

TAKE THE LEAP

INSIDE THE ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL

Seize the day

A LOCAL ARTIST'S FANTASTICAL FORMS

After hours

CHELSEA'S BEST NIGHTSPOTS A novel idea

BOOKBAR AT THE GAUMONT



ROI SOLEIL -- 40 YEARS OF BRITISH DESIGN AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL

WONDER, CULTURE & JOY

ONO

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER

A NEW ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL FOR LONDON

Join stars of page, stage and screen for three days of talks, debates, films, live performances and more

CHELSEAARTSFESTIVAL.COM







independent shops 68 CLUBS

Where to party in Chelsea

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An evening to remember at Auriens

The Cadogan Arms

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What's hot, from nail art to a fabulous facial

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Kiera Chaplin's favourite local spots

SLOANE SQUARE

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UNTIL JUNE 1

THE DIVE SHOP

The latest Anya Hindmarch pop-up shop is here, and this time it's dedicated to all things diving. Inspired by small-town coastal dive shops, the pop-up is a treasure trove of underwater-themed holiday accessories. Explore diving equipment, a raffia beach bag edit and a colourful range of other items including jewelled jellyfish evening bags, light-reflecting fish coin purses and beachy inflatables.

The Anya Village, Pont Street



In 1988, Margaret Thatcher's Section 28 banned the promotion of homosexuality in schools. This critically acclaimed musical tells the story of the aftermath, from moments of quiet heartbreak to major acts of rebellion. Expect moral panic, book burnings and abseiling lesbians, a set to a fizzing soundtrack of synth-pop.

Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square

Events MAY & diary

FROM MAY 16

SPACE: COULD LIFE EXIST BEYOND EARTH?

Would you like to touch a fragment of the moon? Hold a piece of Mars in your hands? See a meteorite that's older than Earth itself? If so, don't miss this major interactive exhibition at the Natural History Museum, which promises new perspectives on the age-old question: are we alone in the universe?

Cromwell Road

WATERLOO BALL Celebrate 210 years since the

JUNE 10

Celebrate 210 years since the Battle of Waterloo with a Regency ball in the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Participants are encouraged to don their best period attire and enjoy an evening of festivities – including Regency dance lessons and live music provided by The Capability Consort. It's the perfect event for history buffs, Austen fanatics and Bridgerton lovers.

Royal Hospital Road

MAY 10

THE MAYOR'S CHARITY BOXING SHOWDOWN

The mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Will Lane, will be taking part in a boxing match to raise money for the K+C Foundation. Will and other recruits from the local area have undergone a rigorous 12-week training programme to prepare for the big night. There will be 10 bouts, with a special half-time quiz hosted by Shaun Wallace from ITV's The Chase. All money raised will go to provide specialised mental health services to support local residents.

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street



FROM MAY 2 SUMMER IN SLOANE SQUARE

Summer in Sloane Square returns to Chelsea for another year. From May to the end of September, Sloane Square will transform into an al fresco dining destination in collaboration with The Royal Court Theatre. You'll find bars, bunting, and plenty of sundappled spots where you can eat, drink and spend time with friends.



UNTIL NOVEMBER 16

of jewellery. From Grace Kelly's engagement ring to a tiara worn by Rihanna, you'll discover intricate and glittering works of art dating back to the turn of

the 20th century.

V&A, Cromwell

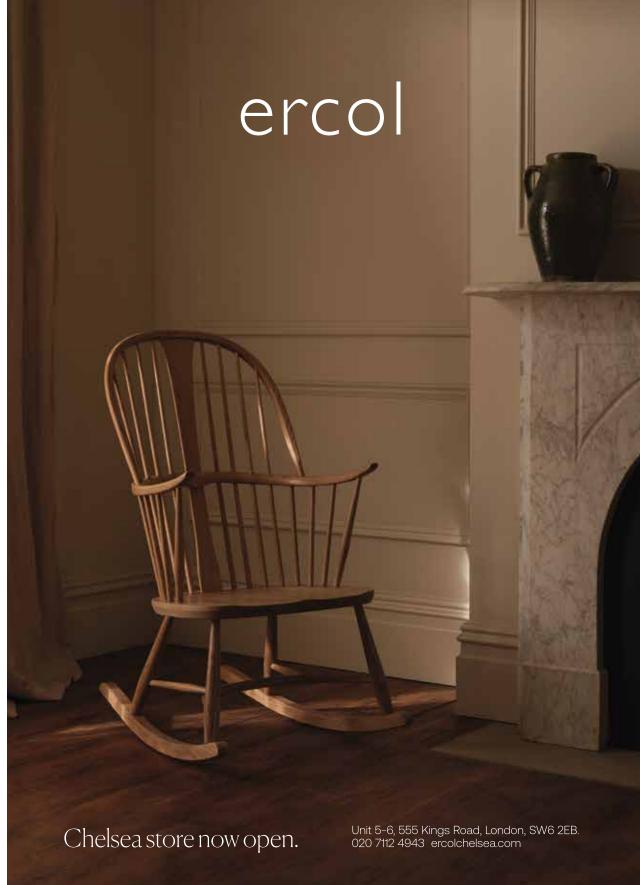
Road

Don't miss this spellbinding exhibition of Cartier masterpieces, including historic jewels and iconic pieces

CARTIER

MAY 20 BLOOMS & BRUSHES To celebrate Chelsea in Bloom, Peter Jones is running a series of fun events and workshops themed around flowers. In this session, a watercolour artist will teach you how to paint spring blossoms, leaving you with your very own A4 composition to take home with you. Tickets cost £20. Peter Jones, Sloane Square





INTRODUCING... THE CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE: from September 19-21, a brand new arts festival is coming to Chelsea. A collaboration between Cadogan and Country & Town House, you can expect three days of scintillating cultural events including poetry, literary salons, music, talks, debates and workshops.

Hugh Seaborn, CEO of Cadogan, said, 'Chelsea has long been a beacon of creativity, the haunt of artists, radicals, painters and poets. We look forward to seeing the festival ignite the neighbourhood with further artistic energy, providing an inspiring and accessible programme of events for residents and visitors alike.'

Events will take place at iconic Chelsea venues, with some of the brightest names from page, stage and screen visiting the likes of

TICKETS FOR A NEW ARTS FESTIVAL IN THE HEART OF CHELSEA GO ON SALE THIS MAY Cadogan Hall, Saatchi Gallery and the Royal Court Theatre. Alongside the ticketed events, there will be outdoor installations and free performances throughout Duke of York Square, the King's Road, Sloane Street and Sloane Square.

Lucy Cleland, Editorial Director of Country & Town House, said, 'the Chelsea Arts Festival will put Chelsea front and centre of the capital's cultural conversation. Bringing together a hugely diverse programme of events and with music, food and entertainment spilling out into Chelsea's fabled streets, there will be

no other festival like it.'

Tickets for the inaugural Chelsea Arts Festival go on sale in May. To secure your spot, visit chelseaartsfestival.com









An icon of British style in the heart of Knightsbridge



jumeirah.com



MAY 12 - 18 LONDON CRAFT WEEK

London Craft Week returns for its 11th year, with more than 400 exhibitions, installations, performances and masterclasses across the capital. This year, Sloane Street will be hosting The Art of Craftsmanship, a rare chance to go behind the scenes at Sloane Street's boutiques and discover the intricate processes behind iconic luxury products. Witness the 250 steps in the creation of a Louis Vuitton bag, attend an exclusive masterclass on diamond cutting at Jessica McCormack, discover the craftsmanship behind Gucci's silk foulards



Meanwhile visitors can try their hand at embroidery at the Natural History Museum, where Hand & Lock will run a workshop to help you

design and create a beaded supernova. At the V&A, you'll be able to take part in a range of live making demonstrations, including horse-hair weaving, puppetmaking and millinery. For the full programme,

londoncraftweek.com



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Blooming good books

FIRSTS LONDON, A LEADING INTERNATIONAL RARE BOOK FAIR, BRINGS A TIMELY HORTICULTURAL THEME TO SAATCHI GALLERY JUST DAYS BEFORE THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

CICERO THE ROMAN LAWYER. STATESMAN AND PHILOSOPHER, once wrote: "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Why not combine the two? It's a thought that struck the organisers of Firsts London, a leading international rare book fair, which returns to Saatchi Gallery this May.

Opening a few days before the Chelsea Flower Show returns, this year's fair has a timely horticultural theme. More than 100 dealers will bring an array of rare books, manuscripts, maps and prints, displaying floral and botanical examples from early herbals to contemporary art books.

"We know our rare books are great and we want to bring them to a new audience, so every year we alter the theme," says Tom Lintern-Mole, co-chair of the fair. "We love coming to Saatchi Gallery in May. It's a magical time and as we're setting up our book stands, we see the

Chelsea Flower Show coming into full swing. Chelsea in May always feels like it's blooming."

A staggering array of rare floral items will be on display, from tomes dating from the age of exploration to literature that has contributed to horticultural understanding.

Delineations of Exotick Plants cultivated in the

Roual Garden at

Kew by Francis Bauer (Marshall Rare Books), middle top, is a first edition with the especially rare third part, of which only 50 copies were printed.

Meanwhile, a binding by Charles Elsden Gladstone of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There in two

> volumes, middle centre, can be found at Lucius Books.

