

SLOANE SQUARE

ART \ CULTURE \ FASHION \ FOOD

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026



CENTRE STAGE

THE ROYAL COURT AT 70

*The hot
table*

MARTINO'S
COMES TO
CHELSEA

*Pharmacy
fantasia*

BOOTS GETS
THE ANYA HINDMARCH
TREATMENT

*Read all
about it*

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TO COMICS
& CAKES



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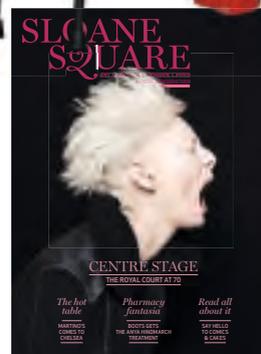
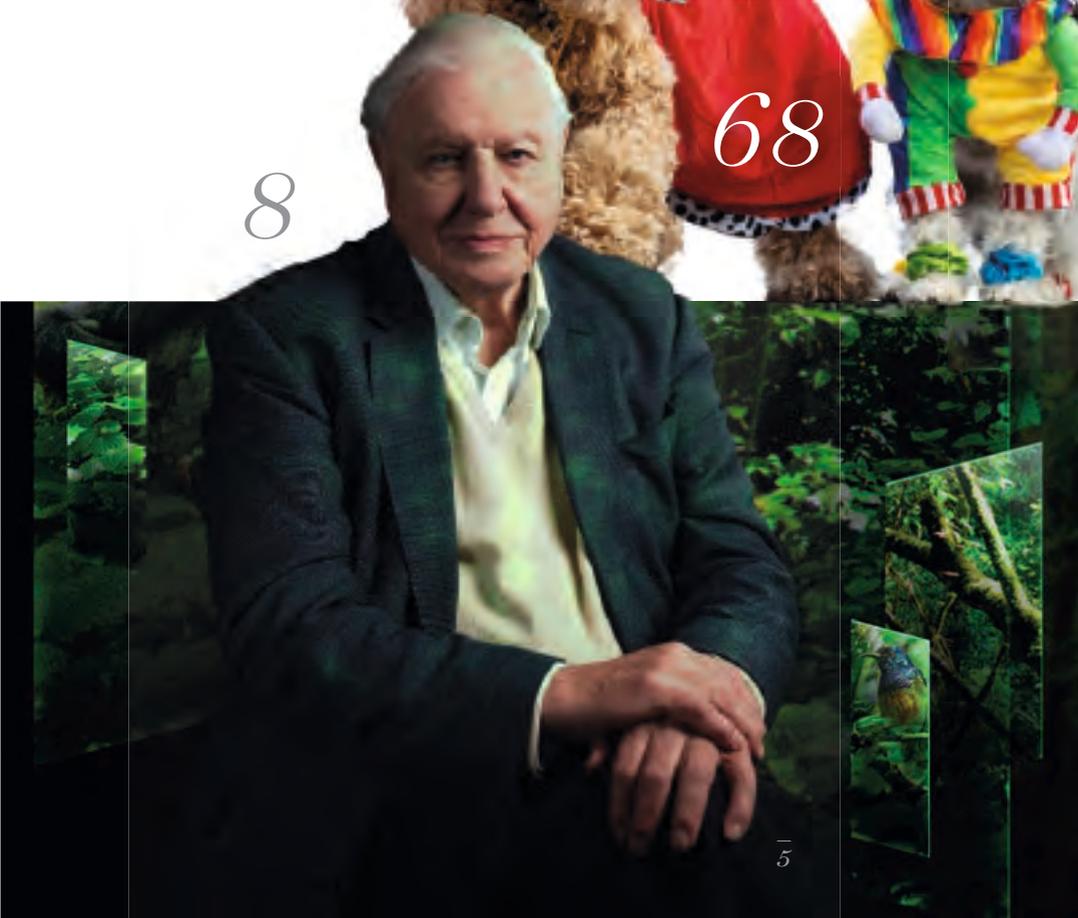
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SLOANE SQUARE

is produced for Cadogan by

Publishing Business

3 Queen Street,
Mayfair, London
W1J 5PA
020 7259 1053

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cadogan.co.uk

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Calendar



IMAGE: TRUSTEES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

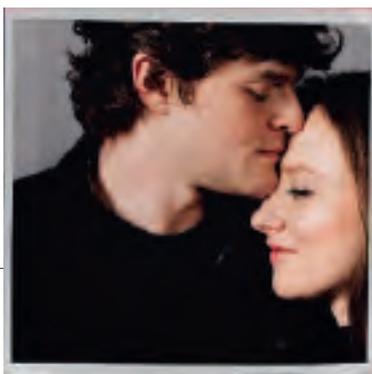
UNTIL AUGUST
OUR STORY WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
This exhibition uses immersive cinema to tell the story of our planet. Narrated by David Attenborough and with an original score by acclaimed composer Nick Powell, it's a powerful ode to the resilience and beauty of nature. Originally scheduled to close in January, it has now been extended to August.
The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road

Events *diary*

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 21
GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU?
Kicking off its 70th anniversary celebrations, the Royal Court Theatre is staging a moving play about love and resilience. A pregnant couple are excited to start a family, but when they attend their 20-week scan, they're faced with an impossible choice that will push them to their limit.

Sloane Square



JANUARY 26
SPRING FOLKLORE TALK
Already yearning for spring? This talk at the Chelsea Physic Garden is held by folklorist Roy Vickery, who will be sharing some of the myths and stories centred around spring flowers such as snowdrops, daffodils, hellebores and primroses. After the talk you'll be invited to wander around the garden and see those plants for yourself, fortified by a hot cup of tea.

66 Royal Hospital Road



JANUARY 20 AND FEBRUARY 17
COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Join other members of the community at the Royal Hospital's Soane Stable Yard for a friendly free coffee morning. You'll have the chance to chat with the Chelsea Pensioners, meet your neighbours, play games and explore the historic setting with its unique art and history collection. The event is open to everybody but is particularly designed for older people, people living with dementia and their carers and loved ones.

Royal Hospital Road

ALWAYS BE COMEDY

EVERY THURSDAY

ALWAYS BE COMEDY AT THE TRAFALGAR
Get ready for Chelsea's newest live comedy night, held every Thursday at The Trafalgar.

Organised by Always Be Comedy, the weekly shows will feature A-list stars such as Sara Pascoe (below), Ivo Graham, Iain Stirling and Maisie Adam as well as some super-secret surprise performers.

224-226 King's Road



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA

JANUARY 27

ROXY DUNN IN CONVERSATION

Meet novelist Roxy Dunn as she discusses her latest book, *Wants & Needs* at this special pre-publication event. The novel follows 32-year-old Misty, who's recently broken up with her fiancé and moved back to her childhood bedroom. When she meets the charismatic Christopher on a dating app, she falls hard for him before discovering that he believes in ethical non-monogamy... Roxy will be in conversation with Natasha

Poliszczuk, creator of the Book(ish) substack.
Bookbar, 11 Chelsea Manor Street



Calendar



IMAGE: ALEJANDRO SPINA

FEBRUARY 25

AN EVENING WITH DAVINA
TV icon Davina McCall will share stories from her career, ranging from her early days of fame to her decades campaigning for women's health. After she's shared personal anecdotes, Davina will open the floor to questions from the audience. A limited number of meet and greet tickets will also be available.

**Cadogan Hall,
5 Sloane Terrace**



JANUARY 23

THE LONG NOW: LATES

To accompany its 40th anniversary exhibition, Saatchi Gallery will be open after hours. You'll have the chance to explore the galleries, grab a drink from the bar and take part in classes and workshops that will deepen your understanding of the exhibits on display.

Duke of York Square

JANUARY 22 AND 27

**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE:
HAMLET**

See Olivier award-winner Hiran Abeysekera take on *Hamlet* in this latest instalment of the National Theatre Live series. Enjoy the screening in one of the Everyman's cosy armchairs, with food and cocktails delivered to your seat.

279 King's Road



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Calendar

FEBRUARY 6

FASHION LIFE DRAWING

Take part in a life drawing class inspired by the avant garde outfits worn at the legendary Blitz club. Original Blitz kid and costume designer Fiona Dealey will be styling models in items from her wardrobe, including a hat from Stephen Jones's very first collection. Artists of every ability will then have a chance to draw the models in motion.

Design Museum, 224-238 Kensington High Street



UNTIL SEPTEMBER 27

DIMENSIONS: CONTEMPORARY CHINESE STUDIO CRAFTS

The V&A is staging the UK's first ever exhibition of contemporary Chinese studio crafts. The display will explore how artists have reimagined traditional crafts and practices to create beautiful new objects, from monumental sculptures to teapots and carved porcelain.

Cromwell Road



FEBRUARY 8

VINTAGE FURNITURE AND FLEA MARKET

Want to shop sustainably and save money? A flea market is the perfect solution. This one at the Chelsea Old Town Hall has over 50 traders specialising in stylish mid-century pieces, perfect for giving your home a new year refresh.

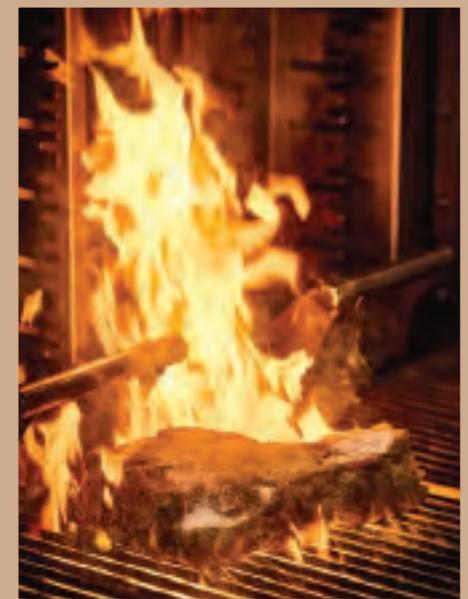
King's Road



At the heart of Chelsea Grill is a confident, fire-led philosophy shaped by craft, patience, and exceptional produce. In the kitchen, Head Chef Anton Vasilyev brings a refined, international perspective honed across Kyiv, London, and Paris, most recently as Executive Chef at acclaimed Basque restaurant Sugaar.

The menu celebrates prime meat, fish, and seafood butchered, aged, and grilled in-house. Standout cuts meet day-boat fish charred over open flame, alongside dry-aged fish and rotisserie poussin, brined and air-dried for 24 hours before cooking to ensure depth and precision in every bite. Designed for sharing, the dishes balance bold technique with a relaxed neighbourhood spirit.

Dessert has quickly earned cult status: a house-made cherry pie by sous-chef Tyler Jennifer, already a favourite among diners. An elegant wine list pairs robust reds with flame-kissed meats and crisp whites with seafood, while Bar Manager Mikey Robinson curates a focused cocktail programme of refined classics and seasonal twists, including his signature Green Apple Gimlet.



CHELSEA
GRILL

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Calendar / Chinese New Year



FEBRUARY 12

Wine and dumplings pairing

Ever wondered what tittle to serve with your dumplings? This masterclass at Jeroboams will help you to accentuate the flavours of traditional Chinese cooking by selecting complementary wines. You'll also learn more about the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.

*Jeroboams Knightsbridge,
56 Walton Street*



Celebrating the LUNAR NEW YEAR

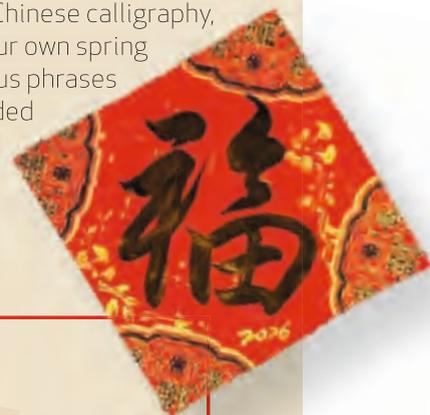
ON FEBRUARY 17, WE'RE WELCOMING IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE, A SYMBOL OF OPPORTUNITY AND FORWARD MOMENTUM. HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO CELEBRATE

FEBRUARY 13

Chinese calligraphy

Artist and calligrapher Ling of Lingspace will lead a workshop on the art of Chinese calligraphy, guiding you as you create your own spring couplets painted with auspicious phrases and blessings. You'll be provided with all the materials you need, as well as a glass of wine.

