

the court

April / May 2021



THE SPRING ISSUE

AMAZING SUMMER
MUSICALS IN JUNE

The sound of music returns

FROM SW5 TO
MYANMAR

Meet Eleonora Gatti

A TRIBUTE TO
DUGGIE FIELDS RIP

A Modernist Dandy remembered



Keeping
Life Local

The Best of Broadway: Wonders of the West End. From Lockdown to New Dawns

If you're in need of some much-needed respite from all things Covid, look no further than what The Earl's Courtiers have planned for Cornwall Gardens from 23rd to 26th June 2021.

They're back for another sensational summer show and they're looking forward to the whole community getting involved. This year 70 children and 12 adults will perform - a record breaking cast that is set to breathe life back into our local theatrical community.

With the West End currently closed you may have been missing your favourite musical numbers, so for 2021's summer extravaganza The Earl's Courtiers are bringing them to you at Cornwall Gardens.

"Make sure to come along and enjoy classic songs from Les Miserables, West Side Story, My Fair Lady, as well as modern classics from Wicked, Billy Elliot and Hamilton - to name but a few," says Producer Inge Marks.

Production volunteers are welcome. To get involved, please contact Toby Brown on toby.brown@tlclondon.com. Stay tuned (www.thecourt.london) for ticket information!



Totally Devoted To Our Youth – A Dame Remembered

It's not often we have the privilege to genuinely call someone so famous "one of our own". Although she was originally from Yorkshire, the people of our neighbourhood really felt the loss of Dame Diana Rigg when she passed away in September 2020, aged 82.

Global fame aside, Dame Diana was happiest at her London home when bringing her wisdom and friendliness to new generations who would get to know, love, and respect her. She was particularly involved in The Earl's Court Youth Club, and was its honorary president for many years.

"Her utter commitment to the Club, shown by her attendance of all management committee



meetings unless she was actually out of the country or on the stage, was phenomenal," said President of the Earl's Court Youth Club, The Honourable Mrs Justice Arbuthnot.

Dame Diana loved the Youth Club and its work, but always asked staff and children to do more. One recent example was when, during lockdown, she was told that the Youth Club was contributing to the feeding of

nearly 1,000 children in the area. She promptly challenged the club to feed 2,000.

"Diana was one of the warmest and most compassionate of people you could want to know, with no airs or graces despite her huge success as an actress and who was ideal as the President of our club for many years. She cared so much for the young, whatever their age or background, and was blessed with her own everlasting

youthful spirit," Roy Amlot QC, Chairman of the Earl's Court Youth Club explains.

Thanks to Dame Diana's generosity over the years, the young people of Earl's Court and the surrounding neighbourhoods will still use the computers granted to them with her help, and continue to learn to design, play music and read as a result.

As Earl's Court Youth Club Team Leader Abdi Aden says: "We all feel her loss. She was a brilliant president. I can't speak highly enough of her."

To learn how you can support local youth schemes in our neighbourhood, please contact abdi.aden@ecyc.co.uk or call Abdi directly on (m) 07956 451636.

“The Penywerns and the Neverns...”

A regular series by Neil McPherson, Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre, on the history of our local area and community.
www.earlscourtlocalhistory.co.uk

Our area has a rich literary history. Its previous residents include countless writers, including no less than four Nobel Literature laureates (Samuel Beckett, W. B. Yeats, Doris Lessing and Bernard Shaw).

To list just some of the names reads like a literary Who's Who, ranging from novelists (Mervyn Peake, Arnold Bennett, Compton Mackenzie, V. S. Naipaul, Radclyffe Hall, Ronald Firbank, C. P. Snow, Jonathan Coe); through detective fiction (Agatha Christie); popular fiction (Marie Corelli, H. Rider Haggard, Georgette Heyer, Jeffrey Archer); lyricists (W. S. Gilbert, Tim Rice); memoirists (Vera Brittain, Joan Wyndham); literary agents (Peggy Ramsay); 'self-help' writers (Samuel Smiles, who invented the term); children's authors (Michael Morpurgo, Beatrix Potter); playwrights (Dion Boucicault, Brandon Thomas, Peter Ustinov, Ronald Harwood); and poets (Austin Dobson, Edwin Arnold, Robert Lowell, T. S. Eliot – plus being the longstanding home of The Poetry Society, and the last resting place of John Keats's muse, Fanny Brawne).

