

THE Kensington MAGAZINE

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FREE

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Exploring & Understanding Blue Plaques in Kensington

THE Kensington MAGAZINE

It is wonderful to see so many residents truly supporting the local community whether that be by shopping locally, or making use of the Governments Eat Out scheme; certainly having tables and chairs outside lending itself to French Cafe style living, is a definite plus. Whilst you wander around W8 take a look up at walls and find out more about the numerous blue plaques we have adorned on various buildings. Learn who lived there and their contribution to Kensington society and community. You can even follow a Literary Blue Plaque trail, following in the footsteps of 11 illustrious authors in W8! We hope you enjoy this edition - we have certainly enjoyed researching and writing it, Lucy

Front Cover: Agatha Christie (Image source www.mesacountylibraries.org and Blue Plaque source [spudgun67](https://www.spudgun67.com)). With thanks to Sarah Lurcock and Mary Davison for inspiration.

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Lucy Elliott, Editor
(Hair still by Lockdown)

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Pre-School admissions for children aged between two & five

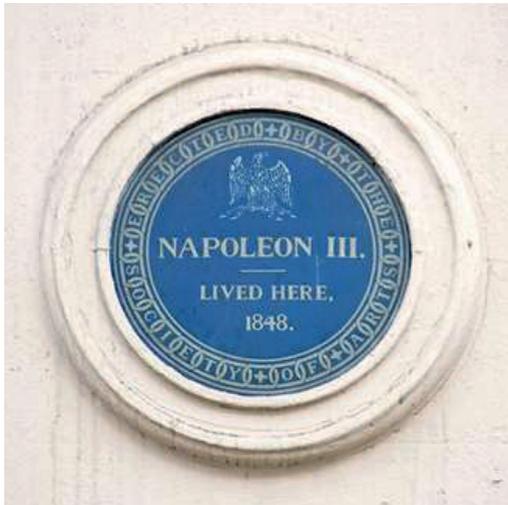
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The History of the Blue Plaque Scheme

By Sarah Goldsmith

London's blue plaque scheme was founded in 1866 and honours influential Londoners throughout history. The scheme itself was first founded to honour those famous Londoners and where they lived, but then helped to expand a movement to preserve historical buildings. Now, blue plaques have been unveiled honouring a wide range of figures and contributions like William Thackeray, John Lennon, Herbert Chapman, Francisco de Miranda and Jimi Hendrix, illustrating how diverse London's

scheme. William Ewart, MP, first proposed the scheme to the House of Commons in 1863. In 1866, the Society of Arts, later the Royal Society of Arts, undertook the scheme, erecting two plaques in 1867. The first commemorated Lord Byron's birthplace at 24 Holles Street, Cavendish Square, and the second was to Napoleon III on King Street, Westminster. In 1889, the Holles Street house was demolished, leaving the plaque to Napoleon III to be the earliest surviving London blue plaque. In the 35 years that



London's oldest surviving blue plaque: Napoleon III
(Image: english-heritage.org.uk)

history and its accomplished citizens are. There are blue plaques to Luke Howard, a meteorologist who named clouds, Prince Peter Kropotkin, a theorist of anarchism and Willy Clarkson, a theatrical wigmaker, to name but a few. Note that the City of London runs a different scheme, so only persons who lived in Greater London can be nominated through the English Heritage

the Society of Arts ran the scheme, 35 plaques were installed. Fewer than half of the Society's plaques survive as buildings were demolished over time. In 1901, the London County Council, or the LCC, took over the scheme and created more formal selection criteria. The scheme, and its criteria, became known as the "Indication of Houses of Historical Interest in London," and

lasted until World War II. The LCC installed a plaque to Charles Dickens before the house became the Dickens Museum (and the blue plaque remains). It has been noted that the blue plaque helped to preserve the house from demolition, and as the scheme developed, the presence of a plaque meant it was more likely a house could be saved from demolition. The scheme was paused during both world wars, but by the time the LCC was abolished in 1965, it had installed nearly 250 plaques.

The Greater London Council (GLC) succeeded the LCC and expanded the scheme to the type of people honoured as well as to a wider geographic area. The GLC ran the scheme for 22 years, and put up 262 plaques commemorating famous figures such as Sylvia Pankhurst as well as events that happened at historical buildings, such as the Cato Street Conspiracy hatched in a hayloft in Paddington in 1820. During its time at the helm, the LCC experimented with design of the plaque, but by 1921 the blue ceramic plaques had become standard. In 1938, the plaque as we know it today was designed by a student at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. One of the last acts the GLC undertook in 1984 was to appoint artisan ceramicists Frank and Sue Ashworth to make the blue plaques, which they still do today.

In 1986, English Heritage began running the blue plaque scheme. The first plaque they installed was to painter Oskar Kokoschka at Eyre Court on Finchley Road. During its time at the helm, English Heritage has installed over 360 plaques, bringing the total number of London blue plaques to more than 900. Additionally, English Heritage created a Blue

Plaque Panel which meets three times a year to determine the nomination shortlist was created to advise on the selection of individuals deserving of a blue plaque. In 2013-2014, cuts to government funding threatened the scheme, but generous private donations secured its future, and in 2015, English Heritage became a charity. English Heritage has also expanded the type of figures honoured as well as the geographic area covered.

Each organization developed different criteria to determine who or what should be granted a blue plaque. English Heritage uses as its guiding principle that the plaque celebrates not only the person but the place, and to that end, a plaque is only erected if there is a building which is closely associated with the person. The programme relies on general public nominations, which can be done via the English Heritage website. The subject must have been dead for at least 20 years, one building must survive within Greater London that is associated with that person, and in a form that person would have recognised. Only one plaque is allowed per person, so making sure a plaque doesn't already exist is key. Buildings like churches, schools, and theatres are not usually considered, and no more than two plaques are allowed on one building. Additionally, nominations for events are considered only as resources allow. Once a nomination has been shortlisted, it would typically take about 2-3 years before a blue plaque is erected because of the rigorous vetting process. If a nomination is turned down, then there is a ten-year waiting period until that person or event will be considered again.

Information for this article was found at english-heritage.org.uk

Through the Keyhole: The House Behind the Blue Plaque

By Nick Campailla

The information on a blue plaque can make you start asking the questions it doesn't answer: what brought these notable people to Kensington and for those who didn't stay, what prompted them to leave? Were they generally pleased with their new homes and was their time in the Borough a fulfilling part of their lives? What about the décor, the visitors, the conversations, all that went on within?

When Agatha Christie moved to 58 Sheffield Terrace in 1934 she had already spent four years in Kensington (there is no blue plaque at 48 Campden Street), producing many of her best-known novels at these addresses. The author recorded in her autobiography that "58 Sheffield Terrace was a happy house; I felt it the moment I came into it." She also secured her own workroom and sitting room for the first time in her career in which she installed a grand piano, some basic furniture to write on, but no telephone; and strictly no Hoovering was allowed on that floor while she was working.

