

thecourt

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY NEWS FROM
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM AND EARL'S COURT

June / July / August 2022

Hello Summer!



REMEMBERING GRENFELL
Supporting Survivors

UNDERBELLY IS BACK!
Festival of Fun Arrives

RETAIL REVOLUTION
Local Shops To Enjoy



Keeping
Life Local

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

This summer, many of us can confidently look forward to family time, to the great outdoors and to a season of abundance and happiness. But for many others, these are trying times - times to be navigated rather than enjoyed. And so, it is important to remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

My name is Sean Mendez and I manage a local charity called Solidarity Sports. Our organisation offers children in Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham that have little (or no) opportunities, a chance to breathe in the joy of childhood, a way to enjoy the fun things in life, and to come together and play with kids that are just like them. We welcome little people with difficult lives, and we are committed to making those lives happier, healthier and as emotionally fulfilling as possible.

Thanks to our kind supporters, the children in our care enjoy all kinds of sports, day trips to expand their horizons, go on residential holiday camps in the UK and abroad, and also - on occasion - have their dreams come true, all in an atmosphere of gentle care and reliable encouragement.

REMEMBERING GRENFELL

This summer our programme of activities is better than ever, but we know that even more care will be needed over the coming weeks. Many of our children are remembering the horrific effect that the Grenfell Tower Fire had on their lives, and those of their families, neighbours and friends. On June 14th, it will be five years since the devastating loss of 72 lives just down the road, and our team feels the heartbreak to this day as we remember the tragic loss of a number of children that we loved and cared for before then.

And so, we ask you to take a little time this summer to think about those that are less

fortunate than yourselves. Not to lower the mood, or create any kind of sadness, but to help ground ourselves in the reality of life, an anchor point that can help us all appreciate the wonderful lives that we are blessed to have.

If you would like to support our children and help heal those that continue to suffer trauma and grief, of any kind, please email me on sean@solidaritysports.org or visit <https://www.solidaritysports.org> to learn more or donate.



IN MEMORY OF THE HASHIM FAMILY

The catastrophic fire that engulfed the Grenfell Tower in 2017 claimed the lives of three of children and their parents that attended and

HASHIM FAMILY
LEGACY
MAKING CHILDRENS DREAMS COME TRUE

enjoyed their time at Solidarity Sports. The Hashim family were among many victims that died that day. Firdaws, aged 12, dreamed of visiting Disneyland, and will now never have the chance to go. And so, Solidarity Sports launched The Hashim Family Legacy to make children's dreams come true. In October 2017, they arranged their first trip as part of this project, visiting Disneyland Paris in her honour.



EARLS COURT FUTURE PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

2-3 Degrees is working in partnership with the Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) to deliver a youth engagement programme to ensure local young people who live, work or study in Kensington & Chelsea or Hammersmith & Fulham have their voices heard on the future of the Earls Court site.

The Earls Court Future programme is an exciting opportunity for young people to shape the future of their local area alongside creatively sharing ideas on how their local area develops and is shaped for the benefit of young people and the wider community.

The young people will also have access to our fun and engaging personal development and employability workshops, aimed to empower the young people whilst providing them with opportunities to help fulfil their potential and be the best version of themselves.

WHEN AND WHERE

The programme will be delivered over the summer holidays between 4th August & 8th September every Thursday evening between 5–7pm. There will be a separate launch event taking place on 14th July 2022.

Dates: Thursday 4th August – Thursday 8th September (weekly workshops)

Times: 5pm – 7pm

Location: Community Hub, 1a Aisgill Avenue, West Kensington W14 9NF (other venues may also be used)

Sign up via Eventbrite [HERE!](#)



WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The programme is for young people aged 15–25 who either live, work or study in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham or Kensington and Chelsea.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS GET?