This year Firsts is partnering with Chelsea Physic Garden, with ticket holders able to visit the garden at a discounted rate. Daniel Crouch Rare Books will

bring a map of the garden, an accurate survey by John Haynes

"It's a fabulous opportunity to see and handle some of the rarest, most exciting, most beautiful books from around the world," Lintern-Mole says. "Frankly, I can't think of many better places [to be]".











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PHILIP MOULD &
COMPANY-VANESSA
BELL-STILL LIFE WITH
FAN

Calendar

STERN PISSARRO - RENOIR, PIERRE-AUGUSTE - LA CUEILLETTE DES FRUITS

MACCONNAL-MASON - HAYWARD A - TA219 (STUDY FOR A PORTRAIT OF WINSTON CHURCHILL) JUNE 26 - JULY 1
TREASURE HOUSE FAIR
The Treasure House Fair returns, with 70
internationally renowned exhibitors bringing

fine art, antiquities, jewellery, watches and classic cars to the Royal Hospital. Expect to see artefacts inspired by some of the major historical

anniversaries being celebrated in 2025, from the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth to a centenary of Art Deco.
Thomas Woodham-Smith, Director and Co-founder

of the Treasure House Fair, said: "We like to think of ourselves as a festival rather than an art fair. People come to enjoy the art, meet up and spend time at the restaurant and the bar. It is altogether a social, sybaritic and scholarly experience which in just two years, has become integral to the London Summer social season. A bit like Prince Albert's 1851 Great Exhibition and the 1951 Festival of Britain, the fair is a celebration of the greatest art and craftsmanship gathered from all four corners of the world."

BELOW:
ROSE UNIACKE - AN EARLY PH
54 PENDANT LAMP, DESIGNED
BY POUL HENNINGSEN
AND PRODUCED BY LOUIS
POULSEN, COPENHAGEN,

BERNARD GOLDBERG FINE ARTS - LEROY WOMAN WITH

COULBORN 6 SONS. MR. JOY'S

SURPRISE - QUEEN ANNE CHILD'S WARDROBE IN THE FORM OF A HOUSE 1709



LEFT FROM TOP: KENT ANTIQUES - IZNIK DISH ADRIAN SASSOON - YUKITO NISHINAKA ADRIAN SASSOON - HITOMI HOSONO IMAGES: SYLVAIN DELEU

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News / May



JOHN MAHONEY, MORNING PORTER at St Loo Court, has retired after 32 years. John first took the job after seeing an ad in a paper while working as the local postman. One reader, Mairead Noon, said: "John is like the living pulse of the buildings. He is 100 per cent reliable, there every day from 6am, including Christmas Eve. He is oldschool - there isn't a manager checking or inspecting his work or counting if he has clocked in and out - he is selfdriven by his own integrity and pride in his job." John is retiring to spend more time with his grandchildren in the New Forest.

A LAVISHLY ILL USTRATED NEW BOOK (published on May 20) explores the life of Christopher Gibbs, who in the 1960s had an antiques shop on Elystan Street that was frequented by Chelsea's rock stars, bohemians and artists. Gibbs developed close friendships with many local creatives, including Mick Jagger, and held parties at his Cheyne Walk home that were attended by the likes

of Princess Margaret. With his eye for beauty he came to define much of the aesthetic of the decade, and is even believed to be the first man to have worn flares. Christopher Gibbs: His World tells his story.



and historical artefacts

at Saatchi Gallery showcasing

club memorabilia, photography



DID YOU KNOW THAT PETER JONES now offers sleep appointments, designed to help you get the perfect night of rest? You'll enjoy a free one-on-one appointment with a sleep expert, who will advise you on everything from thread counts to pillow fillings, as well as your sleep environment, nightwear, lighting and all the little details that contribute to a high-quality sleep. Sessions last for 45 minutes with no obligation to buy. Sloane Square

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED that the King's Road post office will continue under a new franchise model Residents rallied behind the post office after learning about its potential closure, with more than 1,400 local people signing a petition. MP Ben Coleman said: "This is reassuring news for our community and residents. especially the most vulnerable, who rely on these services."



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ERCOL HAS OPENED A flagship store on the King's Road. Established in 1920 by Italian designer Lucian R Ercolani, the family-owned furniture brand is now headed up by Lucian's great-grandson. Visit the Chelsea showroom to get expert advice on what pieces would best meet your needs, whether you want a quick refresh or a total redesign of your living space.

555 King's Road





RUN FOR IT A CHELSEA PENSIONER HAS COMPLETED THE LONDON MARATHON

A Chelsea Pensioner has successfully run the London Marathon. Pensioner Dave Godwin is a keen long distance runner who last ran a marathon in 1982 - this year, at 73, he challenged himself to do it again.

Dave completed a year-long diet and exercise plan in order to take on the epic 26-mile run, and wore specially adapted scarlets, designed in a breathable fabric, to keep him cool along the route.

He said: "In 2019 I became a Chelsea Pensioner and I've never looked back - the opportunities I've had have been incredible and every day I see the work that the Royal Hospital does to provide care and comradeship to Army veterans both inside and outside our gates."

Dave was joined by Royal Hospital CEO David Richmond CBE, who also completed the Marathon. Together, the pair raised more than £10,000 for their chosen causes - the Royal Hospital and the Invictus Games.

Culture / The Gaumont

GET TO KNOW THE FIRST EXCITING NEW INDEPENDENT VENUES OPENING AT THE GAUMONT THIS SPRING

WHAT IS ARTPLAY?

It's a new creative hub where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to explore and enjoy art. Whether you're a total beginner or an experienced artist, we provide a welcoming space to try new things, develop your creativity, and have fun!

WHY IS THE GAUMONT THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOU?

I've spent my whole life living very close to Chelsea and worked in the area for years, so I know the community well! I love the vibrant, close-knit atmosphere here, with its communal events, amazing food, coffee, and bars. Chelsea has such a strong sense of community, and ArtPlay fits perfectly into that. It brings people together through creativity, offering a social and artistic outlet that feels right at home in this area.

WHY IS CREATIVITY SO **IMPORTANT?**

As adults we often lose touch with



talent! ARTPLAY OFFERS SO MANY **CREATIVE WORKSHOPS -**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR PERSONAL FAVOURITES?



Yes, we're proud to offer such a wide variety of workshops for everyone! That's a tough question, but I'd say my favourites are silver ring making and free flow painting. I love the creativity of making something like a silver ring—it feels so special and unique. Free flow painting is amazing, too-it's a freestyle session where you can paint anything you like while spending time with friends. It's so freeing and fun!

that side of ourselves. With busy

lives, we might not find the time,

motivation, or opportunities to sit

for fun. I'm definitely guilty of only

are around! But creating art is such

a mindful and relaxing experience,

and explore hobbies. Who knows-

You might even discover a hidden

it's a way to de-stress, be social,

down and create something just

bringing the craft box out if kids

STATE OF THE ART

INTRODUCING ARTPLAY, A NEW ART **BAR WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY RELAXED AND SOCIAL CREATIVE** WORKSHOPS. WE SPOKE TO CEO SILVA **CASTELLANI ABOUT** WHAT WE CAN EXPECT...

PACHINKO BY MIN JIN LEE

"This is about a Korean family who move to Japan at the beginning of the 20th century. It's a meaty epic following four generations of this family, tracking these small, intimate lives against the backdrop of big historical events. You come to really love these characters. I will always recommend this book, and it's one of our bestsellers - if you've come to BookBar before, I've probably talked to you about it!"



THE SAFEKEEP BY YAEL VAN DER WOUDEN

"This was our book of the year last vear, and we did an early event with the author. It's a perfectly paced, tense book, and I honestly think it's the sort of book where you should go in blind. It makes you question so much, and also, it's very sexy!"

> CHRISSY RYAN. **FOUNDER OF BOOKBAR. SHARES** FIVE FAVOURITE **BOOKS**

READ ALL ABOUT IT BookBar is an independent

bookshop, coffee and wine bar

TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW BY GABRIELLE ZEVIN

"I remember when I read this, I just wanted to close the door, lock it and read all day - I just loved being with these characters so much. It's about two friends who meet in hospital, and who both use video games as a form of escape. When they meet again many years later, they set up a successful gaming business. It's a book about friendship - and there aren't enough books about that! - and it's also about the process of creating something. I resonated very much with what it had to say about the power of creativity to change lives, and to pull you through difficult times."



OPEN WATER BY CALEB AZUMAH NELSON

"This is about a young man on the brink of adulthood, who meets a girl at a party and forms a connection with her. It's a real love letter to south London, and also to black art, particularly music. It's just a really beautiful book, and we've collaborated with the author for a few events, so I feel like this book is part of the journey of BookBar, too."

INTERMEZZO BY SALLY ROONEY

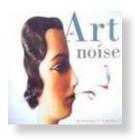
"Sally Rooney is obviously a sensation. When this book came out, we had an early opening party with some exclusive merch, and people arrived at four in the morning to queue! Everything BookBar does is about bringing people together through books, and I feel like the excitement around this book was a perfect example of that, and just the power books have to create a community experience."

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Culture / The Gaumont









PET SOUNDS THE BEACH BOYS

"One of the first albums that introduced me to unique, experimental ways of recording sound. Playing instruments in unintended ways. Opened the eyes and ears of many generations of musicians following."