*Victoria and Albert Museum,
Cromwell Road*



FEBRUARY 21

Chinese New Year market

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with a special themed edition of the Duke of York Square fine food market. You can expect traditional dragon dancers, Chinese drummers, Lunar stilt walkers, face painting, red lanterns, and artisanal delicacies like dim sum and bao buns.

dukeofyorksquare.com



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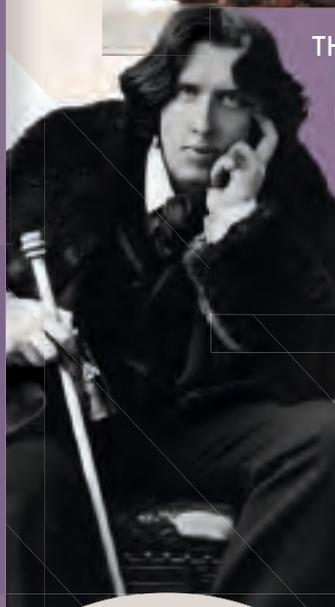


Calendar



CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN, 66 ROYAL HOSPITAL ROAD

To celebrate LGBT+ history month, the physic garden is hosting a series of talks and events on queer botany and medicine. On February 22 you can take a guided walk through the garden and discover the links between the plant world and queer history.



THE CADOGAN HOTEL, 75 SLOANE STREET

Oscar Wilde was arrested while staying in room 118 at The Cadogan Hotel. His friends advised him to board a boat to France, but Wilde was determined to stay in England and face the charges against him. Today guests can opt to stay in the room, which has been renamed The Oscar Suite.

34 TITE STREET

After Oscar Wilde's arrest for "gross indecency" in 1895, the contents of his house and library at 34 Tite Street were auctioned off to settle his legal debts. Crowds flooded to Tite Street to search through Wilde's house, bidding on everything from his books to his children's toys.

328 KING'S ROAD

The Gigolo Club was a tiny gay dance club hidden beneath Casserole, a trendy Chelsea restaurant. It was a popular hangout in the 1960s despite frequent police raids.

**TO CELEBRATE
LGBTQ+ HISTORY
MONTH THIS
FEBRUARY, EXPLORE
SOME OF CHELSEA'S
QUEER LANDMARKS...**

1 THE VALE

Artists Charles Shannon and Charles Ricketts lived together in Chelsea – Oscar Wilde described their home as "the one house in London where you will never be bored". The pair met as teenagers in art school and stayed together for 50 years, until Ricketts' death.

239 KING'S ROAD

The Gateways Club, the world's longest running lesbian venue, was located on this site from 1931 to 1985. Visited by everyone from Dusty Springfield (left) to Patricia Highsmith, it was a place where lesbians could meet and dance without fear. It featured in the 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*, in which club regulars acted as extras.



129 BEAUFORT STREET

Quentin Crisp lived in a Chelsea bedsit at this address from 1940-81 after he was rejected by the British Army for "suffering from sexual perversion". Crisp was openly gay in 1930s London, in the face of prejudice and abuse. He famously kept his Chelsea home in a state of genteel squalor, claiming "after the first four years, the dust doesn't get any worse".





Whittard

CHELSEA 1886

THE FINEST TEA, COFFEE & HOT CHOCOLATE

News / January

AURIENS CHELSEA HAS teamed up with the English National Ballet School to fund a first-year ballet student through their three-year professional training programme. The student will be chosen by residents of Auriens - including a former professional ballerina - who will be on the lookout for outstanding creative and technical ability. In turn, Auriens residents will be able to

attend rehearsals and performances at the school. They'll have the chance to watch masterclasses led by visiting choreographers, as well as to take part in Q&As with some of the Ballet School's expert staff. In December, students visited Auriens to perform an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. *Auriens, 2 Dovehouse Street; English National Ballet School, Carlyle Building, Hortensia Road*



SEX AND THE CITY'S Kim Cattrall tied the knot with her husband Russell Thomas at Chelsea Old Town Hall in December. The Hall has long been a popular spot for celebrity weddings, with stars like Judy Garland, Hugh Grant and Marc Bolan all choosing it for their ceremonies.

King's Road

IMAGE: INSTAGRAM / KIMCATTRALL



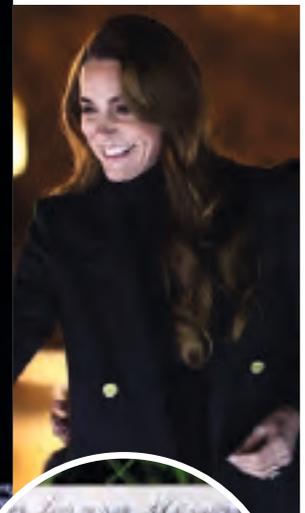
IMAGE: LUCIANO CANDISANI

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM IS holding a free exhibition of 60 striking images which tell the story of climate change. Water Pantanal

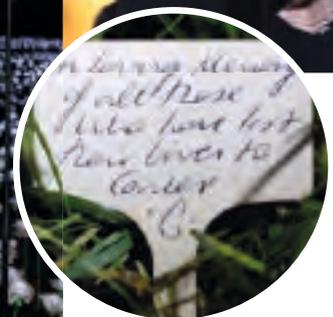
Fire showcases the work of two of Brazil's leading photographers, Lalo de Almeida and Luciano Candisani. Their photos document

the Pantanal, a lush South American wetland that is under threat from droughts and fires. *Exhibition Road*

HELENA BONHAM CARTER officially opened the Ever After Garden, which was located in Duke of York Square for the first time this year. The green was filled with 30,000 glowing roses, which could be dedicated to the memory of a loved one. Proceeds from the garden went to support the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, with more than £400,000 raised this year to provide world-class care and groundbreaking research. Helena called the garden "a unique and imaginative way to remember those we love while supporting life-saving work." Anya Hindmarch, one of the creators of the garden, told *Sloane Square Magazine*: "it was wonderful to have the garden in Chelsea. This particular location is a very peaceful place in the middle of a very busy place, so it's perfect for reflection and pilgrimage. Having somewhere to remember and celebrate those we've lost is so important, particularly at Christmas." The garden attracted visitors from all over the world, including the Princess of Wales, who visited the garden to donate a rose after she received cancer treatment from the Royal Marsden.



IMAGES: INSTAGRAM / ROYAL MARSDEN





LIVE AT CHELSEA will be returning this June for the first time in four years, with an exciting lineup of stars coming to the Royal Hospital for a series of open air concerts.

On June 11, Blue will take to the stage with mega-hits like One Love and All Rise, as well as new music from their latest album, Reflections. On June 12, Californian brothers Sparks will be in residence, while on June 13, Scottish duo The Proclaimers will perform hits like 500 miles, I'm On My Way and Sunshine on Leith.

On June 14, the Beach Boys will celebrate 60 years of their landmark album Pet Sounds with a live concert. After the death of Brian Wilson last year, the Beach Boys will be led by Mike Love, one of the original members. Tickets can be purchased via liveatchelsea.com.
Royal Hospital Road



IMAGE: MUNACHI/OSCIBU

CADOGAN HALL IS NOW offering guided backstage tours. One Saturday a month from January 31 to June 6, you can join a small group to explore the inner workings of the concert hall, learning about the history of the building and some of the stars who've performed on its stage. The tours will last 30 minutes, and a hot drink is included in the price of your ticket.
5 Sloane Terrace



IMAGE: NICK FRUTTER



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“Navigating the digital world can be a minefield, I take on that burden for clients so that they can focus on running their business” he says. Chris has been running J4G Design since 2016, working with family offices, businesses, research networks and organisations in the public sector (such as The Home Office and NHS

Scotland). Clear communication is a core value to his business and being bilingual in English and French makes it easy to work with clients in the UK, France and around the globe.

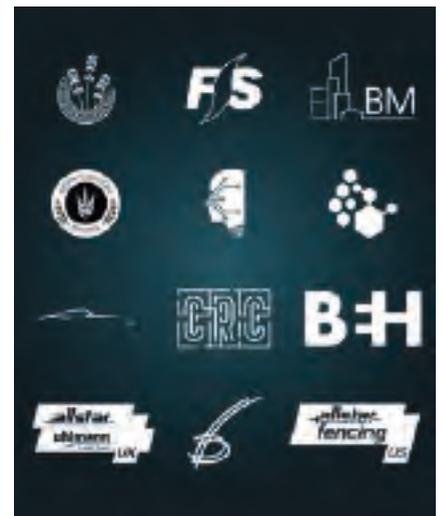
Tailored strategy based on business needs

Whatever the job, Chris spends time with every client in order to understand their objectives and is always available to answer questions and advise. Although the main deliverables of his work revolve around website design, building brands and digital design strategies the real benefit is that he gets businesses more visibility, engagement and streamlines ‘operational efficiency’.

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Chris likes to be led by data which means it’s very easy to define what success looks like, whether it’s focusing on getting more clicks on Google, increasing a website’s traffic or awareness on social media. He likes to speak to his clients regularly, ensuring that strategies and priorities are aligned.

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SAVE THE DATE! From March 12-15, a brand new festival of craftsmanship and design will be arriving on the King's Road. TRI Design will offer a programme of events, installations, talks and workshops, taking place in venues like Peter Jones, The White Company, Anine Bing, Poliform, Timothy Oulton and many more. The theme of the inaugural festival will be Pantone's Colour of the Year 2026, 'Cloud Dancer' tridesign.co.uk



THE KING AND THE PRINCE OF WALES visited the Natural History Museum for Countdown to COP30, an event which brought together prominent figures who are tackling climate change. Attendees visited the museum's 'Fixing Our Broken Planet' gallery and met some of the 400 museum scientists currently working to discover solutions to the climate crisis. *Cromwell Road*



IMAGES: ANDREW PARSONS FOR KENSINGTON PALACE / MIRANDAPARRY.COM

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“SLOANE SQUARE IS GOING to feel like the centre of the theatrical universe for the whole year” says David Byrne, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre. “This theatre may be turning 70, but it isn’t in its senior years. It’s forever young.”

David’s journey to the Royal Court was an unconventional one: he didn’t come from an artistic background, and until he was 17, the only theatre he’d seen was “a bit of pantomime.”

“Then I joined a school trip to see a play because someone I fancied was organising it, and I thought I might get to sit next to them on the coach. The show I



saw blew my mind, and from then on I was hooked.”

After a successful tenure as artistic director of the New Diorama Theatre, David took up his position at the Royal Court in 2023. He admits that he was “incredibly daunted” when he learned that he’d be leading the theatre through its landmark anniversary.

“It’s a big task” he says. “How do you capture everything the Royal Court is in an anniversary programme that looks back, but also gives a glimpse of where we could be going in the future?”

Ever since 1956, the Royal Court has been a home

THE ROYAL COURT CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR WITH A JAM-PACKED SEASON OF CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, ATTRACTING STARS FROM GARY OLDMAN TO TILDA SWINTON.

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

THE PLAY’S THE THING

TILDA SWINTON IN MAN TO MAN

Theatre / Royal Court at 70



for theatre that is boundary-pushing, radical and contemporary. Whether it's the *Rocky Horror Show* or *Look Back in Anger*, it has challenged audiences to look at the world from a different perspective, powered by its commitment to new writing. "The core promise of the Royal Court is that anyone writing in English can send us a play, and if we feel that it has something urgent to say, we'll put it on" says David. "We're the national institution that is responsible for contemporary work that really captures the conversations and the challenges that are represented in the wider city. That means that we need to proactively find the voices and stories that are going to fire up our audiences. Otherwise, we will wither up and die."

The Royal Court isn't the kind of theatre you should visit expecting comfortable art with neat conclusions. David believes that it has a responsibility to challenge its audience, confronting them with uncomfortable ideas and complex moral dilemmas.

"I go to see lots of plays and films where everything's wrapped up in a bow at the end" says David. "I don't think those easy answers ring true to audiences. The best theatre has nuance and shade and shows an issue in its full complexity."

"This is a time when there's extreme polarisation in our society. We want people to come together surrounded by their community, to watch something that really deals with those urgent conversations, then to go to the bar and discuss it afterwards."

Far from shrinking from these complex and challenging works, audiences are responding with enthusiasm.

"We have queues for returns every single day" David says. "Last year we played at 90% capacity. Our 10p standing tickets in the galleys are full almost every single night. When done right, theatre is still a big civic event, and it's still a huge part of people's lives!"

To celebrate the Royal Court's 70th anniversary, David and his team have put together a jam-packed programme of theatre. Tilda Swinton will be returning to the stage after three decades for a revival of *Man to Man*, and *John Proctor is the Villain* will have its European premiere after a smash-hit Broadway run. Gary Oldman will star in *Krapp's Last Tape*, which will be paired with a nightly-curtain raiser performance of *Godot's To-Do List* by 18-year-old Leo Simpe-Asante.

"We have works of so many textures, so many different ingredients" says David. "I would say the centre of artistic gravity is absolutely swinging back to the King's Road, to Chelsea, and we really want to be playing our part in that. We are so excited to spend an entire year celebrating the very best, most urgent and compelling contemporary theatre there is."

