

# THE Kensington MAGAZINE

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Mews Houses of Kensington:  
From Falcons and Horses to Des-Res



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# THE Kensington MAGAZINE

We hope you enjoy this months exploration and research about the mews houses we have in the area; it's fascinating to see how the history has turned full circle, and many of these homes are now being re-joined with the main house to provide accommodation for staff. A far cry from the mews origins of providing accommodation for birds of prey and all the King's horses.

May is always a busy month - we have plenty going on, so please see our What's On pages for local events. Ranging from concerts to space exploration, birthday parties to weddings, there is something for everyone. (And of course we wish a certain couple a wonderful, safe and happy future together!)

At last the sun is out - enjoy, Lucy

Front Cover Photograph: Plaque depicting the origins of Kensington Court Mews as stables for horses (Image: Lucy Elliott)

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#KensingtonMag



Lucy Elliott, Editor

(Hair by Toby from Hairspace at Annie Russell)

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# The History of the Mews

By Lucy Elliott

Behind the grand facades of crescents and squares in traditionally wealthy areas of London such as Westminster, Mayfair, Belgravia, Chelsea, Kensington and Marylebone are mews houses – delightfully charming and sought after, even if they rarely have a garden and no windows to the back of them. So what makes them so popular that developers are now using the term in new developments, in order to make them sound a more attractive proposition?

The term ‘mews’ originally derived from the French word ‘Muer’ meaning to moult. This was with reference to the falcons and hawks who were confined inside during their cyclical moulting season. In 1377 Richard II kept his birds of prey at ‘King’s Mews’ at Charing Cross (where the National Gallery now stands). The Kings Mews survived through Henry VII reign, but a fire in 1534 resulted in Henry VIII building stables for his horses, and naming them ‘Royal Stables’ – a departure from falcons to horses.

The Royal Stables remained in situ during George III reign, but in 1824 the mews were demolished to make way for the National Gallery. George IV, with the assistance of star-architect of the time, John Nash, built the current ‘Royal Mews’ at Buckingham Palace and when Queen Victoria came to reside there she established a school and a riding school for the children of her staff.

It was during the 17th and 18th century that mews houses as we know them came into more prominence; the wealthy owners of grand homes needed somewhere for their servants, horses and carriages. Small proportioned buildings, usually with a stable and high ceiling space to house the horse and carriage were perfect. Upstairs would be basic – a hayloft or attic type room where the grooms and servants of the house lived. There

was no garden, but the terrace of mews would face a cobbled courtyard and had no windows at the back, since the owners of the main house did not want their staff to see them. Mews houses had their own access to the main house and were positioned as such that the owners were not offended by the smell caused by horses.

By the 1900s with the advent of the motor car, (London’s first petrol pump was installed in Queensgate Mews in 1913) many mews houses lost the stable facility to give way to the modern day garage. With the general economy, impact of two world wars and wealthy families having to cut down on staff, mews houses became a byline for a general state of disrepair and in today’s parlance, rather ‘grungy’.

In the 1960s well known faces such as Francis Bacon, James Hunt (who appreciated having a garage for his car) and Michael Caine were the first to discover the charm of such a centrally placed, lock up and go, well positioned home. From then to now, the price and cachet of living in a mews has exponentially evolved. Even developers hoping to cash in on this, will call a development something ‘mews’ in order to give it higher desirability. (Of course historically some mews were called Place, Close or Lane, such as Montrose Place behind Belgrave Square, which served in all but name, as a mews for the houses in Belgrave Square). Indeed, the five-star Stafford Hotel in St James’ charges premium rates for guests to sleep in the ‘Mews Suites’.

In 2015 a ‘Survey of Mews in London’ found 433 original or surviving mews properties in existence; Westminster has more mews than any other London borough; with Kensington having 19. One of the best examples of a mews in W8 is that of Kensington Court Mews; set around a courtyard and clearly identifies

the ground floor for carriages/coaches (now garaging); the first floor where the horses used to be (accessed via a steep ramp) and the third floor where the coachmen and grooms and used to live. Well worth a peek!

And finally, if you are not sure whether a mews is a mews, try the Kati Lurot test – “... has a horse ever lived there? If not, then it is not the real thing!” ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com))

*References:*

[www.eveningstandard.co.uk](http://www.eveningstandard.co.uk)  
[www.lurotbrand.co.uk](http://www.lurotbrand.co.uk)  
[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)  
[www.everchangingmews.com](http://www.everchangingmews.com)  
[www.kensingtoncourtresidents.org](http://www.kensingtoncourtresidents.org)



Kensington Court Mews  
(Image: Lucy Elliott)

*Useful Information:*

A new App: London Mews Explorer



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## Leighton House Museum Needs You!

### Opening Up Leighton House

The former home and studio of Frederic, Lord Leighton, eminent Victorian artist and President of the Royal Academy is one of the jewels in the Royal Borough's Crown: a rare example of a Victorian 'house-beautiful', whose interiors are a unique fusion of Western and Islamic artistic influences.

Leighton House Museum is about to embark upon a transformative capital project that will preserve its past, sustain its future and, most importantly, serve and increase access for the local community, resulting in a more inclusive, and rewarding visitor experience.

Further details on the Leighton House Museum website:

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum/aboutus/news/phase3restorationproject.aspx](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum/aboutus/news/phase3restorationproject.aspx)

Opening Up Leighton House is supported by The Friends of Leighton House; The Heritage Lottery Fund and RBKC. Although The Friends have made great progress in their campaign, they still have £400,000 to raise by June 2018. You could make all the difference. Donations by cheque to The Friends of Leighton House at 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ or via [www.easydonate.org/FLHM001](http://www.easydonate.org/FLHM001). Make your donation the start of a long-standing beautiful relationship and become a Friend of Leighton House [www.friendslhm.org.uk](http://www.friendslhm.org.uk)

# “His Mews was his Muse”

By Maria Perry with illustration by Charles Yorke

To the modern reader the word ‘mews’ suggests an alleyway full of gaily painted houses. They are quaint and often described as ‘bijou’, which implies their owners are Yuppies. The derivation of mews is fascinating. In medieval times a ‘mew’ was a cage used to imprison a falcon during the moulting season. It literally stopped the feathers from flying. When falconry declined, mews were often turned into stables with accommodation for grooms and coachmen above the stalls and hay-boxes.

A typical conversion was the Royal Mews at Charing Cross, where from 1377 the King’s falcons were kept, until 1537, when they became stables. This was because as the Strand was developed residentially, less open space was available for hawking.