- **Have their say:** Creatively share ideas on how their local area develops and is shaped for the future of young people and the wider community
- **Gain experience:** Develop key communication, networking, presentation, negotiation and team working skills that are key for life
- **Develop themselves:** Gain access to fun activity-based personal development and employability workshops and feel more confident in themselves and their future
- **Meet employers:** Meet employers from a variety of different industries and improve their networking and professional skills.
- **Be inspired:** Engaging with our inspirational guest speakers, facilitators and mentors who are here to support them
- **Increase their confidence:** Learn practical tips on how to improve their confidence and be the best version of themselves!

UNDERBELLY FESTIVAL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Earls Court Development Company



**Emmanuel
Sonubi**
2 July



Circus Abyssinia:
Tulu
24 May-18 June



**Unfortunate: The Untold
of Ursula the Sea Witch**
21 June-16 July

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

LIVE SHOWS OUTDOOR BARS STREET FOOD LIVE MUSIC

just off
Lillie
Road



Told Story
Witch
July



Dreamgun: Film Reads
Lord of the Rings
16 June



Bilal
Zafar
24 June

UNDERBELLYFESTIVAL.COM

EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE BEST OF THE FEST short film extravaganza is returning this July! Bought to you by Film Earls Court and The Earls Court International Film Festival, this 75 minute showcase comprises the very best Festival shorts from 2014 to present day, some of which have been award winners at major festivals worldwide. Stunningly combining international and locally made films, THE BEST OF THE FEST brings together a charitable, community focused approach to cinema. THE BEST OF THE FEST really does represent the very best of British and international short film, and gives emerging talent a chance to bring their works of wonder to the world.

Go to www.underbelly.co.uk for tickets
<https://www.underbellyfestival.com>



The Earls Court International Film Festival 2022 has chosen Choose Love as its charitable partners for 2022. CHOOSE LOVE does whatever it takes to provide refugees and displaced people with everything from lifesaving rescue boats to food and legal advice. Their work has reached over 1.8 million people and supported over 250 fast-acting community organisations across Europe, the Middle East and along the US-Mexico border. *Everything we do is powered by a vision of a world that chooses love and justice every day, for everyone.*
www.chooselove.org . Instagram @chooselove

Choose Love/Film Earls Court screening of 'Adnan' at the Underbelly Studio (18th June - nearly sold out) is in support of Refugee Week.



22nd & 23rd June
Barkston Gardens

24th & 25th June
Cornwall Gardens

Performances start at 7pm

26th June
Special performance at
The Fortune Theatre in
the West End

Starts at 12 noon

Once again, we'll be
raising money for a
local charity



DEVELOPER NEWS



NEW COMMUNITY HUB FOR ALL TO ENJOY

On 31 May, The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) had a soft launch for the new Community Hub on Aisgill Avenue, in the Gibbs Green Estate, West Kensington. Formerly the replacement homes suite of the previous owners of the development site, it has remained locked and unused for over five years.

The Hub will be running coffee mornings and taster sessions every day from Monday 27 June – Friday 1 July and once fully programmed the Hub will be open seven days a week.

If you are interested in running a class or activity at the Hub, please get in touch by emailing Community Hub Manager, Gigi Yacoub, on email: gigi.yacoub@earlscourtdevco.com

WORK, REST AND PLAY

- The Hub will host meetings for community groups and businesses, while social spaces will make this a focal point for the community to come together, to see friends and family.
- The gardens have been restored and are being looked after by Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, ensuring they are open for all to enjoy.
- The Earls Court Development Company is looking for local community groups who would be interested in running a class or activity at the Hub. The flexible space could include anything from exercise classes to gardening lessons, and homework club to support young people.

Growing Plants, Growing People, Growing Communities at the Community Hub

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association is a local environmental charity set up in 1984. They manage four community gardens in Hammersmith and Fulham, including the gardens at the new ECDC Community Hub.

