

the court



The Festive Issue 2019



CHRISTMAS PAST

Memories of The Court at Christmas

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Bringing joy to our neighbourhood

WHAT'S ON

Food, Music Fairs and Markets



Keeping
Life Local



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & HOLY NIGHTS

Christmas Tree Illuminations for Earl's Court Road

Free festive food and warm beverages will give the 4th Earl's Court Christmas Light Illuminations a distinctively delicious feel this year. Add in the angelic tones of the Our Lady of Victories' School Choir, and we will have you feeling super Christmassy in no time.

Last year these local cherubs captured our hearts. "At around 5.30pm, 25 seven-foot Christmas trees will illuminate the Earl's Court Road," says Jamie Corona, event organiser and local business person. "We'd like to say a big thank you to our sponsors, Earls Court Partnership Limited, a joint venture between TfL and Capco, who are sponsoring the Earls Court Christmas lights for the 4th year running!"

Admission: Free of charge and all are welcome.

Location: Corner of Kenway Road and Earl's Court Road



FESTIVE FAIRS AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS

LEIGHTON HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Leighton House is putting on Christmas Wreath making classes on 1st December from 2pm till 4pm and on 5th December from 7pm till 9pm. Prices per person are £45, including all the wreath making equipment required, tea or coffee, mulled wine with warm mince pies and brandy butter, Becky Hindley's floral expertise and lastly, the wreath you make is yours to take home!

Please call the office at Leighton Hall on 01524 734 474 or email info@leightonhall.co.uk if you are interested.

On 4th December, there is a Leighton House Cancer Care Christmas Fair, where you can get all of your Christmas shopping in order 3 whole weeks before Christmas Eve!

Set in the stunning surroundings of this elegant stately home, you can browse around stalls displaying; home produce, jewellery, Christmas floral decorations, Winter clothing, fragrances, gift ideas and much more.

EARLS COURT FARMERS' MARKET

Still looking around for great deals on high quality turkeys or geese for Christmas Day? What about all the vegetables as well?

Look no further than Earl's Court Farmers' Market, every Sunday from 10am till 2pm at St. Cuthbert with St. Matthias School on Warwick Road.



You can buy the freshest, most seasonal produce direct from British farms, fishing boats, bakeries or dairies. It's also possibly the friendliest place to shop in London, and a great place to chat with your neighbours and friends.

Come and try something different, chat to the experts, and see what they recommend you buy for dinner today!

NORTH END ROAD FARMERS' MARKET

On Sunday 15th December, come down to North End Road for our Christmas Farmers' Market from 9am till 5pm.

There'll be over 150 stalls to wander around with hot and cold food from all around the globe, and it isn't all gastronomy either - come and have a look at loads of seasonal and festive displays, including arts and crafts, clothing, fashion accessories and much more.

Still not convinced? There will be carol singing and loads more live music, street theatre, plus Santa and his elves are due to visit for the children!



COURT CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

BY MARIUS BRILL

Today it's only slightly less true but, half a century ago, the magic of the Earl's Court Christmas was always a vanishing act.

The transient nature of the great majority of Earl's Court's residents meant that, by the beginning of Christmas week, the streets became desolate; an ideal car-free roller rink for those Christmas skates which were absolutely, definitely, in the bigger box under the Christmas tree.

The bedsit, B&B, hostel and hotel dwellers, all had homes and families elsewhere and few flats in the area were big enough for family gatherings. The two strongest communities in the area dispersed. Many in the gay community tiptoed back home to spend a few excruciating days back in the family closet and even many of the hardy Australians, bowed to sentiment and headed back down-under to laze in the Antipodean Christmas sun. The population of Earl's Court depleted as fast and thoroughly as the pine needles from the frail Christmas trees that we lugged up to our 3rd floor living room.

If you wanted a bit of Christmas spirit before mid-December you'd have to head to Oxford Street. Local emporia were a lot less excitable about the festive season. When they finally appeared, decorations were sparse at best; a little tinsel, a few Christmas cards.

Christmas for my own family started, as far as I was concerned, on Christmas Eve Eve. On December 23rd my father would drive to the North End Road in our Triumph Herald to pick up a spruce from the tree-sellers who still lurk on the market side-roads with damp trucks that smell of diesel and pine forests. He was convinced that, arriving on their last day, he would barter them into a bargain as they needed to shift their stock. Sadly their last stock was always a wretched huddle of spindly trees, already dying, that had been passed over for weeks. Their scrawny trunks were jammed into slices of bigger trunks to act as stands and thus, water deprived, were already looking a little brown in places. Nothing of course, some artful bauble hanging couldn't disguise. At least until boxing day.