BADUIZM ERYKAH BADU

"An iconic album from an absolute legend of the 90s. Sexy, neo-soulful bliss that inspired a huge wave of artists to follow - especially looking at the London jazz scene now. This album is one of the greatest."

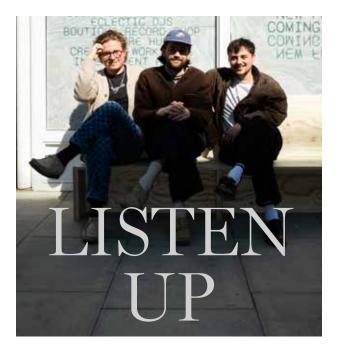
IN NO SENSE? NONSENSE! THE ART OF NOISE

"Again another weird, whacky and wonderful album from some chaotic, creative minds. Around the same period as Hip Hop taking off, utilising sampling of orchestras, others artists and location noises to redefine the meaning of bespoke composition. Again, an eye opening album that I found early on, crate digging in a unorganised back section of a Camden Record Shop."

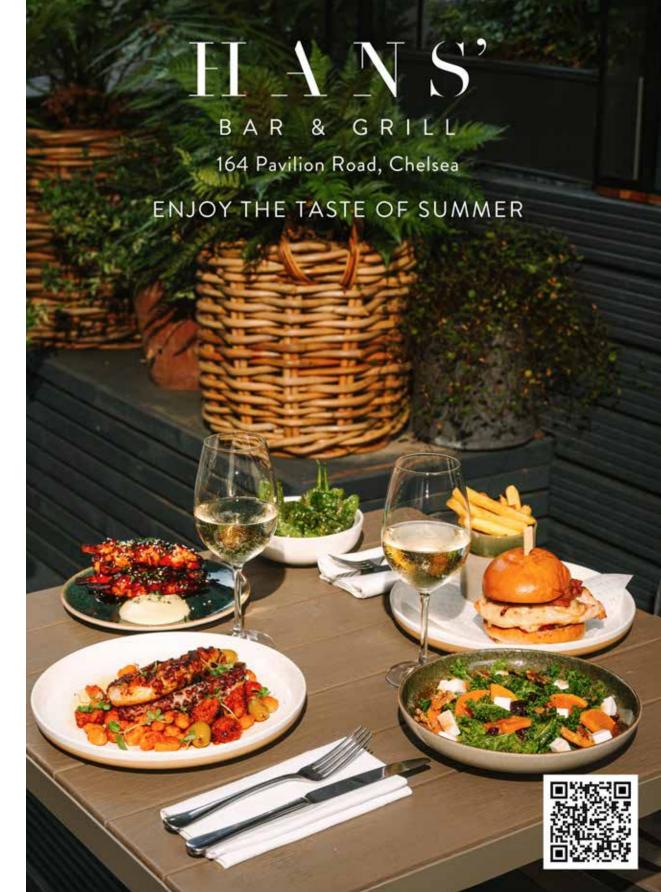
DEMON DAYS GORILLAZ

"From the brilliant, restless mind of Damon Albarn — from Blur to Gorillaz — Demon Days soundtracked my early years of music discovery. It was one of those CDs that lived on repeat in the car. The album's playful, genreblurring spirit — equal parts silly, inventive, and irresistibly groovy — captured everything I love about music as a collaborative art form. A standout memory: seeing it live at Glastonbury, the iconic animations flickering behind the band, bringing the whole world of Gorillaz vividly to life."

LOUIS
RAWORTH,
DIRECTOR
OF NEW
FORMS,
ON THE
ALBUMS
THAT HAVE
CHANGED
HIS LIFE



New Forms is an independent record store that will also be serving up coffee, cocktails and vinyl DJ sets



Community / Chelsea in Bloom

CHELSEA IN BLOOM IS BACK! From May 19-25, Chelsea will become a flower power paradise with showstopping installations and floral artworks blooming in all kinds of unexpected places.

Created by Cadogan in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society, Chelsea in Bloom is London's largest free flower festival. You'll find more than 135 artworks made from real flowers and natural materials, as well as local shops and businesses offering special floral menu items and limited edition merchandise.

This year's theme is 'Flowers in Fashion', with participants taking inspiration from Chelsea's long-running reputation as a destination for London's fashion lovers. From mini skirts to mohawks, from rock stars to punks, Chelsea has a long and fascinating fashion history. Expect to see the local streets become a runway as participating businesses reinterpret iconic looks as colourful floral artworks, each competing to win a coveted award.

MARY QUANT IS OFTEN CREDITED WITH

So what's the best way to

enjoy Chelsea in Bloom? One

INVENTING THE MINI SKIRT AT HER KING'S ROAD BOUTIQUE THE CONTROVERSIAL GARMENT SPARKED PROTESTS AND BECAME A TEENY TINY SYMBOL OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION



brilliant resource are the free rickshaw rides (a sellout in previous years!) which can be found at the information point at Sloane Square, and which will take you for a journey around the very best installations. Prefer to walk?

Guided walking tours will depart from Sloane Square at 11am or 3pm. Whatever you choose, don't forget your phone - the colourful displays are perfect for Instagram (just use #ChelseaInBloom).

This year, Chelsea in Bloom will be raising money for two exceptional charities. The British Fashion Council is a non profit organisation which champions British fashion and funds

CHELSEA IN BLOOM RETURNS FOR A 20TH YEAR WITH A **BOTANICAL BONANZA INSPIRED**



CUSTOMERS AT THE CHELSEA DRUGSTORE (49 KING'S ROAD) COULD EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR PURCHASES DELIVERED BY 'FLYING SQUAD': YOUNG WOMEN ON MOTORBIKES DRESSED IN PURPLE CATSUITS.

the next generation of homegrown talent. You'll have plenty of opportunities to make a donation, and you can also provide support by buying a limited-edition tote bag at the Sloane Square information point. Many of the flowers used in the displays will also be donated to The Confetti Club, which repurposes petals into beautiful, biodegradable confetti with all profits going to Cancer Research UK.

Chelsea in Bloom is all about the taking part, but there are prizes up for grabs too! Every Continued overleaf...



Community / Chelsea in Bloom



display will be judged by an expert panel of local luminaries, who will then hand out gold, silver, bronze and merit awards, as well as three top prizes: the best floral display, highly commended, and innovation awards. Winners will be announced on May 20. You'll then have the chance to vote for a people's champion, with online voting closing on May 22 and the winner announced on May 23.

So whether you're into punk rock or you prefer a chic designer style, dress in your floral best and get ready to celebrate this highlight of the Chelsea calendar!

For a full list of participants and for further $details, visit\ chelse a in bloom. co. uk$



HERE AT AURIENS, YOU JUST KNOW...



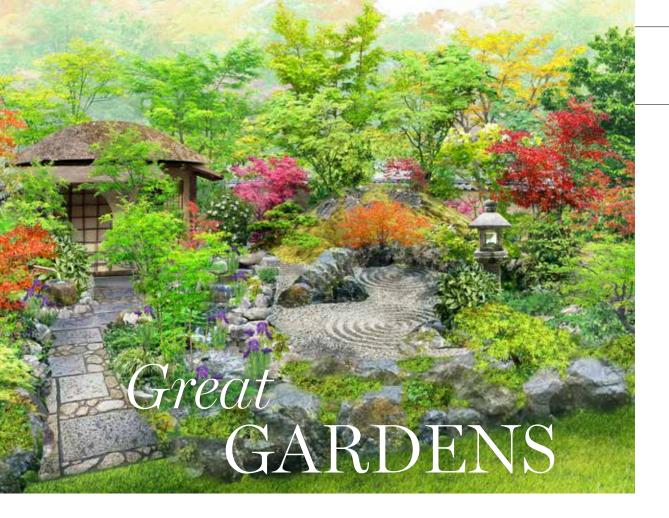
...there will always be a friend here to hit the high notes with.

AURIENS CHELSEA

Auriens Chelsea offers an exceptional lifestyle in 56 spacious, elegant apartments for the over 65s, overlooking Chelsea's King's Road. Enjoy a warm and welcoming community with a dedicated team who go the extra mile for your wellbeing and offer support tailored to your needs. Prices from £2.75m. Other fees apply.

To find out what makes Auriens as unique as the individuals who live here please get in touch.

020 3909 9629 auriens.com



A KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOURS, snatches of floral fragrances and a distinct increase in bees around Sloane Square can mean just one thing: the RHS Chelsea Flower Show is merely days away.

The world-renowned event will be bringing almost 170,000 visitors to the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea over five days from May 20 to 24.

Well-known names at this year's show include Professor Nigel Dunnett, one of the people behind the colourful meadows at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London, who will be taking inspiration from the sand dune landscape of the east coast of Scotland for the Hospitalfield Arts Garden.