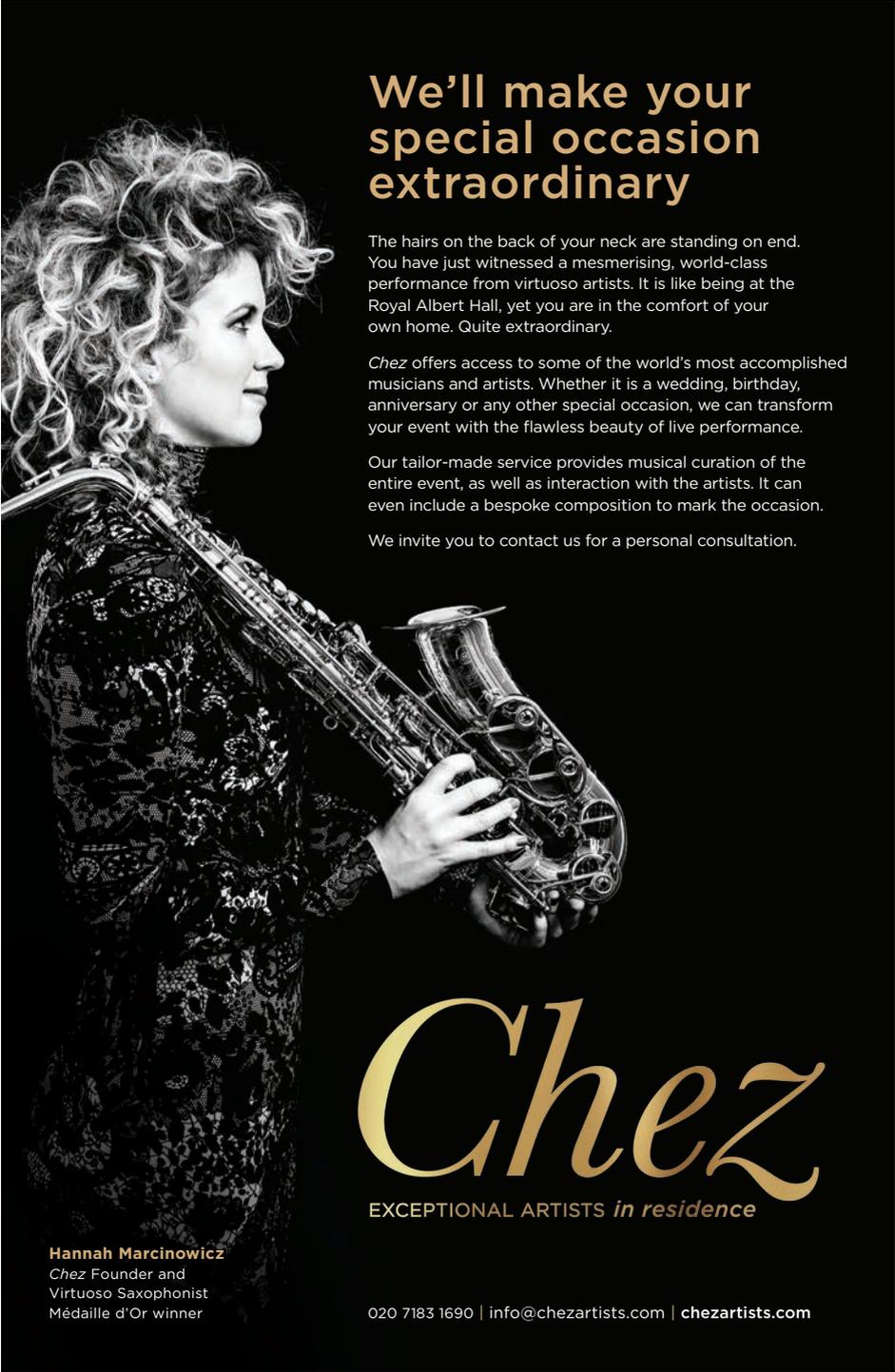
In Kensington mews abound. After Henry VIII annexed Hyde Park as his personal hunting ground, stables were built around the perimeter. Spirit of Place prevails. You can still learn to ride in Bathurst Mews, where there are two riding schools, Ross Nye and Hyde Park Stables. Basia Briggs at Hyde Park Stables takes pupils as young as four to ride in the Arena. “It is an accomplishment to ride a horse” she says, lamenting the days when both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens were crowded with thousands of riders.

As mews usually offer discreet accommodation, they often attract famous, or colourful residents. Mr Keith Butt, the Queen’s Vet retains a practice in Kynance Mews off Gloucester Road, while at No 5 Petersham Mews, near the Kensington/Westminster boundary a blue plaque announces the fighter pilot, Douglas Bader lived there, but perhaps the most celebrated of SW7’s muse-dwellers was the painter, Francis Bacon. At his death



in 1992 his studio at No 7 Reece Mews was preserved exactly as when he lived there. Described by *The Guardian* as ‘a chaos of slashed canvases, paint-splashed walls, cloths, champagne boxes and a large mirror.’ Such was Bacon’s impact on modern art, the studio was recreated for a Dublin museum. The tiny house comprised a living room-cum-bedroom, a kitchen with a bath in it and the studio lit by a single sky-light. Even when he was rich and famous Bacon clung to No 7. He could paint nowhere else. His Mews was his Muse.

Mews houses are not cheap. Average prices in Kensington are £3,000,000 to £4,000,000, though Savills’ report that ‘at the high end of the market they can go for eight million.’ Not bad for what was once a horse’s house!



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# Kensington News I

## NEW BUSINESSES IN THE AREA

**Harding Green** is a privately owned and independent estate agency based in the heart of Kensington specialising in Sales and Lettings of residential property across London. The company's primary focus is to provide a new level of client service, whilst at the same time offering its Associates the opportunity to manage their own portfolio of client instructions. The Associate you instruct to sell or let your home, will deal with every part of the property process from the creation of the details, handle every enquiry, viewings, offers and will remain the sole contact throughout the transaction process. This unique structure enables our Associates to dedicate more time to both our properties and clients.  
16 Kensington Church Place

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**Alexandrie** is a stylish and relaxed restaurant, offering its brand of fine dining from Alexandria, with its timeless cosmopolitan influences producing their unique flavours. Starters range from traditional lentil soup, to their more modern Egyptian-style mussels. The main dishes include okra cooked in

garlic and coriander, harissa-spiced poulet au pistou, and a lamb shank which has been marinated then slow-cooked to melt tenderly in your mouth. Their exquisite creations have been acclaimed by Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence, & others. A spacious private dining room (up to 60 guests) is available for hire with its own bar.  
36c Kensington Church St.

## GENERAL NEWS

The search is on for our best local business! The inaugural **Kensington & Chelsea Business Awards** have been launched by the Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. The chamber aims to recognise and reward the achievements of the local business community across the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Businesses are invited to enter and finalists will then be invited to a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel on 27 September. Michael Stone, Chairman of Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, said: "These awards demonstrate what an exciting Borough it is to work in and recognition from these awards can make a difference when securing new business. Any local business in the Borough, large or small can enter. Business can enter as many categories as they wish to". The awards are free to enter and businesses can enter online by visiting the website [www.rbkcawards.com](http://www.rbkcawards.com)

**The Science Museum Group** has teamed up with **Aardman**, creators of Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, and new movie Early Man, to develop a new free interactive smartphone app - Treasure Hunters. Designed to give players the confidence to not only explore the Science Museum's galleries further, but to discover interesting and unusual objects, as well as the stories behind them. The app captures the fun experience of gaming and competing

# Kensington News II

with friends and will take visitors on a unique tour of the Science Museum. By enabling learning through play it will help to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians. Treasure Hunters can be played solo or in teams at any Science Museum Group location. The app is perfect for families and is recommended for children 5 and above. The app is available across iOS and Android on mobile and tablet devices.