For more details of the Royal Court's 70th anniversary programme and to book tickets, visit royalcourttheatre.com



ARCHDUKE



GARY OLDMAN IN KRAPP'S LAST TAPE

Theatre / Royal Court at 70



JERUSALEM, 2009

Lauded as 'the greatest British play of the century' by The Telegraph, Jerusalem started life at The Royal Court. Mark Rylance starred as Johnny "Rooster" Byron, an eccentric wastrel who lives in a caravan in the woods and makes his money by selling his blood for transfusions. Its Royal Court premiere included live chickens, a tortoise, a goldfish and several live trees.



IMAGE: LA MAMA ARCHIVE

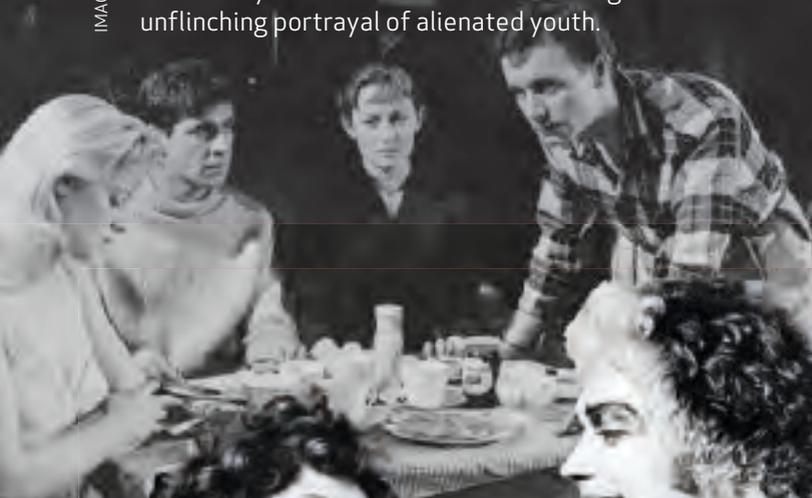
RATS MASS, 1970

The UK premiere of this magical-realist play by Adrienne Kennedy took place in the Royal Court. A feverish, surreal exploration of childhood trauma and the African American experience, it follows two rats seeking atonement for a terrible crime.

LOOK BACK IN ANGER, 1956

John Osborne's groundbreaking play about class conflict and generational anger spawned the term "angry young men" and ushered in a new era of British theatre. It had a disastrous reception from the critics, called "unspeakably dirty and squalid" by Ivor Brown, but in the years that followed it was recognised as an unflinching portrayal of alienated youth.

IMAGE: ZOE DOMIN



IT'S SHOWTIME

AS THE ROYAL COURT CELEBRATES 70 YEARS, WE LOOK BACK AT SOME OF ITS MOST INFLUENTIAL PRODUCTIONS...

BENT, 1979

Ian McKellen starred in the premiere of Bent, which dealt with the persecution of gay people in Nazi Germany. The play led to a new wave of research into the experience of the LGBTQ+ community under Hitler.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, 1973

First performed in the experimental Upstairs theatre space of the Royal Court, Rocky Horror received a rapturous critical reception; within two months, it had transferred to a larger venue on the King's Road. The original production starred Tim Curry, Patricia Quinn and Richard O'Brien, all of whom reprised their roles in the 1975 film adaptation.



11 CADOGAN
GARDENS
C H E L S E A

RETREAT AND RELAX AT
THE CHELSEA BAR



11 Cadogan Gardens, Chelsea

BOOK NOW



THE BEATLES IN SLOANE SQUARE IN 1963
IMAGE: CRUST ANDREWS

When *The Beatles* came to Chelsea

A LOOK AT THE FAB FOUR'S LOCAL LINKS, FROM POSING IN SLOANE SQUARE TO PARTYING IN WILLIAM MEWS

WORDS: ADRIAN DAY

History / The Beatles



THE BEATLES ARE synonymous with Liverpool and Abbey Road, but their story also winds elegantly through Chelsea, where in the 1960s, Swinging London was more than a phrase – it was a way of life.

The band's London connection actually began in Sloane Square at the Royal Court Hotel (now the Sloane Square Hotel), where they stayed on early visits. On February 10 1963, the young Fab Four posed for Cyrus Andrews in the hotel and out in the square – portraits of fresh-faced promise, taken just as Beatlemania was poised to erupt.

By 1964, George Harrison and Ringo Starr had moved into Flat 7, Whaddon House in William Mews, just off Knightsbridge. It had been bought by their manager, Brian Epstein, whose own flat was directly above.

More than an address, the property was a bachelor pad for Britain's most famous young men – a place for parties and girls. Epstein reportedly hosted a star-studded party there in August 1964 that was graced by The Beatles, Judy Garland, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

Pattie Boyd, soon to be Harrison's wife, also lived in a flat there, and it was at Whaddon House that The Beatles gathered before being driven to Buckingham Palace to collect their MBEs in 1965.

Knightsbridge also staged one of their more

whimsical moments. On July 8 1968, three Beatles – John Lennon was notably absent – attended a press screening of *Yellow Submarine* at Bowater House Cinema, a small 102-seater near Hyde Park (later demolished to make way for the glistening apartments of One Hyde Park).

They watched the psychedelic adventure for the first time before posing with a cardboard cut-out of Lennon and a life-size Blue Meanie.

Of course, fashion, The Beatles and the King's Road were bound to converge and in May 1968 The Beatles launched Apple Tailoring at 161 King's Road, taking over John Crittle's Dandie Fashions. Crittle's boutique had already attracted Jimi Hendrix and Brian Jones, but with The Beatles' involvement it briefly promised to redefine London style. The opening party at the King's Road's Club Dell'Aretusa was attended by Harrison with Boyd and Lennon with Yoko Ono – the couple's first public appearance together. In a delicious twist of cultural lineage, Crittle's daughter is Darcey Bussell – the former Royal Ballet prima ballerina.

Post Beatles, in July 1969 Lennon and Ono held a launch party at Chelsea Old Town Hall for their single *Give Peace a Chance*. The event was a celebration of the single, which was the first release by the Plastic Ono Band.

Harrison continued his Chelsea connection too, with 26 Cadogan Square becoming the headquarters of Handmade Films, the film company he founded in 1978. He mortgaged his home in Henley-on-Thames to finance the making of the film *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.



JOHN LENNON, JOHN CRITTLÉ AND GEORGE HARRISON

Local legend

CLLR ELIZABETH CAMPBELL IS LEADER OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA COUNCIL. SHE SHARES HER LOCAL INSIGHTS

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHELSEA?

I've been in my current house for 30 years! Before that, my parents always had a house in Chelsea.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

My sister had very severe disabilities, both mental and physical. The council was incredible to her over many, many years. My mother actually had the same social worker for something like 25 years! Because of that, I felt that I had a lot to give back. In fact, when I first joined the council, that's what I did - I worked in family and children services. If you're given a lot, then you need to give back a bit.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT CHELSEA?

I love the differences in it. I love the fact that you've got big department stores like Peter Jones, but then just round the corner you've got fishmongers, the cheesemonger, the veg shop. It's the best of the big and the best of the small. It's the same with dining: you have the wonderful restaurants and amazing hotels, but also the really small coffee shops that are tucked away. We have a concert hall, a theatre, a cinema, museums, a heritage quarter... it's the best of London in a microcosm.

WHAT CHALLENGES DOES AN AREA LIKE CHELSEA FACE?

We want to become the best that we can possibly be. From a council point of view, we need to make sure that the streets are really sparkling, that there are no potholes, no litter anywhere, and that the streets are safe. The public realm is incredibly important when it comes to creating a place that people enjoy.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

If you look at Chelsea Green - we pedestrianised it, put in a fountain and created a little square, a little piazza. It's just changed the whole character of the street! With our new licensing policy you can go and have a coffee outside in the summer, which is just great.

WHAT NEW INITIATIVES ARE YOU PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT?

I think the newly redeveloped Sloane Street [delivered in partnership with Caodgan] is really remarkable: comparable to any of the best shopping streets in the world. If you look down to the other end of Chelsea, we've replanted Embankment Gardens and Westfield Park as part of a £7 million borough investment in parks. We're actually putting in a new park around Lots Road - the first time we've created a new park in decades.



Profile / Cllr Elizabeth Campbell



"I THINK THE NEWLY REDEVELOPED SLOANE STREET IS REALLY REMARKABLE: COMPARABLE TO ANY OF THE BEST SHOPPING STREETS IN THE WORLD."

We're revitalising Cremorne Wharf and extending the Thames Pathway. When people ask 'are you investing in Chelsea?', I think they normally mean the bit around Sloane Square. We've invested so much in that part, and now it's time for the other parts of Chelsea to have their turn.

HOW DO YOU MAKE CHANGES WHILE HONOURING CHELSEA'S HISTORY?

I always remind people that 75% of our borough is in conservation areas. Now we want to create other conservation areas for the future! We're really proud of our heritage, but we want to tend it and make sure it stays relevant for the modern age.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES IN THE AREA TO VISIT?

If I have my grandchildren with me, we go to St Luke's park if it's sunny, or the playbase at the National Army Museum if it's raining. Then of course there's the Royal Hospital, with the new Soane Stable Yard, Heidi's and the post office. The new restaurant, Martino's, is very good. Today, I'm popping into the lovely John Sandoe Books then going to The Trafalgar pub. I think that shows the kind of breadth of options we have in the area!





BOOKBAR

In Love with Love is a deep-dive into romantic fiction: why we love it and what it can teach us about everything from capitalism to gender roles. £16.99, 11 Chelsea Manor Street

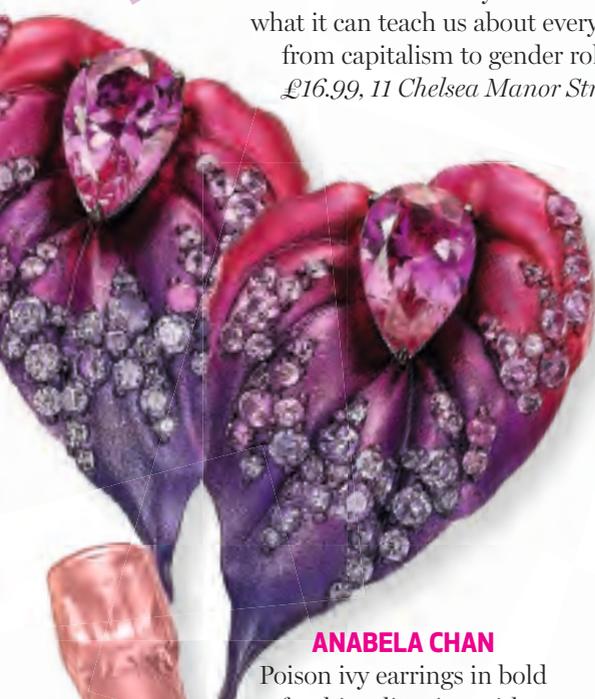


MOYSES STEVENS

This extravagant bouquet features beautiful pink roses and two shades of carnation. From £80, 188 Pavilion Road

BOODLES

Pink sapphires and diamonds combine in these showstopping flamingo inspired earrings. £20,000, 6 Sloane Street



ANABELA CHAN

Poison ivy earrings in bold fuschia, glittering with pink sapphires and violet amethysts. £1,690, 35B Sloane Street

**THINK PINK
SOFT, SWEET AND
OH SO ROMANTIC**



JEROBOAMS

This Taittinger rosé has notes of crushed raspberries, cherries and blackcurrants. £58, 336 King's Road



RIXO

Vintage-inspired pink suede pumps, perfect for adding a pop of colour to any outfit. £225, 114-116 King's Road



SMYTHSON

With a compartment for passports, tickets, boarding passes and currency, this travel wallet is an essential for a romantic getaway. £460, 141-142 Sloane Street

Gift guide / Valentine's Day



OTTOLENGHI

Pack this 100% cotton tote with all the materials for a romantic picnic.
£15.50, 261 Pavilion Road

ARKET

This suede bowling bag is big enough for all their essentials.
£259,
196-222 King's Road

SEE RED PASSIONATE AND FIERY, THE COLOUR OF ROMANCE

L'OBJET

If your lover loves to read, a set of fine porcelain bookends could make the perfect gift.
£430, 162A Sloane Street

TASCHEN

A beautiful and fully illustrated coffee table book delving into Valentino's dreamy designs.
£100,
12 Duke of York Square

KIKI MCDONOUGH

Dramatic fire opal and diamond earrings set in 18ct yellow gold.
£10,500,
12 Symons Street

OLIVIA VON HALLE

Slumber in style with these butter-soft silk velvet PJs.
£595, available from Harvey Nichols, 109-125 Knightsbridge

LOUIS VUITTON

This pocket organiser has three card slots and five pockets, ideal for a man on the go.
£365,
190-192 Sloane Street

Gift Guide / Valentine's Day



JIMMY FAIRLY
Heart shaped sunglasses are ideal for winter sun.
£100, 170 King's Road



GANNI

For anyone who loves their dog as much as they love you, this leather keychain is bound to be a hit.
£115, 95 King's Road



GEORG JENSEN

A tactile trinket dish that would sit perfectly on your loved one's bedside table.
£45, available from Peter Jones, Sloane Square



THEO FENNEL

This ampoule is designed to carry scent, and comes with ruby, emerald and diamond details.
£55,000,
2 Garrison Square

GIVE YOUR HEART HEARTS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES...