Manoj Malde, who made history at Chelsea in 2023 when he married his partner, Clive Gillmor, in the Eastern Eye Garden of Unity, returns this year with the Tackle HIV Challenging Stigma Garden, which will be relocated to the Calthorpe Community Gardens in King's Cross after the

And all eyes will be on the RHS and BBC Radio 2 Dog Garden, the first design for the flower show by the Gardeners' World presenter Monty Don. It will boast a range of features geared towards man's best friend,

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW RETURNS IN MAY, WE LOOK AHEAD TO SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT



Horticulture / Chelsea Flower Show

including a lawn and shade-giving tree, along with "balls" of alliums and topiary and vistas reminiscent of Don's Longmeadow garden in Herefordshire. Later on this Chelsea garden will be relocated to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

Speaking about the project, Don says: "This is an irresistible opportunity to join with the RHS and Radio 2 to share my love of gardens and dogs at the world's greatest horticultural event. Along with the superb team headed by Jamie Butterworth, we shall be making a garden that is inspired by Longmeadow and my own dogs but above all a celebration of the way that so many of us share our gardens with our canine companions."

Chelsea favourite Kazuyuki Ishihara will be back with another of his colourful creations, Cha No Niwa - Japanese Tea Garden, and over in the container gardens section his son, Jun, will be presenting Secret Base - The Another Green Room garden, designed to be used as an additional

With the effects of climate change an ever present concern, Matthew Butler and Josh Parker will be turning the spotlight on people and partnerships supporting communities to adapt and thrive, highlighting lessons that gardeners in the UK can learn from those living on the frontline.

Their Garden of the Future, the first Chelsea garden to be sponsored by the Gates Foundation, will feature a rammed-earth building with planting spilling from the

roof, surrounded by beds of climateresilient and nutritious crops such as chickpeas, fortified sweet potatoes, pigeon pea and broad beans. Tools for water conservation and supporting sustainable planting will also be highlighted.

"Our garden is set in the near future in the UK, in a scenario where the climate is continuing to change," say Butler and Parker.

"Domestic gardens account for almost a third of the UK's urban areas, so this gives us a brilliant opportunity to garden in a way that reduces the impact of climate change.

"This could be to gather rainwater using water butts or dipping tanks, or following the 'right plant, right place' approach. Planting drought-resilient crops such as chickpea or sweet potato will require less water and experimenting with these vegetables now could put you ahead of the game in the future.

"Opting for sustainable building practices such as using recycled material or low-carbon techniques like rammed earth can also really help to reduce the carbon footprint of a garden."

On a similar theme, the Avanade Intelligent Garden by Tom Massey and Je Ahn is designed to support urban trees, seen as essential allies in combating climate change and creating more hospitable living conditions in cities due to the way they filter air pollution, cool the air, support wildlife and boost community wellbeing. Chelsea visitors

Continued overleaf...

LEFT: MANOJ MALDE

TOP: MATTHEW BUTLER AND JOSH PARKER IMAGE: CONSTANCE

FINE CELL WORK'S JORDANNE CLIFFE WITH CHELSEA PENSIONERS ANNE LLOYD AND KEITH PENDLETON HELPING WITH THE RECYCLING OF SCARLET PENSIONERS' UNIFORMS TO MAKE CUSHIONS FOR THE GARDEN



Horticulture / Chelsea Flower Show

can use a web-based app to have one-on-one conversations

Meanwhile, John Warland and Tom Bannister have come up with a contemporary twist on an alpine garden for the British Red Cross with their Here for Humanity Garden, which will be relocated to the Maudsley Hospital in south London.

A garden that will live on in the grounds of the Royal Hospital after the show is the London Square Chelsea Pensioners' Garden.

Envisioned as a place to share, or to enjoy quiet reflection, it will be relocated to the Prince of Wales Court once the flower show has finished.

Designer Dave Green has been working closely with the Chelsea Pensioners to create a garden shaped by their stories and past experiences, while aiming to reflect the 330-year heritage of the Royal Hospital as "a home for soldiers broken by age and war".

"The design is inspired by the joining of hands when Pensioners and their guests come together," explains Green. "The shape of the circular entrance and exit path allows visitors to come together and meet in the central social

Whether they're sanctuaries, shared spaces, a tool in the fight against the effects of climate change or even a political statement, the gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show will come in all shapes and sizes and, as ever, promise to provide plenty of colour, fragrance and bee-friendly inspiration.

For tickets and more information visit rhs.org.uk/showsevents/rhs-chelsea-flower-show



YOU SAW IT HERE FIRST

Appearing at the show for the first time will be seagrass, our only native flowering plant in the ocean, which plays an important role in marine conservation. It will form a sculpture that flows over an informal rocky seating area within Seawilding, above, designed by Ryan McMahon for the All About Plants section at Chelsea.

A Karoo Succulent Garden from South Africa is another first, with show sponsor The Newt in Somerset collaborating with its sister property Babylonstoren to create the feature.

Meanwhile, there will be a fun monorail in the A Place to Be garden designed by Tom Clarke and Ros Coutts-Harwood and sponsored by Children with Cancer UK.



GOOD CAUSES

Many of the show gardens at Chelsea are created to provide a platform for good causes. Ten are funded by the grant-making organisation Project Giving Back and will be relocated to different parts of the UK after the show. From Nicola Oakev's The SongBird Survival Garden with its birdhouse den, to The ADHD Foundation Garden, above, by Katy Terry, which celebrates neurodiversity and invites visitors to "think differently about thinking differently", these gardens offer a platform to raise awareness and funds.



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

The importance of water in the garden, both for its aesthetic qualities and the benefits to be had from capturing it, continues to be a prominent message at Chelsea. Dr Catherine MacDonald will be using a decorative steel water feature and a domed pavilion that channels rainwater into a circular rill in the Boodles Raindance Garden, above. The Killik & Co Save for a Rainy Day Garden, right, designed by Baz Grainger, is inspired by architectural rainscaping techniques and has a pergola with troughs suspended in a stone arch to capture rain and direct it to a water feature, while Jo Thompson will use a narrow rill that ends in a tranquil pool in The Glasshouse Garden, which celebrates the transformative effect of second chances through horticulture.



CHELSEA IN BLOOM

Get into the Chelsea spirit before visiting the flower show, and keep the floral vibe going after the event, by taking a stroll around Chelsea in Bloom and enjoying the beautiful floral creations on display at over 130 shops and businesses. chelseainbloom.co.uk

GARDENS FOR SMALLER SPACES

The RHS wants to provide inspiration at Chelsea for turning even the smallest spaces into mini oases.

A Space to Read Balcony Garden, designed by Freddie Strickland and Ben Gifford, offers an intimate and tranquil sanctuary, while the Komorebi Garden, by Masa Taniguchi, uses silver birch trees in its interpretation of the Japanese word for when light pierces through a tree canopy and the gently swaying branches make shadows dance on the ground.

Container gardening has also become a firm fixture at Chelsea. Look for Joshua Fenton's C6 garden, which is all about carbon sequestration, water recycling and being friendly to wildlife within a calming, sophisticated space.

Houseplants have reclaimed their place in the nation's homes, a trend reflected by the Houseplant Studios at Ranelagh Gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show. Don't miss Babylon Beats by James Whiting, right, of Plants by There and The Little Botanical, a contemporary interpretation of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon through a 1980s lens to provide a space that's vibrant, immersive and interactive. The Sensory Retreat, *above*, is a home sanctuary in which plants play an active role in shaping mood, reducing stress and enhancing wellbeing, while The TerrariRoom will explore the botanical art of creating an indoor jungle.

35



Art / News

JUNE 7 - FEBRUARY 15 **Design and Disability**

Showcasing the radical contributions of disabled, deaf and neurodivergent people, an exhibition at the V&A explores disability through design. With 170 objects, it details how disabled people have designed through their experiences, tracing the history of design and disability and showing how design can be made more equitable and accessible. Items displayed range from an adaptive Xbox controller to a hand-sewn Notting Hill Carnival costume by Maya Scarlette, a fashion designer with ectrodactyly. A landmark show, Design and Disability is a celebration of ingenious design and a timely call for action. Cromwell Road



MAY 27-28 & MAY 29-30

National Army Museum workshops

Inspired by the museum's latest display, The Story of Soldier Magazine, the National Army Museum is hosting workshop drop-in sessions over two days, inviting children and adults to explore eye-catching front covers published over the decades and to design their own unique front cover. Separately, a family-friendly gallery tour (also across two days) will unveil

visually arresting posters that have made a lasting impact on society and military operations. Royal Hospital Road



MAY 19-31

A Tale of The Andes

Exploring themes of identity, heritage and memory, an exhibition by Ecuadorian artist Diana Mercado, titled Un Cuento de Los Andes

(A Tale of the Andes), comes to The Gallery at Green & Stone. Mercado, a former student at Chelsea College of Arts, left Ecuador as a child for the United States. Incorporating gold leaf, glitter, gemstones and sand blended on the canvas with oil paint to highlight the tension between the Spanish conquistadors' greed and her pride in her Inca heritage, her works draw on childhood stories about the Inca civilisation told to her by her grandfather. 251-253 Fulham Road

\bullet B·A·C·A·A BAY AREA CLASSICAL ARTIST ATELIER

BACAA INTERNATIONAL MASTER WORKSHOPS 2024

Learn in the company of master artists as Bay Area Classical Artist Atelier (BACAA) announces workshops for this year.

Tony Ryder

Intensive Portrait Drawing Workshop Ashmolean Museum, Oxford UK July 4-July 10, 2025



Carlo Russo

Bacchanal: Dutch Garden Still Life Workshop Historical Artist Studio, London UK July 18-July 24, 2025

















tennis clubs or just to chat over a coffee in beautiful surroundings. Discovering London's most historic, architectural secrets and visiting fashion houses with a group of kindred spirits makes it so much more fun!

