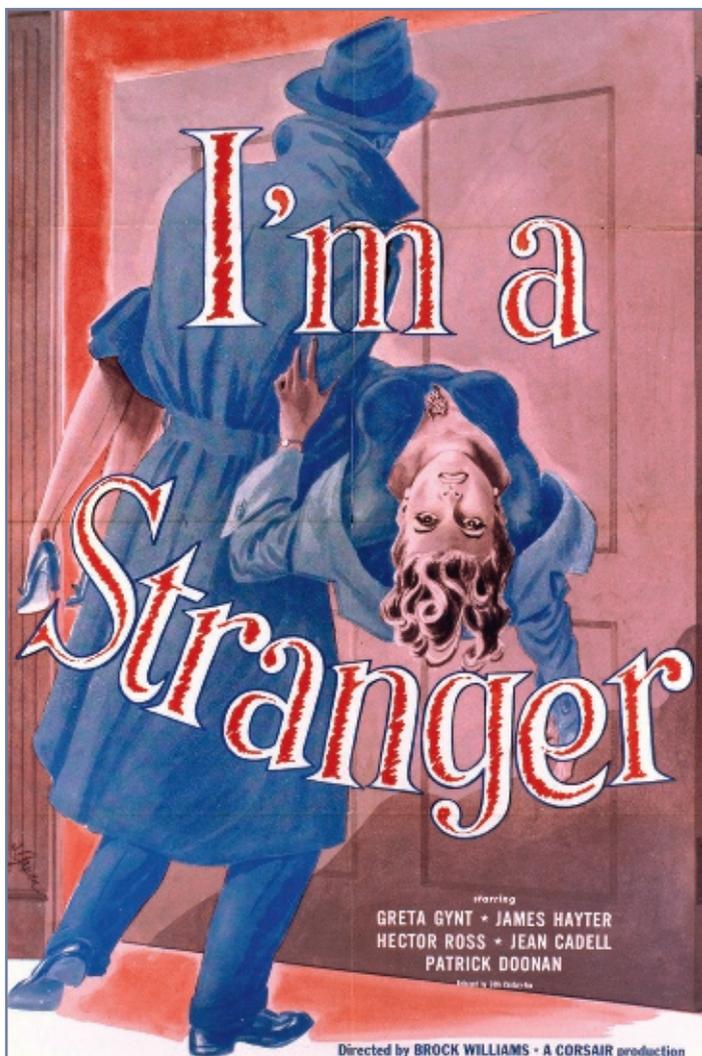


THE Kensington MAGAZINE

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March 17



HOLLYWOOD IN KENSINGTON

THE Kensington MAGAZINE

Front Cover:
The Poster for the film 'I'm a Stranger,' starring Greta Gynt and produced at Viking Studios Kensington, 1952
(Image source: www.idmb.com)



Lucy Elliott, Editor
(Hair by Toby from Hairspace at Annie Russell)

Having lived in Kensington for the past 17 years I like to think I know what's going on - however, it was a surprise to hear from resident David Evans who wrote asking if I knew Kensington had once had a film studio! Upon investigation this has thrown up an interesting history which we cover in this edition: from a film production studio to the sound recording studio for The Archers...

In Kensington we are sadly seeing the closure of many of our smaller and independent retail businesses - please support our local businesses by writing to Philip Hammond or signing the on-line petition. Crucially rates are not based on the retailers income but on property values - in an area such as Kensington, this is totally askew. Thank you, Lucy

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GET IN TOUCH

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 Guest Contributor: David Evans



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

t: KensingtonMag f: TheKensingtonMagazine

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Post-War “Hollywood” in Kensington

By Sarah Goldsmith

During World War II, except where needed in the war effort, most film and television industry shut down. After the War, fledging studios began to crop up again over London. The BBC returned to production in 1946, and by the mid-1950s most of the country had television coverage and access to a movie theatre. ITV was launched in 1955, showcasing popular programming, including comedies, soap operas, game shows, and documentaries.

Two small studios, later combined into one, in Kensington played witness to the development of film and television entertainment after the War. On St. Mary Abbott's Place, off Kensington High Street between Edwards Square and Warwick Gardens, these studios were known interchangeably as Kensington Studios, St. Mary Abbott's Place Studios, and later, Viking Studios.

At least eight movies were made there between 1947 to 1950 (“none of any consequence,” according to one television historian) when it operated as a film production studio. Two production companies filmed there: John Baxter Productions and Five Star Films, producing such British films as “The Grand Escapade,” which was a children's movie starring character actors James Harcourt and Patrick Curwen, and “Bank Holiday Luck,” a comedy starring Fred Wynne, Olive Stone, and Arthur Denton.

While no memorable movies were filmed there, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger ran their production company The Archers from the studios in the 1950's. While they did not film anything there, they operated a cutting room from the studios for editing purposes. Some of their influential films included *Black Narcissus* (1947) and *The Red Shoes* (1948), neither of which have any connection to the Kensington Studios.

By the mid-1950s the studio had been taken over by television. The Marconi Company had



The original Viking Studios in St Mary Abbotts place - now a development of flats and offices
(Image: Lucy Elliott)

originally been hired by the BBC to undertake director training courses at the studios, but soon the studios began to be hired out for live programming during the weekend for the new ITV. Probably its heyday was in the late 1950's when the BBC began broadcasting the *Tonight* programme in its infancy from the studios. When the programme began to attract popularity and was considered a “hit” by the broadcaster, production in 1960 moved to the more established studios in Lime Grove.

After the BBC moved out, there are no records of what was filmed in the studios, or even if it was in use after that period. Rumors persist that an American television news company used it as a studio in the 1980s, but no record could be found. The original building and studios were demolished in the mid-1990s and replaced with a development of flats and offices, with only a memory of a Kensington “Hollywood” remaining.

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Virgin LIMITED EDITION

“Hollywood, W8”

By David Evans

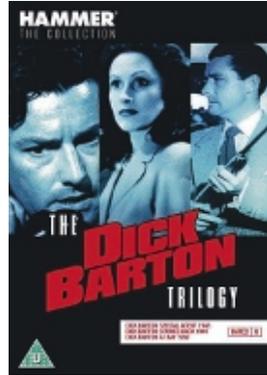
In April, 1952 our local, sadly now closed, Odeon presented a new Marlon Brando picture, ‘Viva Zapata!’, supported by a British second feature entitled ‘Night Was Our Friend’. How many of those attending a performance there knew that the latter film had been made just a few hundred yards from the Odeon, at the Viking Studios, St Mary Abbots Place?

Nestling behind the façades of Nos 1, 3 and 5, St Mary Abbots Place were three sound stages which in their film making heyday, 1947 to the mid-1950s, produced a regular number of supporting feature films – often-called B Pictures - which were needed to fill out cinema programmes in an era when millions of Britons went to the pictures every week. Yes, Viking studios brought a slight touch of “Hollywood” to Kensington but without the glitz and glamour associated with the world’s film capital.