As soon as the deal was done the tree was tied up. My father would open the roof of the Herald to put it in the back seat. And the three of us children would squeeze in next to it and freeze all the way back home.

My own earliest memory of Christmas was in 1970. Particularly because that was when my father thought it would be fine to leave five-year-old me playing in Patrick's Toys, whilst he went to buy the tree with my sisters around the corner in North End Road. He had probably tried to coax me out, I'm sure he



told me what he was doing but, absorbed with the model trains they had upstairs, I clearly paid no attention. But, when I realised I'd been abandoned, I set out to track him down, heading out and down through the market calling for him. Eventually, convinced I would never see my family again I finally knocked on the door of a house on Halford Road. I told the lady who opened the door that I was hungry and speculated whether I could live with her before being overwhelmed with tears. She gathered her coat from behind the door, took

me by the hand, and we started marching to the Police Station. But, as we walked along North End Road, I suddenly saw the open-topped Herald with the swaying tree rising out of the back seat. I tugged at the lady and pointed. She stepped out into the middle of the road, putting her hand out, and my father braked. She gave him an earful but all I really remember was clambering in between my sisters and crawling beneath the tree.

When we got back home another surprise awaited. After almost two months of rubbish



bags stacking up in the street, due to strike action, the street had been cleared. It was finally back to normal and the stench that had greeted us whenever we had left the front door was finally dispersing.

My father came from Vienna so dinner and presents were, European style, on Christmas Eve. Like the Queen. My father was also keen to assimilate so we would be trussed up after dinner and trudge round to St Cuthbert's church, or St Mary Abbots, for the midnight service. There, finally we would see other people, the other residents that didn't have country homes or other family to visit. We would pretend to know the words to carols, or try not to sing the silly versions we had learnt at school before finally, back home, we got to bed so late we were instantly asleep. None of us ever saw Santa deliver the pocket money toys and sweets that filled our stockings in the



morning; and that were broken and eaten by nightfall.

Christmas morning was spent playing with the indoor toys and presents before heading out into the eerily quiet streets of the neighbourhood to test the new playthings forbidden in the house. With even the West London Air Terminal (where Sainsbury's is

now and the the main driver of tourism in the area) closed for that one day in the year, Christmas was never a snowy, holly and ivy, bell ringing, Christmas box, it was more like a film set, or waking up after the apocalypse or "28 Days Later." The quiet, traffic free, desolation was what made Christmas special in Earls Court - and in a way, it still does.

Refettorio Felix – Continuing to help those less fortunate in the community

Over the coming weeks, the volunteers of Refettorio Felix at St. Cuthbert's Centre continue to do their wonderful work in the run up to Christmas. From 11am till 3pm every weekday, vulnerable and isolated members of the community can come into the drop-in centre for a free, but high quality 3-course meal cooked by the centre's excellent chefs.

Drop in to 51 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, London SW5 9EB if you need help, or you can call on 020 7835 1389 if you would like to talk or can volunteer this Christmas.

Launched by two Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura and his non-profit organisation Food for Soul three years ago, famous chefs like Michel Roux Jr, Giorgio Locatelli, Monica Galetti and Angela Hartnett have all donned their aprons in the Refettorio Felix kitchens. Many more chefs have also come to cook up delicious main courses and sumptuous desserts for the people that come in each day, seeking a safe and compassionate space.



At Refettorio Felix, the volunteers do their best to provide genuine support. Apart from providing lunch to guests, they offer showers, laundry facilities and clothing. Frontline services include the resident trained Mental Health worker and a wide variety of other health professionals offering assistance and compassion to those that most need it. There's a wide range of activities on offer at the centre including art therapy, knitting and computer skills classes, plus alternative therapies including homeopathy, craniosacral massage and yoga.

The hall is excited to present two Christmas parties. The first, for the over 60s, is run in conjunction with 'Innovative Aged Care Chelsea', and the second is for the regular guests. It's possible to buy a Christmas dinner for a guest if you would like to donate via Just Giving or Virgin Money Giving.

Finally, the next instalment in the centre's extremely popular fundraising dinners, the Season's Surplus Winter event is being held on 30th January. This is an amazing opportunity to raise money to help fund the work done at Refettorio Felix for the people that most need it in our community.

Community Theatre For All Bringing People Together

Theatre productions are not just an enriching experience for the people who come to watch the play, but also for the people taking part. This is why people have been coming together as communities since the Ancient Greeks invented modern theatre as we know it today, defining drama from comedy to tragedy and even satire.

The Court speaks to local theatre producers and directors Marianne Badrichani and Toby Brown about why community performances really matter.