Have a look at our event calendar, full to the brim with daily activities on KCWC.org.uk and join us as part of London's most active British and international women's social club

Now the fun and friendships start. We can't wait to meet you!



JUNE 13 - JULY 27

The RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show

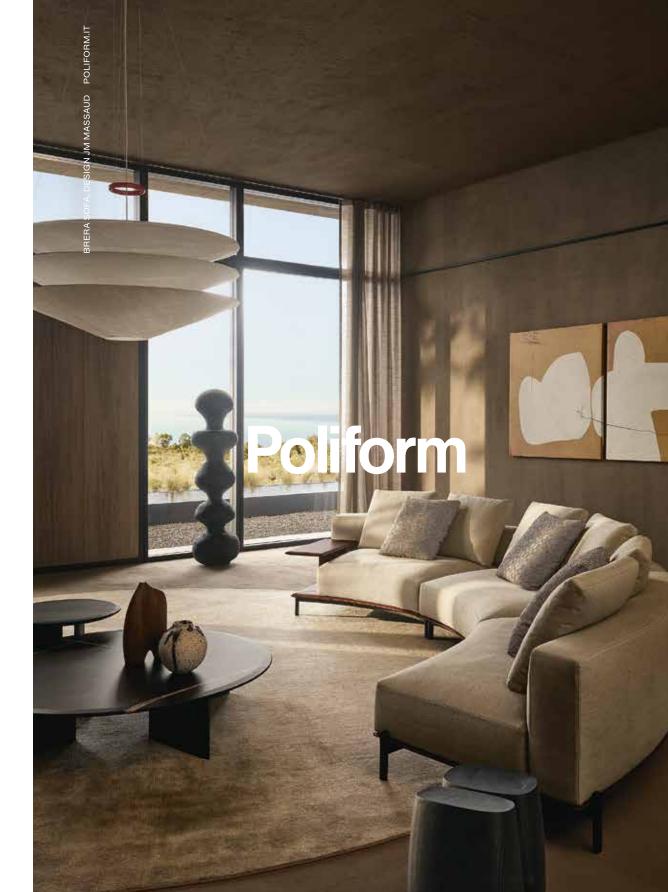
Returning for a fifth year, the RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show brings floral flair to Saatchi Gallery. From Japanese cherry blossom to plants used in traditional Korean cosmetics, the exhibition covers a rich variety of plant species, with photographs of Tuscan olive trees and the acacia cyclops of South Africa's Cape floral kingdom. Contributing to a long legacy of botanical art collecting and display by the RHS, and complementing the work of its Lindley collections - which hold more than 30,000 botanical paintings and photographs - works will compete for RHS medals. For the first time, the exhibition will be free, with visitors invited to make a donation to the gallery. Duke of York Square



MAY 28 & MAY 30

Workshops at Chelsea Physic Garden

Spend time in Chelsea Physic Garden this spring with two workshops inviting children and adults to paint and sketch in the great outdoors. The first session, for children aged five and above, is a quiet hour from 10am devoted to plant painting. Children can roll up their sleeves, mix their own paints and enjoy relaxing studio time where they will transform plants into art (£5–£10). There is also a botanical workshop with the chance to learn from a botanical artist. Running from 10.30am-3.30pm, the session (£65) is designed for all abilities. 66 Royal Hospital Road





After the success of its initial run, Saatchi Gallery has announced that it will be reopening Flowers - Flora in Contemporary Art and Culture for a summer season from May 30 - August 31.

Colourful, delicate and fraught with symbolic links to life, death and everything in between, it's little wonder that floral imagery can be found across cultures and art forms. The hit exhibition explores the importance

of flowers in art, sculpture, film, photography, literature, music and more, celebrating the enduring power of this age-old motif.

A highlight of the exhibition is
La Fleur Morte, a gallery space
filled with more than 100,000 dried
flowers which you can walk through
and explore. Another room uses a
collaboration with the Chelsea Physic
Garden to explore the medicinal uses of
plants and herbs. Elsewhere, discover
the tradition of Dutch flower painting
or admire the way that Chelsea greats
like Mary Quant and Vivienne Westwood
incorporated flowers into their fashion.
Not to be missed!

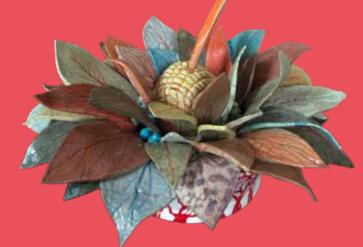
Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York Square







Art / Pottery



Sculpting a world of wonder



CHELSEA ARTIST KATE BRAINE IS NOT JUST A POTTER - SHE'S A STORYTELLER, SHAPING CLAY INTO CREATURES OF THE DEEP, SURREAL TENDRILS AND STRANGE, ORGANIC FORMS

WORDS: ADRIAN DAY

NESTLED WITHIN THE
FOLDS OF CLAY AND
COLOUR, Kate Braine's artistry
transcends traditional pottery.
Her work, a fusion of sculpture
and ceramics, embodies a vivid
imagination fed by childhood fears,
fantastical stories and the unpredictable
nature of clay itself.

Kate's fascination with clay began early.

"I remember when I was at school at seven," she says. "I made my mother a coil pot, which she still has on the dressing table." Even then, her favourite colour was sea green – a portent of the oceanic influences that would later emerge in her work. Though she pursued sculpture at City & Guilds, it wasn't until she left college and signed up for an adult education ceramics course that she truly discovered her passion for pottery.

Coming from a family of makers, creativity runs deep in her veins. Her grandmother was a potter, her grandfather a master of crafting toys, and her mother an accomplished watercolourist.

Initially trained in bronze sculpture (she once created a full body cast of David Bowie), Kate found pottery to be an entirely different realm of expression. "What I love about pottery is that there's no armature needed," she says. "It's like going on holiday from my traditional

training – it makes me feel very liberated." This sense of freedom shows in her work, where she constantly pushes the limits of clay's flexibility, bending and stretching it to its breaking point.

Kate's work is very personal. A near-drowning incident and a harrowing experience during a tsunami have left their marks, translating into dark, oceanic themes. "My fear of the sea helps bring out these dark, eerie images," she says.

Her inspirations also stem from literature and film. *Grimms' Fairy Tales, The Day of the Triffids* and the haunting figures of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* still send shivers down her spine.

These influences crop up in her work: Venus flytraps, slithering tendrils and forms reminiscent of carnivorous plants creep into her clay creations. "My grandfather had Venus flytraps in his greenhouse," she says. "I was fascinated by them – and now, you can buy them at Waitrose!"

She's also inspired by the Chelsea Physic Garden: "It's quite extraordinary, really, to walk around. I went for a lecture there the other day. They have particular plants there that could only survive because it's near the river."

Kate's admiration for Venetian glass sculptor Napoleone Martinuzzi led her to adopt his bold, vibrant reds in many of her pieces, while her fascination with historical botanical illustrations fuels her organic colour choices.

Pottery is unpredictable, and Kate embraces the uncertainty. "Every time I open the kiln, there's a mix of dread and joy. Sometimes I hear the clay exploding during firing – I just have to pray the best piece survives."

Like many potters, she performs a small ritual before firing. "Many potters make a small sculpture in honour of the 'kiln god' for good luck and I have lots of lucky charms around my kiln."

Kate believes it's a blessing to be an artist. "The cruellest vessel is to be a footballer or a ballet dancer, because the talent can be so short-lived," she says. "As an artist you can still practise if you're 90!"

A day in Kate's studio is immersive. "It's like being in love – I can't wait to get into my studio. Everything else pales in comparison." Coffee, crackers, music and audiobooks accompany her as she loses herself in

clay. "I gauge time by the light outside," she says. "I hate interruptions – they break the flow."

Kate does not just shape clay – she crafts worlds. From deep-sea horrors to surreal botanical forms, her work embodies the spirit of fearless experimentation.



"IT'S

LIKE

BEING

IN LOVE

- I CAN'T

WAIT

TO GET

INTO MY

STUDIO"

4



Dance / English National Ballet School

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE OF THE UK'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS ballet schools is based in Chelsea? Tucked away on Hortensia Road, the English National Ballet School is a world-class destination for ballet training. Every year, 300 talented dancers will compete for just 30 coveted spots - being offered a place means receiving three years of expert training from the very best professional ballet

"Getting into the English National Ballet School is a tough process" says Amanda Skoog, executive director. "It's tough and it's competitive, but we are talent driven. If someone is very talented, but they don't have the means, we will find a way of getting them a place here. Applicants will need to fill out forms, submit audition videos, go through physiotherapy checks and attend live auditions at the school. After all that, the young people who get a place here are extremely talented and extremely dedicated - we are privileged to work with them."

The English National Ballet School was set up 36 years ago as a feeder for the English National Ballet, in order "to train students in the techniques and styles that the English National Ballet company needed."

Not every student will go on to work at the English National Ballet - many will join ballet companies abroad. As Amanda explains, "we also prepare our students for an international career. Dance is a non verbal language, so it's a great art form for international collaboration. Our dancers will go on to work everywhere from Australia and New Zealand to

So what's a typical day like for students at the English National Ballet School?

"They arrive at 8:15 and warm up at 8:30" says Amanda.

Germany and America."