In 1934, one aspiring young poet moved with two artist friends into their first London lodgings at 5 Redcliffe Street. The poet was Dylan Thomas, who reminisced later in life of “three very young monsters green and brimming from Swansea, stiff with lyrics and ambition and still-lives, all living together in one big, bare, barmy beautiful room”.

He wrote home at the time that “This is the quarter of pseudo-artists, of the beards, the naughty expressions of an entirely outmoded period of artistic importance, and of the most boring Bohemian parties I have ever thought possible.”

His roommates later moved to 21 Coleherne Road where Thomas had no room of his own, but slept on a mattress on the floor of whichever roommate had space.

Moving around the corner to Finborough Road, its literary residents have included novelists G. E. Trevelyan, Colin MacInnes, and Clare Hastings; television writer Hazel Adair, the co-creator of legendary TV soap, Crossroads; actor-writer Simon Callow; all the contemporary dramatists the Finborough Theatre has discovered since it opened in 1980; and two of Victorian Britain's finest book illustrators: Punch artist Richard Doyle



A picture of Dylan Thomas by Stanley Lewis, painted in Coleherne Road. Image: © Bridgeman Art Library

lived at number 7 Finborough Road from 1875 until his death. His young nephew, Arthur, would regularly come down from Edinburgh to spend the summer holidays with his uncle. Young Arthur later started using his middle name, and became Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes.

Across the road, the first occupier of number 2 lived Pre-Raphaelite artist Arthur Hughes, the original illustrator of Tom Brown's Schooldays. A family friend was the Reverend Charles L. Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, the author of Alice in Wonderland, who delighted in writing to Hughes' young daughters: “My dear Agnes, – About the cats, you know... I gave them some rat-tail jelly and buttered mice for breakfast, and they were as discontented as they could be. They wanted some boiled pelican, but of course I knew it wouldn't be good for them. So all I said was “Go to Number Two, Finborough Road, and ask for Agnes Hughes, and if it's really good for you, she'll give you some.” ... How are Arthur, and Amy, and Emily? Do they still go up and down Finborough Road, and teach the cats to be kind to mice? I'm very fond of all the cats in Finborough Road. Give them my love... Your affectionate friend, Lewis Carroll.”

However, the writer probably most associated with Earl's Court was Patrick Hamilton, known for his plays Rope (famously filmed by another local resident, Alfred Hitchcock), and Gas Light (the term “gaslighting” comes from his play).

In his 1941 novel, Hangover Square: A Story of Darkest Earl's Court, he wrote of “the Squares, the Gardens, the Mansions; the Penywerns and the Neverns; the private hotels; the Smith's, the station, the Turkish Baths; the ABC and Express restaurants; the pubs, the florists and tobacconists” of the local neighbourhood.

But perhaps the area is best summed up by another local resident, Iris Murdoch, who in her 1954 novel Under the Net wrote: “There are some parts of London which are necessary and others which are contingent. Everywhere west of Earl's Court is contingent.”

In the next issue, we'll look at how one local street battled a deadly epidemic, and meet the local resident whose discovery saved millions – probably even billions – of lives.

Visit the Finborough Theatre's local history website at www.earlscourtlocalhistory.co.uk



SLOWING DOWN & SUPPORTING FAMILIES

How often have you slowed right down and taken stock of what's going on around you? Afterall, 21st Century life can be a blur. Throw in the ceaseless pace of London, and many of us can feel as if we're on a treadmill day after day.

So, maybe 2020 was a year where we genuinely could take stock. When the pandemic hit and lockdown measures were put in place, people who were used to being out and about from dawn till dusk suddenly found themselves at home, without anywhere to be.

For some, including local resident Sue Redmond, this was an opportunity to get close to nature and focus on the tiny things we miss every day.