HCGA has a range of projects which include conservation training schemes, volunteer gardening sessions, health and wellbeing projects, environmental playschemes and environmental education

in local schools. They assist local groups in the design, plan and management of their green spaces, and promote environmental sustainability within the borough and manage our sites to maximise biodiversity and encourage wildlife. To learn more about the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, or if you would like to donate or volunteer, go to Hammersmith Community Gardens Association's website at www.hcga.org.uk.



Interested in what we are doing at The Earls Court Development Company?

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE EARLS COURT SITE?

Having asked you what we can do to “bring the wonder back to Earls Court”, we are now reflecting on all the feedback we have received and presenting some early concepts around how we could make this happen.

We'll be showing our first thoughts on a new plan for our site at a pop-up exhibition at 26 Lillie Road on Saturday 25 June and Saturday 2 July from 10am-3pm.

The unit will then be open from Wednesday 6 July every:
Wednesday + Thursday from 2pm - 7pm
Friday + Saturday from 11am - 3pm. You can drop by to see the emerging plans and give us your feedback and ideas or ask any questions you may have.

We are also hosting an interactive webinar on Tuesday 19th July at 6pm, please sign up via the ECDC website.

SUMMER FUN DAYS

We are also holding two summer fun days with free ice-cream, games and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Come have fun, meet the team and talk to us about the evolving plans.

Saturday 2nd July: 11am – 3pm at the Warwick Road space (opposite Earls Court station, Warwick Road entrance)

Saturday 16th July: 11am – 3pm on Mund Street Green, off North End Road, West Kensington



Scan me to visit our website and find out more

FEEDBACK ALWAYS WELCOME

Email: info@earlscourtdevco.com

Telephone: 0330 333 1510



The first tenants have moved into Empress Studios, the new workspace for local creatives and innovators on Empress Place. Delivered by The Earls Court Development Company and Projekt, upwards of 30 studios provide affordable studio and office space for the local arts and science industries. Visit Empress Studios (empress-studios.co.uk) to find out more.



LOCAL FOCUS:

MEET SHARON WILLEMS

— Artistic Director at Barons Court Theatre

What's your name? Sharon Willems. I'm Artistic Director at Barons Court Theatre and one half of a company called Kibo Productions.

Where is your theatre? Below the Curtain's Up Pub at 28a Comeragh Road, just a street away in front of West Ken tube.

When are your productions on? Our shows tend to be regularly through the week, Tuesdays through Saturdays. Usually in the evening. We've been saving weekends for more 'get-ins' and rehearsals and workshops where we do things like playwriting courses. We also have alternative programming like comedy and improv, sometimes after our main performances.

How long have you been involved with Baron's Court? We've known of them for the last ten years but we took over running the space in November last year. We like the atmosphere. We like the pub. We are a part of the community, so we felt like it'd be a good fit for us.

Where were you before? Teatro Technis in Camden. We were in residence pre-pandemic – it's like a lifetime ago. We work a lot with new writing, so we programmed their Camden Fringe and focussed on rejuvenating some of their audiences. That came to a natural end and we decided we had so much fun running a space we'd like to do it again.

What's your approach with Baron's Court? We started off by doing what was called the Reboot Festival before we officially took over. It was aimed at getting folks back on stage after the pandemic – really focussing on those graduates that had had their whole career paths impacted by the pandemic. We did 15 short plays over three weeks. That was our way of cleansing the palette of the space from the pandemic. Since then, we've been really focussing on a mixture of programming, but always having a door open to emerging artists.

What shows do you have on at the moment? Next week, we're doing a fundraiser for Ukraine. We have work that's in Ukrainian and some in English – with input from volunteers that have gone to the border of Ukraine or



Romania. We are just offering us as a space to come in and feel connected and maybe learn a bit about what's going on. In the last week of May, we have a play written by a Taiwanese writer, directed by a Chinese queer woman, with the whole cast queer, East Asian. We are also doing 'Star with No Name', which is a Romanian play and in the first week of July we have a company doing Japanese traditional theatre slash music. Stories from Japan with Japanese drumming. At the end of July, there's a guy coming from the States that's taking a show to Edinburgh. He's doing a week of previews for us, and he's autistic.