Productions such as ‘The Hangman Waits’, 1947, where two investigators track down the killer of a cinema usherette, ‘The Flamingo Affair’, 1948, dealing with black marketeers and ‘Death in the Hand’, of the same year, where a palm reader predicts a rail crash to his fellow-travellers were cheaply made on fairly threadbare sets. However, on occasions such well-known stars as the seductive Greta Gynt could be found in features like ‘I’m a Stranger’, 1952, and ‘Three Steps in the Dark’, 1953, although in the former even though she played a glamorous film star, the less than glamorous plot meant that she was teamed with a window-cleaning character improbably called Horatio Flowerdew as they chased after a missing will!

Potboilers such as ‘Dick Barton Strikes Back’, 1949, based on the popular BBC radio series, ‘A Matter of Murder’, of the same year and ‘The Armchair Detective’, 1952, from another popular BBC radio series, kept the studio busy until the onslaught of television meant that there was less and less requirement for supporting feature films.

However, commercial television threw a lifeline to the facility when both Associated Rediffusion

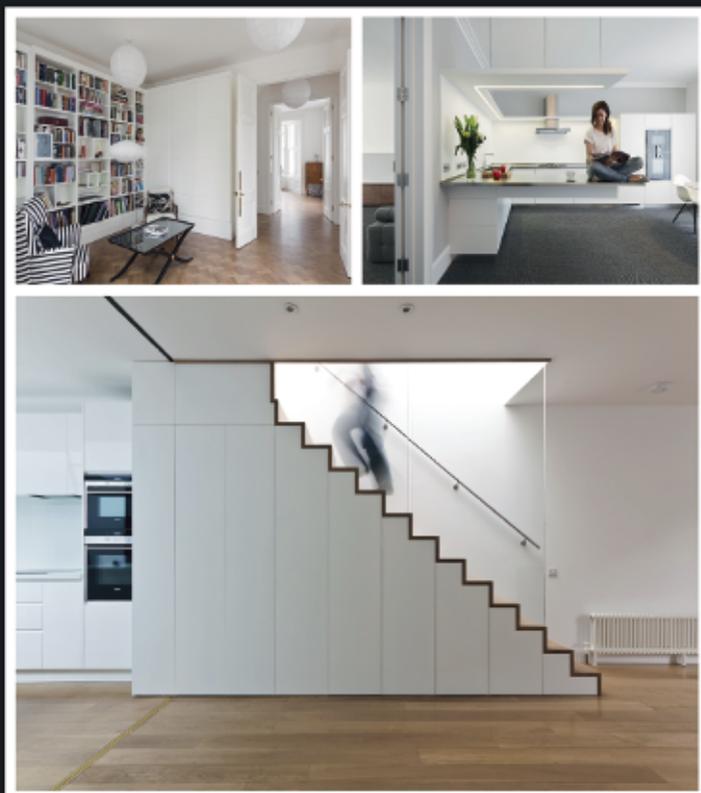


Top: The poster for The Dick Barton Trilogy, and

*Below: The Norwegian actress, Greta Gynt
(image source: imdb.com)*

and Associated Television used the studios for some of their London transmissions from 1955 until 1957. Then, BBC Television took over for the five-days-a-week Tonight programme and continued to broadcast it from the studio until 1960.

By the early 1960s, the facility was being used for advertising films, commercials, film editing and cutting. This lasted until 1968 when the Viking Studios were demolished to make way for a development of flats and offices and all trace of “Hollywood” W8 disappeared for ever from its leafy cul-de-sac base in Kensington.



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We, the Friends of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, have been running the Friends' Bric-a-brac stall for over 20 years and have raised thousands of pounds over the years, thanks to the generosity of so many kind and wonderful people.

The Stall comprises toys, china, CDs/DVDs, costume-jewellery; all sorts of things that you may find in your cupboard that you no longer need or use. So please please look in your cupboards, because what you may think is no good, we could sell on our wonderful Bric-a-Brac stall!

The Stall is in full swing every other Wednesday (dates below) starting at 10am and finishing at 2pm. So we hope all the readers of Kensington Magazine will check their cupboards, look under tables and behind the sofa - muttering to themselves: "I don't need that pillow, that picture, and I certainly do not need that teddy bear" - if this is the case, please donate it to the Friends. What is so wonderful is that all the money raised goes towards the Friends' charity whose aim is to improve the patient experience. To achieve this we need your help to continue to make grants of between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum, which support the hospital. This is an invaluable contribution at a time of cut backs within the NHS.

Bric-a-brac dates:

Wednesday 8th March
Wednesday 22nd March
Wednesday 5th April
Wednesday 19th April

We look forward to seeing you every other Wednesday, either by making a donation in the form of a book, clothing or toys or by spending a little bit of money. To make a donation simply bring your items to the Friends Office on the Ground Floor of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, next to the Friends Shop.

Feel free to pop in or give us a call for further sale dates or more information on what we do:

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New Fashion Exhibition and Temporary Garden celebrating the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, opens at Kensington Palace

From her first public appearances in 1981, Diana, Princess of Wales, captivated the world's attention as a princess, as a trendsetter and as a patron and advocate of charities. Twenty years on from her death, a new exhibition and temporary garden celebrating her life will be opened at Kensington Palace, her home for over 15 years.

The exhibition 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' will trace the evolution of the Princess's style, from the demure, romantic outfits of her first public appearances, to the glamour, elegance and confidence of her later life. From her earliest royal engagements, everything Diana wore was closely scrutinised, and the exhibition will explore how she navigated her unique position in the public eye: learning to use her image to engage and inspire people, and to champion the causes she cared about.

Replacing the popular 'Fashion Rules' exhibition in Kensington Palace's Piggott Gallery, 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' will display exquisite and celebrated outfits from throughout the Princess's public life. The exhibition will bring together an extraordinary collection of garments, ranging from the glamorous evening gowns worn on engagements in the 1980s, to the chic Catherine Walker suits that made up Diana's 'working wardrobe' in the 1990s. The Princess's relationship with her favourite designers will be explored through a display of some of their original fashion sketches, created for her during the design process.

Exhibition highlights will include the pale pink Emanuel blouse worn for Diana's engagement portrait by Lord Snowdon in 1981, and Victor Edelstein's iconic ink blue velvet gown, famously worn at the White House when the Princess danced with John Travolta. A blue tartan Emanuel suit, worn for an official visit to Venice in the 1980s, will go on display in public for the first time. The suit, a rare survival of the Princess's daywear, was only recently rediscovered and acquired by Historic Royal



Catherine Walker 'Falcon' dress
(c) Historic Royal Palaces, Richard Lea Hair

Palaces – the charity responsible for Kensington Palace - at auction. Whilst in residence at Kensington Palace, the Princess admired the changing floral displays in the historic Sunken Garden and would often stop to talk to the gardeners who cared for it. In 2017, the gardeners at Kensington will dedicate the new planting in the garden to Diana, creating a temporary White Garden.