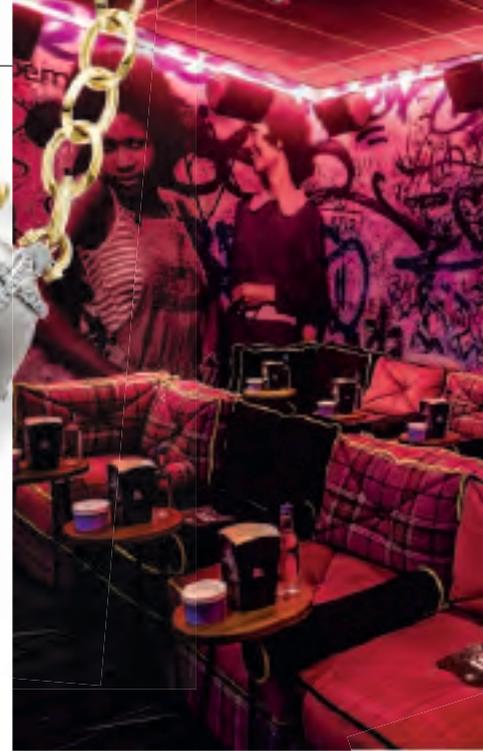


VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

These beautifully textured earrings are handmade - each pair will be subtly different.
£135, Cromwell Road

NEW FORMS

Fontaines D.C's acclaimed album Romance explores themes of love and desire. Perfect for vinyl enthusiasts!
£34.99,
9 Chelsea Manor Street



ANNOUSHKA

Whether they wear it on a chain round their neck or as part of a charm bracelet, this handcrafted yellow gold heart will keep you in their thoughts.
£595, 41 Cadogan Gardens





EVERYMAN CINEMA
The cinema is available for hire for a private screening. Pick your date's favourite romantic film and enjoy.
POA, 279 King's Road



ANYA HINDMARCH
Each half of this romantic key chain can be embossed with a personal message in gold.
£175, 11 Pont Street



DIPTYQUE
Visit the Sloane Street boutique to have a Diptyque fragrance bottle engraved with initials or a special date.
Free when you purchase eligible product, 161 Sloane Street



SLOANE STREET
If they love shopping on London's most glamorous street, give them one of these sought-after gift cards.
Sloanestreet.co.uk

CASSANDRA GOAD
If your loved one has a family heirloom, Cassandra can work with them to reimagine it as a bespoke piece of contemporary jewellery.
POA, 147 Sloane Street

**IT'S PERSONAL
SHOW HOW WELL YOU KNOW
THEM WITH BESPOKE GIFTS**

JOHN SANDOE BOOKS
The team at John Sandoe will put together a unique book bundle for every subscriber based on their interests and preferences - no two are the same!
Prices vary, 10-12 Blacklands Terrace



COSMETICS A LA CARTE
Create a bespoke cheek palette in a sleek silver compact, selecting the perfect blushers, bronzers and highlighters to suit your skintone.
£70, 192 Pavilion Road

Profile / Matchmaker



Meet your

MATCH

WHAT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO MEET YOUR PARTNER? On a crowded dance floor while your favourite song plays? Between the shelves of your local bookshop? In the queue for coffee? At the cinema, or the dog park, or a dinner party with all your closest friends?

The fact is that for many of us, meeting a partner has lost the spontaneous magic we were promised by films, novels and countless pop ballads. Apps and algorithms have taken over, and we're left scrambling to identify our ideal other half from a handful of selfies and a cryptic bio. It's no wonder we've become cynical about the whole affair.

But what if there was another way? Bond is a prestigious Chelsea matchmaking agency which believes that we need people, rather than algorithms, to help us to discover who's right for us. Charlotte Ball and Andrea Messent are senior matchmakers, having made careers playing Cupid for their ever-growing list of clients.

"Having an outsider's perspective can sometimes be the best way to meet a partner" Andrea explains.

"I learned that first-hand, because Charlotte actually set me up with my husband! When I was dating, I was going for people who were totally wrong for me. It took Charlie saying "I can really see you two together" for me to actually consider going on a date with the man I eventually married!"

Charlotte and Andrea both believe that nothing can replace good old fashioned face-time when it comes to creating matches.

"We don't use algorithms - all our matches are made by us after getting a real feel for people. There are so many factors that go into a perfect match: values, interests, locations, height, pet allergies, kids, drinking habits... all these things have to be compared before we can work out whether we've found a good fit. Of course, there's also an intuitive side, where sometimes you can just feel that two people would make a lovely match."

So what kind of clients come to Bond?

"People come to us at every stage of life" says

Charlotte. "Whether they're in their 20s, 30s, divorced, widowed... Our client-base is also a pretty even split between men and women.

Whatever a client's background, our approach is always the same - we work to build their confidence before we even think about their perfect match."

In practice, that means talking to a client about what kind of services or self-work might help them to put their best foot forward.

"Whenever anyone joins us, they have a session with our amazing dating coach Gia" says Andrea. "We can then refer them to stylists, hairdressers, photographers to take new photos - anything they might need to get them in the most confident place to start dating and to make the most of their membership with us."

"From the moment you join we really do see you as a friend" adds Charlotte. "We create a whatsapp group with the whole team it, so we can chat there about your concerns and how things are going. We can do the hard parts too. For example, if someone you dated has constructive feedback for you, we will pass that on to give you the best chance of having success next time."

For first dates in Chelsea, Charlotte and Andrea have plenty of recommendations:

"My top two spots are The Ivy Asia and The Bluebird" says Charlotte.

"The Ivy is a great first date spot

because they do so many theatrical things with food, which can spark conversations. The Bluebird is perfect for a laid back date, especially in summer when you can sit outside."

And their top tips for aspiring lovebirds?

"We've had some lovely relationships which started out with someone being slightly on the fence - perhaps because the person they're meeting doesn't match the image they had in their head of their partner" says Charlotte.

"You have to be a little more open minded. Dealbreakers are ok, but when you come with a shopping list, like "they must be over 6'2, blue eyes..." you can close yourself off to so many amazing people. And remember, love is a marathon, not a sprint!"

Bondtheagency.com

CHARLOTTE BALL AND ANDREA MESSENT ARE MATCHMAKERS AT BOND, AN EXCLUSIVE CHELSEA MATCHMAKING AGENCY. WITH VALENTINE'S DAY ON THE HORIZON, THEY SHARE THEIR TIPS AND TRICKS FOR FINDING "THE ONE"

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

Food / News



ON JANUARY 19, February 9 and February 16, you can attend a macarons and meringues masterclass at Bread Ahead's Tea House. Making meringues is a notoriously delicate art, but the expert team will guide you through the process step by step. You'll leave with a box of cardamom and ginger meringues that can be paired with paté de fruits, as well as some colourful macarons. They could make a great Valentine's present for someone special!

249 Pavilion Road



KURO COFFEE

KURO COFFEE HAS OPENED in Harvey Nichols. The brand is known for its minimalist, Japanese-inspired aesthetic and its selection of speciality coffee blends and single-origin beans, as well as velvety matchas and herbal teas. If you're feeling hungry there's a tasty selection of freshly baked goods, including the signature sakuro pastries: a crisp, flaky croissant roll filled to bursting with vanilla or chocolate cream.

109-125 Knightsbridge



A NEW PARISIAN brasserie is coming to Sloane Square this spring. Brasserie Olivia is the latest offering from trendy French food restaurant group La Nouvelle Garde, and will be the group's first restaurant outside France. Expect home-style cooking using seasonal produce, with plenty of outdoor seating for an al fresco experience in the warm months.

THE CHELSEA GRILL is a new restaurant on the King's Road offering a menu inspired by fire and smoke. Meat, fish and seafood are grilled in-house, and there are also some tasty veggie options including a smoked tomato and burrata salad.

For dessert don't miss Grandma's sour cherry pie, served with a cloud of chantilly cream.
300 King's Road



ARTHUR'S MARKET IS the King's Road's newest grocery store. You'll be able to shop a range of unexpected produce, from small-batch dairy to rare Japanese fruits, and to buy the freshest catch or the choicest cut from the on-site fishmonger and butcher. If you're looking to grab a quick lunch there's a deli dishing up salads, sandwiches and freshly brewed coffees.

The market also boasts two restaurants serving delicious food. At ASA Izakaya, an omakase bar, you can enjoy oyster tasting, a sushi selection, freshly prepared market fish and a drinks menu of sparkling sake and cocktails.

Meanwhile in Salvador, you can sample wood-fired pintxos tapas cooked over a custom grill. Meat is supplied by the butchers next door, with grand platters designed for sharing as well as a selection of handmade pastas and small plates. Each dish can be paired with a glass from the wine list.
279 King's Road





THREE-MICHELIN STARRED chef Clare Smyth has opened a new bistro in Chelsea. Corenuopia serves elevated versions of traditional British dishes, from Dover sole fish and chips to sherry trifle. The cellar room is a private dining space perfect for intimate gatherings.
18-22 Holbein Place

HAVE YOU VISITED The Trafalgar yet? The newest pub on the King's Road has opened its doors with a tasty menu of pub classics as well as an exciting programme of events every Thursday to Sunday, including a weekly comedy night by Always Be Comedy. Top tip for music lovers: on Sundays you can enjoy your roast while a pianist leads a singalong in the Havannah Room. Request your favourite songs and get ready for an old-fashioned knees-up.
224-226 King's Road



WELCOME TO BEEF & BASS, a new restaurant specialising in beef and wild sea bass. The meat is cooked over a charcoal grill and served with one of two signature sauces: a rich truffle hollandaise or a fresh salsa verde. Dessert options include a hot and melty chocolate cookie and a charcoal pineapple with coconut sorbet.
356-360 King's Road





JANUARY 25 IS BURNS NIGHT, and plenty of local restaurants are offering a special menu to celebrate the occasion.

At **The Cadogan Arms** (298 King's Road) you can enjoy whiskey-cured salmon, haggis, Scotch beef and a whiskey cocktail, accompanied by a live bagpiper and a reading of Burns's Address to the Haggis.

At **The Surprise** (6 Christchurch Terrace) there will be a special menu from January 19-25, including cullen skink, Aberdeen Angus beef brisket and raspberry cranachan.

Bluebird (350 King's Road) is offering Balmoral chicken in a whiskey butter sauce and a beef and haggis wellington, with live bagpipers playing traditional tunes.

Finally, at **Rabbit** (172 King's Road) you can feast on crab doughnuts, haggis, crispy truffle potatoes and cranachan with oat crumble.

THROUGHOUT JANUARY, La Maison Ani will be offering a Galette des Rois in celebration of Epiphany. The traditional 'king's cake' marks the arrival of the three kings to visit the Baby Jesus, and is made with a soft hazelnut frangipane encased in flaky puff pastry. Inside each cake you'll find a small ceramic fève - whoever finds it will be king or queen for the day. A whole cake costs £80, or £10 for a slice.
*The Carlton Tower,
1 Cadogan Place*



THE VEGAN ROAST AT THE TRAFALGAR

Head to Chelsea's newest pub for a Sunday roast of butternut squash wellington with all the trimmings, including roast potatoes, vegetables and vegan gravy.
225-226 King's Road



THE PLANT-BASED CHOCOLATE HAMPER FROM ROCOCO

This hamper is crammed with plant-based treats, including chocolate bars in inventive flavours and wafer thins.

321 King's Road

Top 5... vegan treats

WHETHER YOU'RE TAKING PART IN VEGANUARY OR JUST TRYING TO EAT MORE PLANT-BASED OPTIONS, TRY THESE MEAT-FREE TREATS



THE AVOCADO TOAST AT GRANGER & CO

This brunch banger is served on Dusty Knuckle sourdough and spiked with lemon and coriander. Pair it with a Granger Greens juice packed with spinach, cucumber, kale, apple, ginger, mint and lime.