[www.aard.mn/TreasureHuntersiOS](http://www.aard.mn/TreasureHuntersiOS)

[www.aard.mn/TreasureHuntersAndroid](http://www.aard.mn/TreasureHuntersAndroid)

In Autumn 2019, the [Science Museum](#) will open its new [Medicine Galleries](#). Covering a space big enough to park 185 ambulances, the Galleries will include over 2500 medical artefacts, spanning 500 years of history, to explore how medicine has transformed our lives. The Medicine Galleries will include a 3.5 metre tall sculpture of Rick Genest, aka Zombie Boy, who covered his whole body with tattoos of his skeleton following a period of illness. Created by contemporary artist Marc Quinn, this monumental new work will greet visitors as they enter the Medicine and Bodies section of the Gallery. Find out more on the Science Museum's website:

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

Founded by Rollo Campbell & Matt Inledon and located in Holland Park W11, [Frestonian Gallery](#) is an exciting addition to the London and international art scene. The gallery's focus is the promotion of the very best of modern and contemporary art, presenting an exciting and diverse exhibition programme. So far shows have included modern greats such as Anthony Caro, Sonia Delaunay and Eduardo Paolozzi, alongside artists working today. Frestonian gallery also works in partnership with institutions, curators, and academics in realising on and off-site creative projects, as well as providing advisory and consultancy

services to both private and corporate clients.'

[Virginie Bonfils-Bedos](#), a Kensington resident of many years, is an indie author and screenwriter. Walking through Kensington Park one foggy morning inspired her first trilogy, *Gatekeepers*: When their home becomes shrouded in a mysterious fog providing an opening to an uncharted forest, four friends embark on an incredible adventure. On both sides of the fog, they face a whole new reality, where nothing is as it seems. Unwittingly, the friends are the key players in a game with unknown rules. *Gatekeepers* is an intricate story intertwining parallel universes with contemporary issues, blending suspense with humour, and featuring our favourite park.

Local resident, [Cara Frew](#) is in the running to represent Great Britain at the Miss Universe pageant. She's a singer-songwriter signed to Sony Music Entertainment, an Equestrian who has competed at the World Equestrian Games three times and a finalist in the 2018 Miss Universe Great Britain competition, to be held in South Wales in July sponsored by Just Boutique and Doyen. On Tuesday the 12 of June, Cara will be hosting an event called "An Evening of the ARTS" where she will be singing an acoustic set amidst the sculpture exhibition at The Everard Read Gallery in Kensington to raise funds for "A-Sisterhood" - a non-profit organisation that supports, empowers and protects the position of women worldwide. Tickets available for purchase, everyone is welcome! For information please contact [carabfrew@gmail.com](mailto:carabfrew@gmail.com)

[Congratulations to the Design Museum](#) who recently welcomed their one millionth visitor. The Ferrari Exhibition drew more visitors than any other exhibition in the Museum's history.

# Kensington News III

## CHARITY/CHURCH/RESIDENT'S GROUPS/SOCIETIES' NEWS

Hidden Gem to National Treasure: **Opening up Leighton House** is the capital project that will transform Leighton House's future, providing access for everyone and a fit for purpose Museum facility complete with education suite, enhanced visitor amenities and pop-up café. **With £400,000 left to raise your help is critical.** Please donate to the Friends of Leighton House capital fundraising campaign. You can do this by cheque payable to The Friends of Leighton House, addressed to Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, London, W14 8LZ or online at: [www.easydonate.org/FLHM001](http://www.easydonate.org/FLHM001). And why not build a long-standing connection and become a Friend of Leighton House? To do so please see [www.friendslhm.org.uk/how-to-join](http://www.friendslhm.org.uk/how-to-join)

**Royal Trinity Hospice** has announced its programme of free events for Dying Matters week. Dallas Pounds, CEO of the hospice said: "Talking about death and dying is still regarded by many as taboo but the reality is, we'll all be faced with it. By providing a forum to talk safely and openly about death, we hope our events will encourage and empower the community to engage in these important conversations." The programme of events includes teaching and guided meditation on kindness and a Death Café. The events are free but reservation is required via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/royal-trinity-hospice-11053685936>

Fashionistas enjoyed a celebrity-studded **Trust in Fashion** event at the Savoy Hotel in March raising £88,000 for **Rainbow Trust Children's Charity**, which supports families with a seriously ill child. Renowned fashion designer Alice Temperley MBE, supermodel Yasmin Le Bon and former S Club 7 band

member Rachel Stevens were among the 280 guests who enjoyed a sparkling reception, pop-up boutique and luncheon followed by a catwalk show featuring Boodles jewellery and the Spring / Summer 2018 collection from Temperley London. Marie Claire Editor-in-Chief Trish Halpin interviewed Alice Temperley at the event, which was sponsored by Boodles and supported by Marie Claire.

**The Kensington Business Forum** recently held a networking event by kind courtesy of the Major of Kensington & Chelsea, Cllr. Marie-Therese Rossi, at the Mayor's Parlour. Accompanied by live music, guests were updated on current news of businesses in the area. The event was particularly appreciated by those who had not had a chance to either visit the Parlour. If you are a local business in the area and would like to join this free networking group please contact the Chair, on [editor@thekensingtonmagazine.com](mailto:editor@thekensingtonmagazine.com)

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

At the suggestion of several of our readers we have added a new section to these pages, to bring you brief news of local developments by way of updates: **Ilchester Estates**, the historic Landlords of the Holland Park Estate, having recently obtained control over the western end of Kensington High Street are now actively managing their retail units with a vision to bring together a high end and vibrant mix of artisan and independent operators that will appeal to both the neighbouring residents as well as visitors to the area, the Holland Green Quarter. This is well underway with new lettings to Gail's Bakery, L'Artisan du Chocolat, Jeroboams, Threads and Primrose Bakery among others. **Japan House London**, a concept sponsored by the Japanese Government to promote Japanese culture is due to open in the Summer. More information will be shared in due course.



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# St Philip's Church celebrates 160 years

By Guest Writer: Lesley Raymond

In the 1850s the area around the Earls Court Road was full of small farms and market gardens. The army of agricultural workers needed somewhere local to worship. The then curate of St Barnabas in Addison Road donated £2,000 towards the building of the new church and a further £5,000 was raised by subscriptions. This curate, the Rev. JD Claxton, was to become St Philip's first vicar and the church was consecrated on 1 May 1858. Almost immediately, the church had to be substantially enlarged to allow for its growing congregation – in its first five years it grew from 90 to 1,400 people!