Shortly after moving in, she found herself involved in a small mystery that reads like one of her plotlines: Christie insisted that she could smell gas in her bedroom, her second husband Max Mallowan and the household staff said she was imagining it, as did builders and gas-men called in to investigate. After all, there was no gas laid on in the house, no gas meter, if anything it must be a dead mouse, and a tiny one at that. Eventually, her persistence was vindicated when gas still issuing from a disused gas pipe under the bedroom floorboard was discovered – cue a story about a household conspiracy to poison

a victim slowly, whilst persuading her she is going mad at the same time. When Sheffield Terrace was bombed in October 1940 Agatha Christie lived for much of the War in the Bauhaus block in Lawn Road, Hampstead; not perhaps the surroundings where one would expect to find Miss Marple or her creator.

The blue plaques also record more fleeting visits to Kensington of historical interest. The juxtaposition of former Zulu King Cetshwayo's plaque, commemorating his stay at 18 Melbury Road in 1882, with that of William Holman-Hunt might suggest at first that he was the artist's house guest. In fact, Holman-Hunt moved there in 1903 and Cetshwayo's temporary accommodation was by arrangement with the Colonial Office. His visit to London to seek restoration of his kingship in his native land through a meeting with Gladstone aroused considerable press interest, particularly his reactions to local excursions (the hippopotami at the Zoological Gardens caused great delight) and his dietary routine at 18 Melbury Road. Said to be 'much gratified by uniform kindness', he clearly inspired affection and support, not least from his Kensington butcher, "the saddest man within a hundred miles of Addison Road" when Cetshwayo and his entourage left after making a month's orders for red meat that would horrify a more puritanical era such as ours.

Like the enticing cover of a book, the blue plaques of Kensington invite us to take a further peek inside the endlessly fascinating lives of our past inhabitants.

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Hawkesdown House School - A Local Preparatory and Nursery

Hawkesdown House is an independent preparatory school for girls and boys from the age of four to eleven, with two Nursery classes for children from two years of age. The Walnut Tree Nursery for 2-3 year olds opened at Hawkesdown in April 2019. Both are housed in a fine building in Edge Street just off Kensington Church Street where bright and airy classrooms provide a creative and welcoming environment for the children.

Outstanding Characteristics:

Hawkesdown House is a school with a strong voice and an adventurous spirit. In a world where everything has grown bigger, often at a cost, we concentrate on knowing each pupil and understanding what is important to every family. Parents are fiercely loyal to this philosophy: that it works is borne out in the excellent results and in the open, thoughtful and happy nature of the children.

Headmistress' Philosophy:

"I believe children should be actively encouraged to create a sense of ownership over their education, constructing paths for them to help recognise and realise their true potential and develop their aspirations. Children respond positively to learning when it is made relevant and engaging and where creativity is nurtured. It must be sufficiently challenging and delivered with energy and passion in a safe environment that is conducive to learning and exploration. It holds true that a curriculum that inspires and engages pupils is of the utmost importance. At Hawkesdown House School, high academic standards are matched with creativity, flair and imagination."



Curriculum:

Our children experience a broad academic and creative curriculum which challenges and inspires. Specialist teaching: French, music, chess, games/PE, judo, fencing and Forest School.

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral care underpins everything at Hawkesdown House School. We are a highly nurturing school that values each pupil's unique qualities in a friendly, caring and supportive environment.

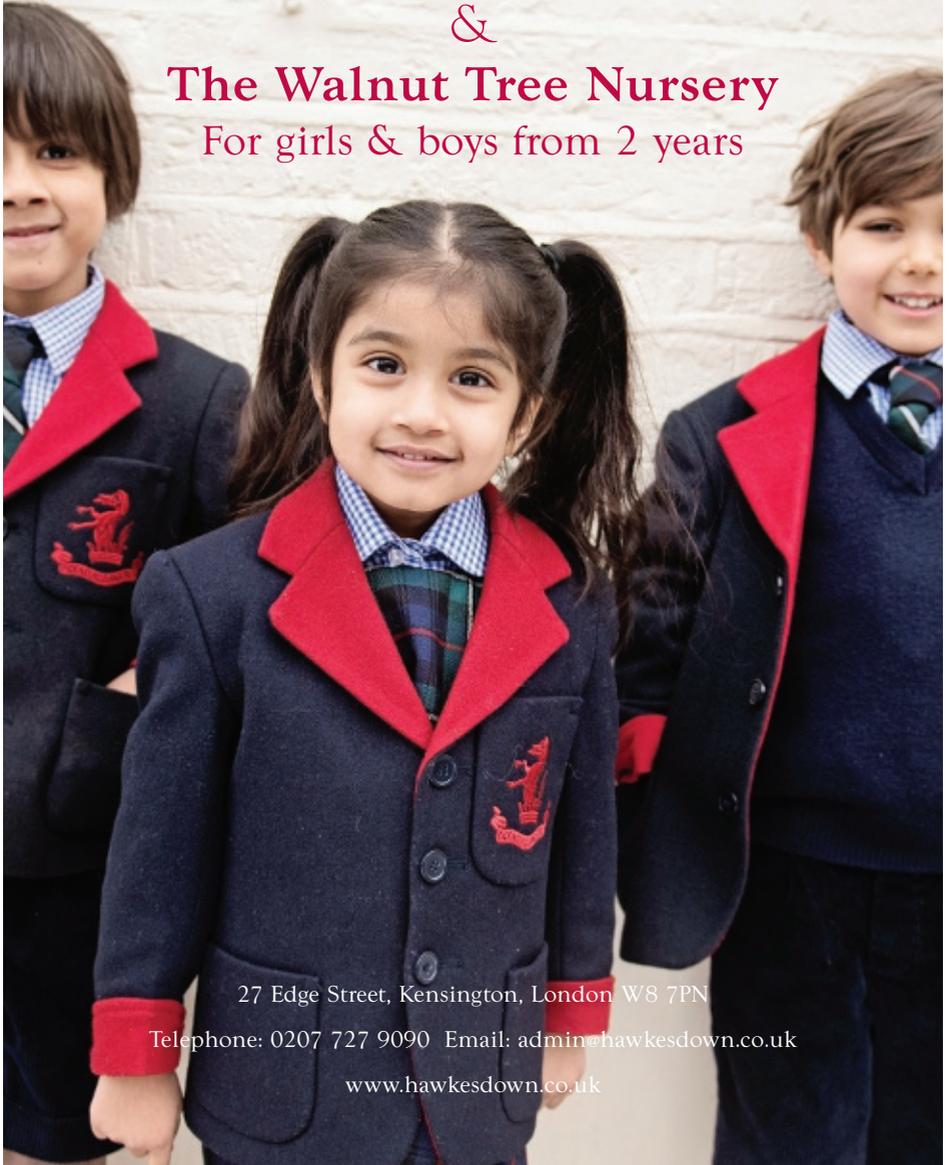
Entrance Procedure:

Parents are encouraged to put names down as soon as possible after birth. Children can join at two in the Walnut Tree Nursery, three in Nursery or four in Reception. Confirmed or waiting list places are offered 12-18 months ahead of their start date. Entry into Year 1 and above is subject to a place being available, an interview and an assessment.