Complementing the palace's exhibition, 'Diana: Her Fashion Story', the garden will be planted with flowers and foliage inspired by memories of the Princess's life, image and style. Spring planting will include an elegant palette of tulips and scented narcissii through a carpet of 'forget-me-nots'. In the summer, pots of classic English white roses will surround the reflective pool in the centre of the garden and the planting will become more exuberant, with glowing

ornamental grasses weaving through Cosmos daisies and billows of graceful Gaura. The garden will be installed for Spring and Summer 2017. Eleri Lynn, curator of Diana: Her Fashion Story, said, “Diana, Princess of Wales, was one of the most photographed women in the world, and every fashion choice she made was closely scrutinised. Our exhibition explores the story of a young woman who had to quickly learn the rules of royal and diplomatic dressing, who in the process put the spotlight on the British fashion industry and designers. We see her growing in confidence throughout her life, increasingly taking control of how she was represented, and intelligently communicating through her clothes. This is a story many women around the world can relate to, and we hope many people will visit to get a closer look at some of Diana’s most iconic outfits, on display in her former home.”



Versace ice-blue gown

(c) Historic Royal Palaces, Richard Lea Hair

Sean Harkin, Gardens Team Leader, Kensington Palace, said, “It’s a great privilege for myself and my team to care every day for the beautiful gardens of Kensington Palace, and we’re looking forward to creating a White Garden which celebrates the life of one the palace’s most famous

residents: Diana, Princess of Wales. We hope to capture the energy and spirit which made her such a popular figure around the world.”

www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace



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Kensington News I

NEW BUSINESSES

Ceru is a new restaurant founded by Patricia and Barry Hilton. Inspired by the Levant region, they provide a menu suitable for vegans, vegetarians, pescatarians and omnivores that are delicious and healthy. The restaurant is open all day: eg breakfast on a bed of salad of avocado, chickpea, feta, mint, baharat and beetroot, lunch on rose scented kabab skewers and finish with a Persian Kafta. An express lunch platter is available for those short on time. Children are very welcome. The decor is inspired from Morocco (tiles and copper basins; and the Ceru is the first in London to have specially designed outdoor heated seats). So travel to 7-9 Bute St, SW7 and find a slice of the Levant! www.cerurestaurants.com

Belhaven & Byrne is a Kensington based tuition agency that provides bespoke tuition in the humanities to students ranging from Common Entrance to postgraduate level. In addition to providing one-on-one tutorials, they also offer humanities-based subject networking events for students at all stages: those considering which subjects to choose for A-level, what to study at university or what career they would like to enter. Set up by two local sisters – both former Oxbridge graduates – Belhaven & Byrne was founded on the belief that humanities lie at the centre of our complex world. Please contact arabella@belhavenandbyrne.com or see their website www.belhavenandbyrne.com.

The Kensington Primary Academy has opened at 375 Kensington High St. The £16M school provides places for 210 children from the local area. It is run by the West London Free School Academy Trust. The school has impressive facilities, state-of-the-art classrooms, access to a wildlife garden and a large roof-top play area. There is a 812 sq.m sports hall with changing facilities - this will be available to hire to the wider community. For more information please see www.wlfs-kpa.org

A new Sales and Letting agency has opened in the borough: **HomeXperts Kensington and Chelsea** is run by branch director Neil Mangan who believes he can offer a professional personal service most would-be vendors/tenants/landlords require. Although it is an online agency to keep their fees competitive Neil is currently setting up an office in the borough as he believes customers still like to have face-to-face discussions when dealing with their property. The company is offering an introductory 1.5% selling fee or 3 months no fee for tenanted properties. Neil can be contacted on 0203 780 2500 or email with any enquiries: Neil.mangan@homexpertsuk.com

The Eagle, situated on iconic Ladbroke Grove, serves beer directly from the tank creating a taste so fresh it will feel like your drink has come straight from the brewery, as well as providing a host of delicious British and Bavarian-influenced dishes. The Eagle, historically a Truman's pub, will offer the exclusively created, Truman's Raw Tank beer. The menu will feature dishes including venison carpaccio, smoked trout salad and chicken schnitzel with fried duck egg. All the dishes have been created using flavours that compliment the beer, and the Specials Board will give suggestions for the best beer pairings for each dish. Venue: 250 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5LP Tel 0203 637 6366 www.theeagle.co.uk

“Wonderful Woman” Dance Classes: A place to de-stress, stretch, stay fit and learn some basic fun moves! Increasing self-confidence, rhythm and coordination while enhancing strength through technique. Classes are held in the heart of Kensington by a trained professional dancer and humanitarian who has taught and performed internationally for 15 years. Classes include: Contemporary, Hip-Hop/Street, Ballet, Salsa, Tap and Musical Theatre. Tuesday's 9-10 am (Except Half-Term/Holidays). Drop-in Price: £15 (£12 until mid March). Venue: Kensington Primary Academy, Community Room B1, 205 Warwick Rd, W14 8PU. Private/Children Classes also available. Contact Emmanuelle Marcel on Ka.1@hotmail.co.uk @KamitanArts

Kensington News II

Expanding on its London showroom in Clerkenwell, wood-flooring specialist **Havwoods** are pleased to announce the opening of its new retail showroom in Chelsea. Displaying hundreds of stunning wood flooring and cladding designs, the new location is open to both trade and retail customers, with Havwoods' wood experts on hand to offer design and specification advice for any project. The spacious new premises has been designed to showcase the brand's exclusive collections in an inspirational and relaxed setting, ideally situated on the iconic Kings Road in Chelsea. The opening will be marked by the unveiling of two exciting new collections: Shou Sugi Ban wall cladding and Hand Grade extra wide engineered flooring. 600 Kings Road, London SW6.