Many men from the congregation lost their lives during the First World War, a fact which we have been commemorating in our Sunday services since 2014 by reading out their names and addresses (if known) on the 100th anniversary of each death. In the Second World War, some of the church's stained glass windows were lost when an anti-aircraft shell exploded behind the Lady Chapel in 1940. Over the years the church had undergone updating, but by the year 2000 it was in serious need of repair. The lighting was dim, the heating inadequate and every time it rained, an assortment of buckets and other receptacles had to be placed around the church to catch the water. An ambitious programme of renovation resulted in a new church emerging on the site of the old one. The exterior and all the important internal features had been retained, but whereas the old church had been dark and gloomy, our new church is light, warm and welcoming. Remarkably, St Philip's continued to hold services throughout the rebuilding works, despite sometimes having no floorboards and no heating. By 2002 the majority of the work was completed.

When St Philip's church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008 the then Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, presided over



St Philips Church  
Serving the community since 1858

the Commemoration Service. There was also a programme of concerts and parties to celebrate. In 2012, St Philip's opened its doors to anyone who wanted to watch the London Olympic Games on screens in the Lower Hall. Light refreshments were served and a number of local people and first-time visitors arrived, including an American Airlines pilot who had flown over the rowing at Eton Dorney an hour earlier while landing at Heathrow and just happened to pass our doors.

Since 2014 the church has hosted regular concerts and recitals – in part to raise funds to restore our Bosendorfer grand piano but also to provide a platform for young and emerging musicians. St Philip's will be celebrating its 160th birthday on 1 May this year, still going strong and serving a wide range of local community groups as well as a multi-cultural congregation that reflects the many communities that live in this part of London.

St Philips Church, Earls Court Road, W8

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The logo consists of the word "STOP" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background, positioned above the letters "MS" in white on an orange rectangular background.

STOP  
MS

The logo features the text "MS Society" in white, with "MS" in a larger font size, set against an orange triangle pointing to the right.

MS Society

The background is a classical oil painting depicting a man with dark, wavy hair and a white tunic embracing a woman from behind. The man's expression is one of intense concern or sorrow, looking directly at the viewer. The woman's face is turned away, resting her head against his chest. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting their faces against a dark, textured background.

*Gala Opera Performance of Giuseppe Verdi's*

# La traviata

at Investec Opera Holland Park  
Tuesday 19 June 2018

Raising money for the MS Society's Stop MS Appeal, supporting cutting edge research that has the potential to change the course of MS, and transform the quality of life for everyone affected by the condition.

Book tickets, supper or dinner:  
[stopms.mssociety.org.uk/events](http://stopms.mssociety.org.uk/events)



# SCIENCE MUSEUM

A circular seal with intricate patterns and text, likely the Science Museum's crest, positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

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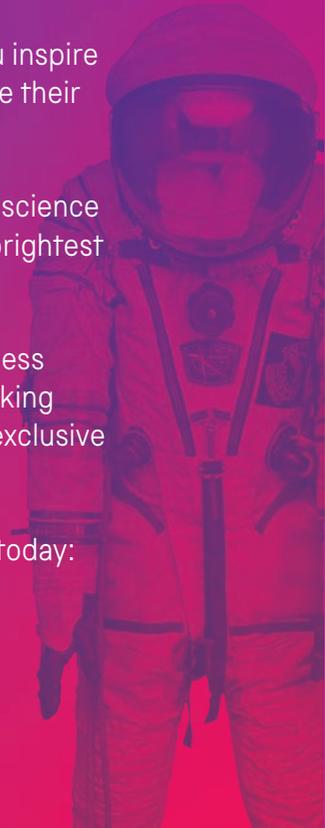
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# Dessert Wines and Liqueurs

By Trevor Langley



Dessert wines are generally sweet and accompany desserts or puddings, towards the end of a meal. There are many well-known and very popular dessert wines, often utilising late-harvested grapes. Liqueurs are also very much accepted as the perfect ending to a dining occasion, completing an experience of enjoyment. Liqueurs have been produced for several centuries and mostly have a lower alcohol content than

spirits. They are frequently chosen for creating splendid cocktails, also.

Stanton and Killen produces a range of wines including superb dessert wines. With winemaking history dating back to 1875, this company is renowned for their impressive productions. Australia's Rutherglen Muscats and Topaques are favoured by many connoisseurs. I found them to have wonderful bouquets and on the luscious mouthfeels the fruit sensations come through magnificently. Smooth, elegant and long finishes make these regular selections to accompany numerous desserts. [www.stantonandkilleen.com.au](http://www.stantonandkilleen.com.au)

Demijohn – a liquid deli and more - was established during 2004 by Angus and Frances Ferguson. This family-run company specialises in high-quality liqueurs and presents them in beautifully-shaped, reusable bottles, of differing shapes and sizes. Chocolate Rum Liqueur and Toffee Whisky Liqueur are extremely popular, also Walnut Liqueur and various gins, that include Sloe, Damson

and Blackcurrant. Many other products will surprise and delight. [www.demijohn.co.uk](http://www.demijohn.co.uk)

Berry Bros & Rudd, Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchants, has traded from the same shop since 1698 and has an enviable reputation for providing impressive products. Searching, I located King's Ginger Liqueur. This liqueur was specifically formulated by Berry Bros & Rudd in 1903 for King Edward VII. The tantalising aroma entices to a most wonderful, rich, smooth, mouthfeel which has a perfect density of ginger that follows through to the long and quite exceptional palate sensation. [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com)

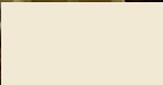
These multi award-winning companies are just some that produce/supply these types of beverages. Attractive gift packages are available, with personal messages, if requested. Reliable, efficient delivery services, plus online ordering are available too. Always popular are the tasting events, for learning more about the companies and their ranges. Take time and pleasure to locate your favourites. The respective websites have all details and a wealth of information.





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# Making a Garden from a Mews House

By Benedict Bull

We have some wonderful mews houses here in the Borough, for example, in Holland Park, Hyde Park, Queens Gate and Ennismore Mews. Some recent conversations with a leading estate agent have confirmed that the desirability of mews houses actually exceeds that of proper street houses (Spring 2018).

There are several reasons for this: Less traffic flow, greater privacy, quiet, less stringent planning, conservation and listed building legislation, and a more liberated architectural approach, a mellower light quality, in part due to reduced height of neighbouring buildings and more modern patterns of fenestration. In short mews house gardens are some of the most luxurious and best designed in London. It is this set of circumstances that has made mews houses famous for innovative decking and container plants and the genuine working notion of a garden room. I have done several jobs in Kensington and Belgravia with wonderful finishes in wood and with amazingly specified pergolas, trellises and light wells, and with indoor garden rooms too. In London we can grow so much anyway but mews gardens are not traditional perennial gardens based in the soil at all. They boast an ever expanding array of containers and permanent and temporary displays, some changed 8 times per year.