If you are interested in learning more please contact: Mrs. Sophie Zazzarino, Registrar on 020 7727 9090 or email: admin@hawkesdown.co.uk



Hawkesdown House School
&
The Walnut Tree Nursery
For girls & boys from 2 years



27 Edge Street, Kensington, London W8 7PN

Telephone: 0207 727 9090 Email: admin@hawkesdown.co.uk

www.hawkesdown.co.uk

Trailfinders Celebrates 50 Years in October 2020

By Lucy Elliott

Mike Gooley, 83, Chair and Founder of Trailfinders used to be in the SAS. There the enemy was physical and the end result definitive. Someone either lost or won. Today, Mike and his staff face a more invidious enemy and one that is attacking all aspects of the world; humanity, culture, travel, exploration, education and economics.

Trailfinders, started from (the ubiquitous) back room, in the Earl's Court Road, fifty years ago this October. It is now one of the biggest employers in Kensington with some 450 staff. Quite rightly, great fanfare was planned – it's not often a privately-owned business by the same owner of a travel company can boast of providing overland holidays to its first generation of clients, whereas now it offers everything from honeymoons to luxury holidays and even student travel for its second generation of clients. Trailfinders provides a wide variety of holidays appealing to all ages with highly specialist staff on hand who patiently guide you through the myriad of options, available to you around the world.

However, unlike the vast majority of other travel companies, Trailfinders takes their social responsibility very seriously. Since the beginning, Mike has recognised that money held on behalf of clients should be held in Trust, so that in the eventuality of anything untoward, their money is safe and Trailfinders can help their clients return to the UK. At the end of March, it was clear the enemy was approaching and Trailfinders had a great number of clients dispersed across the world who needed help in getting them back to the UK, prior to lockdown being imposed. Since then, over



Mike Gooley, Chair & Founder of Trailfinders
(Image: Lucy Elliott Photography)

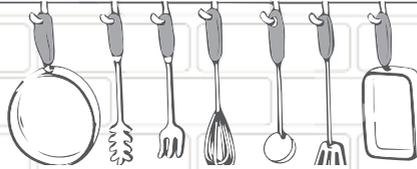
£165M has been refunded to clients. This is part of the Trailfinders Guarantee - which is "... to make good of any money paid to TF in the event of a financial collapse of an airline, tour operator or any other transport provider. This pledge has been honoured since the foundation of TR over 49 years ago. No client has suffered financial loss or ever been left wanting." Mike, a man of high integrity, is now busy lobbying for much better protection for the consumer within all aspects of travel.

As readers will know, Trailfinders has been a client of this magazine for many years, so some may feel this article is biased; however, in defence, I have been using Trailfinders for nearly thirty years; since backpacking around India in 1991, honeymoon, holidays/family holidays and travelling solo around Australia. It is for me the go-to holiday company since I want the security of knowing I have expert advice on tap, and should I need anything whilst away, help is only a phone call away. That is something to celebrate, especially at 50!

TRAILFINDERS 
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS



3 Abingdon Road Kensington



W8 Café is open Monday to Friday offering delicious healthy food to eat in or take away, this is made daily in our own kitchen. Please take a look at our website **W8catering.com** to view our daily specials menu



W8 Outside Catering

We would like to offer you 10% off our **Outside Catering menus** until the end of September please see our website and call us on **0207 376 2191** or email **info@w8catering.com** for further details and to order



A Closer Look at Blue Plaques

By Lucy Elliott

As local residents David Charlesworth and Charles Mickleworth will attest, the process from application to unveiling a blue plaque can take a few years and requires a fair amount of stamina and patience, but the end reward is a legacy, both enhancing the named individual on the plaque, and its building. As a result of their work, the latest Blue Plaque to be placed in Kensington was in 2014 for Clementine Churchill (nee Hozier) who lived in the Abingdon Road from 1903-1905 prior to her marriage to Winston Churchill. The first plaque in W8 to be placed by the London County Council was in 1903 for historian, Thomas Babington Macaulay (Lord Macaulay), at Holly Lodge, Campden Hill. (This was later removed in 2003 due to the site being redeveloped.)

Anyone can propose a blue plaque, but there are various conditions which have to be met – the individual must have died at least 20 years prior, (although Napoleon III was the exception, his plaque being placed by the Society of Arts in 1867 when he was still alive); the building cannot be a church, school or theatre, and no more than 2 plaques on any one building. There should really only be one plaque per person but former local resident, William Makepeace Thackeray actually has three! (2 Palace Green W8; Young St W8 and 20 Albion St SW1). Within Kensington we have a raft of literary individuals who are represented by way of Blue Plaques, and English Heritage have an app (go to Apps and search Blue Plaques of London by English Heritage Trust) through which you can follow a 4 km trail and discover where these 11 authors lived.

Early plaques were made of bronze, lead or even stone and ranged from ornate

to simple and coloured in blue to brown. Today, they are blue, and easily recognisable by the words English Heritage at the top, and the Trust logo at the bottom. They are kiln-fired twice and take several months to make. They are never nailed to a brick wall, but rather embedded. Knowing this, you will now be able to spot a fake and indeed should you ever wander down to the Persian restaurant, Apadana at 351 Ken High St. you will spot a 'Kensington & Chelsea' blue plaque for Dr SSA Hasbro, Surgeon and Restaurateur, aka Jack the Ripper! It is not known when this suddenly appeared but certainly gives visitors to the area, pause for thought (and quite enough consternation for the residents too). Definitely a fake.

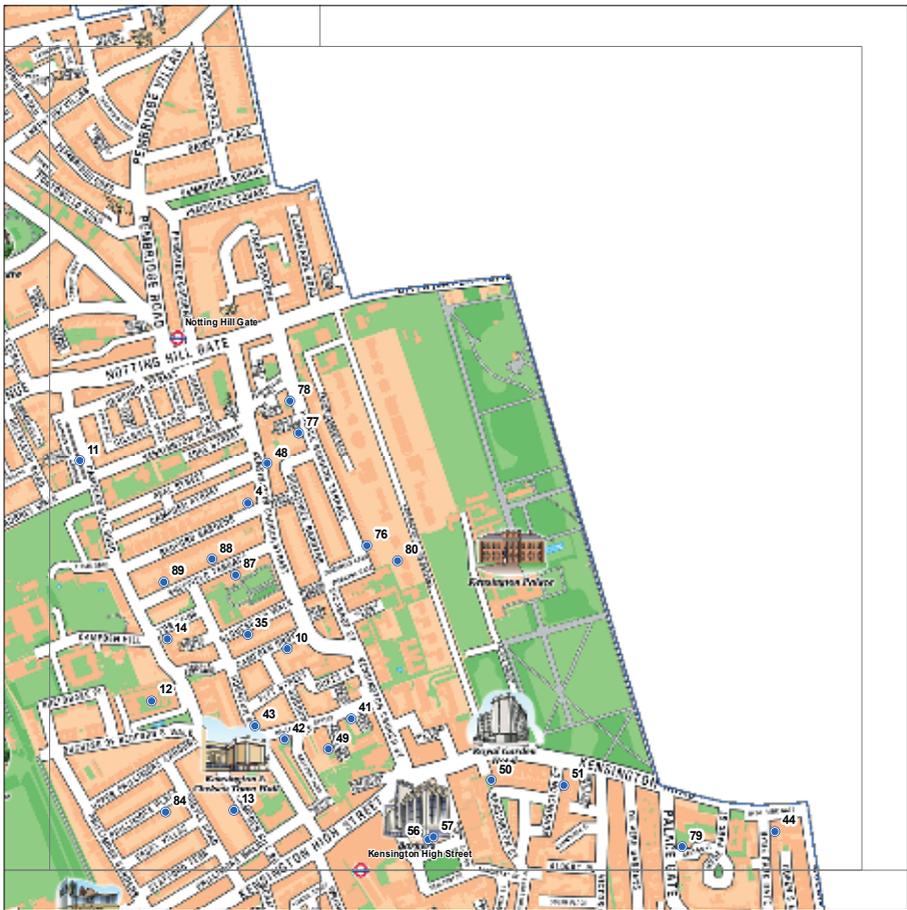
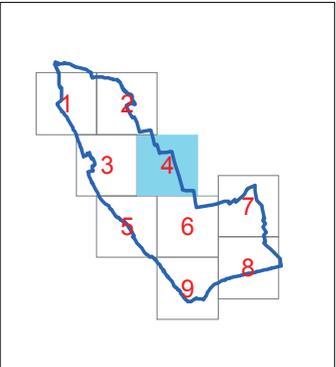
There are several books worth reading on blue plaques: 'A Woman Lived Here: Alternative Blue Plaques' by Alison Vale; 'Lived in London: Blue Plaques and the stories behind them' by Emily Cole; 'The English Heritage Guide to London's Blue Plaques'; 'The Writing on the Wall: 100 iconic Blue Plaques' by Mike Read.

