocated £12,251 in grants to several new projects, run by 25 organisations as part of their one year Culture Plan. Events will occur both online and offline. Residents and visitors can join in activities such as digital art showcases, seminars, dance sessions and much more. The aim of these projects is to continue to celebrate the rich African, Black British and Caribbean community that makes our borough unique. To learn more, keep an eye out for updates via [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)

## GENERAL NEWS

In addition to Dishoom here in W8, a newly refurbished Dishoom Covent Garden will be opening in late Autumn. The restaurant will continue to capture the wistful poetry of the Irani cafés of Bombay, drawing inspiration from beloved Bombay institutions such as Britannia & Co., Olympia Coffee House and Kyani & Co. The original Covent Garden café closed in January 2020 to undergo a major 10th anniversary redesign, and will reopen at its old home on Upper St Martin's Lane later this year, paying loving homage to its Irani café heritage. "New" Dishoom Covent Garden will also tell the story of Bombay's theatrical journey from Parsi theatre, to silent film, to the thrill and amazement of the Talkies era.

[The Copthorne Tara](#), a 4 star hotel just 2 minutes off Kensington High St. is offering special rates to local residents/businesses: Are you in need of a hotel room for a morning, afternoon or full day? Free cancellation until 2pm on the day prior

to arrival; Complimentary WiFi; Reduced parking at £27.00 per 24 hours; Double room £66 inclusive of VAT and breakfast with complimentary upgrade to Club room, subject to availability. Book via their website and add the corporate code KBFOR in the "Use Promo/Offer Code" box. [www.millenniumhotels.com/en/london/cophorne-tara-hotel-london-kensington](http://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/london/cophorne-tara-hotel-london-kensington). Alternatively call 020 7872 2533 or email [markella.votsi@millenniumhotels.co.uk](mailto:markella.votsi@millenniumhotels.co.uk) for support.

We might be mourning T-shirt weather and sunsets at 10pm, but crisp, sunny autumnal days are spectacular in London's eight [Royal Parks](#). Visitors can also enjoy virtual Halloween activities, guided walks, bug hunting, and horse-drawn carriage rides. For a full list of what's going on in the parks, visit [www.royalparks.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/whats-on). You can also jump back in time with a 360-virtual tour of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. The south side of Hyde Park was the site of the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations in 1851. Take a virtual tour of the Crystal Palace to get a feel for the scale of it, admire its beautiful and innovative design, and discover amazing facts about the exhibition it housed. [www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/hyde-park/things-to-see-and-do/the-great-exhibition-virtual-tour](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/hyde-park/things-to-see-and-do/the-great-exhibition-virtual-tour)

With residents spending more time at home than ever before, it's the perfect opportunity to add some variety to your at-home drinking. With a new cocktail book, 'CO Specs' penned by local resident and bar industry veteran [Cas Oh](#) you'll be able to shake up a few cocktails after a long day or mix something to impress your (Zoom?) dinner guests. You'll find

## Kensington News IV

many of your favourite cocktails, as well as gems yet undiscovered in this beautifully presented cocktail book. Featuring 200 of the best known classics, it explores the recipe evolution, historical trivia & 'correct' methods. A great addition to any kitchen, and a perfect gift idea this Christmas. Available now on Amazon.

Readers will have seen the installation of the [temporary cycle lanes](#) which now run on either side of Kensington High Street. There are positives and negatives to this scheme which is a Government Directive implemented by Local Authority. Neighbouring boroughs have also implemented these measures. We understand this is for a trial 3 month period. A feedback form is available via [www.kensingtonbusinessforum.co.uk](http://www.kensingtonbusinessforum.co.uk) website from the beginning of November to gather comments, whether positive or negative which will then be fed back to RBKC. On the website you can also find out information about a 'Temporary Loading Bay Plan' whilst these cycle lanes are in place.

Lastly, last months edition evoked several emails. Firstly we should apologise for the information given on the date of the poster for the front cover as 1926. As a reader emailed and explained: "Another delightful and so informative an issue ... one tiny point of correction, the front cover poster dates from 1934, the year when Blossom Time and The Barretts of Wimpole St were produced. (In 1926 before Talkies there would have been no real point in having Tauber singing.)"