"Then they do a classical ballet class - male and female students are split into



FROM BLACK SWAN TO BALLET SHOES. WE'RE FASCINATED BY THE WORLD OF BALLET TRAINING. WE SPOKE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL, AMANDA SKOOG

different groups because there's specific training for females and males. After an hour and a half they take a very short break, then the women start on pointe work. They also focus on a specific area of technique each week, whether that's pirouettes or adage or petit allegro. "Then they have their lunch, and they do

things like choreography, contemporary dance, dance history, anatomy and nutrition. Overall they work five and a half hours every day, and they come in on rotation on Saturdays as well. In addition to that, our third years do work with the English National Ballet - for example, performing in The Nutcracker at the Coliseum for six weeks over Christmas."

That's not all, though. In addition to honing their skills in the studio, students are encouraged to use their talents to give back to the Chelsea community.



work, then - and even gaining one of the sought after 30 places won't guarantee

vou a career as a professional dancer. "Not all of them are going to make

it" says Amanda. "We have a fantastic wellbeing programme, so if students come in and they're feeling vulnerable or questioning what they're doing with their lives, we have people on hand to help them along their iourney."

Even if a student doesn't ultimately work as a ballerina, though, Amanda still believes that dance training is a great foundation for happiness and success in any industry.

"What we aim for is that every student leaves having had a really positive experience. To feel nurtured and self empowered. The students we have here have a chance to discover their voice. I don't want to go on about the whole digital thing and how it's taking over children's lives, but there is some truth in that. This

is somewhere where young people can come and express themselves. They have a chance to develop their own creative ideas. It gives them discipline. It gives them camaraderie.

"In this day and age where everything has to be a quick fix, spending three years in dance training really helps you to learn something about yourself, the skills you have, and what you need to do within yourself to enable your talents to shine through."

To find out more, visit enbschool.org.uk. Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road



Food / News



Those who like some chew in their cookies should head down to Orée. Its chocolate-chip cookies are packed with Callebaut chocolate, rich unsalted butter and light brown sugar (essential for that chewy centre) and then baked for a secret amount of time until they are crispy on the edges and oozy-chewy in the middle.

275-277 Fulham Road





GAIL'S

There's always someone who has to be different. Go against the (cookie) grain with Gail's wonderfully thick and chunky reverse chocolate chip cookie – a dark chocolate cookie studded with white chocolate chips. 209 King's Road

FEW THINGS IN LIFE TASTE AS GOOD AS A FRESHLY BAKED COOKIE. WE WENT ON THE HUNT FOR SOME OF THE BEST BISCUITS IN CHELSEA

FABRIQUE

For those who aren't chocoholics (yes, they exist), Fabrique's raspberry cookie is a nice alternative. With a dollop of fresh raspberry jam and dusted with powdered sugar, it's the grownup version of a Jammie Dodger.

267-277 King's Road







but THREE types of chocolate (and a smattering of pecans) go into Birley Bakery's sumptuous triple chocolate cookie cake. As the name suggests, it's more cakey than crispy – in other words, ideal for those who like an oozy, fudgy and hearty cookie. 28-30 Cale Street



Your dinner table is about to set new standards.

Now open at 120 King's Road

Food / News

CAFE LINEA – a new neighbourhood bar, bakery and restaurant – is opening in Duke of York Square this June. The cafe will offer an evolving all-day menu, from fresh pastries and artisan coffee in the morning to bar snacks, cocktails and mini-patisserie in the evening. The spacious terrace will have gorgeous views over Duke of York Square, making it the perfect sunny spot for alfresco dining.

linealondon.com

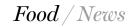






MAY 15
ROSÉ TASTING
Celebrate the sunshine with a rosé tasting at
Jeroboams, celebrating the variety and complexities
of everyone's favourite summer tipple. You'll sip
on six delicious wines from around the world, each
showcasing a unique wine-making style. Canapés,
cheese and charcuterie will be on hand for grazing.
336 King's Road





BIRLEY CHOCOLATE HAS
INTRODUCED some exciting
new ice cream flavours to
its menu. For an ultra-cooling
scoop try citrus & herbs, a zesty
flavour full of lime, lemon and
orange juices spiked with fresh mint,
parsley and coriander. For a richer flavour
there's nougat, complete with honey,
raisins, candied peel and crunchy almonds
and pistachios. Birley also sells tasty
magnums in flavours like fruity yogurt and
coconut chocolate.



THE ANYA ICE CREAM PROJECT is returning for another year from June 4 to August 17! Expect wild and wacky flavours and exciting collaborations with iconic British brands.

The Anya Village, Pont Street



SLOANE PLACE RESTAURANT has launched a tasty new spring menu.
Highlights include the decadent chocolate hazelnut marquise, moreish rosemary and onion fries and the classic croque monsieur, perfect for al fresco lunches.
Cocktail lovers won't want to miss the salted caramel espresso martini!
52 Lower Sloane Street

MEAT THE FISH has new al fresco seating, perfect for sunny days! Relax and enjoy local and seasonal seafood, meat and plant-based dishes while the world passes you by.

30 Cadogan Gardens



ON JUNE 2 YOU CAN VISIT The Tea House at Bread Ahead

for a full day masterclass in

the art of the afternoon tea.

Under the guidance of an expert pastry chef, you'll

learn how to bake scones,

enjoy a delicious lunch, and

at the end of the day you'll be able to take all your freshly baked

Bread Ahead, 249 Pavilion Road

brioche rolls, pastries, cakes and biscuits. You'll

treats home with you!



THE CHELSEA GROCER will ope on Friday 9th May at 10am. It promises to stock an exciting ra of delicacies from around the wifrom rare Japanese whiskies to artisan breads and crisp Proven rose. In addition to its grocery offering, the store will feature a counter, a wide selection of cake and sweet treats, a champagne and a coffee bar. Don't miss the opening, which will include a striquartet and series of food and dastings.

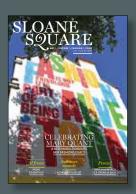
2-5 Duke of York Square thechelseagrocer.com



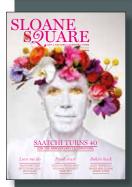
KEEP IN THE KNOW

















We know that these days you might not be in the area every day - or you may just visit us occasionally - but you still want to keep up-to-date with what's happening locally

So why not sign up to receive the digital edition of Sloane Square and we'll send you the latest edition as it is published

That's it. You will receive no other emails or marketing material

To start the service simply visit pubbiz.com/subscribe





Fashion / News

FANS OF FLORALS AND COLOURFUL SUMMERY PIECES will be pleased to hear that The Fold has partnered with British botanical artist Rosie Sanders on an exclusive seven-piece capsule collection. Featuring bright and large-scale floral designs, the striking and bold collection is a form of wearable art. Celebrated for her expressive watercolour paintings of flowers, Rosie is recognised as one of the most prominent botanical artists of her generation. Make a statement this season and snag a few pieces while you can - the collection is limited-edition. 28 Cadogan Place

28 Cadogan Place

FOR ITS SUMMER 2025 CAMPAIGN, Saint Laurent has commissioned the renowned artist Francesco Clemente to create a series of portraits, capturing the essence of actors Zoë Kravitz and Isabella Ferrari, as well as several of the fashion set's favourite models. Saint Laurent's creative director, Anthony Vaccarello, was drawn to Clemente's expressive approach, recognising in his layered use of colours a harmony with the spirit of the season's current collection.

56

HAILING ALL THE WAY FROM sunny Southern Californian, uber-cool activewear brand, Vuori, have opened their third London store on the King's Road. Spanning over two-levels—with a studio and events space floor dedicated to host wellness classes, events, and gatherings—Vuori is set to be the chic and sporty place to be. Vuori London King's Road store is located at 18-21 Duke of York Square





Fashion / News

BIRKENSTOCK HAS ARRIVED IN CHELSEA!







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CADOGAN

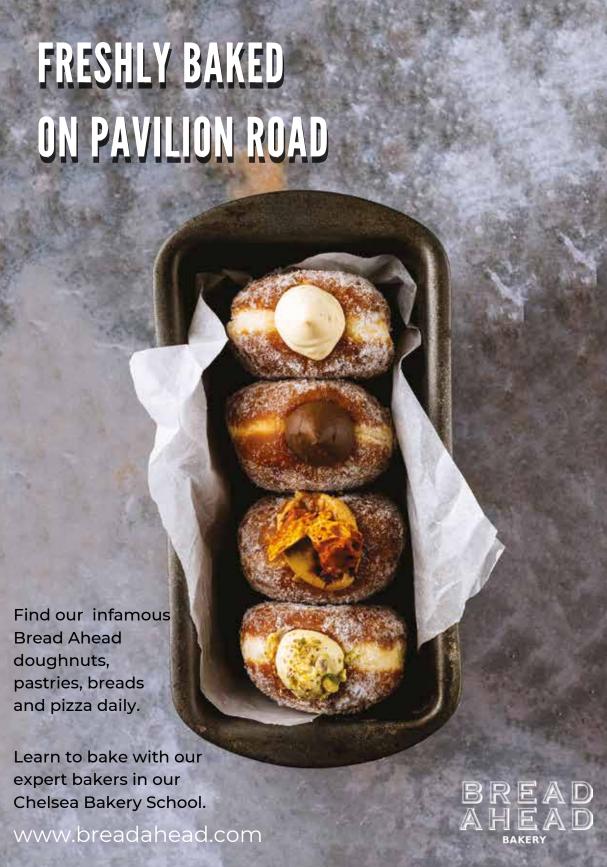












LALAGE BEAUMONT LONDON Dressing for The Season

Chelsea in Bloom's 2025 theme "Flowers in fashion" couldn't be more apt for Lowndes Street-based Lalage Beaumont London. With a 20 year heritage, Lalage Beaumont is a leading British luxury designer, renowned for timeless, distinctive occasionwear and exquisite handbags. And, in celebration of Chelsea in Bloom, Lalage Beaumont has unveiled an exclusive, limitededition silk banderole. "Chelsea

Garden"; featuring uniquely British flora and fauna, the perfect finishing touch to any handbag or outfit.