“As part of the Earl’s Court Drama Workshop, my associate Laure Fretigne and myself have been running four drama classes every week for the last six years. We have almost 40 pupils - our youngest one is 12 and our oldest 55. The classes are open to everyone committed to perform providing that they can speak French! We are responding to the huge demand from the local French community, including the presence of the French Lycee In South Kensington. Every year in June, our end of year shows are sell-out events happening at local venues such as The Troubadour or The Drayton Arms Theatre.”

When we gather round to watch a play, the escapism we experience as we’re cast away to different worlds reminds us of gathering round as children and being told stories which captured, enraptured, terrified and fascinated us. “Toby Brown, Director of the



Earl’s Courtiers and Chair of the Earl’s Court Community Trust – this neighbourhood’s dedicated arts and culture charitable organisation – explains. “As children, we closed our eyes and effortlessly flew to distant worlds where brave knights slew dragons and rescued princesses, Mad Hatters and March Hares ate jam tarts and moles and water-voles explored Wild Woods together. As adults, we crave the same experience.

“Theatre is no different. Each play is a tiny journey and the people who journey together form bonds that last. By laughing together at comedies and crying together at tragedies, pockets of people from all over the world, of different ages, genders, and social backgrounds are drawn together to close their eyes, and albeit briefly, escape. That is why community theatre really matters here, and everywhere.”

“We focus on popular plays, ones with universal appeal. Productions that have a mixed cast and audience of young and old bring such joy. Theatre really is a timeless genre, on many levels. The stories our modern theatrical stories tell can be based on tales thousands of years old and yet are completely relevant to a contemporary setting. The productions we put on are all about people and the communities they inhabit. People still laugh together and cry together, and so these stories still belong to us forever, whenever they were written.

In Summer 2020, the Earl’s Courtiers will be producing more of their now famous epic open air garden square musicals. “What shall we do Earls Court?” Toby asks. “Annie and Matilda are front runners so far. Auditions for all local primary schools will be at the end of the Easter Term. Rehearsals start at the beginning of the Summer Term.”

How can the Earl’s Court Community Trust support events and productions in our area:

Meeting and rehearsal space at 1A Nevern Square

- Fundraising – they do not provide any funding but can point you in the right direction where funding might be available they will help you make an application
- Introductions to local businesses as sponsors
- Introduction to volunteers who might like to work with you
- Introduction to local institutions prepared to help
- Finding local venues for your activity
- Equipment outdoor events including gazebos and lighting
- Access to a system for presenting films
- Help with publicising your event
- Help with insurance, banking and other event essentials

Contact toby.brown@tclondon.com for details.

COMING IN DECEMBER



The Earls Courtiers present, a seasonal sensation. Noël Coward’s *Blithe Spirit* This romp of a comedy introduces us to socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant, Madame Arcati, to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book.

5-7th December. Weekday tickets are £10 for all / £20 (incl Finger Buffet) for Saturday performance. Book online at thecourt.london/blithespirit.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL CHARITIES



The Earl's Court Film Festival

BY TONY RICHARDSON

Earl's Court is well and truly back on the map, or maybe that should be back in film!

Caroline Tod Richardson rather modestly still calls it a tiny festival, but actually it has developed into a 'must be there' festival for London and international filmmakers. This year, event screenings at Soho Theatre, The Actors Centre, Finborough Theatre and St Cuthbert's were sold out well in advance.

Film Earl's Court Producers Caroline Tod Richardson, Sean Duffy and Toby Brown have remained true to their roots with the Gala & Awards Night being held for the fifth year in the Gothic splendour of St Cuthbert's in Philbeach Gardens, SW5.

The Earl's Court Film Festival has become one of the best attended short film festivals around. Filmmakers, producers, writers,

directors and actors network and mingle with film fans and audiences.

Film Earl's Court is unique in its makeup of not only showing submitted films from around the world but also producing short films, documentaries and community films. This year we enjoyed a very credible film made in association with the Philippino community and two stylised films from the Earl's Court Youth Club.

The award for best film in the Earl's Short category was '2025: The Long Hot Summer' Directed by Jake Lancaster and Produced by Al Hope Morley. The film shows a humorous but nonetheless thought provoking look into a globally warmed future Christmas.

The award for best film in the Earl's Submission category was "Asra". Written

and directed by Brazilian filmmaker Caio Cortonesi, Humberto Pedrancini gives a stunning performance as a man who with the help of his son has decided to end his Life. His final wish to be beautiful and reveal his true identity is granted by the doctor, brilliantly acted by Debora Aquino.