With respect to John Hull's article [Back where I began! Kensington in the 1920s

and 1930s] [Dugald Barr](#) emailed: "There was one particular part of John's piece which especially caught my attention: that they [his family] had bought the (second) Edwardes Square house from Joan Astley, in 1964. This must have been as she moved to Old Church Street where she was next door to No. 117, where I shared a flat in 1968 before moving to Chelsea, later bought and sold in 1982 when I moved up to Canning Place in Kensington, where I have lived ever since. I used to drop in on Joan from time to time ... she was excellent value and I think enjoyed the company of the (fairly) young. ... of course under her maiden name Joan Bright she was an absolute fulcrum of the Cabinet Office and No. 10. She was, insofar as the Russians allowed, the real organiser of the conferences at both Yalta and Potsdam and an 'insider' sans pareil. John's vivid descriptions of prewar life in Kensington and, equally, Charlotte's time [article: 'Childhood memories of living in Edwardes Square'] of an era more familiar to myself. One has of course noticed the passing of so many of the shops and street characters through normal attrition, and fears that that can only be accelerated in the present painful time. However one must be confident and robust - we will get through it, and change can be creative."

And [Charlotte Hull](#) emailed to say "Joan Astley was remarkable. She used to have little supper parties in her tiny flat in the Fulham Rd and once she rang up and invited me, saying she had an old friend coming; it turned out to be Wilfred Thesiger. All the more exciting as by chance I had only just returned from a trip to Ethiopia!"

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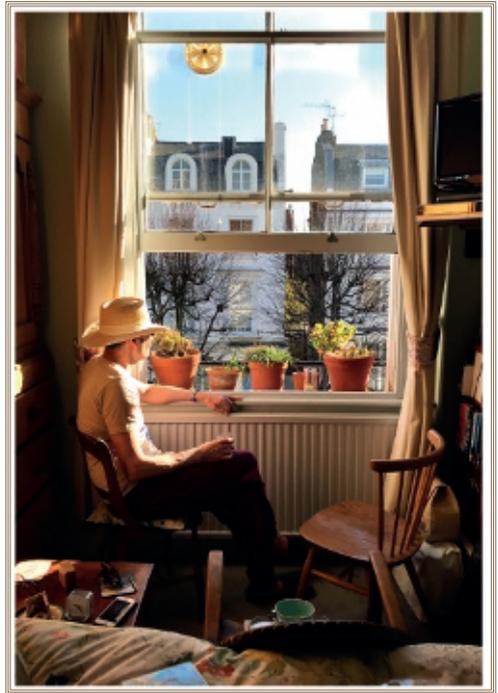
@BlindCupidUK

# 'A Day in Your Life' Photography Competition & Exhibition

Organised by Alison Jackson, BAFTA and multi award-winning artist, this community-minded, photographic competition, A DAY IN YOUR LIFE for budding, new talent and aspiring photographers was recently held within RBKC. The photographers were asked to represent how best to sum up a day in their life in these extraordinary times. 'A Day in Your Life' photography competition was intended to open up a world of different photographic ideas, on any subject or style. Over 1000 entries from 9 years upwards were received. There were several winners of different categories; here we feature Sarah Mowatt, Winner of the Mature Prize category.

What the judges liked about Sarah Mowatt's image is that "... it is an intimate and simple account of our time". As they explained: "In a lost spring and summer, Sarah and her husband were lockdown in their bedroom – it became their main living and working space, where they could sit and watch the world go round, and the sun go down. The room is lived in – furniture and phones scattered about, with a big window showing a wide world tantalising close, but off-limits - a beautifully lit room made evermore bittersweet.

Vermeer made all of his work, all of his paintings, in one room – and Sarah's work is very Dutch painterly-like. It is intimate, cosy, private... she has truly shared her private intimate life, and we must thank her for that. This is a couple of people who have enjoyed being trapped! They are obviously happy and comfortable



Winner of the Mature Prize Category,  
Sarah Mowatt,  
with her image 'Lockdown'

spending this time with each other - that is something most people want – I've heard from a lot of friends who have been tearing their hair out of the dread of spending time with their partners and families! Sarah has taken the summer of uncertainty and... dread, turned round to her husband and her bedroom, and simply reached for her camera."