One of the reasons they boast such cool garden rooms is because they had to start from scratch, as mews houses tend not to have gardens proper themselves. Unless they have been remarried with the main street house, following from the general separations that occurred after the second world war when the stables were sold off. In which case it has gone full circle and the mews house is the service block again or an annex cum lodge. However underneath this innovative development lies the reduced permeability index of our Borough, and the increased



Utilising every inch for an outside garden  
(Image: Lucy Elliott)

development of basements and paving of previously soil surfaces with its combined effect of increased surface water run off and diminished ground water is an environmental issue under increasing scrutiny. Some very innovative garden design and landscape planning in the mews arises, where seating is not hidden behind but revealed. In many mews such an environment fosters a more intimate neighbourly community than the main thoroughfares.

On the other hand, other mews esteem privacy behind trellises, green walls and pergolas within the demise of the property, so one can create both inward and outward looking gardens at once or separately as the disposition of the family or residents prefer. In short there is discretion and intimacy in this previous reserve of the horses. The design of a dedicated private outdoor dining area next to the kitchen is very effective in mews house garden rooms, and a separate series of seating terraces, with varying degrees of privacy too as part of the architectural planning and lay out. Yet as mews are so popular they are also rarely without some scaffolding and works but that is what makes it tick, the right to develop and improve our homes and gardens. The cobbled mews are actually the hot spot in this period in the whole matrix of house and garden making for investment and flair. As my editor says where there's horse muck there's flowers. And, I might add, where there's muck there's brass!

# Handelsbanken

## A Revolution in Local Banking

Across London and Great Britain there is a quiet revolution in the banking world. Handelsbanken is attracting more and more customers with its local, long-term, personal approach.

### A Local Banking Relationship

Handelsbanken focuses on local relationship banking. The branch gets to know every customer individually, to understand their needs and to work to provide what they require, whether it is a personalised banking service for private individuals, or unique solutions for local businesses.

Customers of Handelsbanken have their own dedicated account manager in addition to the conveniences of modern banking, such as online banking and a comprehensive range of products to support businesses and individuals alike. There is real evidence of traditional banking when you step inside the Kensington branch, there are no attention grabbing posters showing promotions or bonus rates, just a warm welcome from the experienced staff.



### The Kensington Team

Handelsbanken Kensington has a dedicated team of 6 and, just like the other 200+ branches across the UK, operates like a small business whilst being part of one of the world's safest commercial banks.\*

Every staff member shares the same principles which put the customer firmly at the heart of everything they do. In a refreshing change to many other financial institutions, there are no sales targets or bonuses, instead decisions are based on what is best for the customer for the long term.

### Satisfaction Generates Success

The success of this approach is reflected in the ongoing performance of the bank. An independent survey of UK banks has for the 9th year running ranked Handelsbanken top for customer satisfaction, both for business and personal banking.\*\*

Tom Fuller, Branch Manager at Kensington says "The response to our relationship banking model here in Kensington has been fantastic to date, and we look forward to welcoming more customers from the local community".

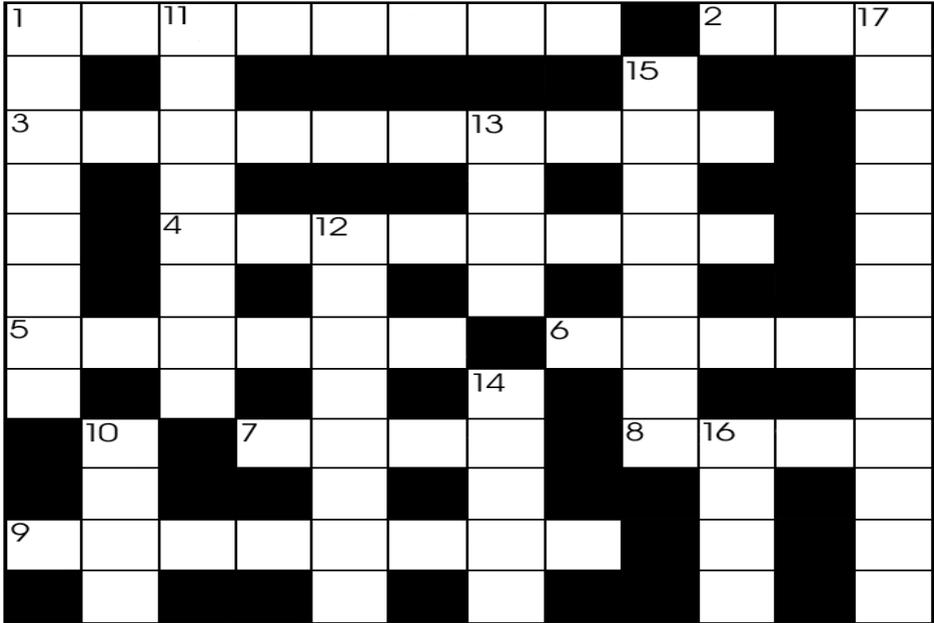
\*Global Finance: World's Safest Banks, November 2016

\*\* EPSI, October 2017

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# The Kensington Crossword

By Dave Saunders



Pit your wits against our Kensington-centric crossword. Answers on page 27

## Across

- 1) Five-star hotel located at 60 Hyde park Gate, SW7 (8)
- 2) Wellbeing \_\_\_\_, beauty and massage therapy venue at 43 Kensington Church Street, W8 (3)
- 3) Italian restaurant at 3-5 Campden Hill Road, W8 (10)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Street, cul-de-sac between Kensington Church Street and Jameson Street, W8 (8)
- 5) Beyond \_\_\_\_, cocktail bar at 1A Kensington High Street which closed in early 2018 (6)
- 6) \_\_\_\_ Place, cul-de-sac off Stanford Road, W8 (5)
- 7) \_\_\_\_ Mohtashemi, antiques store at 69 Kensington Church Street, W8 (4)
- 8) Balans \_\_\_\_ Society, restaurant and bar at 187 Kensington High St (4)
- 9) The Organic \_\_\_\_\_, health and beauty shop at 169 Kensington High St, W8 (8)

## Down

- 1) \_\_\_\_ Bicknell, founder of the Cambridge Ballet Workshop; born in Kensington in 1914 (8)
- 10) Antiques shop located at 141 Kensington Church Street, W8 (4)
- 11) Charity shop supporting the blind; located at 269 Kensington High Street, W8 (8)
- 12) Japanese chain restaurant at 26 Kensington High St (8)
- 13) \_\_\_\_ Creative, hair salon located at 5 Holland Street, W8 (4)
- 14) M.E. \_\_\_\_\_ Chandeliers, antiques and lighting shop at 166 Kensington Church St, W8 (5)
- 15) Jimmy \_\_\_\_\_, shoe repair outlet at 28 Victoria Grove, W8 (8)
- 16) \_\_\_\_ Court, residences at 50A Kensington Church St, W8 (4)
- 17) Nickname given to the area on Exhibition Road, named after Prince Albert (12)

# St Philips

## Come and celebrate with us

St Philip's Church, Earls Court Road is 160 years old.  
We are holding various activities to commemorate this glorious milestone.  
All are welcome to our events.