Galerie Artima are delighted to announce the opening of their gallery in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, at 58 Gloucester Road. Galerie Artima represents artists from all parts of the world (Europe, Americas, Asia), active in all media of the contemporary art world: drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, design, 3D mixed media. They organize exhibitions throughout the year in their gallery spaces in London, Paris and Miami. They also participate in several international art fairs worldwide. Open from Tuesday to Saturday - 9.30am to 6.30pm. Please see www.galerie-artima.com 58 Gloucester Road, SW7 4QT Tel: 02075 841 821 or 07787 967203. www.facebook.com/galerieartimalondon. www.charles-fazzino.co.uk

GENERAL

The Muse, a multi-media play by Palimpsest, charts the life of Frederic Lord Leighton, the acclaimed Victorian artist, and Dorothy Dene, his model muse and confidante. Scenes from Leighton's life are reimagined in the very house that they would have taken place, transporting the audience back in time, right in the heart of Leighton's own private palace of art. The Muse coincides with the homecoming of *Flaming June*, Leighton's most iconic work, which Dorothy Dene is suspected to be the model for. *Flaming*

June: the Making of an Icon is on at Leighton House Museum until the 2 April 2017. Following a full refurbishment **The Imperial Kings Road** is once again open for business. Not only is there a brand new look, there is also an all new menu from Head Chef Reece Moore and new Perrier Jouet Garden. The refurbishment of The Imperial brings modern sophistication to the gorgeous Victorian building. Starting with the warm, muted colours on the walls, new dramatic art work and a sit-up bar - great for brunch. The collaboration with Perrier Jouet on the garden has resulted in this space being elegant with soft lighting and has the benefit of an all-weather cover.

Pauline Viardot (1821 – 1910) is known as one of the greatest mezzo-sopranos of her Age. An enthusiastic composer herself, here the talented musicians from **Opera Prelude** re-create the intimate world of salon music with her opera **Cendrillon – Cinderella**. The music shimmers with nostalgia; recalling those golden years when Paris was at the centre of European opera. The plot remains mostly faithful to the original fairytale, but takes a much more light-hearted approach. Join Opera Prelude for a sparkling concert in the beautiful surroundings of Leighton House, where Viardot herself performed in 1871. To book tickets please call 0207 1837323 email: boxoffice@operaprelude.com www.operaprelude.com

Symfunny No. 2 is a night of music and laughter, bringing together amazing musicians and comedians to raise funds for Parkinson's UK. The night features a stellar lineup including multimillion selling recording artist Katie Melua, the world's most successful musical theatre group Collabro, the hilarious Jack Dee, star of Channel 4's *The Last Leg* Josh Widdicombe and BBC Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* team. Accompanying the acts will be the specially-created Symfunny Orchestra and Choir, featuring some of the best professional musicians in the UK. Venue: Royal Albert Hall. For tickets please see www.parkinsons.org.uk/symfunny.

Kensington News III

This year an initiative known as the **Queen's Journey** began to mark Her Majesty's 64-year reign as there are also 64 squares on a chessboard. **Jason Kouchak**, a classical pianist and chess enthusiast from the Royal Borough, brought together chess playing girls from local schools to take part in this project. They designed and printed a Queens chess piece using the councils printer with Councillor Elizabeth Rutherford present during this event. Jason Kouchak who also inspired and sponsored a giant chess set in Holland Park said: "This chess and 3D project provides an opportunity to inform and inspire more girls to see chess from a new and exciting different perspective".

rhetorica® is a toolkit of 21 everyday writing techniques published by Rethink Press, 2016. More words have been written in the last ten years than in the previous 1,000. Yet many people struggle to write with confidence, conviction and ease. Maybe now, though, the struggle is over. Scott Keyser — one of the UK's top writing skills trainers and a former borough resident, has written a compelling book on persuasive writing, available on Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0091TmFOW). Spanning the three main steps of the writing process (plan, draft, edit), the book shares five planning, 12 drafting and four editing techniques that apply to any non-fiction scenario, eg a student essay, a letter of complaint, a business quote or proposal. (The 99p Kindle version of **rhetorica**® goes on sale for two days only 30/31 March, with all proceeds going to two charities: Blind Veterans UK and the Type Archive. Use the above link to download the Kindle version on those days.)

CHARITY/RESIDENT'S GROUPS/SOCIETIES' NEWS

Charity Action for Children is encouraging children's groups, schools, libraries, and friends and family in Kensington to host a Giant Wiggle during the week of 20-26 March. Now in its fourth year, the Giant Wiggle celebrates the much-loved storybook *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*™ by bringing children together

in conga lines to wiggle like caterpillars and encouraging them to develop their imaginations through storytelling and creativity. To join in the caterpillar fun and host your own Giant Wiggle between 20–26 March please register at www.actionforchildren.org.uk/giantwiggle

London's Fashion Show is expected to raise thousands for **Rainbow Trust Children's Charity**. **'Trust in Fashion'** will be hosted by ITV Presenter Mary Nightingale with an exclusive fashion show from designer Emilia Wickstead. Hundreds of guests will attend a fashion event at The Savoy London on 13 March, helping to raise thousands for Rainbow Trust Children's Charity, which supports families caring for a child with a life threatening or terminal illness. The event will be hosted by Rainbow Trust Patron Mary Nightingale and attended by Candice Brown, the winner of The Great British Bake Off 2016, alongside other celebrities. The event, from 11am until 3pm, includes a Champagne reception, two-course luncheon and a catwalk show featuring Boodles jewellery and designer Emilia Wickstead's Spring / Summer collection. www.rainbowtrust.org.uk/trust-in-fashion

Readers will recall in December, The Rev'd Stephen Fielding of St Mary Abbots Church organised a Living Advent Window Calendar. In late January, 'Awards' were handed to all those who took part, by Mayor of RBKC, Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford. These included: **Kensington Town Hall, Kensington Palace, Waterstones, Pickwicks, Rowley Gallery, Skillman & Sons, Burlingtons, Clarke's, St Mary Abbot's School, Whole Foods Market, Bickersteth House, Romano's, Hornets, Beatrice Place, Pauline Bookshop, Il Portico, St Mary Abbots Centre, Cobella, Barclays Bank and St Mary Abbots Church**. Also in attendance were the Deputy Mayor of the Council, Cllr William Pascal, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Padget-Brown, MP for RBKC, Victoria Borwick and the Deputy Lieutenant of RBKC, Lady Elizabeth Arnold. A 'People's Vote' was taken that evening, to which **Skillmans** won. This event was an excellent example of the church working closer with local businesses and retailers.

Kensington News IV

Together with the [Parish of St Clement & St James, The ClementJames Centre](#) is looking to redevelop St Clement's Church garden along Sirdar Road in North Kensington. This unused garden is currently fenced off, and the aim is to create an open community space for gardening and art projects, as well as general enjoyment for all residents. The project was selected to participate in Tesco's 'Bags of Help' scheme throughout February with a chance to win up to £5,000. Bags of Help offers community projects across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p carrier bags charge, with the public voting in store on who should receive the awards.

The grass on the other side won't always be greener if you join the [Kensington Gardeners' Club](#). Enjoy talks, slides shows, free advice on growing and trips to the magnificent gardens of stately homes. Dig into the myriad ways plants enhance our lives with the Kensington Gardeners' Club. We support those important first steps on a botanical adventure and provide fun and entertainment plant-wise for those with experience all for a basic fee of £15 per year. Intrigued to find out more? Please see www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk or call 07949 441662.