Photographing the beauty all around us, Sue has lived in Earl's Court for 28 years and is a keen amateur photographer. Her passion goes back to when smartphone technology made the digital camera near-obsolete and she started looking closely at wonders she'd previously passed by.

With increased time spent at home, Sue's gone back to one of her first loves: what nature is doing unnoticed in the garden every day without us realising it.

In her own words, Sue says that she's "discovered wonderfulness".

Clearing a mental space

Lockdown has had a huge variety of negative effects – seen and unseen – but its assault on everyone's mental health is a rising concern. A much needed plus-point to not being able to go out or socialise is that one can take time to appreciate the world in which one lives.

"You have to deliberately stop and look just to be able to appreciate the little things," Sue explains. "When you're going from meeting to meeting you don't have the time to slow down and notice what's happening around you. You need to focus on your headspace to just take a minute."

Full of life

Slowing things down and getting work-life-balance right is something Sue knows a lot about. She's one of five mothers of disabled children in the Earl's Court area that run a charity called Full of Life – giving essential, practical and emotional support to the parents and guardians of disabled children.

Sue says that the most important thing

she does is to help parents understand their rights when it comes to providing for their children.

The pandemic hasn't helped their position. And though Sue and her colleagues are able to run forums online that help families in their homes and with practical advice on education, health and social care – she says the mental and physical toll on parents is a real issue.

A daunting future

"I'm worried about the mental health of parents of disabled children during this pandemic, but very worried about the fall-out going forward.

"We have the here and now, yes. But you have to continually look at the services available to our children when we and they are older. As things stand, there's not a lot in place to look after them. At Full of Life, we do more than offer practical support. We petition for policy change to protect our vulnerable family members at every stage of their journey."

Donations are welcome, and would help Sue and her colleagues carry on their support for more than 700 families in the borough.

If you would like to learn more about the charity or how you can support Full of Life (www.fulloflifekc.com), please call 0208 962 9994 or email info@fulloflifekc.com.

"We are here to help, and are always open to thoughts and advice," Sue says.

A Tribute to Duggie Fields

The artist Duggie Fields, who has died aged 75, was a long time resident of Earl's Court.

By Jonathan Ross, Gallery 286, Earls Court www.gallery286.com



Arriving in London in the 1960s to attend Chelsea Art School, Duggie Fields lived at a couple of addresses in South West London before settling in Wetherby Mansions, Earl's Court Square, circa 1968.

One of his early flatmates was Syd Barrett, founder of Pink Floyd, and the recent exhibition at the V&A celebrating the band's career featured a large canvas by Duggie of Barrett leaning against a vintage car he owned in the street outside their flat.

Duggie established a hard-edged Post Modern style of painting early in his career, and while it evolved over the years, his work was always immediately recognisable, frequently referring back to key imagery and quoting from the iconography of other artists he admired such as Miro, Mondrian and Dali.

His own personal style, Modernist Dandy, was equally recognisable. This included a slim silhouette; often a white shirt, frock coat, waistcoat and black trousers, with white trainers on his feet and an impeccably styled haircut - with his signature kiss curl - and enhanced eyebrows.

If you were lucky enough to visit his



flat and studio, it was soon apparent that this style extended to his environment, with which his art and dress-sense fitted seamlessly. In 2018, The Modern Institute in Glasgow staged a "re-imagining of his live/work environment" for a major exhibition

and I gather that his estate has been bequeathed to them.

In recent years, Duggie became engaged with supporting the Save Earl's Court Campaign, dismayed at the loss of a venue he saw as essential to the identity of the area, and produced posters for them. When the Farmer's Market opened in St Cuthbert with St Matthias School, on the corner of Earl's Court Square and Warwick Road, Duggie welcomed its arrival and designed posters and flyers which continue to be used.

Duggie Fields had the gift of friendship. Notably associated with Andrew Logan, Zandra Rhodes, Kevin Whitney, and his muse Luciana Martinez, he seemed to know everyone worth knowing in London and was a regular at private views, fashion shows and parties of all sorts. But when you met him, he was the most approachable of men. Everyone I have spoken to mentions his kindness.