237-239 Pavilion Road

THE VEGAN HOT CHOCOLATE AT KNOOPS

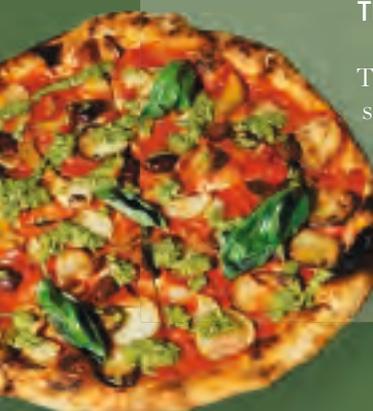
What could be better than a creamy and indulgent hot chocolate? A plant-based version, of course! Combine with any of the plant-based milks (coconut, hazelnut, almond or soya) for a delicious, guilt-free treat.

69 King's Road

THE PLANT-BASED PIZZA AT ALLEY CATS

The vegan 'n'fire promises a hot and spicy slice, with tomato sauce, vegan 'nduja, olives, pesto, roasted bell pepper and crispy potatoes. It comes with a scattering of basil and a generous swirl of olive oil.

312 King's Road





UNTIL JAN.27

Selected nonalcoholic and low-alcohol drinks

UP TO

20% OFF



Valid 02/01-27/01/26. While supplies last. Quantity limits apply. Quantities limited.

wholefoodsmarket.co.uk



Table for two

MARTINO'S IS THE CHIC NEW DINING DESTINATION ON SLOANE SQUARE, SERVING UP SOPHISTICATED ITALIAN CUISINE IN IMPECCABLE SURROUNDINGS. IT'S THE CREATION OF MARTIN KUCZMARSKI, THE RESTAURATEUR BEHIND THE DOVER AND FORMERLY OF SOHO HOUSE. HE SPEAKS TO US ABOUT PERFECTIONISM AND THE RETURN OF OLD SCHOOL HOSPITALITY...

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

LONDON'S COOLEST NEW RESTAURANT has arrived on Sloane Square - without fanfare and without promotion. Martino's is the latest word-of-mouth destination from Martin Kuczmariski, formerly chief operating officer of Soho House, and the restaurateur behind The Dover in Mayfair.

"All my life, I've done nothing but hospitality" he says.

"I've worked in luxury five-star hotels and in Michelin starred restaurants all over the world. For years I've been asking myself, what's happened to old school hospitality?

What's happened to tablecloths? What's wrong with having a real candle on the table, rather than a battery operated lamp?"

Martino's is his attempt to right these wrongs - a smooth, delightfully old school dining experience complete with heavy silverware, good china and starched tablecloths. When you arrive, you'll first be shown into a small antechamber where you'll have your details entered by hand into a reservation book (no screens in sight!). There are flickering candles at every table, and waiters wearing crisply ironed shirts, cream jackets and bow ties. Hard corners have been banished from the interiors, so that "when you walk into the room, it just gives you a massive hug."

"It's all about the experience" says Martin. "I didn't want to shove tables into corners to give more covers and make more money. I didn't want a DJ, going 'boom boom boom' so that you can't even talk to each other. When I designed the restaurant, I asked myself, 'could I have a conversation with my wife at every table?' Restaurants should be designed for connection, for conversation and for romance."

Martin's quest for perfection can be a curse - he tried fourteen different stools before he selected the seating for the Martino's central bar, rejecting everything that was "too short", "too tall" and "too

hard", and racking up a considerable bill in the process.

"My friends say I'm a perfectionist. They say I should write a book about my attention to detail, entitled It's Hard to Be Me! I can get upset if the Venetian blinds aren't opened correctly. This eagle eye, this perfectionism, it can be tiring!"

But when the details are right, Martin believes a restaurant can thrive without PR, marketing or an aggressive social media presence.

"I want pure connection and the human touch"

Martin explains. "If the food, the drink, the lighting, the music, the pricing and the design are right, people will come and they will talk and they will be my influencers!"

Pricing is another factor that Martin considered carefully. Like The Dover, his Mayfair restaurant, Martino's offers a concise, affordable menu.

"It is very important to me not to be expensive. I would love to have high profile guests coming in, of course, but I also want shop assistants from the King's Road. If you come in wanting a celebration, with wine and lots of dishes, you can have that. But you can also have a bowl of pasta and a glass

of house wine. It's important to me not to force the customer to spend, but to give them that choice."

Martin hopes that his new restaurant will become a favourite with the Chelsea community, which he believes encapsulates everything that's exciting about London.

"This is the best location in London. I moved to this city 25 years ago, and I used to live at the end of the King's Road. It was fun, it was chic, it was elegant. I think that with the widening of Sloane Street, the planting, the new businesses, it has that energy again! It's the place to be, and I wouldn't want Martino's to be anywhere else."

"I ASKED MYSELF, 'COULD I HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MY WIFE AT EVERY TABLE?' RESTAURANTS SHOULD BE DESIGNED FOR CONNECTION, FOR CONVERSATION AND FOR ROMANCE."



Food / Comics and Cakes

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?

We started out in Camden Market. My girlfriend has a bakery business and I was selling comics, so we used to joke about putting the two things together. Then one day, we just went for it! There aren't many comic shops left in London - if you want single-issue, vintage comics, you usually have to look online. We fill that gap in the market.

WHY IS THIS THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR YOU?

Music was my original passion, so I love having New Forms [the record store and listening bar] next door, and The Trafalgar down the road doing live music. I'm excited to collaborate with them and host some cool events. We're looking forward to film nights, music nights, Q&As with comic writers and artists - watch this space!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

COMICS AND CAKES IS THE COOLEST NEW STORE ON THE BLOCK, SERVING VINTAGE COMICS AND FRESHLY BAKED TREATS. WE MET CO-FOUNDER ANDREW JAMES.

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

YOU'RE PART OF THE GAUMONT, CHELSEA'S NEWEST CREATIVE QUARTER...

Yes! I think it's a great thing - it feels community driven, a creative hub.

Our neighbours are independent bookshops like BookBar and art clubs like Art Play - it adds a whole new dimension to the King's Road.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICES DO YOU OFFER?

I spend a lot of my time curating our collection, making sure the comics we bring in are in great condition. One cool thing we do is a birthday

"TREAT IT LIKE A RECORD STORE - COME IN, FLICK THROUGH THE COMICS AND PRINTS, AND SEE WHAT YOU FIND!"

matching service - we can look through our catalogue of comics and find one that was published on your date of birth. We also sell photo prints and collages of comic art, which can be a fun way to access the world of comics. Many people who come to us aren't hardcore collectors, but they're drawn in by the amazing art.





WHAT ABOUT THE CAKES?

We make the cakes and cookies ourselves, in-house. A lot of them are themed around superheroes to tie in with the comics! We're particularly proud of our vegan and gluten free range - they taste amazing! You would have no idea they weren't regular cookies. We also repurpose old or damaged comics by using them as wrapping for chocolate bars.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT TO FIND IN-STORE?

It's a bright, multi-coloured, visual experience! I have a music podcast and am passionate about music, so you can also expect a really fun playlist. The shop won't just be about comics - there will also be elements from across pop culture, so there really should be something for everybody. Treat it like a record store - come in, flick through the comics and prints, and see what you find!

Comics & Cakes is now open on Chelsea Manor Street

OPENS FEBRUARY 6 Water Pantanal Fire

Through 60 never before seen images the Science Museum invites you to witness the fragile beauty of the Pantanal.

A South American wetland recognised by UNESCO as a Natural World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, the once Edenic region is home to jaguars, howler monkeys, caiman, marsh deer, and an abundance of fish and birds. Now it faces an unprecedented threat from fire. In 2020, a wildfire scorched the Pantana so badly it burned 26 per cent of the region, killing 17 million vertebrates.

This free photography exhibition features images taken by leading Brazilian photographers: Lalo de Almeida and Luciano Candisani. Their images reveal a stark contrast between a fertile region teeming with life and the barren earth ravaged by droughts and fires. See the Pantana before it is too late.

Exhibition Road

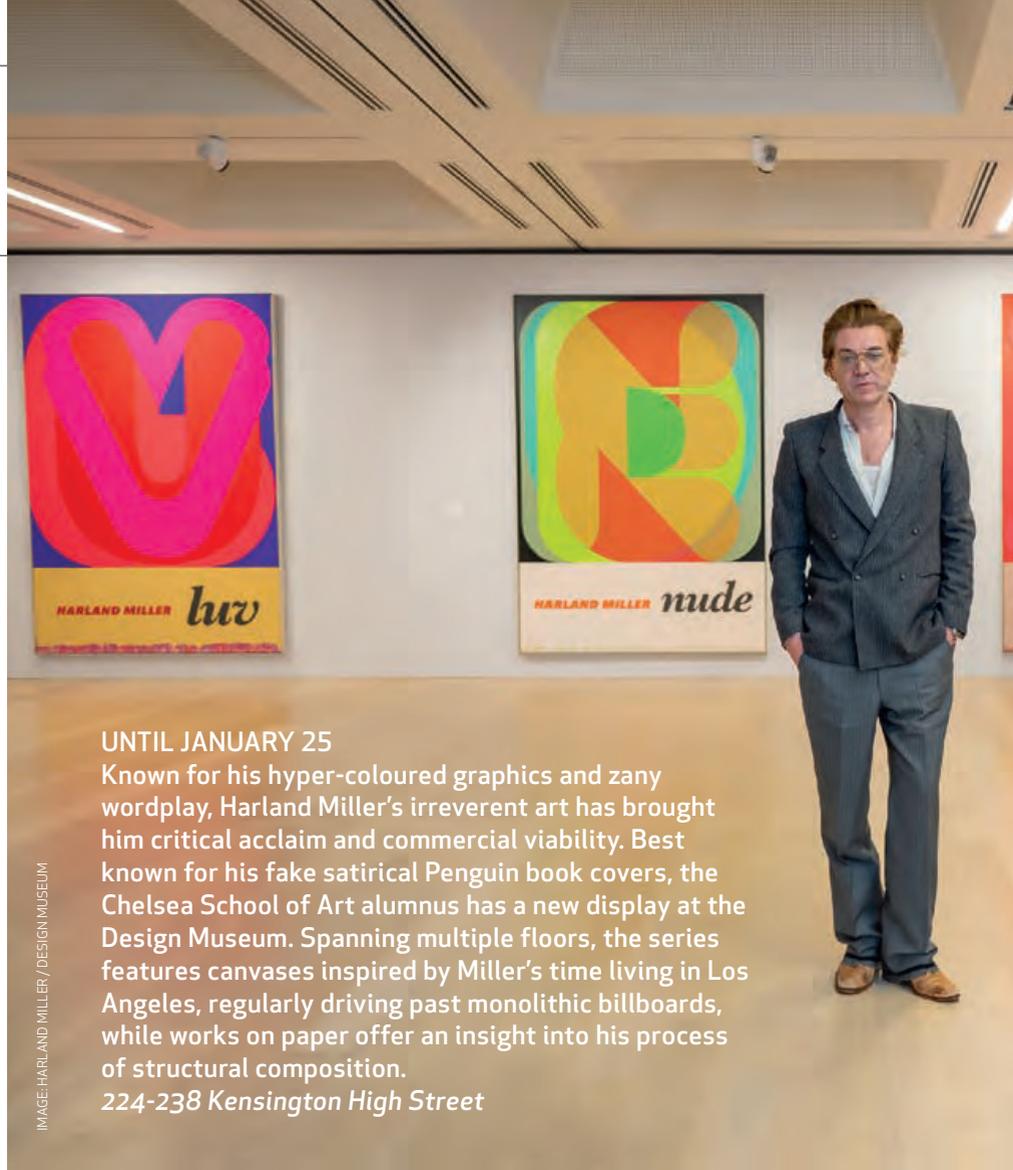


IMAGE: HARLAND MILLER / DESIGN MUSEUM

UNTIL JANUARY 25

Known for his hyper-coloured graphics and zany wordplay, Harland Miller's irreverent art has brought him critical acclaim and commercial viability. Best known for his fake satirical Penguin book covers, the Chelsea School of Art alumnus has a new display at the Design Museum. Spanning multiple floors, the series features canvases inspired by Miller's time living in Los Angeles, regularly driving past monolithic billboards, while works on paper offer an insight into his process of structural composition.

224-238 Kensington High Street

Res

Young Spanish artist Enrich R brings a strong body of work to his first solo exhibition at Cadogan Gallery, which runs until February 12. Working on vast canvases, he stretches the limits of abstraction, striving to unveil an inner truth.

Just like his water stains drying on the wall in the sun, each painting follows its own journey. Canvas by canvas he builds a visual "code", with suspended spaces and strokes lost in the immensity of time.