**Saturday 28th April from 2.30 to 5pm**

### **St Philip's Birthday Party for Children**

Complete with cake, snacks, crafts  
and entertainment.

Email rsvp to [l60party@specr.org](mailto:l60party@specr.org)

**Tuesday 1st May at 7pm**

### **Patronal Festival with Choral Eucharist**

Preacher:

The Reverend Prebendary Gillean Craig.  
Followed by a reception

**Wednesday 9th May at 7pm**

### **Exploring our local history From the Abbots of Abingdon to the Present Day**

A lecture by Professor Anthony Walker  
and Councillor James Husband.  
Followed by refreshments

For full information visit [www.specr.org](http://www.specr.org)

**St Philip's Church, Earls Court Road, W8 6QH**

[www.specr.org](http://www.specr.org)  [StPhilipsW8](https://twitter.com/StPhilipsW8) Charity No. 1172886

# Kensington Cultural Quarter: What's On 1

## ST PHILIPS CHURCH CELEBRATES 160 YEARS: BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CHILDREN

Saturday 28 April 14.30 - 17.00 hrs

Complete with cake, snacks, crafts & entertainment. Email RSVP to [160party@specr.org](mailto:160party@specr.org). For more celebrations see pg 23.

## HOLST SINGERS AT EATON SQUARE CONCERTS

3 May 19.30 hrs £18 full price £12 concessions

This season is brought to a close with a delightful programme of great English choral music from The Holst Singers. The choir is renowned for its dramatic and engaging performances under Stephen Layton. Venue: St Peter's, Eaton Square [www.eatonsquareconcerts.org.uk](http://www.eatonsquareconcerts.org.uk)

## JACK EDMONDS – THE ALCHEMIST SERIES

3 -25 May Private view: 18:30 – 20:30 hrs

This exhibition is an exploration into nature from an artistic and scientific perspective. Shifting before the human eye, they will take you on a journey into familiarity. Venue: 508 Kings Road Gallery. 0203 719 3109

## FRIENDS OF HOLLAND PARK NATURE WALK

5 May 9.00 -10.30 hrs. FREE, No booking necessary

Looking at birds, plants, butterflies and park management. Meet outside park café Interested? Please call Rhoddy Wood on 020 7602 0304 or [rhoddy.wood@virgin.net](mailto:rhoddy.wood@virgin.net)

## AZZEDINE ALAÏA: THE COUTURIER

10 May - 7 October £14.50 adult £7.75 child

Celebrate the timeless beauty of the female form with thirty-five years of haute couture from Azzedine Alaïa, and discover the mastery of cut, tailoring, fit, innovative form and materials behind the designer's unique creations. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

## NCT NEARLY NEW SALE!

May 12 10.00 - 12.00 hrs. Tickets: £2 donation on the door (goes to the National Childbirth Trust)

Pre-loved baby and children's toys, clothes and accessories for sale at prices much lower than on the high street. Face painting for kids, coffee and cakes. Venue: Westbourne Grove Church, W11 2RW. Email: [nns.kensingtonandchelsea@nct.org.uk](mailto:nns.kensingtonandchelsea@nct.org.uk) [www.nct.org.uk/branches/kensington-chelsea](http://www.nct.org.uk/branches/kensington-chelsea)

## DOGTAILS IN THE PARK

13 May

Walker with dog (1 per person): £25

Walker without dog: £10

A gentle stroll around Kensington Gardens with or without your dog to raise funds for the Friends of The Royal Marsden, Chelsea. 020 7352 3875, [friends.chelsea@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:friends.chelsea@rmh.nhs.uk) [www.formc.uk](http://www.formc.uk)

## “CHRISTINE MCARTHUR: KITCHEN STORIES & GARDEN NOTES”

17 May – 1 June 2018

Incredible Scottish artist, Christine McArthur, creates another collection of whimsical compositions taken from her daily life, from Uncle Whittie's Midnight Dream series, to the exuberant 'Golden Garden'. 020 7937 5883 [www.thackeraygallery.com](http://www.thackeraygallery.com)

## FLANDERS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

17 May 14.30 hrs Free and 19.30 hrs from £18

Flanders Symphony Orchestra perform under Jan Latham-Koenig with pianist Pavel Kolesnikov. The programme includes: Dvořák, Beethoven, Sibelius and Grieg. The orchestra also perform a free afternoon concert as part of the 'Meet the Music' series. Venue: Cadogan Hall. 020 7730 4500 [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

# Kensington Cultural Quarter: What's On II

## ROYAL WEDDING SCREENING on ORANGERY LAWN, KENSINGTON PALACE

19 May, 08:30 – 15:00

Join in a day of celebration and festivities at a special screening of the wedding of HRH Prince Harry to Ms Meghan Markle set within the elegant gardens of Kensington Palace. Hosted by Historic Royal Palaces, coverage will be screened on the palace's Orangery lawn. [www.hrp.org.uk/Kensington-Palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/Kensington-Palace)

## STANDARD ISSUE, BY BRITISH ARTIST JONATHAN HUXLEY

Ongoing to 19 May

Contemporary artist from the Royal Academy is showing his new work. Galerie Artima & Galerie Olivier Waltman. Venue: 58 Gloucester Road SW7. 0207 584 1821 [www.galeriewaltman.com](http://www.galeriewaltman.com)

## CANINE PARTNERS IN ACTION

22 May 11.00 - 15.00 hrs FREE

A demonstration showing how these amazing assistance dogs help disabled people live more independent lives. Venue: Studio B, Clydesdale Bank 154-158 Kensington High St, For more info see [www.caninepartners.org.uk](http://www.caninepartners.org.uk)

## AN EVENING WITH TIM RICE & FRIENDS

24 May 18.30 - 21.30 hrs. Tickets: suggested donation £100 incl. refreshments

Tim Rice in conversation with Ronni Ancona and songs performed by friends. All proceeds in aid of North Kensington charity The ClementJames Centre. Venue: 95 Sirdar Road, W11 4EQ 020 7221 8810. Info & tickets: [www.mydonate.bt.com/events/timrice](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/events/timrice)

## TRANSPORTATION DISCOVERY TRAIL

26 May - 3 June. Free with admission.

Prices: Adult £9, Child £5, under 7s free

All aboard the Museum of Brands this May half term. Their Transportation Trail reveals 150 years of transportation history. This

self-guided activity is brilliant for young transport enthusiasts! Contact [stephanie@museumofbrands.com](mailto:stephanie@museumofbrands.com) or 0207 243 9611. [www.museumofbrands.com/whats-on/exhibitions/may-half-term-transportation-trail-26th-may-to-3rd-june-2018.html](http://www.museumofbrands.com/whats-on/exhibitions/may-half-term-transportation-trail-26th-may-to-3rd-june-2018.html)