Everyone loved Duggie and Earl's Court will not be the same without him.

His 2011 book of mobile phone photos 'Just Around the Corner', mostly taken in Earl's Court, is still available from www.blurb.co.uk.



FROM SW5 TO MYANMAR

— An interview with Eleonora Gatti

Local resident Eleonora Gatti has lived and worked in Myanmar, supporting community finance and nurturing the political empowerment of the country's women there. The Court meets Eleonora to hear how she has made a difference, and how a fragile democracy is being steadfastly defended by the people of Myanmar.

Eleonora moved to London in 2009 to study a master's in environmental sciences and technologies at Imperial College. When she'd completed her studies there, nothing could have prepared her for the amazing global experience that lay ahead.

After graduation, she travelled to Asia to tackle serious environmental, political and social global issues head on - many of which remain worldwide challenges for the communities she connected with and supports until now.

Initially working with agencies to combat the illegal fishing industry in Sierra Leone, Eleonora's ultimate goal was always to work for the United Nations.

"I kept applying to move abroad and do something in the field, and I knew that I wanted to work for the United Nations," Eleonora explains. "After being posted to Cambodia, I then worked for a French social enterprise for almost three years. Eventually, my persistence paid off, and after multiple applications through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I received the news that I was going to be posted to Yangon, Myanmar to begin my work for the UN."

Experiencing the culture, first hand

Landing in Myanmar, Eleonora was immediately immersed deep into the local

culture. On arrival, she was told that there was no room in the guest house she had been booked to stay, and that a camp bed was being set up for her with the proprietor.

"They said when I arrived, 'oh, by the way, your office hasn't really been built yet.' So they gave me a box to put underneath my table and said, 'if you see a mouse, just put your feet on top of this box and you will be fine.'"

Character building, to say the least.

Her first year

Eleonora's first year saw her work with the United Nations Capital Development Fund - an agency whose remit is to help people financially, especially using microfinance and market insurance.

Her role was to support a government bill that would pass the first microfinance



law in Myanmar - a policy that would allow international microfinance institutions to provide small loans of up to \$500 per person, per year. This would revolutionise the finance system, offering locals a way to invest money into farming, equipment and starting up small businesses.

Myanmar - political change & challenge

Eleonora was passionate about moving the country further towards democracy after the 1988 protests, and wanted to help to empower the women of Myanmar.

“We wanted to create the first network of national women farmers in Myanmar. I think my work was really well received by the local population because the whole project was about empowering women to take on political roles. When I arrived in Myanmar, there were only 0.002% of women holding those positions on a national level. If you're trapped in a military regime, no woman wanted to get involved in those roles. It is just too dangerous.”

By 2014, more and more women were coming forward to take on political roles and Eleonora's team managed to create and register the first national organisation of



“I think on an individual level, it's important for all of us to understand in the West how fragile a democracy can be and what can happen when things go wrong.”

2,000 women farmers, of whom well over 100 were elected to local positions in a two-year period.

“This huge step forward for women's empowerment in Myanmar is seeing the ripple effects still. People all over the country are really being inspired by democratic movements from all around the world and they're taking it into their own hands to preserve the democracy they have.”

“On one hand, they're scared, but on the other hand they're putting this fear to productive use. Yes, there's always the chance of being beaten up by the police. But people are still in the streets demonstrating and collecting money to help civil servants get paid.”

Supporting Myanmar now

With the military coup in Myanmar, there's a greater need for action than ever. The people have had a brief taste of democracy and are unwilling to have it taken away again.

“When I heard the news of the coup, I was really devastated because I know people there – my friends. I feel guilty I'm not there.



I can't bear to think that some of the women I worked with will be arrested or will be in jail. I try to talk to them daily and encourage them, but I'm also sending them pamphlets about staying safe, the rules for protesting safely, like covering yourself and other things that maybe they wouldn't necessarily know. Also, I try to offer legal support for them in case they get arrested, what numbers to call, what to do.”

So, what can people do from their homes here in the UK? After all, aren't we powerless to help from so far away?