7-9 Harriet Street

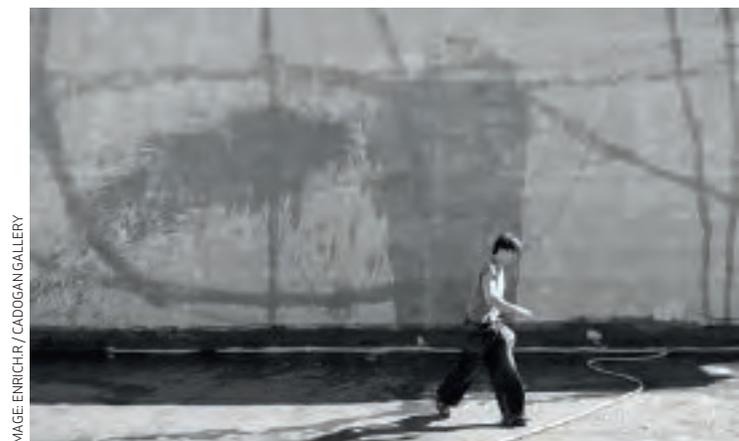


IMAGE: ENRICH R / CADOGAN GALLERY



The Gourmand's Mushroom

Cooked up by David Lane and Marina Tweed, the creators of hip food and culture journal *The Gourmand*, a new hardback book from Taschen devotes 292 pages to mushroom exploration. Inviting you to forage through chapters rich in mycology – covering everything from psychoactive trips to fungi's medicinal and nutritional uses – this beautifully illustrated tome unravels some of the mysteries behind these enigmatic organisms. From spiritual quests to artistic depiction



and culinary exploration, mushrooms have been an enduring source of fascination. Packed with essays and recipes, this is a coffee-table book for gourmands everywhere. *12 Duke of York Square*

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 20

Returning for its fourth iteration, an exhibition of works on paper brings an exciting array of emerging talent to Green & Stone. Celebrated for championing creativity in its most intimate and experimental form, Works on Paper 2026 brings together an eclectic range of mediums and approaches, encompassing prints, etchings, monoprints, drawings, pastels, sculpture, oil paintings and more.

To celebrate the launch, Green & Stone is delighted to invite all *Sloane Square* readers to a special opening party (January 20 from 6.30pm). Guests will have the chance to meet the artists and enjoy an open bar. To attend, email rsvp@greenandstone.com.
251-253 Fulham Road





Into the wild

EVOKING SCENES OF BREATHTAKING BEAUTY AND INTIMACY, THE 61ST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IS A MUST-SEE

WORDS: WILL MOFFITT



Art / Wildlife Photographer of the Year

WITH ITS STONY EYES SURVEYING the darkness, you can almost feel the hyena's body twitching, its senses hyper-attuned to nocturnal activity. Washed in black and cloudy sepia tones, the photograph is made more eerie by a dilapidated building in the background, its exterior cloaked in a silvery light.

Taken by Wim van den Heever using camera trap technology, the shot of a brown hyena, the world's rarest, in an abandoned diamond mining town in Kolmanskop, Namibia, was a decade in the making. *Ghost Town Visitor* earned the South African wildlife photographer the coveted accolade of Wildlife Photographer of the Year (2025) at the Natural History Museum.

Celebrating the jaw-dropping power of nature photography, 100 commended photographs from the competition's 61st iteration are available to view in an exhibition that takes visitors far beyond the frame by highlighting critical conservation issues.

MAIN LEFT:
GHOST TOWN
VISITOR
IMAGE: © WIM VAN
DEN HEEVER

BELOW FAR
LEFT:
SYNCHRONISED
FISHING
IMAGE: © QINGRONG
YANG

BELOW LEFT:
CAUGHT IN THE
HEADLIGHTS
IMAGE: © SIMONE
BAUMEISTER

BELOW:
AFTER THE
DESTRUCTION
IMAGE: © ANDREA
DOMINIZI

ALL IMAGES:
COURTESY
OF WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER OF
THE YEAR

Other notable images include *After the Destruction*, in which a longhorn beetle is pictured on a tree trunk with heavy machinery in the background. The photograph, a moving reflection on habitat loss, was taken in the Lepini Mountains of central Italy by 17-year-old Andrea Dominizi, who was named Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

Meanwhile, Fernando Faciole's *Orphan of the Road* won the Brazilian photographer the Impact Award. Capturing an orphaned giant anteater pup with bandaged feet following its human caregiver at a rehabilitation centre, Faciole's photograph highlights the consequences of road collisions, a leading cause of the decline in giant anteater numbers in Brazil.

Poignant and enlightening, the 61st Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is a must-see show for photographers, animal lovers and those seeking visual spectacle.

Until July 12. Adult tickets from £15.50





ERMANNO



SCERVINO

Fashion / News



ERDEM'S PRE SPRING 26 collection is inspired by the botanical illustrator Maria Sibylla Merian, who was the first person to discover the life cycle of a butterfly. You can expect botanical details, 17th century silhouettes and feminine draping.
50A Sloane Street



NEEDLE AND THREAD IS now open. This dreamy fashion brand takes inspiration from English gardens and vintage textiles, with plenty of embroidery, sequined details and intricate lace. It's the perfect place to source a romantic gown for a garden party, a whimsical picnic or a wedding.
194 King's Road

IMAGE: DANIEL ARCHER



CHILDREN'S FASHION HOUSE Janie & Jack is joining forces with maternity fashion and beauty brand Hatch to open a dual-concept store at The Gaumont this February. Together they aim to create a destination shop for modern families, with shared values of timeless design and beautiful craftsmanship.
196-222 King's Road





H&M HAS ANNOUNCED a collaboration with renowned sustainable fashion brand Stella McCartney. The collection will feature responsibly sourced materials, showcasing alternative fabrics and textiles that could be used to make our wardrobes more environmentally friendly.
H&M, 72 King's Road



PANTONE'S COLOUR of the Year 2026 was Cloud Dreamer, a calming white. Where better to infuse some cloud dreamer into your wardrobe than at the White Company, where fashion comes in soft shades of white and cream?
The White Company, 4 Symons Street

MILK KIDS HAS come to Chelsea. Milk offers the best sustainable and environmentally friendly brands for children aged 0 to 14, making it your one-stop-shop for eco-conscious kidswear. Inside you'll find clothes, shoes, toys, books, candles and accessories, all made from natural, recycled materials.
89 Lower Sloane Street





Sparkles in store

CARTIER'S SLOANE STREET BOUTIQUE IS BACK

CARTIER'S SLOANE STREET BOUTIQUE has reopened after a major makeover. The new space has an open, airy feel and plenty of room to showcase the luxury jeweller and watchmaker's most iconic collections.

Step inside and the first thing you'll notice is the colourful hand-painted mural, featuring the Cartier panther in a flourishing English garden. Created by Venetta Studio, it's full of references to Cartier's most quintessentially English designs, from Queen Elizabeth II's flower brooch to the iconic ladybird earrings.

The new boutique has a dedicated space for its bridal offering, with a glittering selection of engagement, wedding and eternity rings. There is also a



special "set for you" service, where guests can choose a diamond and a setting with advice from the expert team, then have a piece of jewellery custom-made for them.

Laurent Feniou, managing director of Cartier UK, said: "We are delighted to both welcome back our

loyal clients and invite new visitors to our Sloane Street boutique.

The elevated interiors reflect our heritage and our forward-looking vision, and we can't wait to reopen our maison in the heart of the Chelsea community."
143-144 Sloane Street



No
90
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WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES OF JEWELLERY?

I honestly can't remember a time when jewellery wasn't part of my life. I had my ears pierced before I was three, and jewellery has always been tied to special moments for me. I remember watching my mum get ready, seeing her beautiful jewellery boxes and begging to try things on. When I was in school in Portugal, I used to make beaded bracelets and sell them to anyone who'd buy one. As I got older, I began developing my own sense of style, and jewellery was always a big part of that journey.

WHICH PIECE OF JEWELLERY MEANS THE MOST TO YOU?

There's a gold ring from my mum's collection that I absolutely love. My parents also bought each other watches years ago, and they've given them to my brother and me. Those pieces are incredibly special. From Matilde Jewellery, the Azulejo necklace has become my signature – I've worn it every day for years. The Leya necklace is another favourite, and of course, my engagement ring holds deep meaning – my husband Dan secretly designed it with the Matilde team, which makes it even more special.

HAS TRAVEL INFLUENCED YOUR CRAFT?

Absolutely. Being from Portugal, I draw constant inspiration from home, the ocean, the cliffs, the beaches I grew up visiting and the intricate beauty of Azulejo tiles and traditional filigree techniques. But I'm also deeply inspired by the people and places I've encountered while travelling. Every destination brings new textures, colours and stories that find their way into my work. Travelling has shaped not only my design aesthetic but also the spirit of Matilde Jewellery itself.

FIVE YEARS IS A BIG MILESTONE – WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

What makes me proudest is seeing how the brand has

grown organically and the incredible community that's come with it. I treasure every opportunity to meet our customers – seeing how our pieces become part of their lives is so rewarding. I also love how much our bespoke side has evolved – collaborating one-on-one with clients to create their dream piece is a truly special process.

LOCAL RESIDENT MATILDE FARIA MOURINHO FELIX IS CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BRAND MATILDE JEWELLERY

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS

WHAT HAS BEING IN BUSINESS TAUGHT YOU ABOUT YOURSELF?

It's taught me that I'm a lot more resilient than I thought I was. It's also taught me not to take on everything by myself, which I tend to do in my professional and personal life. I've learned to delegate and to ask for help when I need to.

CHELSEA HAS BEEN HOME FOR MANY YEARS. WHAT MAKES IT SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE?

I love that Chelsea feels like the best of both worlds. It's close to everything central, yet it still has this quiet, homey feel.

WHAT DOES CHELSEA HAVE THAT NO OTHER PART OF LONDON DOES?

The Duke of York Square market on Saturdays!



A local GEM



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cripps.co.uk





1st Developments Chelsea Limited & Chelsea Projects and Interiors Limited

Behind many of Chelsea's most beautiful homes lies the craftsmanship of two sister companies working in perfect harmony. **1st Developments Chelsea Limited** is the powerhouse on site — a construction management specialist overseeing every nut and bolt, ensuring projects rise from the ground with precision and purpose. Alongside them, **Chelsea Projects and Interiors Limited** bring creativity and finesse, collaborating with leading designers and architects to deliver interiors of effortless sophistication. Together, they embody the essence of modern Chelsea living — where technical excellence meets timeless style, and every detail reflects a passion for perfection.

Affiliation to the Chartered Institute of Builders City of London awarded Freeman of the City of London.

1st Developments Chelsea Ltd established 2017

info@1stdevelopments.co.uk mark.venezia@1stdcl.co.uk 07789121518

H&M
Bootcut velvet
trousers, £34.99
72 King's Road

*DARK
OLIVE*

THE COLOUR
OF TIMELESS
SOPHISTICATION
AND TIPPED TO BE
BIG IN 2026

Fashion / Trending



BAMFORD

Viola felt fedora, £195
104 Draycott Avenue



VERONICA BEARD

Koulis mini shirt dress, £378
2 Symons Street

MIISTA
Nikoletta sneakers, £295
41 Duke of York Square



SOEUR

Lee sunglasses, £250
182a King's Road



VARLEY
Wilkins Sherpa puffer jacket, £198
110-112 King's Road



ANNOUSHKA
Flight andalusite earrings with yellow gold and diamond, £16,500
41 Cadogan Gardens



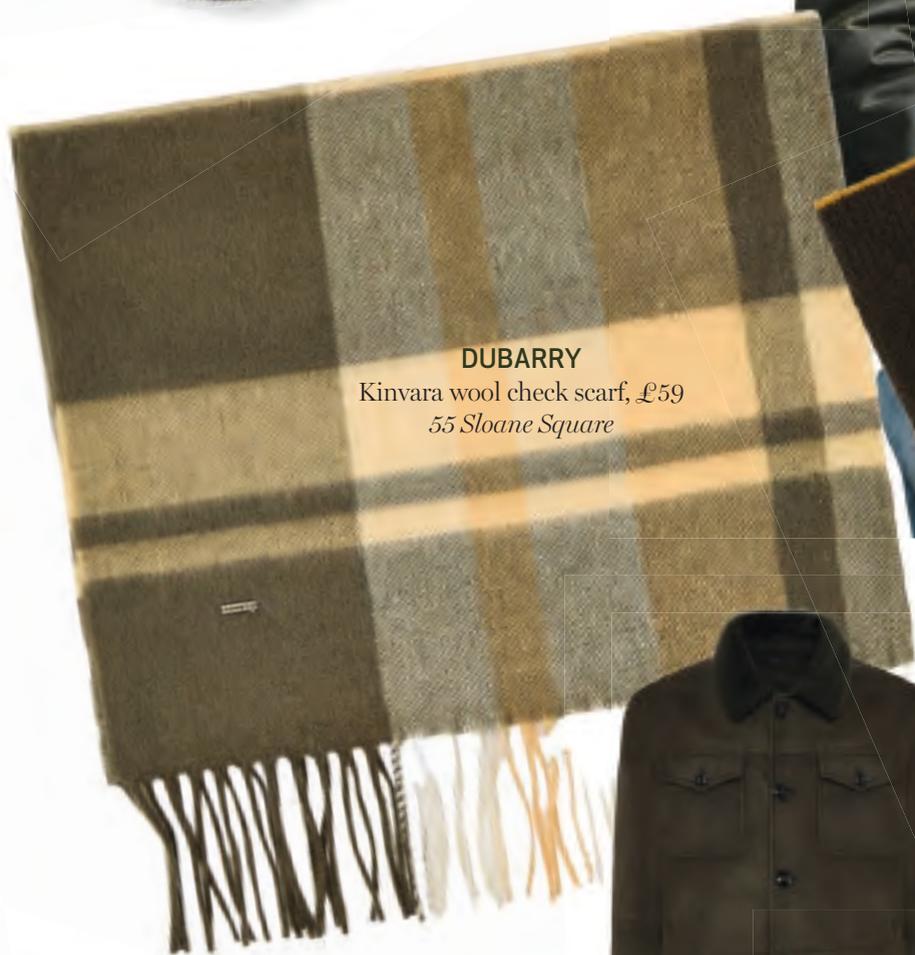
TEMPERLEY
Clove velvet waistcoat, £340
134 Sloane Street