Despite over 600 people signing a petition last week, asking the CEO of the [Westway Trust](#) to delay plans to replace an indoor tennis court with a gym, they have decided to go ahead. In an email, the Chief Executive confirmed that they have been considering these plans for two years, but users have only recently heard about it. The tennis activities are profitable for the Trust and key to getting children from different backgrounds into tennis, many of whom would not otherwise have access. A number of questions still to be answered by the Westway Trust Management; the tennis-playing community is asking for a hold to construction work to come to a mutual agreement that reflects their concerns. For more info see www.change.org/p/angela-mcconville-force-the-westway-trust-to-re-examine-the-sport-centre-redevelopment-and-lost-tennis-court

Business Rates in Kensington - What you can do:

This April the Government is to impose new business rates - in all senses a tax increase for everyone. Recent press coverage of this illustrates how the new rates revaluation will be the single biggest blow to independent shops since the financial crisis. **Rates are based on the property values, not on how much the business generates.** The landlords do not pay the increase, the retailer pays the increase - which in the end means we will pay or say goodbye to our independent shops - many of our most valued retailers in Kensington are small businesses. The rate freeze since 2008 has been a big lever in regeneration, as was the change in our shopping habits. Many of us have rejected the "weekly shop"; we now buy fewer things and shop on line. High streets and our side streets (eg Thackeray St, Stratford Road etc) matter. Many of our small independent businesses reflect our neighbourhood character and provide our local shopping. These will disappear as they are destroyed by the new rates. Are we to be left with local shops owned by large hedge funds, charity shops which are exempted from tax or international coffee shops? If you are a concerned resident or retailer owner and value your local shops, please write to all of the following stating your opposition to this new rates bill which will in a short period of time destroy what makes our communities great. Ask for a new vision. It should start with scrapping the outdated rates system, which taxes businesses on the value of their property, and tax them instead on the money they actually make. Online retailers must pay their fair share, too. So please write/email direct to:
The Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury,
1 Horse Guards Rd, SW1A 2HQ or email: public.enquires@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
(Theresa May): email.number10@gov.uk
(Sadiq Khan): mayor@london.gov.uk
victoria.borwick.mp@parliament.uk
sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk
greg.clark.mp@parliament.uk
greg.hnds.mp@parliament.uk
(Cllr N Paget-Brown): leader@rbkc.gov.uk
On-line petition: petition.parliament.uk/petitions/175433

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In Search of Fame or Privacy?

By Maria Perry with illustration by Charles Yorke

When my theatrical career peaked in the 70s and 80s, I habitually gave two big parties a year. One for actors and actresses - invitations said 'Bring a bottle'. The one for 'real people' was on posh 'At Home' cards, with a Black Tie dress code.

Kensington in those days was teeming with fellow thespians. We all knew each other and everyone knew where we lived. A certain reticence now prevails. Agents seem keener to protect their clients than promote them. The search for Kensington actors - one from The Marigold Hotel and one in The Archers proved fruitless, reminding me of when Dirk Bogarde moved from Provence to W.8.

Dirk was my teen-age heart throb, but by the time he acquired Queen Anne House we had a godson in common. The Royal Borough is sensitive about celebrities; their concern, when a star of such international renown arrived, was to protect him from prying eyes. Some hitching posts were left over from the Rotten Row Bicentenary celebrations. RBKC thoughtfully fixed them on both sides of Dukes Lane. Alas when Dirk did a film with Lauren Bacall, she complained fretfully, that she couldn't park her stretch limo on the sidewalk. Actresses were then in plentiful supply. Nowadays they gravitate north. It is sad we have lost Francesca Annis, who has gone to Hampstead. The blow to Vicarage Court's kudos must be irreparable.

Madonna caused a stir, when, newly married to Guy Ritchie, she quit Hollywood for Notting Hill. Perhaps she didn't like love in a cold climate. They divorced in 2008. Madonna bought in bulk. When she left, the cleaning ladies' mafia grandly redistributed her surplus larder. They are a classy lot and the corps diplomatique wound up eating Madonna's cornflakes. Hugh Grant didn't live in Kensington, but after starring in Four Weddings and a Funeral, he re-invented Notting Hill for



Dirk Bogard (by Charles Yorke)

us by playing himself in Notting Hill. Jeremy Irons still lives there, but is too reclusive to be in Spotlight.

Americans know no such reserve. The latest addition to our ranks is Meghan Merkle, currently Prince Harry's guest at Kensington Palace and happily tweeting away to all the world. They say she played a small part in a film called Anti Social. On learning of her conquest the makers are, reputedly, re-cutting it to make her the star!



The Kensington Society, founded in 1953, strives to ensure that our part of London retains its magnificent heritage of buildings, parks and gardens alongside the best of contemporary architecture and design.

Our aims are to promote good architecture and planning; to protect, preserve and improve Kensington's buildings, open spaces, streets, public amenities and council services; and to stimulate interest in history.

With more than 700 members and 30 affiliated societies, we are very active in planning issues and exert a real influence on planning decisions in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

We also have a programme of lectures, talks, walks and visits, covering a wide range of subjects. The events offer the chance to meet your Kensington neighbours.

Our members receive our annual report, email alerts and newsletters, and our website informs about major building developments, new regulations and society events.

All this for only £15 per year. Please join us!

For more information and a membership form, visit www.kensingtonsociety.org



Worthy Wines: Bulgaria

By Trevor Langley



Sunrise over the Telish Winery

(Image source: www.telish.bg)

Having a location in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria has much history and many attributes. The capital of Bulgaria is Sofia and from ancient culture to the beauty of the country with lakes, spas and springs included, plus all their traditions, there is indeed much to offer. Wines from Bulgaria can now be enjoyed globally.

The Telish Winery started production during the 1960's. Having received numerous awards, excellent wines from this producer are now well-recognised and help shape the future for the Bulgarian wine trade. I found Telish Chardonnay very appealing. Having tropical fruits displayed in the bouquet, plus being well-balanced with more fruits extended onto the palate, this wine is a popular choice for many, pairing extremely well with fish, seafoods, chicken and salads, etc.

Telish, Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot, has a pleasant bouquet. The ruby-red colour brings a soft mouthfeel of fruits with a good palate sensation. Castra Rubra, Classic Merlot and Malbec, is, indeed, a classic. This production is a beautiful red and has an enticing aroma of ripened berries. The palate is fresh with a hint of spice on the finish. Pendar-Kosher, I found

to have an interesting bouquet of fruits and a good, fresh body, for the mouthfeel. A very acceptable palate sensation is followed by the fruity aftertaste. Via Diagonalis and Dominant, have a dark ruby-like colour and a very good nose. A soft and balanced fruity body greets the palate, with an impressive finish, which is long and rounded.

Castra Rubra, is a further excellent wine produced by this company. The deep crimson colour and wonderful bouquet lead enticingly to a magnificent full body of fruits on the mouthfeel, with a superb palate and long aftertaste.