“People at home can follow Burma Campaign UK. They've been active for a long time and along with the British government, they lobby really hard for change. I think on an individual level, it's important for all of us to understand in the West how fragile a democracy can be and what can happen when things go wrong.”

Although sometimes it seems that we're too powerless to help with faraway crises, there's no end to what you can achieve if you just put your mind to it.



SHOP WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

Hidden beneath layers of unsympathetic additions, the Victorian details of our local high street remain dormant and waiting to reemerge.

Over the last year, a project to improve and enhance the Earl's Court Road has been launched by Andrea Level, co-chair of the Earl's Court Society's Planning and Conservation Group, and Earl's Court ward councillor Linda Wade.

"An essential tool to support this initiative has been the creation of an archive of images of the high streets since 1904 and the detailed photographic survey conducted last year," Andrea explains.

Look up!

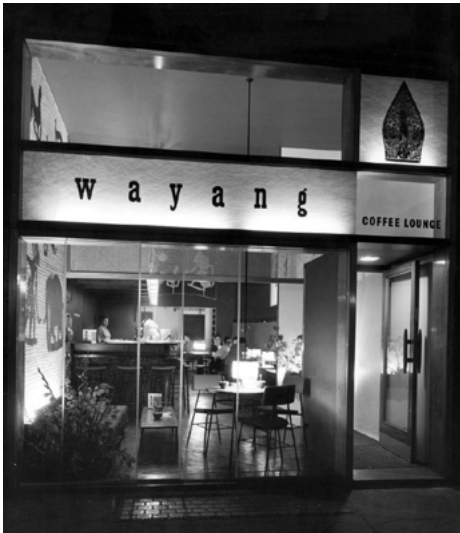
The parade of Victorian shops between Cromwell Road and Old Brompton Road is largely intact, despite the many changes that have occurred over the last century. Look up and you will clearly see the elegant Victorian architecture of our High Street.



"In undertaking the 'Improving the Shopfront' project, it has been a delight to discover that much of the original architectural detail of these shopfronts survives and could be retained, restored and revealed during routine cyclical works, reasserting an authentic sense of place in our urban village."



In a post-COVID environment, with more people working from home and staying local, and more restaurants applying for outdoor tables and chairs licenses, the upgrading of our local environment by improving visual amenity will contribute to meeting the needs of residents and businesses alike, making Earl's Court Road a place people want to spend their time and money.



Making improvements - together

“A collaborative method is being taken,” Cllr. Wade explains. “The Earl’s Court Society is working with business owners and the RBKC planning department at the application stage to identify ways of retaining, improving and enhancing original elements of the building, creating an individual design while contributing to the streetscene.”

“The conversation normally starts with sharing of images from the Earl’s Court Society’s large and growing photo archive showing the area’s development over the last 100 plus years. Often it is at this stage that



shop owners see the great unrealised potential for improving and enhancing visual amenity.”

Andrea continues, “Minor design changes create a genuine sense of place and local context rather than just another bland shopfront that ignores the local architectural vernacular and creates another anonymous design.”



Time for change

“Over time, a coordinated, community-lead approach will reveal the very best features of our original architectural heritage, creating a sense of place while still updating these fantastic buildings so that they remain functional in the 21st Century.”

MORE PHOTOS PLEASE! A remarkable collection of images of the shop fronts and streetscape taken by the late Jennifer Ware has helped fill the gaps, so If anyone has any images of Earl’s Court Road please contact us on email - editor@thecourt.london, or Whatsapp 07484 679458.

LOCAL SUCCESS STORY

Kings Mediterranean

Kings Mediterranean Meze & Grill, 308 Earl’s Court Road, has been operating in Earl’s Court since 1996, and is very much a part of the community. When owner Umer Mughal was approached about the *Shopfront Improvement Scheme* he was enthusiastic about being a part of it and finding ways to improve the outdoor ambiance because of his plans for the introduction of outdoor tables and chairs in response to COVID. Having already applied for permission to create a new shop front, he instructed his architects to update the design to incorporate a traditional Victorian “stall riser”.