Blue Plaques are admirable in that they give us a sense of history, if not a certain pride. However, it might be noted that they, akin to statues, are simply a record of our particular time in history and how we regard individuals at that time. For example of the 900 odd Blue Plaques, only 111 are given to women. In the future, this may be rectified. We should also expect to see plaques relevant to the Black Lives Matter movement – it is disappointing both don't feature more. Some plaques may be removed in the future, not as a result of building development, but more that at that time in history, as is now, the plaques may seem irrelevant or inappropriate. We shall see.

Example of Blue Plaques within the Borough of Kensington (with thanks to RBKC)

- | ID | Name |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 4 | Bridge, Frank |
| 10 | Joyce, James |
| 11 | Rambert, Dame Marie |
| 12 | Macaulay, Thomas Babington, Lord |
| 13 | Newbolt, Sir Henry |
| 14 | Ford, Ford Madox |
| 35 | Sibelius, Jean |
| 41 | Crane, Walter |
| 42 | Hall, Radclyffe |
| 43 | Stanford, Sir Charles |
| 44 | Baden-Powell, Robert |
| 48 | Clementi, Muzio |
| 49 | Pound, Ezra |
| 50 | Crompton, Col REM |
| 51 | Eliot, TS. |
| 56 | Simon, Sir John |
| 57 | Burne-Jones, Sir Edward |
| 76 | Maxwell, James Clerk |

- | ID | Name |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 78 | Lewis, Percy Wyndham |
| 77 | Berbohm Sir Max |
| 79 | Millais, Sir John Everett |
| 80 | Thackeray, William Makepeace |
| 84 | Grahame, Kenneth |
| 87 | Henry, Sir Edward (1850-1931) |
| 88 | Carlile, Wilson, Prebendary |
| 89 | Christie, Dame Agatha (1890-1976) |



Map produced by the Property and Land Applications Team (PLAT)
 Reference Number: 1088 02/03/2009 Author: Mark Citchley
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NEW BUSINESSES IN KENSINGTON

Smith & Partner Art are delighted to announce the opening launch of their South Kensington gallery on September 15th. The gallery includes works from old masters and emerging artists, featuring modern, contemporary and limited-edition collections. Special guest Deborah Azzopardi will be in attendance, and to commemorate the event, each guest who spends over £2000 will receive a signed complimentary print by the artist herself. Guests will also have the opportunity to speak with one of their specialist fine art brokers on the night, should they have any queries regarding buying and investing in their exclusive collections. If you would like to be part of a night to remember, please send them your details and they will add you to their guest list. Alternatively, you can sign-up via their website on www.smithandpartnerart.co.uk/spgallery

'Cromwell Place', a first of its kind global arts destination and membership organisation, will be opening to the public in October 2020 unveiling a diverse inaugural exhibition programme. Located in five Grade II Listed townhouses in South Kensington, London's cultural district, Cromwell Place will be home to some of the world's most exciting galleries, collectors, dealers and advisors. As specialists in working with challenging, existing buildings and renowned for sensitive and authentic work, architects Buckley Gray Yeoman were uniquely positioned to bring the Cromwell Place concept to life, combining the rich heritage of the building with a contemporary gallery space.

Speciale 324

Beyond the hallowed precincts of Savile Row there are few tailors in London who can claim comparison. But Speciale, recently opened at 324 Portobello Road, do more than that. With a foundation in the classical, Speciale build bespoke suits in the neo-Italian style of Florence and Milan where George Marsh, the master tailor, refined his craft after London. The ethos of Speciale is contemporary classicism, using the finest English cloth, tailored to the individual and a life style determined by personal interviews. The studio also offers exquisite hand-built Florentine shoes, knitwear from Wales and shirts from Naples. Please visit: Speciale, 324 Portobello Road, W10 5RU or call for more information 020 8964 3444.

GENERAL NEWS

Many Kensington and Notting Hill residents prefer to shop locally now rather than go into the West End as a result of the pandemic, according to Susana Lorena of Maison SL, the specialist lingerie and swimwear boutique in Ledbury Road, W11 (www.maisonsl.com). Susana has seen a significant increase in local customers since reopening in mid-June. "We've had fantastic support from locals since we reopened, including a lot of new customers from the area," she says. "Many say they feel more comfortable shopping locally. Some discovered us for the first time walking around during the lockdown. And they are all keen to support local businesses too."

Kensington News II

Over the past few months, KCAW (Kensington + Chelsea Art Week) has taken action to support their participants during these difficult times, through new online programming shining a spotlight on the work of our borough's incredible artists, creative spaces and cultural institutions during lockdown. It is now time to look forward to their postponed 2020 edition. Taking place from 1–11 October 2020, Kensington + Chelsea Art Week will once again fill our Borough with public art installations and open doors to the area's cultural spaces. Their core activity will continue to celebrate and support our creative community, with new programmes and events developed in response to the momentous events of the past few months. There has never been a more important time for KCAW to promote the work of our community, foster collaboration and support the local culture. For more information please see www.kcaw.co.uk

Cadogan Hall was one of the first venues in the UK to reopen its doors to live performance after the COVID-19 lockdown as it starts to welcome musicians back for a series of carefully planned live-streamed concerts and recording sessions, all adhering to strict government guidelines. Recent events have included Black West End and Broadway stars coming together for a special charity performance, 'TURN UP!' in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, album recording sessions, and a live streamed concert from the English Chamber Orchestra. Please find more information on the Cadogan Hall website: www.cadoganhall.com

Author Renata Kaminska prelaunches the educational book for children Hector, A Dog's Story that pass taboo of difficult topics in children literacy and presents world through animals' eyes. The hardback book can be purchased at: www.hectorandfriends.com and is already read in 8 countries on 4 continents. The engrossing storytelling with happy-ending is combined with colorful illustrations designed by award-winning Indonesian illustrator, Irfan Budi Harjo. It has gathered positive feedback from parents and children, as well as animal lovers. The book is supported by eleven organizations, including seven foundations for dogs & children. Profits from the sale will go to these charities.