How far is Baron's Court a community theatre? We don't make the distinction between 'professional' or 'amateur dramatic'. If an am-dram company comes to us – Kensington Drama Company is one that is very well known in the area – we're very happy to give them a platform. A lot of what

we have been doing has been about getting up and running, but as you can see we are looking outward a bit more now.

Tell me more about the focus on new talent... We started up with the intention of platforming debut writers as well as scripts that didn't come to theatre in the same way as others that have gone the traditional path of going to drama school – folks like us that have moved over here from other places, giving them a way in. We do Q&A on work with established theatre-makers and also do three to four work-in-development showings and we all give feedback on the plays together. So it's a way of stoking creativity and helping people meet each other and feel a little bit less scared about going into a space and trying something new. That's monthly and anyone can come in and either participate as an audience member - it's completely free – or as someone that wants to read. They just have to write to me and tell me about themselves. We'll put them in our acting pool and just say, "Who's up for it this month?" So in that way, we're trying to build a community that is local to the area but also local in terms of the theatre community.

Where do your audiences come from? It's still early days for us to get a concrete sense, but at the moment it feels like a nice mixture. We have a lot of people poke their heads in and say, "Oh, I didn't realise there's a theatre here". We're hoping that that will become a bit more community-centric so that we're another cultural hub for this really rich, diverse area. We've always thought about the work not being separate from the community it's made in. It's not just people that go to see it and the people that make it, but you know, the after-effects. We often partner with charities if we can. We often try and do Q&As that talk about the issues within the play because that's where we think art has the greatest reach.

How can people contact you? Our Facebook is @BaronsCourtTheatre, Instagram is @baronscourtw14 and Twitter is @BaronsCourt_W14. Our website is www.baronscourttheatre.com.

LOCAL FOCUS: MEET NICKY REDFORD — Pedal Back Cycling

What's your name? Nicky Redford. I am one half of the team that set up the cycle café Pedal Back Cycling.

Which is your shop? 24 Lillie Road. Opposite The Lillie Langtry pub.

How long have you been on Lillie Road? We've been here three and a half years now. The first tenants to move in along here, aside from The Prince, was us and The Hoarder.

Where did you come from? We started in Tooting in Broadway market with a tiny little unit with a cafe and bar at one end and a workshop at the other. We built an absolutely brilliant little community but unfortunately the landlords were pretty awful and put the rent up every 12 months so eventually that was that. But in the meantime, we'd been approached to come here. It was really exciting to have our own shop with the space to have a lot more things going on.

Did you come to this through food or through bikes? Both. Me and my partner set this up and she was really into the food side of things and I was really into the bike side of things. That's how it started. We're not by any means claiming to be the first. There's plenty of other cycle cafés out there but there's not that many in London that actually have a full café and a workshop and bike sales. A lot of them are really just bike themed.

Where do your customers come from? A couple of mile radius, really. We've had people that have got a puncture and they're up near Knightsbridge and they've pushed their bike all the way down to us.

How has the area changed? Pandemic-permitting, there's been a lot more activity, a lot more engagement and a lot more interest – not just in this little strip of shops, but in the area in general. The Earls Court Development Company have bought Underbelly on to the main site both this summer and last. It's great to see the space being used, people coming into the area; new faces that have never been to this part of town.



It's great when the crew are here for set up and take down too because that's overspill for us and we get trade from that.

What's your favourite thing about doing what you do? When people drop in and show us the passion projects that they've spent years on. The nice thing is that people want to come in and talk about what they're doing. So we do see some really lovely bikes that people have just put their heart and soul into.

What would you say to people who pass by? For anybody that's in the area: Come and explore. They might not have been this way for a long time. Things have changed. There's a lot more to it to enjoy. Food, drink, us. Yeah. Come and see.