BAGS OF STYLE

Designed in London and handcrafted in Italy and Spain by skilled artisans, each Lalage Beaumont London handbag is meticulously constructed using the finest sustainably sourced leathers and lined in soft calf suede — with a signature flash of shocking pink or neutral beige. Crafted with a passion for detail and finished with gold-plated hardware, each piece is designed to be a treasured companion with cross-generational appeal – classic, luxurious, and beautifully made to stand the test of time.

BEST DRESSED

From Summer weddings to Ascot, Wimbledon and Henley, Lalage



Lalage Beaumont Calf Leather Handbags from £695 and all Banderole £95







Beaumont London's Summer 2025 collection of sophisticated, beautiful pieces for special occasions, features clean lines, bold colours and gorgeous prints. Made in London and using the finest European fabrics, Lalage Beaumont's

occasionwear transcends trends and embodies a quiet sense of luxury with cross-generational appeal.

Lalage Beaumont London can be found at her three boutiques in London; 28 Lowndes Street, 16-17 Burlington Arcade and 58 Beauchamp Place, and is also available online, and in some of the world's most exclusive retail locations.
020 7584 9977 lalagebeaumont.com

Nightlife / Clubs



Aiming to become as legendary as the King's Road, The Rex Rooms is an ultra-cool late-night lounge, poised to become the next it-destination for global stars, cultural tastemakers, and trendsetters. From the mind of Marc Jacques Burton (the nightlife visionary behind Mahiki, Whisky Mist and Tonteria whose hosted everyone from Prince Harry and Kate Middleton to Leonardo DiCaprio and Rihanna) The Rex Rooms opened its doors only last month but is making a lasting impression, thanks to its cool and boldly designed spaces—think hand-carved curvilinear wooden walls studded with mirrors and invitation-only spaces full of plush velvet banquettes framed by sculptural wood panels. The vibes are very dreamy and surreal, made all the more unique with an innovative cocktail menu that intersects art and wellness—we're talking mushroom extract-infused drinks. Glamorous and innovative, The Rex Rooms is one for those who are searching for some new energy in London's nightlife.

THE REX ROOMS

The Rex Rooms, 151 King's Road

THE KNOX

Word on the square is that there's a 1970s speakeasy hidden beneath Sloane Square Hotel. With no obvious signage, you have to be in the know to find it. Accessed through a secret passageway, The Knox is a blast from the past as you're surrounded with retro decor and a spirit reminiscent of the 70s and 80s – we're talking cocktail trains, a vintage phone exchange, bartenders dressed in glittering jumpsuits and throwback tunes. Refined and genteel above but rebellious below, The Knox is ideal for those who like effortlessly cool vibes: whether it's having an intimate drink in one of the corner sofas or dancing the night away.

Knox and you may enter. 7-12 Sloane Square

If you know, you know

WHERE TO GO IN CHELSEA WHEN THE EVENING TURNS INTO NIGHT

WORDS: BIBI COOPER

It's not just sushi that you can find at Sumosan Twiga. Every Saturday and Sunday, the restaurant transforms

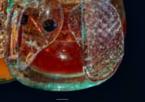
SUMOSAN TWIGA

after hours into The House of Beluga – an exclusive, high-end club concept in collaboration with Beluga. Featuring a rotating line-up of DJs and live entertainment, the atmosphere is fun and lively – think strobe lights and quirky cocktails – ideal for those who are looking for some exclusivity in their nightlife carousing, Because it's only if you know, you know.

165 Sloane Street

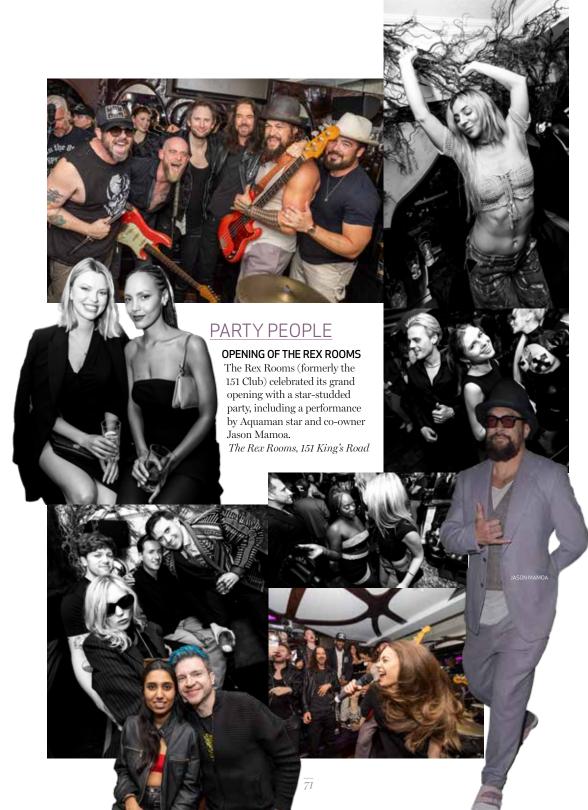


For ultra 'hidden' speakeasy vibes, head down to the lower-floor bar at the At Sloane hotel. With a resident DJ to spin soundtracks into the early hours, plush velvet banquette corners, an intimate terrace, a hallway filled with photos of kissing couples and flickering candlelight, it gives heady Parisian nights energy without the need to leave London. As well as some delightful cocktails, be sure to try the After Eight chocolate fondant. You won't regret it. At Sloane, 1 Sloane Gardens



Social / People





Community / Awards



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR VIBRANT LOCAL COMMUNITY

IT'S ALMOST TIME for the Chelsea Awards! The community awards are designed to celebrate the things that make Chelsea so special: its independent shops, its world-leading arts venues and its pioneering and innovative individuals.

We look forward to receiving your nominations and reading about the local institutions that you love. There are seven awards, each of which celebrates a different facet of the Chelsea community. Every year, your nominations reveal new hidden gems and worthy winners.

Once we've received your nominations we'll pass them on to our panel of expert judges, who will read each and every one before picking their worthy winners. The awards will then be handed out at a glamorous celebration at the Royal Hospital. If you'd like to celebrate your local community, give back to your favourite businesses and shine a spotlight on your local heroes, please do send in your nominations. Remember that nowhere is too big or too small to be worthy of an award, so whether it's an internationally renowned brand or a tiny independent shop, we can't wait to hear about the Chelsea destinations that you love.

Luxury later living destination Auriens is a sponsor of the Chelsea Awards. General manager William Harding shares his top local picks...

What do you love about the Chelsea Awards?

The borough is an integral part of Auriens residents' daily lives, whether they're dining at a favourite restaurant, exploring a local gallery, or simply stopping by the greengrocer. The people and businesses

recognised in the community awards help to foster a true sense of belonging, ensuring that Chelsea remains not just a picturesque location, but a genuinely connected and welcoming neighbourhood.

Who do you hope to see nominated?

There are so many fantastic local businesses that deserve recognition. I'd love to see the Chelsea Beach hair salon nominated, a favourite spot for the well-groomed. Jago's, the butcher, is another standout. The service at Roasting Party at Pavilion on Pavilion Road is second to none, and their banana bread is simply out of this world. White Coco is another gem – the team there is wonderful.

And of course, Café Portico at St Luke's church, home to the best bacon rolls around. We affectionately call them "holy baps"!

There are several individuals who make a real difference in the local community. The Reverend Max Bayliss does a great job of bringing people together through his work at Chelsea Old Church. Jo Carter, CEO of Glass Door homeless charity, leads a vital organisation supporting those experiencing homelessness. And Maighread Condon-Simmonds, former mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, continues to play an active role - both as a local advocate and as a nurse and carer with our sister company, Draycott Nursing and Care.

The Sloane Stanley Estate is a proud sponsor of the Chelsea Awards. Engagement manager Lynette Dundas and commercial leasing manager Poppy Matson share some of their favourite Chelsea businesses...

What do you love about Chelsea?

Everything! Where else do you find a community with such amazing shops, restaurants, salons, markets, parks, gardens, hotels, galleries and theatre all within walking distance.

Chelsea is unique in so many ways. Historically it has always been enriched by artists, writers and musicians as well as people unafraid to be themselves and create an alternative culture.

Who would you like to see nominated?

It would be wonderful to see
Fantômas, Alley Cats, Josephine and
Lucio nominated for the In Good Taste
award as they have made Chelsea
more delicious. It would also be
great to see Lavender Green
Flowers nominated as they
offer something unique to the
King's Road while being
beautiful, seasonal and
sustainable at the same time.