Following the release of her debut album through Sony Music Entertainment and millions of online streams, Coachella Music Festival performing artist, Cara Frew, had the world, "Waiting For Love," until the production of her new single. "Waiting For Love," is wrapped in pop vocals and an earthy feel, with organic elements that are driven by acoustic guitar and African drums. Cara wrote it after a night out that left her with a whimsical feeling of falling in love with a stranger. Hazy memories, trying to act cool and keep composure, while getting lost on an emotional rollercoaster. Instagram: [@carafrew](https://www.instagram.com/carafrew)



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WE WILL BE OPENING OUR DOORS AGAIN FROM 01 NOVEMBER

It's safe to say we have missed you, it has been a challenging few months for us all, so it gives us great pleasure to announce we will open our doors again on 01 November 2020.

Hospitality is in our hearts, it's what we do and when we open we will be ready and waiting with the same great service, familiar faces and warm atmosphere that only a Royal Garden Hotel experience can provide.

Although November feels far away, we are committed to giving you, our guests, the best experience possible and to do that means leaving our doors closed a little longer so we can take the opportunity to perform some essential maintenance, improve our systems and ensure that we provide a comfortable environment for guests and our team alike. We look forward to seeing you back at the hotel soon.

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S&P Gallery Launch

We are delighted to announce the opening launch of our South Kensington gallery on September 15th. Including works from old masters and emerging artists, featuring modern, contemporary and limited-edition collections. Special guest Deborah Azzopardi will be in attendance, and to commemorate the event, each guest that spends over £2000 will receive a signed complimentary print by the artist herself. Guests will also have the opportunity to speak with one of our specialist fine art brokers on the night, should they have any queries regarding buying and investing in our exclusive collections.

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www.smithandpartnerart.co.uk/spgallery

The Diversity of Characters Behind the Blue Plaques: JM Barrie and Frankie Howerd

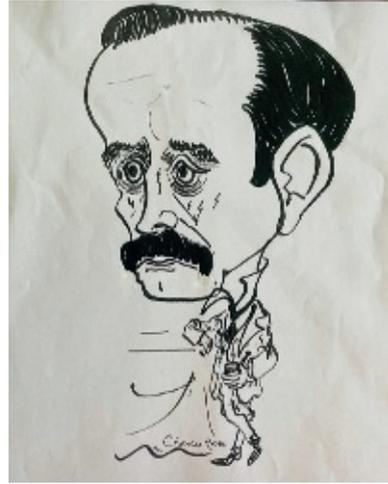
By Maria Perry with illustration by Charles Yorke

Sir James Mathew Barrie was born in 1860, the son of a handloom weaver in Killimuir, Scotland. Educated in Dumfries and later a graduate of Edinburgh University, he achieved world-wide fame as the author of Peter Pan. He has left lasting legacies - to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital via the Garrick Club, while here in Kensington, where he settled in 1894, the Peter Pan statue was erected in his memory in Kensington Palace Gardens.

Barrie married the actress Mary Ansell in 1894. They divorced in 1909, when he moved to the Adelphi. He published an affectionate biography of his mother, Margaret Ogilvy in 1896. Other successful plays followed; Quality Street in 1901 and The Admirable Crichton in 1902. Although performed less frequently nowadays, these plays achieved eponymous recognition through their titles – one as a popular chocolate assortment, the other as a posh party planning company.

Barrie had a keen sense of irony. Captain Hook, it must be remembered, was an Old Etonian! Many of the stories told in Peter Pan were invented for the five sons of Arthur and Sylvia Lewelyn- Davies, who lived with Barrie, when their parents died. Two plays, Dear Brutus in 1917 and Mary Rose in 1920 followed. His last play, Shall we join the Ladies? was produced in 1921. Created a baronet in 1913, Barrie received the Order of Merit in 1909.

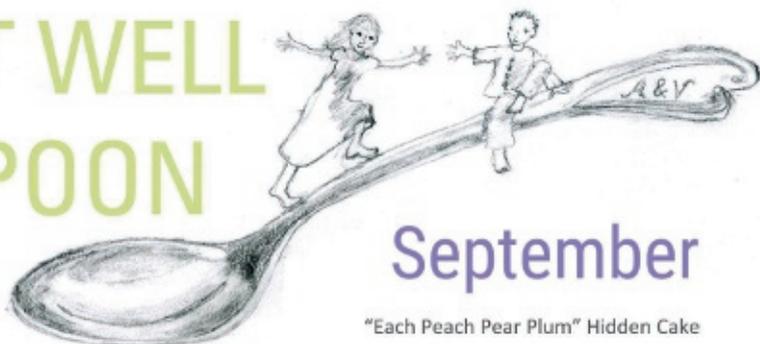
No one seems less likely to have settled in Kensington than Francis, Alick Howerd, a comic actor, born in 1917 whose career spanned six decades. After a stage debut aged four, he failed the RADA audition, but



JM Barrie

began performing in concert parties during World War II. Later, as Frankie Howerd, he starred in such hits, as the Carry On films, A funny thing happened on the Way to the Forum, Up Pompeii, and many pantomimes. A master of innuendo, he would roll his eyes and pucker his lips in a way which made innocent observations seem indecently suggestive. A target for Mrs Mary Whitehouse, his comic talents were nevertheless appreciated by thousands. In a production of Charley's Aunt his fellow actors had to turn their backs on him, as he reduced them to helpless giggling. Formerly a Sunday school teacher, he was not so much gay, as camp. Troubled by his homosexuality, he told Cilla Black if a pill was invented that would make him 'normal', he would take it, but folk in high places approved his talents. He was made an OBE, which is proudly proclaimed on the blue plaque on his house, 27, Edwardes Square. Loved by millions, he died in 1992.

GET WELL SPOON



September

"Each Peach Pear Plum" Hidden Cake

Peach, Pears and Plums are all in season in September, this reminded me of the charming children's book by the Ahlberg's which inspired this gluten free recipe. This cake could be the perfect treat for a little one starting nursery or primary school this Autumn.

Ingredients:

- 2 peaches
- 1 pear
- 1 plum
- 225g rice or gluten free flour
- 125g soft butter
- 75g raw cane sugar or sugar alternative
- 3 eggs

Coat the bottom of a cake tin with some of the softened butter, then arrange the sliced peach in a circle on the outside of the pan, then next with pear and finally in the centre plum halves (remove the stone) so that the slice of cake will start with the outside rim of peach and end with a plum centre. Cream together the butter and sugar, add one beaten egg and mix well, mix in the rice flour and mix in the two other beaten eggs. Mix vigorously until it makes a smooth batter, which you pour over the fruit.

Cook for 20-25 minutes in an oven 170C and gas 4. Remove cake from pan when still warm, invert the cake so the fruit "finds" itself at the top.

Peach, pears and plums are delicious for your digestive system; full of soluble and insoluble fibres good for digestion and the microbiome. Insoluble fibre adds bulk to your stool and helps move food through your gut, reducing the likelihood of constipation.

Soluble fibre provides food for beneficial bacteria in your intestines. In turn, these bacteria produce short-chain fatty acids (such as acetate, propionate, and butyrate) which feed the cells of your gut, and help reduce inflammation thus improving symptoms of digestive disorders.