This is the traditional timber base of a Victorian shopfront, which provides a solid visual base, balanced proportions and hides a multitude of sins. In this case the stall riser will cover the mechanics of the food display cabinet’s refrigeration unit.

Mr. Mughal also used this dialogue to connect with the building’s property manager regarding other improvements to the frontages of the group of shops and restaurants in that parade. Making connections in a constructive, non-confrontational style has resulted in a very satisfying and productive experience for all.



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Last year we spoke to Nathan Watt, Development Director for Delancey and project lead for The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC).

At the time he outlined how ECDC planned to redevelop the former site of The Tournament pub and the adjacent commercial units at 344-350 Old Brompton Road, and now, just a few months later, the project is gaining momentum and development specifications and visuals are being shared with the community in advance of an upcoming determination meeting with RBKC's Planning Committee.

We speak to Nathan Watt and he outlines what is happening next.

"The last time I spoke to The Court was June 2020, and at the time I introduced the initial thinking on what we hoped to deliver on this long derelict site.

"What followed was an extensive community engagement programme and an insightful and rewarding collaborative design process, the result of which is the submission of a planning application for a well-considered, sustainable, mixed-use building that we feel really works.

"We will deliver 51 new homes for rent in the area, and these will be a mix of studio, one, two, three and four bedroom apartments. 23 of these will be affordable (45%), with rents at a range of discounts between 30% - 84% off market rents, with the greatest discounts on the larger family sized units. These will be genuinely affordable, with rents starting at £181 a week for a 1 bed apartment, and a 4 bedroom home with two private terraces at just £214 a week. RBKC will have 100% nomination rights for the affordable properties and we are in discussions about a mechanism that will allow them to prioritise key workers with a local connection to the area.

"To achieve our goal of creating an optimal number of sustainable and comfortable homes, our proposals for 344-350 Old Brompton Road will comprise of a four storey residential block rising to six storeys on the corner of Eardley Crescent and nine storeys at the south west corner facing West Brompton Station, a key transport interchange for the area.

"There will also be flexible ground floor spaces for cafés, retail, other businesses and select units for dedicated community use. Mindful of local architecture, the bricks and railings used for this development will also add to the community look and feel, as they will be chosen to complement the nearby Victorian houses on Eardley Crescent.



Sustainable Building Commitment

344-350 Old Brompton Road

- ✓ **A 55% reduction in operational energy use compared to current building regulations**
- ✓ **Innovative air source heat pumps and rooftop PV panels**
- ✓ **All electric building with no use of fossil fuels**
- ✓ **This is set to be a 'smart building' with a reduced carbon footprint**
- ✓ **Car-free development (parking permits for Blue Badge holders only)**
- ✓ **A new dedicated access and servicing route, with street tree planting**
- ✓ **Green roof system - communal residents' garden - private balconies**

Local consultation is vital

"The submission of the Earls Court Development Company's recent planning application to RBKC followed a comprehensive programme of stakeholder engagement. In 2020, consultation outreach included: face-to-face discussions; leaflet drops; digital consultations; virtual meetings and a public consultation exercise through the online platform 'Commonplace'.

"Thirty-five local community stakeholders and groups engaged with us and listened to project feedback and our numerous ideas. Our design team, led by Pilbrow and Partners architects, could then shape the existing plans directly based on this engagement. We continue to encourage active engagement with the community and local groups, and I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to speak to us, visit our website and share their views on our proposals.

"In addition to community and stakeholder views on this, our first development, we've heard clearly that our neighbours want to see parts of the long-closed *Earls Court* site opened again for public use.

Bringing the *Earls Court* site back to life

"Now that the Government has confirmed the route out of the current Covid-19 restrictions, we are excited to be working on proposals to enliven different parts of the site in 2021, including bringing currently unused buildings in need of repair back to life.

"Last year, we carried out polling of local residents on what they would like to see temporarily introduced to our wider cleared site, and the top three "asks" from the community were to see a pop-up park, food market, outdoor cinema and theatre. We are working hard to try and deliver on these asks in time for summer, and hope to be able to say more soon.