ONLY IN CHELSEA

Businesses that bring something unique to the

COMMUNITY HERO

An organisation or person that has benefited the community through their actions

CULTURAL CHAMPION

An organisation that has enriched Chelsea's culture and raised the area's profile

IN GOOD TASTE

Someone who has made Chelsea more delicious

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Businesses that have joined forces for the greater good

MASTER OF CRAFT

An artisan who elevates the everyday to the extraordinary

FUTURE FORWARD

A company that is innovating to meet tomorrow's challenges.
That could be sustainability, experiential retail or something quite different



The Chelsea Awards are created and supported by Cadogan and Sloane Square magazine.

Thank you to our sponsors









Cripps





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Charity / K+C Foundation

LET'S DO LUNCH

BRINGING COMMUNITY TO THE TABLE

A collaboration between The Cadogan Arms and the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation brought warmth and connection to the Chelsea community through a special lunch for 25 vulnerable residents earlier this year.

The event aimed to tackle loneliness and isolation during the colder, post-Christmas months – an issue that particularly affects older people in our community and can significantly impact physical and mental health.

The Cadogan Arms devised a special three-course menu for the occasion, and its attentive staff made sure every guest was treated to the pub's renowned hospitality in the welcoming atmosphere of the restaurant, complete with a roaring fire.

Patrick Campbell is head of people operations at JKS Pubs, which owns The Cadogan Arms, and explains its commitment to the

local community:

"At each of our three pubs, we focus our fundraising and community awareness efforts towards a local



non-profit organisation. At The Cadogan Arms, it was an easy decision to partner with the K+C Foundation. The work they do in parts of the borough so frequently overlooked really resonated with us and we hope, as a public house first and foremost, to provide a similar safe haven for those in search of togetherness and the warmth of welcome that only an 'old friend' can inspire.

"Whether it's sending our team to volunteer in the foundation's mentoring projects or hosting the Age UK collective's Christmas lunch, we are privileged to play even a small part in the tremendous social achievements





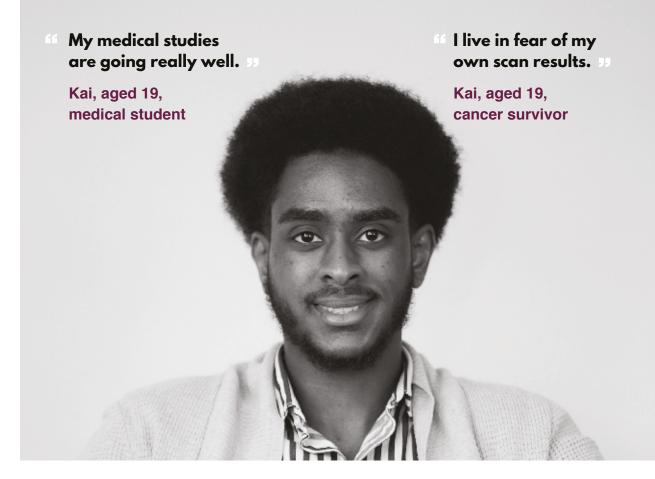
the foundation continues to make in Chelsea and beyond. Thank you to all those who pioneer ever forwards!"

The lunch followed on from The Cadogan Arms' successful Give Where You Live campaign, which ran over Christmas in aid of the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation. The initiative saw an optional £1 added to every bill during the festive period – raising a fantastic £3,500 to support residents in need.

With The Cadogan Arms having set such a shining example, the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation is keen to expand the Give Where You Live campaign to other hospitality venues and retailers in the borough. If you would like to take part, please contact team@thekandcfoundation.com.



To find out more or to make a donation, please visit thekandcfoundation.com



The impacts of cancer are not always visible.

Depression. Anxiety. Scanxiety. PTSD. Panic Attacks. Loneliness.

75% of teenagers and young adults will experience a serious mental health problem following a cancer diagnosis.

With Teens Unite Fighting Cancer, young people aged 13-24 can live life to the full, without cancer taking control.



We can't make a difference without your support. Please donate.



www.teensunite.org

Registered Charity Number: 1118361



Beauty / News

DERMATOLOGY MEETS
MINDFULNESS with Eudelo's latest treatment. The Eudelo Grounded Glow Reboot (£625) is a 90-minute facial that combines deepcleansing hydrodermabrasion, LED technology and cryostimulation with unique elements including medical grounding and brainwave entrainment – going beyond surface-level results to address the mind-body connection to radically detox and reboot the skin. Perfect to get summer glow ready.

86 Sloane Avenue



ASK ANYONE WHO IS INTO

Boots, 60 King's Road

PERFUME and they'll tell you that cherry is the "it" scent this season. Those with sweet-fragrance sensibilities will be pleased to hear that singer-songwriter Ariana Grande has released a cherry-packed fragrance. The REM Cherry Eclipse (£45) is a playful and rich fragrance inspired by the rare beauty of an eclipse. It opens with the sweet allure of black cherry and sugared honeysuckle petals, followed by a heart of jasmine and marshmallow meringue. Sensual and sweet, Cherry Eclipse is the perfect fragrance for heady summer days.



SLOANE SQUARE DID IT FIRST!
Vita has launched an infrared training room, boasting the reputation of being the first studio in London to offer infrared barre, stretch, strength training and mat pilates in a room heated via infrared panels. But what does it all do? Well, it allows you to absorb all the rejuvenation, detoxification and metabolism-boosting benefits of infrared light therapy while working out. Win-win. 31 Sloane Square



Beauty / News

DISCOVER FORTUITOUS FINLEY (£245), the latest scent from Penhaligons. With notes of salted pistachio, violet leaf, leather and matcha, it promises to transport you on a wild gallop through the countryside. Penhaligons, 25 King's Road

DERMALOGICA HAS LAUNCHED a new microneedling treatment. The 'Exo Booster' experience (£330) creates controlled microinjuries which stimulate the body's natural healing process, resulting in

increased collagen and elastin production. The use of Exo Booster enhances the effectiveness of the treatment, resulting in improved skin texture, minimised pore size and scar reduction. You'll leave looking younger and smoother just in time for wedding season! Dermalogica, 37 Duke of York Square



WANT TO UPGRADE YOUR ORAL HYGIENE? Oral wellness brand Pärla has launched its very own tongue scraper, which can be used to remove debris from the surface of the tongue (gross.. but oddly satisfying?). Made from antimicrobial copper, the tool promises to leave your breath fresher and even to improve your sense of taste! Pärla was created by Chelsea dentist Dr Rhona Eskander, winner of the 'future forward' Chelsea Award in 2022. Parlaoralcare.com





Harrods, International Designer, First Floor



ERMA

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My Chelsea / Kierwhaplin

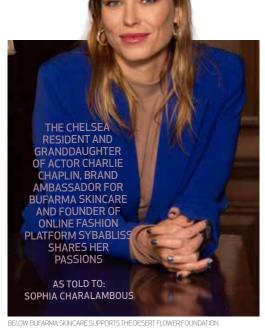
FAVOURITE SPOT?
I love The Ivy Chelsea
Garden, it's such a classic
and always has a great
atmosphere. If I'm in the
mood for something more
relaxed, I enjoy having tea
at The Cadogan Hotel or a
quiet little spot where I can
recharge.



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU LOOK LIKE?

I usually start my day with a workout, it helps me get focused and grounded. Then I'm often working from home, handling things for Bufarma, SybaBliss or Generation by Kiera and Spencer Chaplin. I usually have a few meetings, either in person or virtually, and depending on the day, I might be





working on the Chaplin
Awards or developing
creative projects. I also
travel a lot, so no two days
ever feel quite the same,
and I love that.

WHERE DO YOU TEND TO GO?

King's Road, of course, it's a must. I love the mix of boutiques, big-name brands and the general vibe of the area. It's great for shopping or even just for a stroll and a coffee.

YOU'RE THE GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR SKINCARE BRAND BUFARMA, WHY? Bufarma is something I truly believe in. It's made with buffalo milk, which is incredibly rich in nutrients and so soothing for the skin. It's effective, natural and simple: everything skincare should be. But more than that, Bufarma has a purpose. We've pledged to support the Desert Flower Foundation, so every product sold contributes to building schools and protecting young girls. That kind of impact makes it even more meaningful to me.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE?

Be someone you're proud of. I've learned that doing good and creating things that matter is what fills you up. It's easy to chase success for the wrong reasons, but when you live with purpose and integrity, that's when life feels the most fulfilling.

WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING RELATED TO CELEBRITY ROYALTY?

I always find it kind of funny when people say that. It's cool, of course, and I feel incredibly lucky, but I don't think about it too much. What really matters to me is

making myself proud by following my own path. At the same time, I do have a few projects that I'm really passionate about to help keep this amazing person I get to call my grandfather alive for new generations.

INDIAN OCEAN INSPIRATIONAL OUTDOOR FURNITURE



BALHAM | I

HARRODS

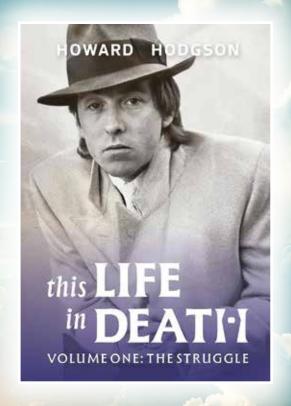
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