BLOOBLOOM
Pathfinder sunglasses,
from £99
33g King's Road



BARBOUR
Type II waxed
jacket, £359
*Available from
Peter Jones,
Sloane Square*



DUBARRY
Kinvara wool check scarf, £59
55 Sloane Square



N PEAL
Tucci travel socks, £95
159 Sloane Street



KITON
Shearling coat,
£11,360
49 Sloane Street



SEBAGO
Kai Artisan Desert
boots, £220
120 King's Road



SMYTHSON
Crossbody
pouch in
Ludlow, £475
*141-142 Sloane
Street*



BEEBOON
Baby Sage Fields cord
trousers, £53.95
178 King's Road



IL PORTICCIOLO
Velvet overalls, £60
253 King's Road

AMAIA
Ribbed tights,
£15
14 Cale Street



BONPOINT
Galaxy water-repellent
and breathable hooded
parka, £350
6f Sloane Street



TRUE ARTIST
Padded vest in olive
green, £120
Milk Kids, 89 Lower
Sloane Street



YOUNG SOLES
Penny T-bar kids' shoe in
olive leather, £62
Peter Jones, Sloane Square



TOASTIE
Padded Cloud
ski suit, £84.95
Harrods, 87-135
Brompton Road

GRAHAM & BROWN

EST. 1946

WALLPAPER • PAINT • SOFT FURNISHINGS

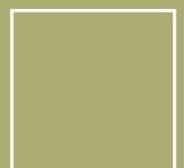


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VIRIDIS *paint*



Francis Sultana



HOME COMFORTS

FRANCIS SULTANA AT THE CONRAN SHOP

The Conran Shop celebrated the launch of the new Tamilla furniture collection in its Sloane Square store. Guests joined Maltese interior designer Francis Sultana for cocktails, canapés and a preview of the new range.

16 Sloane Square



WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

THE KING'S ROAD HALLOWEEN DOG PARADE

One hundred pups took part in the King's Road Halloween dog parade, organised by the King's Road Partnership and Love My Human. The parade started at the Chelsea Theatre and finished at Sloane Square, with money raised going to Pets as Therapy and Therapy Dogs Nationwide.

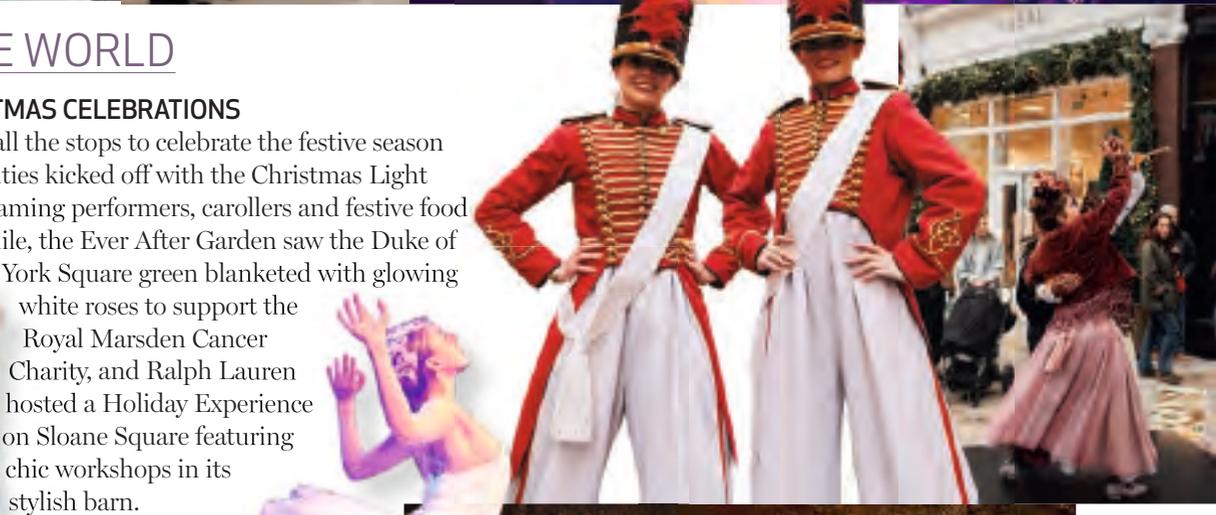




JOY TO THE WORLD

CHELSEA'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Chelsea pulled out all the stops to celebrate the festive season this year. The festivities kicked off with the Christmas Light Switch-On, with roaming performers, carollers and festive food and drink. Meanwhile, the Ever After Garden saw the Duke of York Square green blanketed with glowing white roses to support the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, and Ralph Lauren hosted a Holiday Experience on Sloane Square featuring chic workshops in its stylish barn.



Charity / K+C Foundation



Closing the Education Gap

LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

The K&C Foundation has launched its new Closing the Education Gap Fund - designed to help level the playing field and ensure that every young person, no matter where they live, has the chance to learn, grow and thrive. Over the next three years, the Foundation will invest £750,000 in early interventions, mentoring, academic support and employment pathways. The aim? To keep young people in school, boost confidence and attainment, and give them the tools they need to step into adulthood with hope and opportunity. The fund will support 10 grassroots projects working directly with the young people most at risk of disengaging from education.

To ensure funding reached the ideas with the greatest potential for real impact, the Foundation brought together a panel of 10 local young people - each with lived experience of school exclusions, low attainment or the kinds of challenges that can make education feel out of reach.

Their insights were invaluable. These young evaluators played a central role in choosing which projects received

funding, and in the process gained meaningful paid work experience and, had a genuine voice in shaping the future of their own community.

One panel member summed it up:

"Being part of the youth panel has been a powerful experience for me. It's given me a real voice in deciding how funding is used to support young people. It's inspiring to see the impact of our decisions and know we're helping shape a better future."

Across the 10 selected initiatives, nearly 400 young people will receive direct support every year. Activities include:

- Early interventions in primary schools
- One-to-one mentoring
- Academic tutoring
- Skills development programmes
- Employment pathways and training

These are projects chosen by local young people for local young people - programmes designed to reach those who need support most and help guide them toward brighter, more stable futures.

To learn more about the Closing the Education Gap portfolio or discover how you can support young people like Natalie, contact the K&C Foundation team at: team@thekandcfoundation.com

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+ Chelsea
Foundation
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HOTELS & RESORTS
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HOTELCAPOORSO.COM



IMAGE: ALEX FLETCHER

THE LATEST LIPSTICK colour from Cosmetics a la Carte is Rosa, (£35) a year-round nude pink inspired by the roses of Florence. It's designed to blend and build easily, meaning that it can be worn as a natural tint or built into a more pigmented statement lip.
192 Pavilion Road

USING A BLEND OF peptides and amino acids that mimics the human placenta, MZ Skin's latest Intensive Bio-Placenta Eye Cream, £180, is the fourth and final product in Dr Maryam Zamani's Bio-Placenta collection. Used with MZ Skin's M5Rx Encapsulated Complex – containing niacinamide, peptides and antioxidants – it promises to leave the eye area plump, hydrated and radiant.
110-112 King's Road



Beauty / News



ANYA HINDMARCH IS collaborating with Boots for a new concept store at the Village Hall, open until March 8. Here you'll find toiletry essentials reimagined with classic Anya flair, from band-aid keychains to stylish first age washbags. The store is designed like a 1970s pharmacy, with retro tiling, staff in crisp white coats and shelves piled high with bottles and glass jars. The collaboration also means several new additions to the 'Anya Brands' range, including Berocca, Advil, Imperial Leather and Nurofen.

Anya Hindmarch said: "This is a truly iconic collaboration for me - Boots is part of the very fabric of the UK. The chance to play with, and 'Anya-ise' everyday toiletry essentials has been the most fun project. I hope it will animate bathrooms and bring smiles to people's mornings in January, when we all need a lift. Our village wouldn't be a village without a Boots!"



BRITISH BEAUTY BRAND Oskia is celebrating its 15th birthday. In honour of this landmark year, the company has released a limited-edition Renaissance Cleansing Gel, £41, reimagined with sweet orange and neroli. The cult gel-to-oil cleanser is rich in vitamins and enzymes to use for brighter and more nourished skin.

*Oh My Cream,
194 King's
Road*



BACKSTAGE SALON has introduced advanced BBL (BroadBand Light) therapy. The non-invasive skin rejuvenation treatment is designed for clients looking for brighter, clearer skin with no downtime. BBL uses pulses of light energy to heat upper layers of the skin, stimulating cell regeneration and boosting collagen. Choose from two treatments: BBL Photorejuvenation for uneven skin or BBL Forever Clean for acne-prone skin.
335-337 King's Road



NEVILLE Hair and Beauty has launched Epres Repair Treatment: Rebuild & Restore, an intensive, next-generation treatment to restore severely damaged, brittle or chemically treated hair. The patented technology reconstructs hair bonds from the inside out for lasting strength, shine and manageability.
5 Pont Street



THE FIRST IN THE UK, the Rainbow Reset laser has arrived at the Rakus Clinic. The laser uses non-thermal visible light - red, green and violet - to repair, restore and renew the body at a cellular level. The four-step sequence supports everything from vagus nerve regulation to mitochondrial vitality, fat loss and hormonal resilience. Gentle, non-invasive and just 15 minutes per session, it reflects Dr Rita Rakus's evidence-led approach to longevity.

34 Hans Road



THE NEW AM + PM Essentials Set, £129, from Trinny London is a day and night Vitamin C and Retinal Serum combo to improve skin brightness, tone, sagging skin, wrinkles, fine lines. The Vitamin C is in slow release form, which allows for skin to improve throughout the day. Meanwhile the PM serum uses Vitamin F and cellular oil to encourage cell turnover, fine lines and dark marks.

31 King's Road, £129



Dr Ricardo José MBCHB PHD DA FHEA FRCP Consultant in Respiratory Medicine

Dr Ricardo José is a London-based Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, specialising in the diagnosis and management of lung and breathing conditions. Known for his calm, thorough approach and clinical precision, he provides expert care grounded in the latest evidence-based medicine.

Dr José offers comprehensive assessment and personalised treatment plans for a wide range of respiratory conditions, with a focus on clear communication, continuity of care, and clinical excellence.

Areas of expertise include:

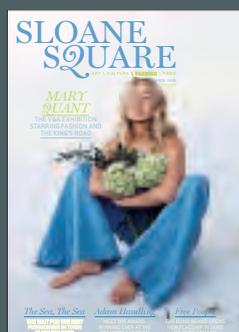
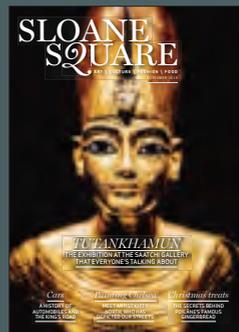
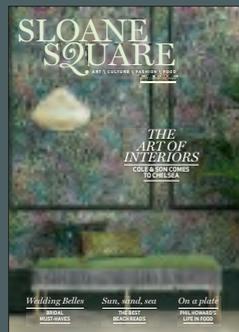
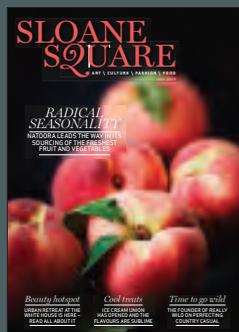
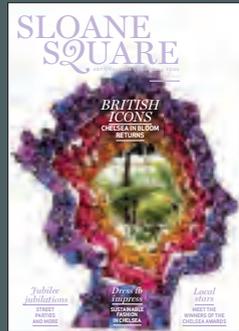
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People value Dr José's thoughtful, patient-centred approach and his commitment to delivering clear diagnoses and tailored management strategies in a discreet, professional setting.