Butterfly's Rock is another very popular production, chosen by many connoisseurs. Having a splendid bouquet and an exceptional palate, this wine will grace any table and occasion, magnificently. These red wine selections match red meats and numerous other dishes, perfectly. A company dedicated to producing high-quality wines.

For all details and the full range of wines available, www.telish.bg

THE HEALING MESSAGE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TODAY



Saturday 1 April at 2:00 p.m.

A free talk by Mojisola George C.S.B.

Practitioner, Teacher and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship
Christian Science is not related to Scientology

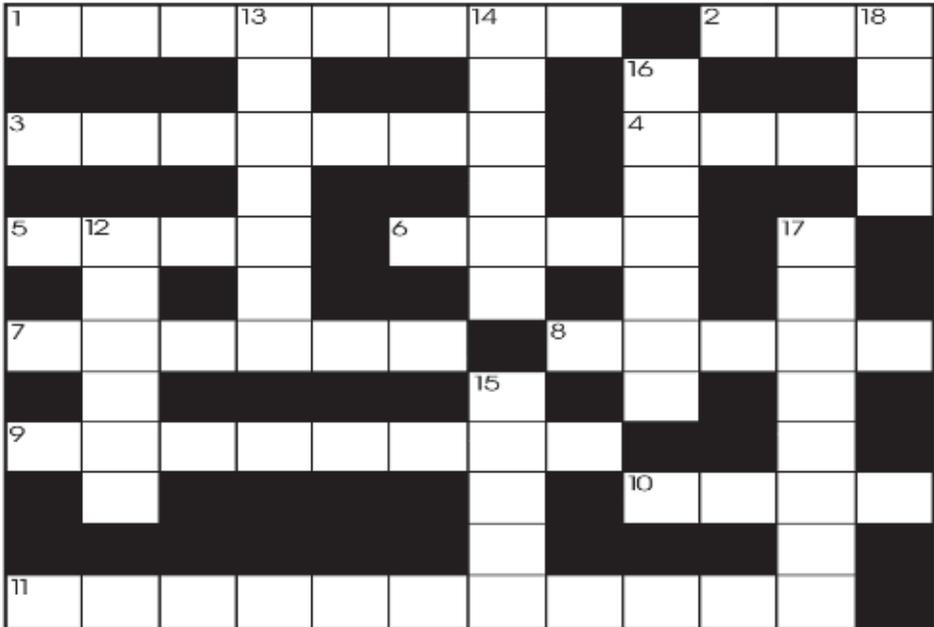
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www.secondchurchlondon.org/events**



The Kensington Crossword

Compiled by Dave Saunders



Pit your wits against our Kensington-centric crossword. Answers on Page 29

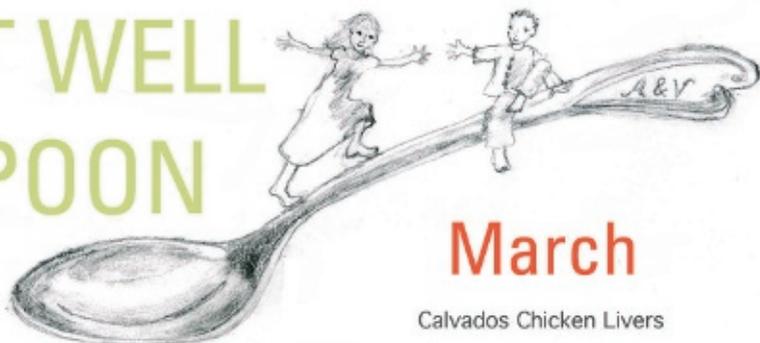
Across

- 1) Retail chain of trade tools and hardware which opened a Kensington store in 2017 (8)
- 2) ___ Gardens, mews between Hornton St and Campden Hill Road, W8 (3)
- 3) _____ and Cotton, retailer of bathroom accessories and perfumes at 39 Kensington Church Street (7)
- 4) Hotel _____ Styles London Kensington, hotel at 15-25 Hogarth Road, SW5 (4)
- 5) Footwear chain at 102 Kensington High St (4)
- 6) ___ Bagnold, novelist and playwright who lived at 29 Hyde Park Gate, SW7 (4)
- 7) _____ Road, thoroughfare between Kensington High St and Upper Phillimore Gardens (6)
- 8) Oliver _____, fashion and jewellery outlet at 129 Kensington High St (5)
- 9) Sir Eric _____, diplomat and oil man, born in Kensington in 1900 (8)
- 10) ___ Street, road that runs between Kensington Church St and Campden Hill Rd, W8 (4)
- 11) Thomas _____, sculptor of the marble group Commerce, part of the Albert Memorial (11)

Down

- 12) _____ Ejogo, actress and singer born in Kensington in 1973 (6)
- 13) Holland Park _____ Centre, conservation and educational facility in W8 (7)
- 14) _____ Court, residences off Wrights Lane, W8 (6)
- 15) Royal College of _____, conservatoire in SW7, established in 1882 (5)
- 16) The _____ Castle, pub at 114 Campden Hill Road, W8 (7)
- 17) Patrick _____, experimental physicist born in Kensington in 1897 (8)
- 18) Hair salon located at 26 Kensington Church St, W8 (4)

GET WELL SPOON



March

Calvados Chicken Livers

Winter is hopefully loosening its grip, and Spring is on its way. This is a lovely starter for four people or light lunch for two, rich enough to feel satisfying, but without using cream. The accompanying salad adds crunch and texture.

2 tbsp gluten free flour
1 tsp mustard powder
Generous pinch cayenne pepper
Pinch salt/pepper to taste
250g organic chicken livers (cleaned, trimmed of sinew)
Glug of olive oil
2 tsp apple cider vinegar
Glug of Calvados
Splash of Worcestershire sauce (to taste)
150ml chicken stock
Generous knob of butter
2 tsp capers
Handful of finely chopped parsley

Mix together the flour, mustard powder, cayenne and salt and pepper. Coat the chicken livers with the mixture thoroughly, dust off and reserve on a plate.

Heat oil on a high heat, and when ready sizzle the chicken livers. Then turn the heat down a little, cook for 2 minutes on each side. Remove from heat and keep warm on a covered plate.

Very quickly, add the vinegar, Calvados and Worcestershire sauce to the mixture. Let it combine with the liquids, then de glaze with the chicken stock and reduce a little. Add the butter and let the sauce become glossy. Return the livers to the pan with the capers, let them heat up for a minute. Throw in the parsley, stir and its ready to serve.



Delicious with sour dough bread, to mop up the juices, and a simple salad of sliced apples, radicchio lettuce and crushed walnuts, dressed lightly in walnut oil.