This exhibition continues at the Chelsea Theatre until 5th Nov. [www.chelseatheatre.org.uk](http://www.chelseatheatre.org.uk); [www.dayinyourlife.co.uk](http://www.dayinyourlife.co.uk); #dayinyourlifephotocomp @alisonjacksonartist

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# New Threats to Conservation in Kensington

By Sam Dunkley & Sophie Massey Cook (Hillgate Village Residents Association)

The Government's Planning White Paper (PWP), which has aroused fierce opposition at national level and from all parties, poses unique threats to our Borough.

1) Impossible housebuilding targets: the PWP would hit RBKC harder than any London borough. Our target would rise by a remarkable 633% - from 448 to 3285 homes per year – despite most of the Borough being in conservation areas, and the lack of suitable sites. The Council's recent report criticising the PWP states bluntly: "We cannot meet such targets".

2) Rights of objection would be removed: the current regime would be replaced by a zoning system, designating Growth, Renewal and Protection areas. A "growth area" could be of any size; e.g. a "gap area" between conservation areas, such as Notting Hill Gate. Permission would be automatically granted for developments falling within new Local Plans, and detailed pattern books and design codes. While there would be local involvement in drawing these up, there would be no right for residents to comment on individual applications and no right of appeal for objectors.

3) Local democracy would be overridden: the PWP would set aside local policies such as RBKC's on basements and amalgamations.

4) More towers are threatened: in criticising the PWP, RBKC does not mention their guidance on height, which was disregarded in the recent Newcombe decision (see illustration); and the references to conservation in RBKC's draft Local Plan, also



out for consultation, are quite weak. These factors, and the letter from Robert Jenrick below, threaten a renewed onslaught of towers. Hillgate Village RA strongly believes this must be resisted, and "lower, denser" solutions are far more appropriate.

The PWP consultation closes on October 29th but RBKC's consultation on its draft Local Plan runs to November 10th. The Local Plan is particularly important if the PWP is implemented, and we would encourage readers to lodge comments to RBKC by the deadline, via <https://tinyurl.com/RBKCLocalPlan>

The draft Plan confirms "Opportunity Areas" at the Kensal Canalside site and in Earls Court, but ominously the March letter from Robert Jenrick to Sadiq Khan – which sharply criticises Khan's draft New London Plan - advocates "actively encouraging appropriate density, including optimising new capacity above and around stations". This raises the spectre of a "Reach for the Sky" approach near any station, regardless of local height policy and of the impacts on neighbours, or on adjacent conservation areas.

Readers may also wish to contact their Ward councillor or our local MP (Felicity Buchan) to express their views on these proposals. Further information can be found at [www.hillgatevillage.com](http://www.hillgatevillage.com).

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# Christmas Menu's



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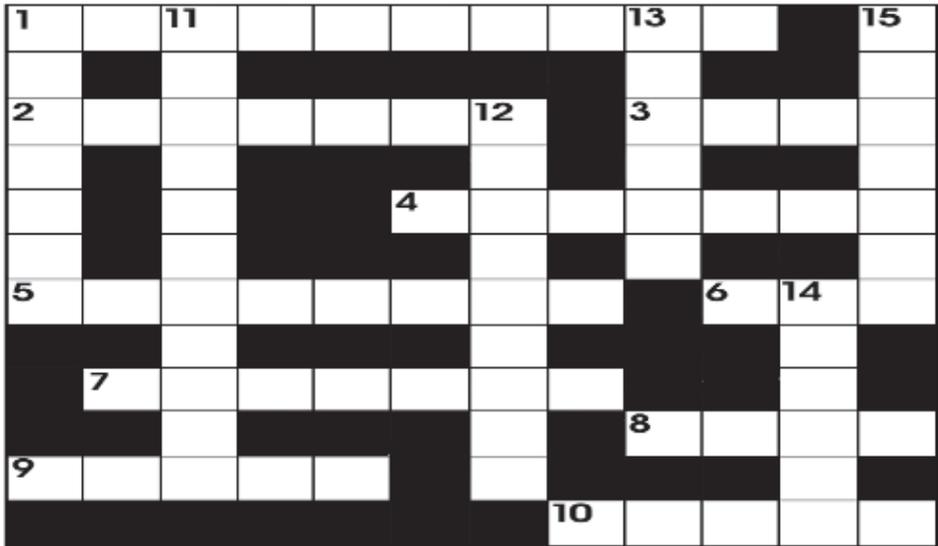
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# The Kensington Crossword