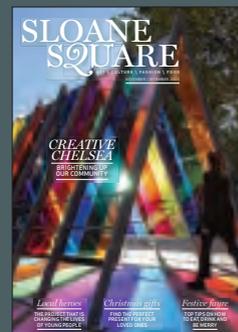
Locations:

Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, SW3 6NP
The London Clinic, 5 Devonshire Place, W1G6HL

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1



**ANNA
LANCASTER
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Health and wellness is about more than your body. Voted the number one hypnotherapist by *Tatler*, Anna Lancaster offers therapies for everything from phobias and relationship challenges to confidence building.

From £525, private clinic in Chelsea (location confirmed after booking)

ADARE DERMATOLOGY

The new year is the perfect time to get on top of health checks and screenings. A full mole screening will detect early signs of skin cancer when it's at its most treatable.
£300, 18 Park Walk

Healthy living

Must-haves for your wellness resolutions

BY ALICE CAIRNS

WAITROSE

The Pentire coastal spritz is perfect for dry January and beyond. Made in Cornwall, it's packed with coastal botanicals such as sea rosemary and oakwood, and pairs perfectly with tonic and a slice of lemon.

£27, 196 King's Road



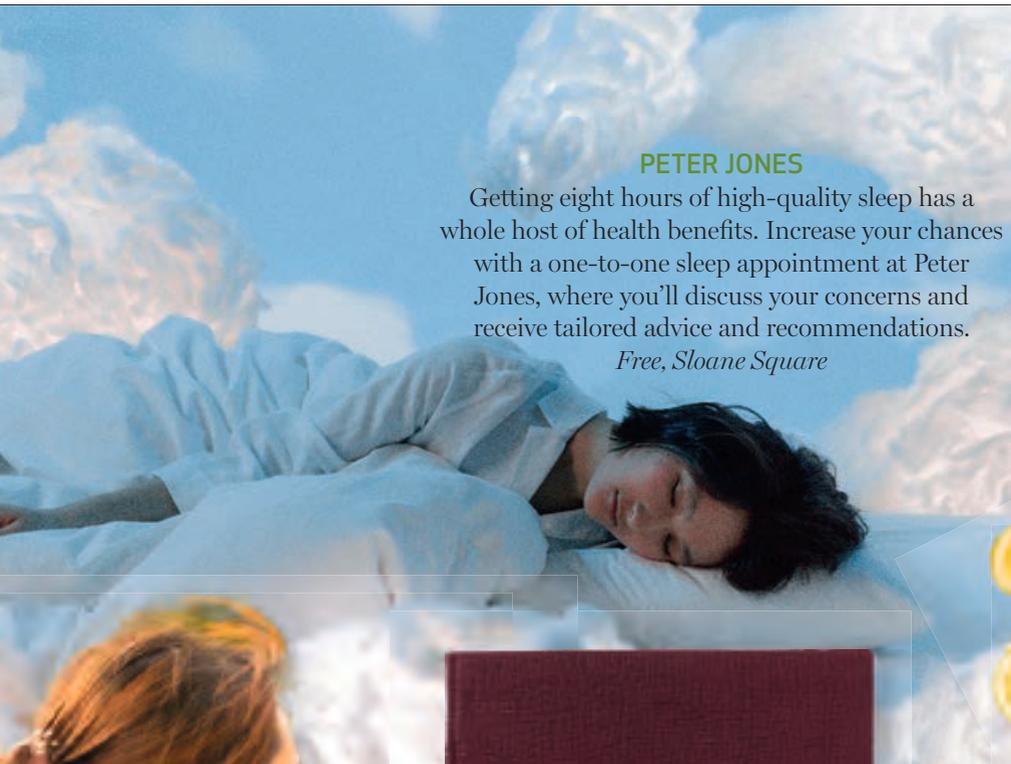
KXU

Sweat it out with hot pilates. You'll get all the usual benefits of a pilates class, plus the circulation boost and natural detoxification that come from working out in a 30C heated studio.

241 Pavilion Road



Top 10 / Health



PETER JONES

Getting eight hours of high-quality sleep has a whole host of health benefits. Increase your chances with a one-to-one sleep appointment at Peter Jones, where you'll discuss your concerns and receive tailored advice and recommendations.

Free, Sloane Square



GET A DRIP

IV drips deliver nutrients straight to your bloodstream for speedy results. At Get A Drip you can try anything from the basic hydration drip (perfect after new year's parties!) to more tailored options such as the hair health drip or the high-dose vitamin C drip.

£100 for basic hydration, 309 King's Road



2026

SMYTHSON

Journalling can improve your mood and boost your emotional processing. Get started with this 2026 diary in trendy dark cherry.

£230, 141-142 Sloane Street



ACAI BERRY

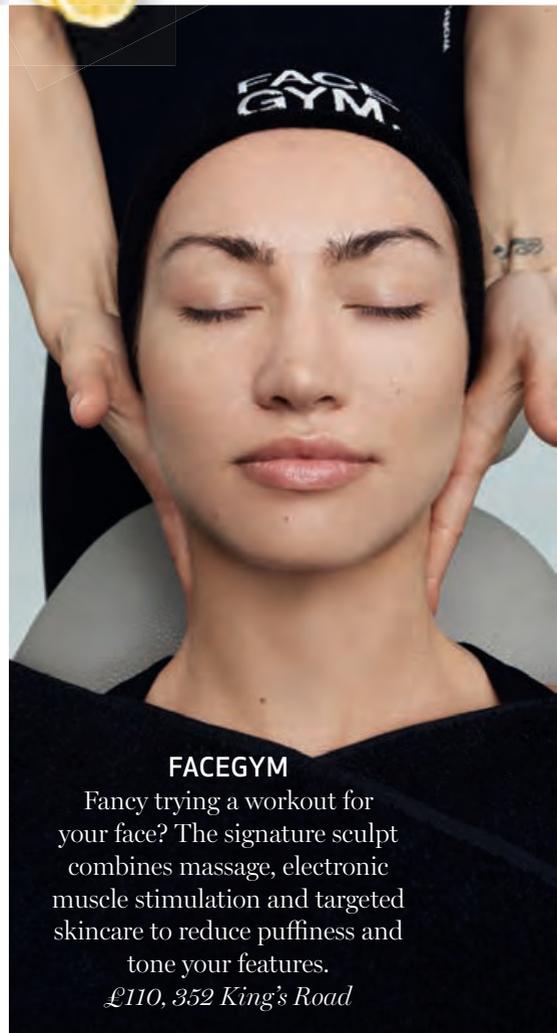
Healthy eating doesn't have to be boring. This acai bowl is topped with pistachio cream, toasted coconut flakes and fresh raspberries.

£10.50 for medium, 247 King's Road

CHELSEA RUN CLUB

If you want to improve your fitness but also make new friends, joining a running club could be a perfect fit. The Chelsea club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8pm at the Duke of York Square track and is open to runners of every ability.

£10, Duke of York Square



FACEGYM

Fancy trying a workout for your face? The signature sculpt combines massage, electronic muscle stimulation and targeted skincare to reduce puffiness and tone your features.

£110, 352 King's Road

My Chelsea / Bishop Michael Marshall

WHAT PLACES IN CHELSEA ARE MOST SPECIAL TO YOU?

I was rector of Holy Trinity for ten years. The church was on the brink of being closed when I joined in 1997. The papers were drawn up. The view was that it was old, it was dirty - the building needed a lot doing to it physically, as well as the need to build up a congregation. I was given three years to turn it around. Thankfully, I was able to do that.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

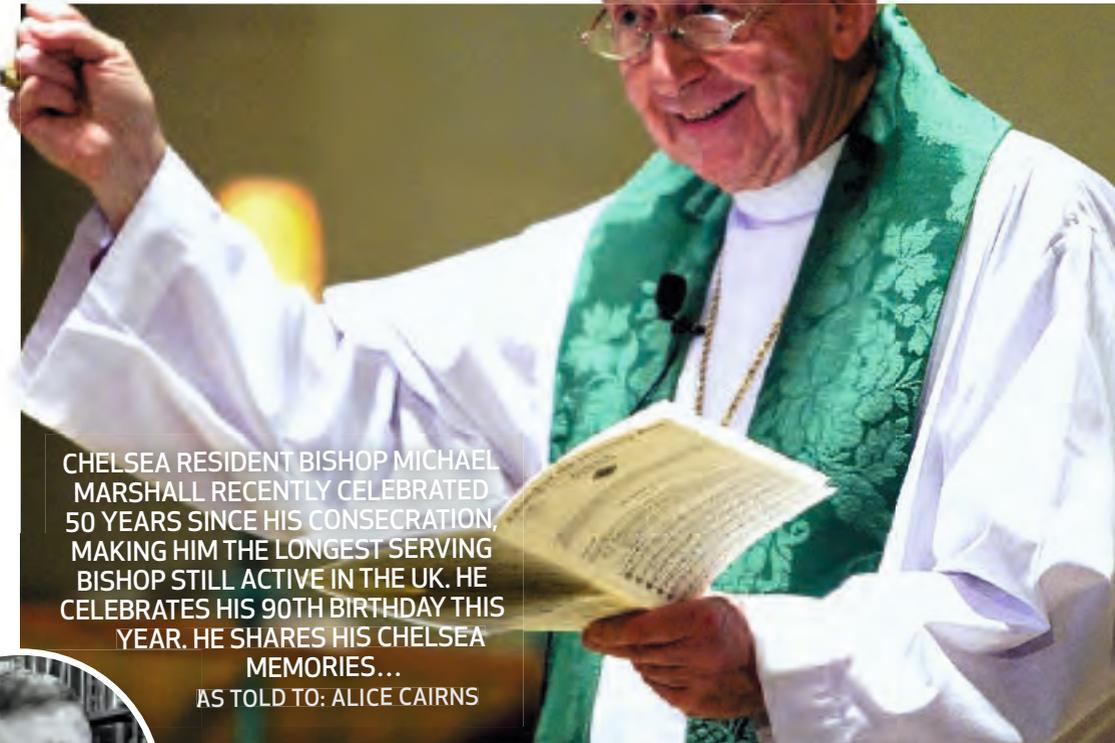
When I was growing up, I wanted to be a concert pianist. I'm told I started playing the piano when I was three. I wanted to go to the Royal College of Music, but my headmaster and my father wouldn't let me do it. There's no money in music, you see, so I went to Cambridge and got a scholarship in history. I rediscovered the piano as a curate in a slum parish in



Birmingham. I used to go around and play the honky tonk piano in the pubs on a Sunday evening, because it was a way to spend time in the community. I find spirituality in music: in Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert. Poets, artists and musicians know what the spiritual life is about: it's a journey!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT CHELSEA?

The ingredients which build a strong community are three things: a church, a school and a jolly good pub. We certainly have those things here! My time as a rector in Chelsea was the happiest ten years



CHELSEA RESIDENT BISHOP MICHAEL MARSHALL RECENTLY CELEBRATED 50 YEARS SINCE HIS CONSECRATION, MAKING HIM THE LONGEST SERVING BISHOP STILL ACTIVE IN THE UK. HE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR. HE SHARES HIS CHELSEA MEMORIES...

AS TOLD TO: ALICE CAIRNS

of my whole ministry. I've always said I should never have been a bishop - I'm a parish priest. I like caring for people spiritually and doing it in a community.

HOW HAS THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH CHANGED?

As I look back over the last 50 years, it's clear that

the church has changed very much, because the world has changed! And it's not all bad news. There's certainly a lot of suppressed anger and depression in our society, but somewhere in it, there's also a seed of new growth, new life and new new questions being asked. It's an amazing time, really, to be a bishop.



FAR LEFT: WOLFGANG MOZART
LEFT: HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHELSEA
IMAGES: BARBARA KRAFFT / DAVID LILF / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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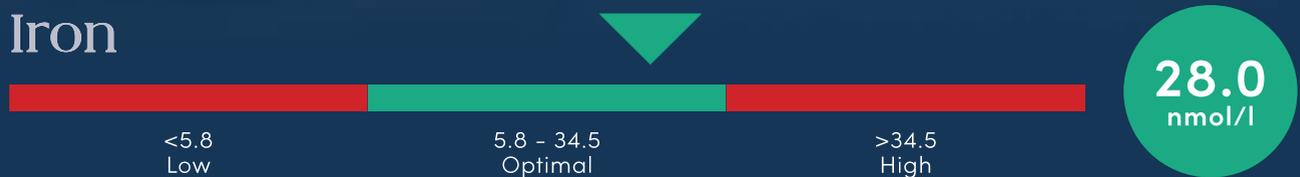


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