Chicken livers have a very exciting nutritional profile; lots of protein, very high in B vitamins (which are brilliant for the body's repair, brain and energy), and vital minerals including zinc, iron, phosphorus and magnesium. There is enough vitamin A in this recipe to provide a therapeutic dose, thought to protect the eyes from macular degeneration, fight cataracts and other disorders. Vitamin A also plays a role in digestion, immunity and healthy skin.

The salad adds a lovely change of texture and beneficial fibre, fats and antioxidants.

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

Hollywood Gardens, Californian Modernism or LaLa Land?

By Benedict Bull

When reflecting on the theme of Hollywood gardens for this month's contribution I recalled the wonderful module on modern architecture that I studied at the University of Edinburgh under Professor Iain Boyd White, where we looked at Viennese modernism and that in California especially. And as a landscape gardener who was studying architecture I was fascinated by the sketches and lay outs of the modernist architects in the conjunction of the landscapes in which they were constructed. I recall specific sketches which showed the conjunction of tall dark columnar trees and the white void mass of sheer walls and the sharp shadow of strong sun, and the relationship of angular walls to wilderness with its contours irregular.

As a botanist and social historian in a faculty of social science one observes there are many aspects of the semi arid littoral ecosystem that support an engaging and popular type of modernism. Not least of these is a strong sun and people looking to express themselves with ready cash.

Many of these causes and conditions seem to have come together in California and they are clearly visible too to us in Hollywood in a way that they are not to a more general public who do not have the benefit of a line of enquiry such as built projects of modernist architects of the European diaspora, as these are mostly hidden away for the most part in the landscape in which they stand, intensely private affairs.

And this brings us to the second point here that the very idea of a Hollywood garden is in the first instance an idea that is exported. This is

something that is projected, that is its primary association for us good burghers of the Royal Borough is with the society that makes films which do not actually exist there in a material sense beyond being shot there or even just 'produced' there. This virtual 'production' that signifies this process as lacking material existence in its place of origin is at the heart a modernist polemic itself. So it is abstract notion Hollywood in terms of a garden, and one associated with a set of ideas and identifiable by a modernist architecture and semi arid flora for this individual.

The more pervasive associations of Hollywood gardens are informed by an idea of a lifestyle, and so quite of the moment given the wide dissemination of the film La La Land! It is bright colours too as well as white walls and expanses of glass and blue sky that enliven us for us denizens of grey March who chills our arthritic joints. In fact that colourful idea, often



A desert-adapted garden design in California
(Image source: Garden Illustrated)

associated with Mexico too featured greatly in the film as did the famous hills of Hollywood and the observatory, which rather than looking out at the heaven's however was focused exclusively on the concerns of the individuals. I think that is the defining quality of a Hollywood garden for us literate Londoners. It grants a polite distance for us to contemplate the nature of our own existence and the nature of the gardens in which we wish to conduct that existence, and the fortune for Hollywood and ourselves is this distance in which to suspend disbelief, as Hollywood gardens are a little further away that Hollywood Road in SW10!



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What's On in and around Kensington - I

'STRICTLY' STAR ANTON DU BEKE TO SPEAK AT KCWC'S MARCH GENERAL MEETING

2 March 09:30am-12:30pm Cost: £10

KCWC will host a Strictly Come Dancing Special featuring Anton du Beke, with a Q&A session and Anton's tales from the ballroom. Venue: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. For more information please see www.kcwc.org.uk

THE SPRING KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW

2 -5 March Tickets £13

Thurs 10am - 7pm; Fri-Sat 10am - 5.30pm;

Sun 10am-5pm

The UK's biggest textile art and craft events. Hundreds of workshops and demonstrations. Galleries by leading textile artists. Hundreds of specialist craft suppliers. Venue: Olympia W14. For more information please call 0844 581 1319 www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/spring

THE CHISWICK HOUSE CAMELLIA SHOW

3 March to 2 April

Conservatory opening hours: Daily 10.00 – 16.00 hrs (Closed Mondays) Admission: Free

Fabulous display of camellias, in all their glory. Schools and Group bookings, guided tours and information on admission prices for Chiswick House: www.chgt.org.uk. Venue: Chiswick House W4 2QN

JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING FAIR

3 - 5 March Admission £6 10.00 - 18.00 hrs Fri 10.00 - 17.00 hrs Sat & Sun

Purchase direct from 90 of the UK's leading designer makers. The Fair will present up to 90 highly talented exhibitors, from emerging talent to more established designer makers. All have been selected for their superb and innovative craftsmanship. Many of those exhibiting will also create bespoke designs for those wishing to commission a special piece. Venue: Chelsea Town Hall, SW3. www.desirefair.com

Friends of Holland Park:

MOSS WALK LED BY

DR ALAN HARRINGTON

4 March 14.00 – 16.00 hrs Free

Alan Harrington, known for his tree walks, spent his professional life studying mosses. He continues to observe them wherever he goes and has agreed to come to Holland Park again to see what is new since his last walk for The Friends in 2013 when he made some interesting finds. Free, but numbers are strictly limited so please book your place on 020 7602 0304 or on rhoddy.wood@virgin.net. You will need a hand lens of at least 10 x magnification to fully appreciate the beauty and intricacies of these natural wonders.

NEDERLANDS KAMERKOOR: SACRED AND PROFANE

8 March (7:30pm), from £19

Britten's choral work Sacred and Profane underpins the theme of Peter Dijkstra's concert with the Nederlands Kamerkoor: obedience to God or earthly temptations? The programme is completed by works by Gabriel Jackson, Berio and Lars John Werle. Venue: Cadogan Hall 020 7730 4500. www.cadoganhall.com

KENSINGTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

12 March 19.30 hrs £12 (£6 under18)

Conductor: Mark Fitz-Gerald
Leader: Abigail Dance. Cherubini "Medea" Overture. Bruch Violin Concerto No 1, Op 26 (soloist Melina Mendozzi). Mendelssohn Symphony No 3, Op 56 "Scottish". For information please see www.kpo.org.uk

TRUST IN FASHION

13 March 11.00 - 15.00 hrs

Fashion event with a conscience, expected to raise thousands for Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. Hosted by charity Patron Mary Nightingale. Champagne reception, catwalk show featuring Emilia Wickstead's collection and Boodles jewellery. Venue: The Savoy Hotel, London. Call 01372 220031 or visit www.rainbowtrust.org.uk/trust-in-fashion

What's On in and around Kensington - II

FROM BERLIN TO BROADWAY

13 March 13.05 hrs - Free entry

In this luncheon concert, RCM accompanists and singers join forces to perform a colourful mix of songs by Kurt Weill, Erich Korngold and others.

Venue: Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, Royal College of Music.