By Dave Saunders

Pit your wits against our Kensington-centric crossword. (Answers on page 28)



## Across

- 1) Billy \_\_\_\_\_, former footballer for Brentford, born in Kensington in 1939 (10)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ and Bromley, shoe and handbag outlet at 77 Brompton Road, SW3 (7)
- 3) \_\_\_\_ Street, thoroughfare between Queen's Gate Terrace and Elvaston Place, SW7 (4)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Bird, producer and director of TV drama, born in Kensington in 1951 (7)
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ Terrace, residential street between Phillimore Gardens and Argyll Road, W8 (8)
- 6) \_\_\_\_ Tokyo, Japanese diner at 18 Hillgate Street, W8 (3)
- 7) Eric \_\_\_\_\_, cricketer for Cambridge; born in Kensington in 1920 (7)
- 8) \_\_\_\_ Bassham, former footballer for Brentford; born in Kensington in 1933 (4)
- 9) \_\_\_\_ Garden Hotel, luxury hotel at 2-24 Kensington High St (5)
- 10) Jorge \_\_\_\_\_, art gallery at 116 Kensington Church Street, W8 (5)

## Down

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Bar, elegant bar in the Royal Gaden Hotel, Kensington W8 (7)
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ Gardens, residential street between Hornton St and Campden Hill Road (11)
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ Road, residential street between West Cromwell Road and Nevern Place, SW5 (9)
- 13) Blue \_\_\_\_\_ restaurant, Thai eaterie at 284-286 Kensington High St, which closed in 2020 (6)
- 14) St \_\_\_\_\_ Grove, residential street between Cottesmore Gardens and Douro Place, W8 (6)
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_ Granger, English film actor born in Kensington in 1913 (7)

# GET WELL SPOON



## November

Seasonal Crumble

This delicious pudding is reminiscent of toffee apples and pecan pie.

### Ingredients:

- 2 large cooking apples, cored and chopped
- 2 large pears, cored and chopped
- 10 medjool dates
- 250ml apple Juice
- 2 tbsp coconut or almond flour
- ½ tsp allspice
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon

### For the Crumble:

- 115g butter
- 200g flour (can be gluten-free)
- 50g pecan pieces
- Maple syrup to taste

### For the topping:

- 25 cm/8 inch square baking dish
- Preheat oven to 190C/ Gas 5

Put the fruit in the baking dish. Add the flour and spices to the apple juice, mix well and pour over the fruit, making sure all are covered. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes, until the juices are bubbling. Crumble the flour and butter together to make the crumble and add the pecans. Once the fruit is cooked, add some maple syrup (if you like) and cover with the crumble. Cook in the oven for a further 20 minutes, until the crumble is golden.

The fruit is full of fibre, as are the dates which also contain gallic acid, an effective antioxidant, and good amounts of magnesium. However as they are high in sugar it is best not to have too many.

Coconut flour is also rich in fibre and protein and MCTs. MCTs (medium chain triglycerides) help to release the hormone, leptin, which gives the feeling of fullness. Our bodies can use them as an instant



Tea: Victoria Kell Illustration: Alexa Ritchie

source of energy, making it unnecessary to store fat for this purpose. The gut environment is very important to our immune system. MCTs can help optimise the growth of good bacteria and support the gut lining.

The seasonal spices in this pudding are full of antioxidant polyphenols which support our general health. Allspice is from the Jamaican tree, *Pimenta dioica*, and is particularly good for the digestive system. It can relieve gas, bloating and constipation. The many antioxidants in both spices have anti-inflammatory properties that may ease cramps and aid digestion. Cinnamon is also known to help regulate blood sugar levels.