"For full news on our plans in 2021, check out our social media channels, community website or local newsletter, distributed locally and digitally. And of course, look out for more details in the next issue of The Court."

Learn More

To find out more about the proposals for 344-350 Old Brompton Road you can visit www.ecdcoldbromptonroad.commonplace.is

Retired Local Vicar Publishes New Book

In his new book “Jesus the Troublemaker - His Last 8 Days”, Rev Andy Roland, a retired vicar and resident of Earl’s Court, has told the story of Holy Week from the point of view of Jesus as a Jew. Names are in Hebrew or Aramaic - so Jesus is Yeshua, and Simon Peter is Shim’on Kefa. Worship in the Temple is described in detail.

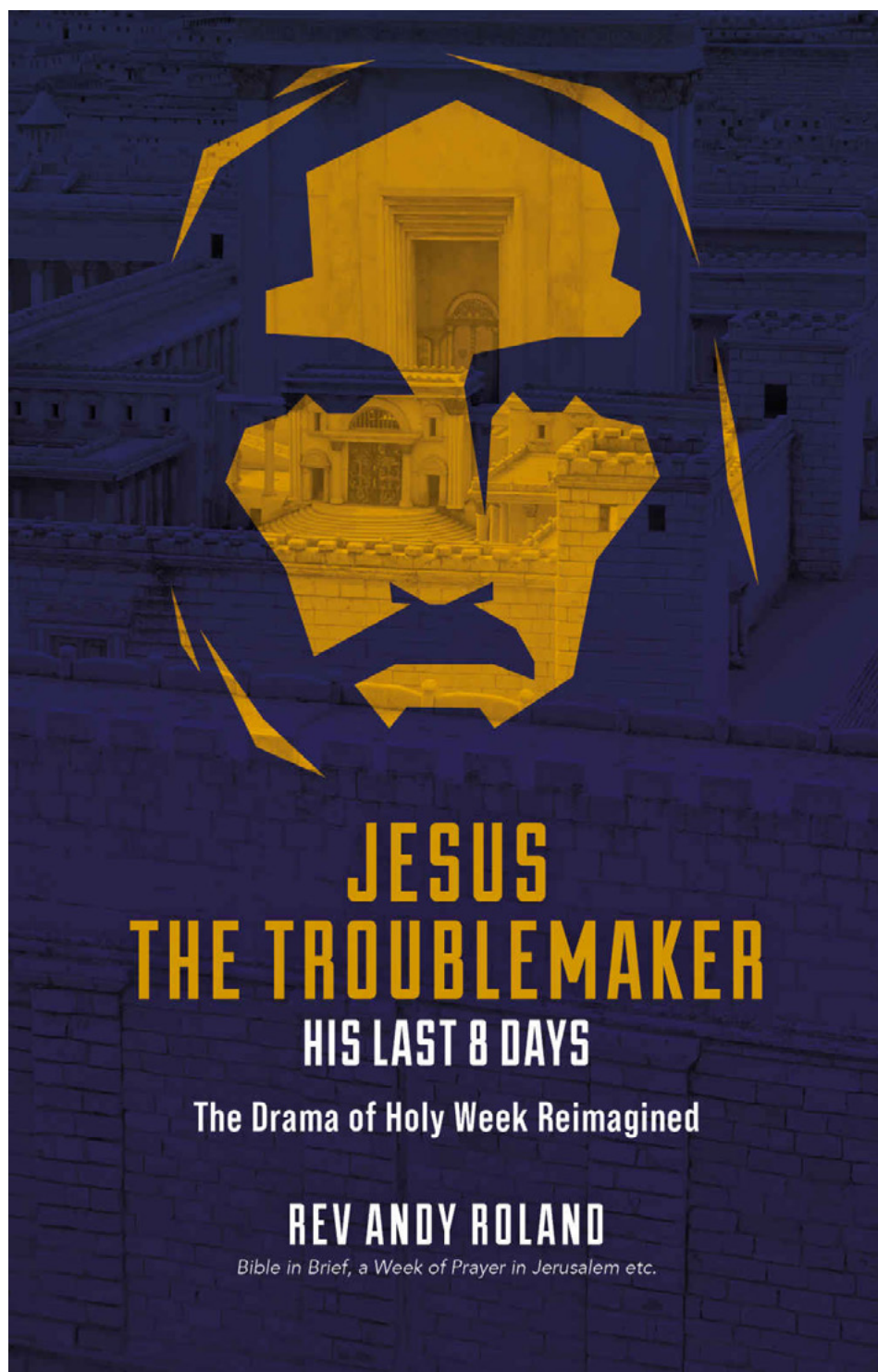
What were Andy’s sources? “From the age of 18, I have been convinced that Mark is as good as a first hand source. Luke, I take as a reliable secondary account. John, I now think was written by a Jerusalem disciple who can be used with care. Mathew I ignored, because he editorialises and makes stuff up. I think he should be relegated to a section called New Testament Apocrypha,” says Andy.