Text: Victoria Kell Illustration: Aletta Ritchie

All of these fruits contain vitamins, minerals and antioxidants and the rice flour is high in protein and some vitamins (there are more B vitamins in brown rice flour).

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

Surprises as the Science Museum re-opens its doors

By Guest Writer: David Johnson

With some justification, Ian Blatchford, the director of the Science Museum, identifies his “extreme ambition” over the past ten years as the force that has refurbished every floor of its home on Exhibition Road with spanking new galleries, while winning record visitor numbers and himself a knighthood. It reopened last month following lockdown.

One radical mould he has broken is the assumption that his is a museum for children and indeed for many of us the last time we ventured across RBKC to visit, we were in our teens. True, one of its priorities is to win the next generation over to career prospects in science, technology, engineering and maths (the STEM subjects) with attractions such as Tim Peake’s space capsule, giant steam engines, Red Arrows flight simulators and tales of extraordinary human invention.

However, his energetic team took great pains to reshape the diary to embrace adults-only hot-topic debates among distinguished guests in the Imax auditorium, for example. He introduced late closing on Fridays and monthly mid-week “Lates” – buzzy spectacles, licensed for drinks, that take over the museum to explore such issues as cyber security, conspiracy theories, Moon landings, human sexuality and deciphering ancient manuscripts. (Hint for weekday visits: arrive after 2pm when the school parties tend to have left.)

Last autumn five vast new galleries opened to house the significant medical collection of Henry Wellcome, where a sculpture by Marc Quinn welcomes us. Other recent galleries include Information Age; London



In the Wellcome Medicine Galleries, an Iron Lung adult cabinet from 1953

as Science City; the hands-on WonderLab; the Clockmakers’ Museum; Mathematics in the beautiful Winton Gallery designed by Zaha Hadid. A current exhibition titled Driverless investigates the future of Artificial Intelligence.

You can hire two new event spaces for philanthropic campaigns and hospitality: the star being the roof-level suite called Illuminate, which offers one of the most dazzling views of the London skyline; another being the Smith Centre, opened last year by HM the Queen. Simultaneously Sir Ian has coordinated the creation of the Science Museum Group to embrace four national museums in the regions (Manchester, Bradford, York and Shildon, cradle of the railways) to become the world’s largest such alliance in science boasting 5million visits a year. Their collections are continually being rationalised and have fed into a breath-taking website where you can search for over 325,000 objects and archives. The pace of change has been astonishing and the director embarks with relish on his next ten years. Covid-19 policy now asks you to pre-book a free ticket in advance at sciencemuseum.org.uk – meanwhile, take a virtual tour of the Science Museum’s interior via Street View at google.com/maps.



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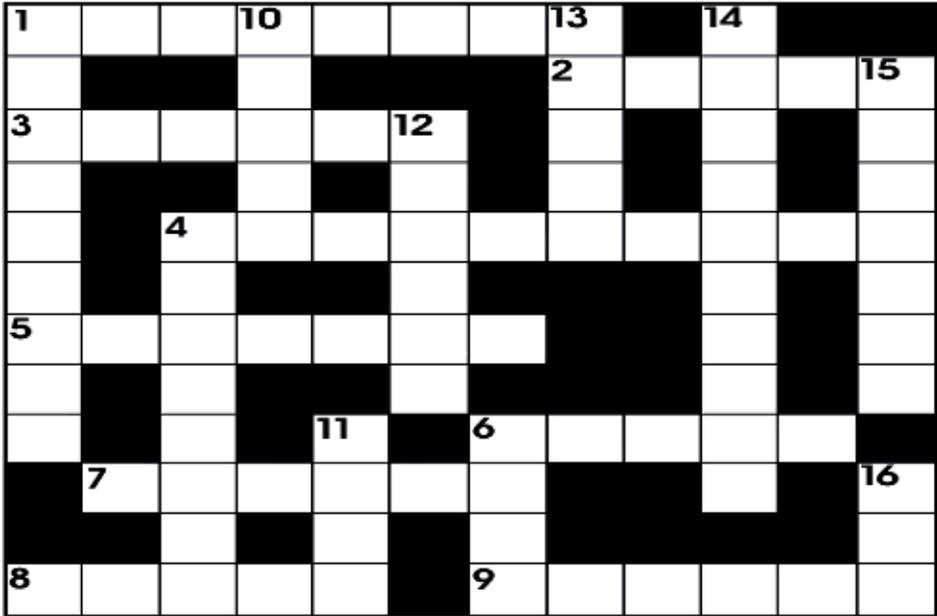
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and so much more in London's art and science district

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The Kensington Crossword

By Dave Saunders

Pit your wits against our Kensington-centric crossword. (Answers on page 30)



Across

- 1) Country which has its embassy situated at 186-188 Queen's Gate, SW7 (8)
- 2) Kensington _____, beauty salon at 44A Kensington Church St, W8 (5)
- 3) Hotel _____, 2-star hotel located at 198 Cromwell Road, SW5 (6)
- 4) Former sporting goods store at 130 Kensington High St, W8; closed in 2018 (10)
- 5) American _____, made-in-USA clothing outlet at 40 Kensington High St (7)
- 6) _____ Welsh, art gallery at 116 Kensington Church Street, W8 (5)
- 7) _____ Martin, furniture store at 77 Kensington Church St, W8 (6)
- 8) _____ Life Fitness, corporate health management centre at 2 Derry Street, W8 (5)
- 9) _____ Road, residential street which cuts across Longridge Road, SW5 (6)

Down

- 1) _____ House, block of residences situated at 51 Hyde Park Gate, SW7 (9)
- 4) _____ College London, public research university in Kensington; founded 1907 (8)
- 6) _____ Cadell, Scottish character actress who died in Kensington in 1967 (4)
- 10) _____ TJ Bailey, tutoring service located at 11 Collingham Road, SW5 (5)
- 11) _____ Will, councillor for the Royal Hospital ward of Kens and Chelsea borough (4)
- 12) Benham and _____, property management company at 5 Thackeray Street, W8 (6)
- 13) Francesca _____, television and film actress born in Kensington in 1945 (5)
- 14) The _____ Theatre, small pub theatre in Kensington, SW10 (10)
- 15) Aubone _____, rugby union forward, born in Kensington in 1865 (7)
- 16) Herbal _____, Chinese medicine store at 260 Kensington High St (6)

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Heatwaves and Heat Stress in Trees

By Benedict Bull

The heat wave of the first weeks of August have been highly informative of the underlying condition of our trees. I wanted to share with you a couple of important indicators of heat stress in trees.

Firstly, if there are any branches which are losing leaves right now, that is probably a sign of heat stress. We measure the defoliation as a percentage of the crown of leaves that has been dropped.

By means of qualification, early season moisture or temperature stress can mean less leaves flush, so there are less leaves in total and this needs to be taken into consideration before any interpretation at a single point is ventured. One percentage of defoliation is that relative to the total sum of leaves flushed in an individual tree, and the other is relative to the norm in that species at that time in that location.