How can people contact you? Our Instagram is @pedalbackcycling, our website is <https://www.pedalbackcycling.com> and the shop telephone is 0207 0185 280.

EARL'S COURT LOCAL HISTORY

— *A soldier and an artist*

Part of a monthly series by Neil McPherson, Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre, on the rich history of our local area and community. www.earlscourtlocalhistory.co.uk

In this issue, we look at a Victorian power couple – a famous soldier and a famous artist who were married to each other. General Sir William Butler (1838-1910) and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Butler (1850-1933) lived at 3 Tregunter Road from 1878 to 1880.

Sir William Butler was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and the suffering of the Irish famine of 1847 were amongst his earliest memories. He joined the army, fighting in Canada, the First Ashanti War, the Zulu War, Egypt and the Sudan. In 1898, he was

appointed Commander-in-Chief and then High Commissioner in South Africa, but expressed views about the probabilities of war which were not welcome to the government in Westminster, who were then doing their best to provoke the Boer War, and was ordered home. He was also an author, and a supporter of Irish Home Rule.

His wife, Lady Elizabeth, the sister of suffragist and poet Alice Meynell, was a leading painter of military scenes. Her

Calling the Roll After an Engagement, Crimea (1874) was so popular that crowds had to be held back to protect it, and it was eventually bought by Queen Victoria. Her other works included Quatre Bras (1875), the moving Balaclava (1876) and the much reproduced Scotland for Ever (1881). In 1879, she failed by two votes to be elected to the Royal Academy. She wrote about her paintings in an autobiography published in 1922: "I never painted for the glory of war, but to portray its pathos and heroism."





Local Community Events

The Music Man - Play

22nd - 25th June (7pm - 9.30pm)

Residents' Music Concerts

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Wednesday 1st June - Coleherne Court

Thursday 2nd June - Onslow Gardens

Friday 3rd June - Cornwall Gardens

Saturday 4th June - Nevern Square

Sunday 5th June - Philbeach Gardens, Open to All

Wednesday 8th June - Kensington Mansions

Saturday 11th June - Providence Patch

Saturday 18th June - Collingham Gardens

Wednesday 29th June - Marlborough Court

Thursday 30th June - Pembroke Square

Wednesday 6th July - Barkston Gardens

Thursday 7th July - Bramham Gardens

Saturday 17th September - The Boltons Summer Fair, Open to All



Open Air Cinema Season

Thursday 8th September - Earl's Court Square

An old film classic - Open to All

Friday 9th September - Bramham Gardens

A family friendly film (dogs welcome, as usual) - Open to All

November - (dates to be announced)

Earl's Court Film Festival - Open to All

Choral Scholarships at St Cuthbert's Earl's Court

St. Cuthbert's Church (Earl's Court) is excited to be launching a choral scholarship scheme for young singers. With its reputation as a centre for musical excellence, this special church is famed for its high standard of music and the variety of its programming.



HELP FUND A CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The church is hoping to secure funding for the first four years of the scheme. Each of the four choral scholars will receive a stipend of £1,600 a year.

- The church is searching for four individuals to pledge this figure each year for four years
- A bespoke educational opportunity to four young singers a year
- Each singer will have gained ensemble skills, experience of singing Gregorian chant and enhanced sight-reading ability
- Receive professional mentorship from the Director of Music and Organist - established professional musicians
- Young singers are envisaged to be Gap Year students, University students, or young professionals at the beginning of their career
- Work alongside the existing professional musicians and be a part of the development of the whole community as a cultural centre

"We would also welcome a conversation from interested parties who might be willing to fund the entire scheme for the four years. In this instance, the scheme could be an opportunity to memorialise a friend or relative."

If you are interested in supporting this unique scheme, please email the Director of Music Quintin Beer:

quintin.beer@saintcuthbert.org