## KENSINGTON CEILIDH CLUB

26 May, 14 July and 1 September.

Tickets £16.50

Enjoy 3 hours of the best fun in town. Dancing to a live band and caller. No experience necessary. Venue: Baden Powell House, 65 Queensgate, South Ken, SW7 5JS 0781 326 9204 [www.ceilidhclub.com/events](http://www.ceilidhclub.com/events)

## MATTHEW BARTON LTD EUROPEAN AND ASIAN WORKS OF ART AUCTION

6 June 11.00 hrs

The auction includes objects of art including silver, ceramics, jewellery and sculpture as well as an interesting collection of 195 mask netsuke in wood, lacquer and stag antler. Venue: 25 Blythe Road London W14 0PD Tel: 020 7806 5545 [www.25BlytheRoad.com](http://www.25BlytheRoad.com)

## ADRIAN BERG RA – 'A HUMAN NATURE'

Ongoing to 9 June

The first posthumous solo show of Royal Academician Adrian Berg (1929-2011) Showing his stunning and vibrant late landscapes. Catalogue essay by Marco Livingstone. Frestonian Gallery, 2 Olaf Street, W11 4BE. [www.frestoniangallery.co](http://www.frestoniangallery.co)

## MS SOCIETY GALA PERFORMANCE OF LA TRAVIATA

19 June 19.00 hrs. Tickets from £40

Experience La Traviata in the beautiful setting of Opera Holland Park, whilst raising money for vital MS Research, through the Stop MS Appeal. Venue: Opera Holland Park Contact Claire Murphy for details ([claire.murphy@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:claire.murphy@mssociety.org.uk) or 0208 438 0971 or buy tickets at [stopms.mssociety.org.uk](http://stopms.mssociety.org.uk)

# South Kensington Cultural Quarter: What's On I

## LOEWE CRAFT PRIZE 2018

4 May - 17 June

In 2016, the LOEWE Foundation launched the international annual LOEWE Craft Prize to showcase and celebrate newness, excellence and artistic merit in modern craftsmanship. See how the imagination, diversity and techniques on display attest to the crucial role artisans have on our ongoing cultural heritage. Design Museum [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

## FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE: SPACE

5 May-10 July

The first festival in Royal Albert Hall's science series. As part of the inaugural Festival of Science, explore Space through a series of concerts, talks, screenings and comedy events for space and sci-fi fans young and old. [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

## IMPERIAL COLLEGE TALKS: MARS

5 May 13.30 hrs. Tickets £8

Two lectures in the Hall's Elgar Room on everyone's favourite red planet, Mars. Professor David Southwood - Mars: Jinxes, Disappointments and Daring and Professor Sanjeev Gupta - Driving on Mars: Martian exploration by rovers. Venue: Royal Albert Hall [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

## RCM FESTIVAL OF PERCUSSION

6 May 11.00 hrs. Tickets from £8

The Festival of Percussion returns with one of the world's leading drummers, Mark Guiliana. Also featuring duo with the Coldstream Guards, West End percussionists Damien Manning and James Powell plus the brilliant Ensemble Bash. [www.rcm.ac.uk](http://www.rcm.ac.uk)

## SERENADE, CAPRICES AND BAGATELLES

11 May 13.00 hrs

Hear musicians from the Royal College of Music perform two spirited pieces for wind quintet, framing Ligeti's complex work for solo viola. Venue RCM. [www.rcm.ac.uk](http://www.rcm.ac.uk)

## SPACE SPECTACULAR

11-12 May 14.30 and 19.30. Tickets from £20

Music from deep space and beyond. A voyage through a galaxy of favourite music from Star Wars, Superman, E.T. Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Star Trek and Thunderbirds and many more. With lights, lasers and indoor fireworks. Venue: Royal Albert Hall [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

## WHAT REMAINS

Up to 12 May Tue - Sat 10am-5pm

Tim Shaw RA FRBS. Drawn from personal experience, Shaw's solo exhibition at The Exchange features two installations that address head-on the global presence, effect of terrorism and the pervasive sense of hidden powers having control over our lives. Royal Society of Sculptors. [www.sculptors.org.uk](http://www.sculptors.org.uk)

## FACES OF SCULPTURE: PORTRAIT OF A PROFESSION, AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE PURKISS

14 May-14 July Mon - Fri 11.00 - 17.00 hrs

Sat 13.00 hrs - 17.00 hrs

Anne Purkiss documents people in the context of their environment and their occupations and her commissions include regular work for museums, galleries and government agencies. Venue: Royal Society of Sculptors [www.sculptors.org.uk](http://www.sculptors.org.uk)

## MAY '68 AND ITS LEGACIES

14-19 May. Tickets from £5

In May 1968, Parisian students marched down the street in protests that quickly spread throughout France. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the protests through a series of films, discussions, book launches and a private exhibition. Venue: Institut français [www.institut-francais.org.uk](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk)

# South Kensington Cultural Quarter: What's On II

## ANITA RANI IN CONVERSATION

17 May 19.00 hrs. Tickets from £7

Join Anita Rani in conversation with Martine Croxall. From fronting global documentaries such as My Family, Partition and Me: India 1947, to jumping into a pair of muddy wellies on Countryfile, it's hard to turn on the TV without seeing her. Venue: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
[www.rgs.ac.uk](http://www.rgs.ac.uk)

## SONDRA PERRY: TYPHOON COMING ON

Up to 20 May 10.00 - 18.00 hrs except Mondays

The Serpentine presents the first European solo exhibition of American artist Sondra Perry (b. 1986, Perth Amboy, New Jersey), who explores the intersection of black identity, digital culture and power structures through video, media, installation and performance. Venue: Serpentine Gallery  
[www.serpentinegalleries.org](http://www.serpentinegalleries.org)

## LIVING DANGEROUSLY - SIR RANULPH FIENNES

23 May 19.00 - 21.00 hrs. Tickets from £20

Join Himalayan Trust UK to listen to Sir Ranulph Fiennes, The World Greatest Living Explorer as well as learning about the Trust's valuable work in Nepal. Venue: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).  
[www.rgs.ac.uk](http://www.rgs.ac.uk)

## OFFBEAT JAZZ & CINEMA FESTIVAL

24 -26 May. Tickets from £9

Film and Jazz fuse on the beat at Ciné Lumière! This weekend-long festival explores the connections between jazz, improv and film with a unique mix of screenings, live contemporary jazz and imaginary soundtracks and Q&A discussions with jazz experts and musicians. Venue: Institut français  
[www.institut-francais.org.uk](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk)

## IAN CHENG BOB

Up to 28 May 10.00 - 18.00 hrs except Mondays

Ian Cheng will populate the Serpentine with artificial life drawing on principles of video game design, improvisation and cognitive science. Encounter BOBs (Bag of Beliefs) which will grow and evolve throughout the day as you find yourself being exhibited to them. Venue: Serpentine Gallery  
[www.serpentinegalleries.org](http://www.serpentinegalleries.org)

## DER JUNGE KARL MARX

30 May 19.00 hrs. Tickets from £3

Karl Marx as he is rarely depicted: a young, passionate activist, forced to move from country to country with his family. Supported by his friend Friedrich Engels in spirit and financially, he develops the communist Manifesto. Venue: Goethe-Institut  
[www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

## JUBILEE FEATURING KRONOS QUARTET, BASSEKOU KOUYATÉ, AND MASTER MUSICIANS OF THE AGA KHAN MUSIC INITIATIVE

20 June 20.00 hrs. Tickets from £12.70

Jubilee will feature Master Musicians of the Aga Khan Music Initiative and special guests Kronos Quartet and Bassekou Kouyaté in a performance of newly-created compositions that exemplify the way musical creativity has historically developed from the meeting of different cultures. Venue: Royal Albert hall  
[www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)



# GET WELL SPOON



## May

Orange & Almond Revisa-Cake

This lovely cake is dairy and wheat free so is easy on the body, and with the sugar replacement, it won't give blood sugar a turbo-boost during revision.