And a complete picture is put together by dendrologists with varying types of commensuration from estimated eye counts or with digital photogrammetry. Our trees, like all woody plant lifecycles require a basis period of a minimum of a twelve-month cycle of observation for one set of results, which in practice means a Spring, Summer and Winter condition survey for a full picture. Right now, in August we are talking about the defoliation as the primary sign of heat stress. That is premature leaf drop tells us that the plant has aborted growth and shut down its energy capture system completely. Rather like hibernation in mammals, deciduous trees are asleep in winter.

Secondly, rolling of the leaves or the leaves

edges and yellowing or browning of the leave edges or tips, indicates severe heat stress and tissue necrosis. This index is often a precursor to leaf drop or co-existent depending on species studied. It is a partial shutdown.

Thirdly, the most minor and reversible of the heat stress indicators is the wilting and loss of turgidity in the leaves. This flaccidity is the mildest of these three symptoms of heat stress and can be reversed by a good uptake of water. In fact, the sparkling rehydration of leaves in rain is visible to the human eye over a basis period of minutes. Plants become mobile during precipitation.

And just like in different people, different trees respond as type to heat stress. Hence the great qualities of gardens are their compounded life forms, the varied qualities and processes they exhibit. For example, oaks tend to go suddenly to leaf drop and over a couple of seasons, stag heading, or apical branch die back. Sudden oak death syndrome manifests in severe cases often with a reduced water table. Reports are coming in now in Kent showing an increased percentage of parkland taxa succumbing to this now. Confirmation will be confirmed in the Spring only.

Alders and elms and limes and maples on the other hand exhibit a more branch specific and combined showing of heat stress symptoms. Each one with its own patterns of handling heat stress. If you have any questions concerning your trees please feel free to share with us and send a picture to us on ben@smartlandscapes.com and we will help you ascertain the state of the tree and offer advice on how to keep them healthy.



KENSINGTON BUSINESS FORUM

We know all of our Forum Members are extremely busy at the moment and our Executive Committee are no exception. As well as re-opening our businesses, we have also been working on some fantastic projects and opportunities which we would like to share with you:

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (NCIL) FUND

We are thrilled to announce that the KBF will apply for four separate projects through the NCIL Fund. These will help improve the streetscape and air quality in & around Kensington High Street.

KBF GREENING PROJECT

Set to be the KBF's largest project to date, we are seeking funding from NCIL to design, install & maintain a number of 'living' green walls, to improve the streetscape and air quality. We have enlisted the support from a team of 'green wall' specialists to help us green two sites in Kensington. We are proposing to install 'living' green walls on a number of facades on the Town Hall, facing into the Town Square. Additionally, we are also proposing more tables & chairs, benches and freestanding tree planters to compliment the green walls, to make this an inviting area for our whole community to use. The second location is the Police Station situated at the top of Earls Court Road. This has a huge frontage onto Earls Court Road that could benefit from a 'living' green wall installation, reducing carbon dioxide and supporting local fauna.

KBF RETAIL VINYL

RBKC have commissioned 8 retail art installations which will be installed in vacant retail premises along Kensington High

Street. These will stay in-situ until Christmas, when the KBF will seek funding from NCIL to design & install internal vinyls to replace these, promoting & supporting our cultural venues. If you have an empty retail unit, or represent a freeholder with an empty retail unit please contact us for further information.

263 KENSINGTON HIGH STREET - HOARDING ADVERTS

Many of you will now have seen the vinyls which have been installed on the hoarding of 263 Kensington High Street. This initiative was kindly offered by Lodha UK, supported by RBKC and facilitated by the KBF. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and it has shown the sentiment of our community, that we "Support Local". We have 5 spaces remaining. If you are a small or medium enterprise, and you were operating during lockdown or shortly thereafter and would like further information to advertise here, please contact us

OTHER NEWS: The KBF have been working alongside RBKC and Publica. Publica is an urban design & public realm practice who are here to help our High Street become more successful, functional and beautiful. The KBF have facilitated a number of introductions and walkabouts with Publica and various organisations and businesses in the area. We will be contacting a number of these organisations, residents associations and forums with the aim of uniting us all, and to ensure we are all working towards the same common goal; to showcase W8 for the exceptional area it is. Findings will be shared in November. For more info on these and other projects see www.kensingtonbusinessforum.co.uk

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

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC FREE CONCERT SERIES

1 Sept Free online

Subscribe to the RCM's YouTube channel for some amazing music. Conductors Vicente Chavarria and Avi Taler conduct Smetana's 'Vltava' from Má vlast, performed by the RCM Philharmonic, and The Bartered Bride Overture, performed by the RCM Symphony Orchestra. www.youtube.com/user/rcmlondon. Royal College of Music www.rcm.ac.uk

IMPERIAL LATES ONLINE: STAYING CONNECTED

1-6 Sept Free Register 6pm-11pm

Join Imperial's Lates for a creative postcard workshop, or pit facts against fiction in the Pub-less quiz. Or join a discussion about how lockdown has changed the future of work.

Imperial College - www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/lates. www.imperial.ac.uk

PROMS 2020: PLAYING DOUBLES: BENEDETTI, IBRAGIMOVA & THE OAE

3 Sept 7:30pm Free Online

The cavernous Royal Albert Hall auditorium is an ideal space to explore the clean harmonies and the decorative melodies of the Baroque concerto – and all from the comfort of your sofa. Royal Albert Hall www.royalalberthall.com

COMPETITION: NATURE IN LOCKDOWN - A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Deadline 4 Sept

Enter the Museum's photography competition to help them find out how nature has been affected by the COVID-19 lockdowns. Submit your images of nature in the UK, by posting them on

Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #NatureInLockdownComp.

Natural History Museum

www.nhm.ac.uk

RENOVATION: KIMONO & SUSTAINABILITY

Til 7 September Free Mon-Fri 11am-4pm; Sat 11am-6pm; Sun 12-6pm

A stunning display of kimono by contemporary textile artist, and founder of the HIROCOLEDGE brand, Takahashi Hiroko will be displayed in the windows and on the ground floor. Japan House London www.japanhouselondon.uk

CHRISTINE MCARTHUR, "JOURNEY INTO SUMMER"

8 – 23 September 2020

Thackeray Gallery is delighted to present Scottish artist Christine McArthur and her colourful collection inspired by the food and flowers of the French markets in Tremolat.

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MAKING AN IMPRESSION

9-13 Sept 10am-5:30pm Free Advance booking

Featuring prints, blocks, plates and tools used to make them, discover the techniques and rich effects of relief printmaking. It showcases the work of craftsmen, pioneers and entrepreneurs over 600-years of Western printmaking, with objects ranging from medieval playing cards to contemporary fine art.