IMAGINE MOSCOW: ARCHITECTURE, PROPAGANDA, REVOLUTION

15 March – 4 June Open daily 10:00 – 18:00 hrs (last admission 17:00) Adult £10 Student/concession £7.50

Marking the centenary of the Russian Revolution, the exhibition explores Moscow as it was envisioned by a bold generation of architects in the 1920s and early 1930s. Venue: The Design Museum. Tel 020 3862 5900 www.designmuseum.org

BEETHOVEN ORCHESTRAL WORKS CONCERT SERIES, CONCERT 6

18 March 19.30 hrs £10 (£5 under18)

Conductor: Ben Knowles

Piano: Anthony Hewitt

Overture 'Creatures of Prometheus', Opus 43

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Opus 58

Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Opus 68

St. James's Church, Sussex Gardens

www.stjamespaddington.org.uk/events

BLAKE - DAME VERA LYNN'S 100th BIRTHDAY SPECTACULAR

18 March 19:30 hrs. Tickets: £101.50 - £226.50

Multiplatinum, BRIT award winning classical trio, BLAKE, will be performing at the world-famous London Palladium to re-join Dame Vera Lynn for her 100th birthday celebration. Venue: London Palladium. For tickets 0844 412 4655

HANDEL'S FARAMONDO ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

20, 21, 23 and 25 March

Laurence Cummings returns to conduct the exceptional singers of the RCM International Opera School and the London Handel Orchestra. Handel's tale of warring houses and love traingsles, written in 1737 during the composer's

final stay in London, is led by international opera director, William Relton. Tickets £20 - £60 and available from the www.london-handel-festival.com or 01460 54660. (Please note tickets are not available from the RCM Box Office.)

THE MUSE

22 - 25 & 29 -30 March 19.45 - 21.00 hrs (doors open at 19.15 hrs for drinks soiree) £27pp

The Muse, a multi-media play by Palimpsest charts the life of Victorian artist Lord Leighton and Dorothy Dene, his model and confidante, in Leighton's private palace of art. Venue: Leighton House Museum. Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk/the-muse-a-multimedia-play-by-palimpsest-tickets-28549558498

AMATI ORCHESTRA

25 March 19.30 hrs £10 (£5 under18)

Conductor: Leo Patsalides

Gershwin Cuban Overture

Debussy Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faun

Verdi Overture, Force of Destiny

Holst Planets. Venue: St. James's Church,

Sussex Gardens. www.amatiorchestra.com

STROH RUM MASTERCLASS AT COTTONS

29 March 14.00 hrs and 18.00 hrs

A free rum masterclass at Cottons Caribbean restaurant – includes a welcome rum cocktail followed by an introduction and tasting to Dominican Republic Brugal rum range www.Cottons-restaurant.co.uk 020 7243 0090 157-159 Notting Hill Gate, W11 3LF

AMY DICKSON, saxophone and MARTIN COUSIN, piano

30 March, 19.30 hrs. Tickets £18 / £12 Concessions

Grammy-nominated saxophonist Amy Dickson presents a programme of music inspired by the influential twentieth century French musician and teacher Nadia Boulanger. Venue: St Peter's Church, 119 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AL 020 7288 6511 www.eatonsquareconcerts.org.uk

What's On in and around Kensington - III

THE HEALING MESSAGE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TODAY

1 April 14.00 hrs Free

A free talk on Christian Science by Mojisola George C.S.B. Venue: Second Church of Christ, Scientist, London. 104 Palace Gardens Terrace, W8 4RT. Tel 020 7227 2682
www.secondchurchlondon.org/events

THE FRIENDS OF HOLLAND PARK ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 1 – Sunday 9 April FREE Admission

The year marks 35th anniversary of The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition, a fantastic event held every Spring. There are paintings, sculptures, cards and craft items for sale and the Feature Artist is Olivia Chalmers, a botanical artist and long-term exhibitor, whose work is always popular with visitors. Venue: The Orangery, Holland Park on Saturday 1st April 1-6pm from Sunday 2nd–Sunday 9th April 10.30am -6pm.

CENDRILLON - PAULINE VIARDOT'S MAGICAL SALON OPERA OF THE CINDERELLA STORY WITH OPERA PRELUDE

5 April 19.00 - 21.00 hrs. Tickets £40 to include programme and interval wine.

Pauline Viardot (1821 – 1910) is known as one of the greatest mezzo-sopranos of her Age. An enthusiastic composer herself, here the talented musicians from Opera Prelude re-create the intimate world of salon music with her opera Cendrillon – Cinderella. Venue: Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, London, W14 8LZ. Call 0207 1837323 email: boxoffice@operaprelude.com
www.operaprelude.com

AUCTION OF PICTURES FROM A PRIVATE LONDON CLUB

5 April 13.30 hrs

Pictures from the elegant interiors of a Private London Club are coming to auction including a strong core of good quality Victorian paintings. 25 Blythe Road, London W14 0PD
Tel: 020 7806 5541 enquiries@25blytheroad.com
www.25blytheroad.com

VOGUE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALEXANDRA SHULMAN TO SPEAK AT KCWC'S APRIL GENERAL MEETING

6 April 09:30 -12:30 hrs Ticket £10

Don't miss Vogue Editor-in-Chief Alexandra Shulman in conversation with KCWC at the April General Meeting. Coffee from 9:30am, announcements and remarks begin at 10:30. Venue: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. For more information, please see www.kcwc.org.uk

SYMFUNNY NO. 2

19 April 19.30 hrs Ticket £22.90-43.30

Symfunny No. 2 is a night of amazing music and comedy to raise money for Parkinson's UK. The stellar lineup includes Pete Townsend, Jason Manford, Rob Deering, Katie Melua, Collabro, Jack Dee, Josh Widdicombe and BBC Radio 4's I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue team. Venue: Royal Albert Hall www.parkinsons.org.uk/symfunny

SKYDIVE FOR RAINBOW TRUST CHILDREN'S CHARITY

22 April and 24 June

Participants raise £395 fundraising target to cover skydive costs and registration fee is £70. Jump 10,000 feet from airfields in Lancaster, Maidstone, Durham and Salisbury. Sign up by emailing events@rainbowtrust.org.uk, or call 01372 220031 or visit Skyline Parachuting website

LOCKWOOD KIPLING: ARTS AND CRAFTS IN THE PUNJAB AND LONDON

Ongoing to 30 April

Explore the life, work and lasting impact of John Lockwood Kipling (1837 – 1911), an artist, writer, museum director, teacher, conservationist and influential figure in the Arts and Crafts movement. Venue: Victoria and Albert Museum.

RECITAL AT ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH WITH STUDENTS FROM THE RCA

Every Friday (Term Time) 13.05 Free

Each week listen to a lunchtime recital performed by students of the Royal College of Music. A lovely way to start your weekend!

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9	B	E	R	T	H	O	U	D				K	
			N						10	P	E	E	L
										I			T
11	T	H	O	R	N	Y	C	R	O	F	T		

Personal Investing the Way it Ought to be

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Branch Manager

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