The author reports that a nun who has read his book and shared her feedback has said: “Well! Holy Week has come alive in a new way, and will never be the same again. The book has finally removed set images and confusions stuck in my mind from so many years, and something much more vibrant and alive has replaced them. I especially appreciated the trial scenes and the final hours of Jesus’ life.”

“Just a couple of things I found distracting,” she continued. “Sometimes scholarship drew me away from the pace of the narrative, and I did not like the name of ‘trainees’ for the twelve disciples. I also found using the Aramaic names a nuisance. And at the entry into Jerusalem having the colt as an unbroken horse instead of a donkey I found an unnecessary distraction. Trying to picture Jesus as a very skilled horse rider on a frisky young colt didn’t help at all.”

Andy discovered that writing the story as a historical novel was a discipline in its own right. Key to each passage were decisions about place and time.

Why did Jesus arrive late at the Temple on Palm Sunday? Because he’d just walked eighteen miles uphill from Jericho. What happened after Jesus had cleared the traders out of the Temple? They set up shop in the two open spaces outside the north and south gates. Why did the disciples have to go in the morning to prepare for the Last Supper in the evening? Because it takes five hours to roast a whole sheep. Did the questioning of Jesus by Herod, which only Luke reports, happen? Yes - his palace was less



than five minutes walk away from Pilate’s headquarters.

Andy summed it up: “Every incident in the book needed to make sense in terms of location, timing and human psychology. Did

it really happen like that? We don’t know. But something *like* that did happen.”

Jesus the Troublemaker - His Last 8 Days is available to buy on Kindle and paperback on Amazon.co.uk.

COMMUNITY HEROES

Incredible Vaccine Roll-Out Continues Locally

A massive thank you to all the NHS staff and volunteers who are helping to vaccinate us during these challenging times. Special thanks to Ran Xu, Marianne Alpini and Leonora Ghazal, Zoe Lafferty (and many others) pictured here.



RBKC Mutual Aid Wins The 2021 Mayor's Award

"The Mayor's Award singled out organisations and individuals that responded to the COVID crisis, and we are thrilled to receive this award which acknowledges the fantastic work of over 1,000 unsung heroes. Leonora Ghazal accepted the award. We are really grateful for all the different organisations and individuals that have supported and advised us through this journey."



DELICIOUS NEW ADDITION – THUNDERBIRD CHICKEN

Thunderbird Fried Chicken, known throughout hip areas of London for their award-winning wings, are heading to the Earl's Court Road for their latest opening. From 7th April, the restaurant will be open for takeaway and delivery, and dine-in meals will be possible once government guidelines allow. On opening day, the first 50 customers will receive a free tray of six signature wings each, which are sure to fly out the kitchen in record time.

Those who can't get down to the new opening can get order this *fried gold* via Click & Collect, or on Deliveroo and Uber Eats too. Known for their "game-changing (and prize-winning) golden fried chicken, flavour-packed burgers, fiery, messy, magical wings in innovative sauces, and other classic meaty wares" Thunderbird Chicken looks set to be a delicious new addition to the High Street.



Visit www.thunderbirdckn.co.uk for details.