V&A. www.vam.ac.uk

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

TÊTE À TÊTES – WEST AFRICAN PORTRAITURE FROM INDEPENDENCE INTO THE 21st CENTURY

18 September – 27 November David Hill Gallery presents an exhibition of some of the most important African photographers, including Sanlé Sory, Rachidi Bissiriou, Malick Sidibé and Leonce Raphael Agbodjelou. Venue: David Hill Gallery www.davidhillgallery.net

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS' SUMMER EXHIBITION

Til 18 Sept Free Mon-Fri 11am-5pm Guest curators Robert and Nicky Wilson, founders of Jupiter Artland, have created a fabulous showcase of their members' and fellows' art. It's also a wonderful opportunity to browse (and even buy) contemporary sculpture in a no-pressure environment. Royal Society of Sculptors www.sculptors.org.uk

ARCHITECTURE FOR DOGS

19 Sept-10 Jan 2021 Free Timing TBC Featuring a collection of architectural designs for dogs by world-class architects and designers. This open source network allows guests to become designers and makers themselves, with blueprints available for download and opportunities to design one's own architecture for dogs. Japan House London. www.japanhouselondon.uk

VE DAY 75

20 Sept 7:30pm Tickets from £29.99 An inspiring and patriotic evening where audiences will enjoy epic, stirring and emotional music from some of the country's greatest composers – from Elgar's Nimrod to Walton's Spitfire Prelude & Fugue, Holst's Planet Suite to Ron Goodwin's Battle Of

Britain Theme, and many more. Royal Albert Hall. www.royalalberthall.com

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX IN CONCERT

25-27 Sept Starts: 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm

Immerse yourself in a world of magic and sorcery while a live symphony performs Nicholas Hooper's unforgettable score. Join Dumbledore's Army as Professor Umbridge usurps Hogwarts and Harry discovers the secret of his nightmares. Royal Albert Hall www.royalalberthall.com

CONTENT PROVIDER

28 Sept-4 Dec Free Mon-Fri 11am-5pm This exhibition by Jeremy Hutchinson in collaboration with Adam Dewhurst, Pierre Tardif & Oisín Byrne develops the artist's ongoing interest in contemporary labour conditions. Self-portraits that centre around a series of miniature gargoyles, made with white tack. Royal Society of Sculptors www.sculptors.org.uk

ABBAPHONIC

30 Sept 7:30pm Tickets from £20 Back by popular demand! Celebrating ABBA's greatest hits in all their sparkling, show-stopping glory, West End stars Abbie Osmon and Emma Kershaw will perform an amazing line-up with the amplified Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, a spectacular light show and sensational backing singers Royal Albert Hall www.royalalberthall.com

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

KCWC KENSINGTON CHELSEA WOMEN'S CLUB: EARL SPENCER

Thursday 8 October 10am – 12 noon
KCWC are delighted to host Earl Spencer at the Royal Geographical Society. Attendance is limited. KCWC invite you to log onto www.kcwc.org.uk to explore their new website and the many activities on offer. Join KCWC to experience friendship and the best of London.

KIMONO: KYOTO TO CATWALK

Til 25 Oct £16-18 Advance booking required
11am-7pm: Last admission 5:30pm
This exhibition presents the kimono as a dynamic and constantly evolving icon of fashion, revealing the sartorial, aesthetic and social significance of the garment from the 1660s to the present day, both in Japan and around the world.
V&A www.vam.ac.uk

ELECTRONIC: FROM KRAFTWERK TO THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS

Til 14 Feb 2021 Advance booking required
Adult 17.50 Child £7.75 Mon-Thurs & Sun
10am-6:30pm Fri & Sat 10am-9pm
Lose yourself in a club-like environment and explore 'how electronic music rewired the world'. Design Museum
www.designmuseum.org

WONDERLAB: THE EQUINOR GALLERY

10am-6pm Day passes £8
Revealing the beauty of the science and maths that shape our everyday lives, this unmissable experience will ignite your curiosity, fuel your imagination and inspire you to see the world around you in new and exciting ways. Science Museum
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

GREAT FILMS FROM CINÉ LUMIÈRE

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Immerse yourself in the wonderful surroundings of the Institut français' Ciné Lumière and watch a fantastic selection of French films. From the classic *Les Misérables*; the charming *Lost Prince*, *Le Charme discret de la bourgeoisie*, and many more! Institut français. www.institut-francais.org.uk

CAO FEI: BLUEPRINTS

Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm Free Advance booking required
Cao Fei is the first large-scale institutional solo show in the UK from the Beijing-based artist and filmmaker. Video, digital media, photography and objects all play a role in Cao Fei's engagement with an age of rapid technological development. Serpentine Galleries. www.serpentinegalleries.org

VICTORIA: A ROYAL CHILDHOOD

Wednesday-Sunday 10:30am-5pm; last admission 4pm Advance booking required
Discover the story of Princess Victoria, the young girl destined to be queen, in the rooms where she was born and raised at Kensington Palace. Explore how an indulged young princess blossomed into the independent and iconic monarch we remember. Kensington Palace
www.hrp.org.uk

FROM DINOSAURS TO DODOS

Wednesday-Sunday 11am-6pm; last entry 5pm
Round up your family and take a tour to see some of the Museum's biggest sights including dinosaurs, whales and volcanoes - whether you're a first-timer or returning visitor. Enter through Cromwell Road and

W8 & South Ken Cultural Quarters: What's On IV

head left from Hintze Hall to begin your tour.
Natural History Museum
www.nhm.ac.uk

CREATE & MAKE AT HOME

Free Online

Some great ideas to entertain children at home, using all those household items that would usually end up in the bin! And with accompanying worksheets to download or instruction videos. Why not design a street, or a banjo or even a rocking horse?
<https://designmuseum.org/whats-on/families/create-and-make/create-and-make-at-home> Design Museum. www.designmuseum.org

BACK TO EARTH: STANDING WITH THE FOREST.

Free Online
A fascinating and informative insight about indigenous organisations at the front line of extraction and climate change, as well as artists researching our more-than-human entanglements. Compelling viewing.
<https://www.serpentinegalleries.org/art-and-ideas/back-to-earth-standing-with-the-forest>. Serpentine Galleries
www.serpentinegalleries.org

MAKE YOUR OWN DIPPY THE DIPLODOCUS SKULL

Free Online

Fancy your own dinosaur skull at home? Download the scanned image and just cut and fold the paper model. Dippy's actual skull is 61 centimetres long, probably a bit too big for most shelves, but hopefully this tiny version will fit. www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy-diplodocus-skull-paper-model. Natural History Museum
www.nhm.ac.uk

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Free Online

If you can't visit the Science Museum in person, there is always their amazing virtual tour. From the blockbuster exhibition Cosmonauts to a personal guided tour of the galleries with the museum's curators.
<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/virtual-tour-science-museum>. Science Museum
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

DRIVERLESS: WHO IS IN CONTROL?

Til 5 January 2021 Free Advance booking
Artificial intelligence is gaining an ever-increasing presence in our lives. Everything from deep-sea exploration to a take-away is being reimaged with some form of automation. Discover more in this cutting-edge exhibition through interactive exhibits - even a retro robot car. Science Museum
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

WHAT THE TRAVELLER SAW: PHOTOGRAPHS OF ERIC NEWBY

Free Online exhibition

To mark the centenary of Eric Newby's birth, and the recent donation of his archives to the Society, this exhibition displays a selection of stunning photographs from his travels, The Last Grain Race to A Small Place in Italy. www.rgs.org/geography/news/what-the-traveller-saw. RGS. www.rgs.org.

EVEREST - A RECONNAISSANCE

Free Online exhibition

This exhibition showcases a selection of platinum prints made from the newly digitised negatives of the 1921 British Mount Everest Reconnaissance Expedition. <https://www.rgs.org/about/our-collections/online-exhibitions/everest-a-reconnaissance/> RGS. www.rgs.org.

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