1 medium orange  
150g xylitol or stevia sugar replacement  
3 eggs  
250g ground almonds  
½ tsp baking powder  
Bioactive Greek yogurt to serve

Use two 8" round tins, oiled and lined with baking paper. Preheat oven to 180C (350F/ Gas 4).

Put the orange in a saucepan, cover with water, bring to the boil and then simmer for a minute. Remove from the pan and when it is cool enough to handled, cut orange in half. Take pips out and whizz in the food processor or blender. Whisk eggs and sugar until thick and pale, then fold in the almonds, orange and baking powder. Pour into tins and cook for 45 to 50 minutes. Let the cake cool in the tin. Serve with bioactive Greek yogurt. Delicious with sliced oranges as a pudding.

Use peeled pineapple or berries (blueberry, blackberry, strawberry) for a super antioxidant cake.

Almonds are rich in Vitamin E and antioxidants, and also calcium, which promotes growth and muscle strength,

Oranges are a reliable source of Vitamin C which sustains the body's resistance to infection and its ability to heal. Flavonoids found in the skin of the orange support vitamin C action. They are also a good



Text: Victoria Keil - Illustration: Aletta Ritchie

source of potassium and fibre to keep you healthy while studying.

Bioactive yogurt does not have the same inflammatory properties as other dairy products and it provides essential probiotics which help the gut, protect against upset stomachs and support the immune system.

Eggs are a good source of protein which optimises brain function and is essential for getting nutrients to your brain cells in order to maintain a healthy heart/brain balance), selenium (to protect you), iodine, B vitamins, iron, zinc, and vitamins D and E.

*Our book, "Knife, Fork, Get Well Spoon" is available at Wholefoods in Kensington & on amazon.co.uk*

# Small Box Advertisements

The Kensington Magazine reaches 34,500 residents in Kensington each month. Why not advertise your business here, for a total cost of £285.00 plus VAT for a three month period. Call us to find out more on 020 3667 8762 or 07921 558520



## GALLERY 19 IS...

- Bespoke picture framing
- Architectural views of Kensington, London and Italy
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- Hand-crafted Italian objects including calf-leather journals, ceramics and wrought-iron work
- House portraits by private commission

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LONDON W8 5BJ  
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## ACQUA DI PARMA AFTERNOON TEA AT BAGLIONI HOTEL LONDON



Baglioni Hotel London's Executive Chef Alberto Rossetti, born and raised in Parma himself, has created the Colonia lemon cake, a lavender meringue, floral verbena and lime zest panna cotta with rose coulis and violets of Parma with its edible flowers. All of course rounded off nicely with a glass premium Italian sparkling wine for a complete Italian Afternoon Tea experience.



In celebration of this year's Chelsea Flower Show, Baglioni Hotel London is partnering with iconic fragrance brand Acqua di Parma, having created a unique and refreshing Afternoon Tea inspired by the crisp and elegant, citrus-based fragrance that has been seducing us for over a hundred years: Colonia.

Alongside a selection of scones, brioche and sandwiches with an Italian twist, the Acqua di Parma Afternoon Tea will feature colourful treats inspired by Colonia's ingredients and its complex bouquet of aroma, which include citrus fruits from Sicily, lavender, bergamot, verbena and the Bulgarian rose.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

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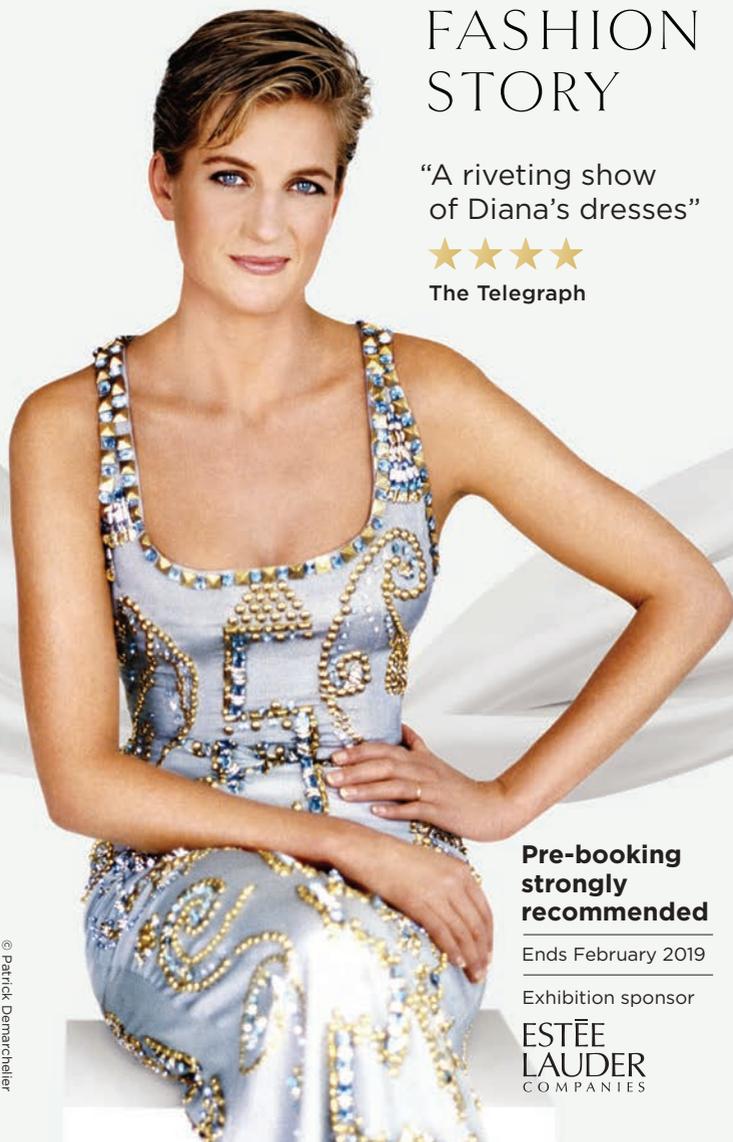
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