*Our book 'Knife, Fork, Get Well Spoon' is available at Wholefoods in Kensington and on Amazon.co.uk*

# W8 & South Ken Cultural Quarters: What's On I

## SHIRLEY

1-12 Nov Times vary Ciné Lumière Adult £13  
Renowned horror writer Shirley Jackson is on the brink of writing her masterpiece when the arrival of newlyweds upends her meticulous routine and heightens tensions in her already tempestuous relationship with her husband, a philandering professor. Institut français. [www.institut-francais.org.uk](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk)

## IN FOCUS – COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

2 Nov 7pm Online Free  
Talented RCM chamber musicians perform RCM alumnus Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's little-known but masterful Clarinet Quintet. Royal College of Music. [www.rcm.ac.uk/event](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/event)

## DAVID SMITH RSW: 'OFF THE BEATEN TRACK' EXHIBITION

3 – 20 November  
Thackeray Gallery is proud to introduce Scottish landscape artist David Smith RSW. Capturing Scotland's glorious blue sky against the warmth of the sand, David's paintings have a way of connecting us to the land and sea through art. 020 7937 5883. [www.thackeraygallery.com](http://www.thackeraygallery.com)

## DECODING THE FACE TO UNLOCK AUDIENCES, WITH ADRIANNE CARTER

4th November 1.00 - 2.00 pm. £4.50  
On this webinar, Adrienne will be speaking about facial expressions of emotion, what emotions mean in campaigns, the impact of faces on audiences and how to create marketing/advertising campaigns that resonate with audiences worldwide. Museum of Brands 020 7243 9611 [www.museumofbrands.com/decoding-audiences](http://www.museumofbrands.com/decoding-audiences)

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND INVESTMENT

5 Nov Online Free  
Are you looking to raise money for your business but confused about how to do so? Yvonne Bajela, recognised by Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2020, explains how you can raise money for your business. Imperial College. [www.imperial.ac.uk/events](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/events)

## KENSINGTON CHELSEA WOMEN'S CLUB

5 November 11am  
Join KCWC to hear Kate Stephens, CEO of Smart Works, talk about their work propelling women back into the workplace. As Social Action Charity of the Year 2017, Smart Works has achieved impressive results through styling, coaching and interview consultations. Explore our many activities at [www.kcwc.org.uk](http://www.kcwc.org.uk)

## NIALL HORAN

7 Nov 8pm  
Featuring songs from Niall's two smash hit albums Flicker and Heartbreak Weather, this multi-camera event will see the former member of One Direction and his full band perform for fans around the world thanks to time-zoned live streams. Royal Albert Hall. [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

## DOUBLE INCOME, KIDS

10 Nov 7:30pm Online Tickets £7.99  
Four years into their relationship, Israeli gay couple Motty and Alon decide that they want to have a child. Ruling out the option of co-parenting, they embark on a long and expensive surrogacy process in the USA. Goethe-Institut [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

## A WINTER JOURNEY

11 Nov 7:30pm Online Tickets £7.99  
Gunther Goldschmidt, a naturalised

## W8 & South Ken Cultural Quarter: What's On II

American citizen, during a few days in the mid-1990s, tells his son about his escape from Germany with his wife Rosemarie, in 1941. Accompanied by a Q&A with Martin Goldsmith. Goethe-Institut. [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

### WHEN BRANDS TAKE A STAND

Now-13/11/2020, £9 (Concessions Apply)  
Brands and advertising have the power to influence society. This exhibition explores how when large brands and businesses take a stand on social and political issues, it resonates strongly with consumers; often positively but sometimes negatively. Museum of Brands. 0207 243 9611, [www.museumofbrands.com](http://www.museumofbrands.com)

### THE WANDSWORTH FRIENDS OF ROYAL TRINITY HOSPICE CHRISTMAS FAIR GOES VIRTUAL

Saturday November 14- Saturday 22 November  
Virtual Christmas Fair  
[www.royaltrinityhospicechristmasfair.org](http://www.royaltrinityhospicechristmasfair.org)

### THE LONDON HISTORY FESTIVAL 2020

16 to 26 November. Free  
This literary festival aims to bring the work of the finest historians to the widest possible audience. This year there are eight authors presenting their latest books in a programme of virtual events that will both entertain and enlighten you. Perfect for history buffs! Contact: [libraries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@rbkc.gov.uk)  
Bookings: [rbkclibraries.eventbrite.com](http://rbkclibraries.eventbrite.com)

### VIOLIN MASTERCLASS WITH MAXIM VENGEROV

18 Nov 7:00pm Online Free  
Maxim Vengerov, one of the world's greatest soloists and the RCM's Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin, gives an inspiring violin

masterclass with talented RCM musicians. Royal College of Music. [www.rcm.ac.uk/event](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/event)

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

18 Nov 7-8:30pm £4 Online  
If we work towards climate change, the result is still projected to lead to warming above pre-industrial levels. Join the RGS panel during London Climate Action Week to discuss what that means for the UK. Royal Geographical Society. [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

### HOW TO BE RESILIENT

19 Nov Online Free  
Developing a business idea throwing obstacles in your way? Started but not sure how to get past reoccurring problems? Giles Duley draws on his own experiences to show how resilience and learning to adapt can turn negatives into positives. Imperial College. [www.imperialenterpriselab.com/events/how-to-be-resilient-with-giles-duley](http://www.imperialenterpriselab.com/events/how-to-be-resilient-with-giles-duley)

### CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR

19-22 Nov 3pm: 7:30pm  
A magnificent combination of classical music and state of the art technology from a flood of pure white light to electrifying multi-coloured laser displays, the dazzling special effects bring to life the scenes and moods evoked by each glorious piece. Royal Albert Hall. [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

### BAGS: INSIDE OUT

From 21 Nov £12 Booking required  
From rucksacks to despatch boxes, Birkin bags to Louis Vuitton luggage, "Bags: Inside Out" will explore the style, function, design and craftsmanship of the ultimate accessory. V&A. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

## W8 & South Ken Cultural Quarters: What's On III

### KENSINGTON CHELSEA WOMEN'S CLUB

4 December 11am Zoom Event  
KCWC is happy to offer access to a Zoom lecture by Francesca Cartier Brickell through the purchase of her signed book "The Cartier's" via Daunt Books. Log into [www.kcwc.org.uk/news](http://www.kcwc.org.uk/news) for information.

### ARCHITECTURE FOR DOGS

Til 10 Jan 2021 Free Timing  
A unique collection of designs for man's best friend by globally-renowned architects, including a vanity mirror for Poodles, a fluffy cloud for a Bichon Frise to match its fur, and a seesaw kennel for playful Beagles. Japan House London. [www.japanhouselondon.uk](http://www.japanhouselondon.uk)

### ELECTRONIC: FROM KRAFTWERK TO THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS

Til 14 Feb 2021 Mon-Thurs & Sun 10am-6:30pm Fri & Sat 10am-9pm Adult £16.30 Child £8.15  
Explore 'how electronic music rewired the world'. A bespoke audio history has been mixed for the show by French DJ Laurent Garnier where lighting and video have been synced to an entrancing CORE light installation by 1024 architecture. Take your own wired headphones to experience an amazing club-like environment. Design Museum. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

### THE COST OF YOUR WORDS

Mon-Fri 11am-3pm Free  
Award-winning artist Fabio Lattanzi Antinori has transformed the terrace with a bold digital sculpture which displays the current cost of keywords captured from Google searches around South Ken and inside Jeremy Hutchinson's fascinating Content Provider. The Royal Society of Sculptors [www.sculptors.org.uk](http://www.sculptors.org.uk)

### THE ISMAILI CENTRE

Online On Demand  
A wonderful selection of music and films from up-and-coming artists and a diverse range of programmes from nourishment for the mind and kids club to junior chefs and careers of the future, and so much more. The Ismaili Centre. [www.the.ismaili](http://www.the.ismaili)

### A HISTORY OF ROYAL FASHION

Online Free  
A wonderful opportunity to learn about how British kings and queens have influenced fashion over 500 years in this online free course. Historic Royal Palaces [www.futurelearn.com/courses/royal-fashion](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/royal-fashion)

### LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM: LEARNING FROM HOME

Online  
Teaching remotely? A new range of online resources and activities is available. Discover about Frederic Leighton, his magical house and Victorian art and culture. Explore stories, film content, tours, quizzes and games, tutorials, and their Ask Me a Question days. Leighton House [www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum)

### GET ACTIVE: NEW CYCLE ROUTE & WALKING TOUR

For those who prefer to explore on foot, Footways London's guide reveals quiet and characterful walking routes. Discover beautiful streets in Kensington at a different pace. Footways London [www.footways.london](http://www.footways.london)

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# AFTERNOON TEA

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY FROM 23RD SEPTEMBER

1PM – 5PM

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