Two Film Earl's Court Producers Awards went to Amy Allen for her performance as Kelly in 'Grimsby Girl' and Patricia Loveland for her performance as Grace in 'Last Day of Summer'.

The team are enormously grateful to all the sponsors who make this Festival, and our film funding and production, possible. We would like to offer special thanks to the Earls Court Partnership, our Principal Festival Sponsor.

Notable Buildings

– The Chapel and Colonnades at Brompton Cemetery

BY THADDEUS BELL

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED

why churches around Earl's Court and South Kensington don't have graveyards, the answer is that most were built after 1840 when Brompton Cemetery opened.

One of the consequences of the Industrial Revolution, concentrating populations in towns and cities, was to reduce access to consecrated land and places to dispose of the dead. Rural churchyards did less business while urban ones were inundated. By the early C19th London graveyards had become so overcrowded Parliament authorized the creation of seven commercial cemeteries near London. The West London and Westminster Cemetery Company undertook to lay out a large new burial place at Brompton.

The company chose nearly forty acres of land bounded on the north by Old Brompton Road, east by Honey Lane (now only marked out by the east wall), south by Fulham Road and west by the Kensington Canal; today's railway tracks. Most of this land belonged to Lord Kensington who sold it for £20,000 but the area immediately next to Fulham Road was owned by the Equitable Gas Co. which demanded more than they could afford. It took

several years to acquire the smaller south entrance area.

The company's 'Committee of Taste' put the design out to tender and, even though their own architect submitted a plan, the winning entry was by Benjamin B. Baud. Baud had been one of Sir Jeffry Wyatville's assistants in the rebuilding of Windsor Castle for George IV. Brompton Cemetery seems to have been Baud's only important independent work and possibly it is what broke his career. After designing the major part of the cemetery he was not selected to build the later south entrance. He sued the company and even though his suit was eventually dismissed, he was probably considered a risky commission. When he died in 1875 aged 69, his obituary in *The Building News* described him as "now almost forgotten in the profession."

It's a shame because Baud actually created such an evocative structure that, today, Brompton is Britain's most popular filming location cemetery. Baud's original design emulated the footprint of a vast cathedral; minus the towering walls or roof. At the end of an avenue of lime trees two porticos, either side, signalled the entrance. The



nave then was flanked by aisles of round-arched arcades, each with a central bell tower. These then turned into his central crossing, a 'Great Circle', with two Greek temple style chapels at the east and west transepts, one for Nonconformists the other for Roman Catholics. At the south side of the 'Great Circle' Baud's apse consisted of two more parallel arcades leading to his altar, the central octagonal chapel and the focal point of the cruciform design. The domed chapel and circle are clear echos of St Peter's hexadecagonal dome in Rome and its huge circular piazza in front surrounded by colonnades.

Baud's simple structure suggested more than it imposed, allowing nature, "earth to earth," to provide the drama and the picturesque. His chapel features simple doric porticos, with multiple entrance halls from the south allowing, at busy times, mourners for one party to greet and queue whilst the chapel was in use and then file in as others exited in the other direction, giving them space for farewells. His dome also borrows from Rome, using the open top (although glazed) structure of the Pantheon. Rather than being topped by a weighty crucifix, his skylight banishes gloom from the chapel allowing an airiness and with nothing in the way, enhancing the prospect of ascendance to heaven.

Unfortunately, the entire project was too costly so the Greek temples and one of the bell towers were never made. So now there is a fitting sense

of absence, of being incomplete, of a life made less than perfect, which, however inadvertently, reflects the sensation of grief and mourning. And now, just as the crowds endlessly jostle in Piazza St Pietro in Rome, the Great Circle bustles with tombstones. A host of crumbling, tragic messages, angels and symbols, cluster as a testament to those who always leave too soon.

ALL BUILDINGS evolve but only cemeteries crowd share their development. Thousands of people with different aesthetic ideas make their own small additions creating these unique built landscapes.

Death held a peculiar fascination for Victorians. For these masters of the universe, whose empire straddled the globe, they could conquer anything, they felt unstoppable, so why not death's domain too? With technology and engineering the physical world was being tamed and yet why, when they were so powerful, were they still so mortal? Spiritualism and the promise of a sentient afterlife played into Victorian beliefs and their god given dominance and yet, as soon as the cemetery gates opened there was Emma Shaw, the first to be buried there, who died in childbirth, an incident affecting just 0.01% of births today. Every weeping angel, every broken column, every chained anchor and every crypt, mausoleum and stone attests to the sense of wrong in death even though it was ever immutable.



Blue Plaques – A Tour – Part 5

The Court continues its look at our most celebrated former residents.

A block away from each other in the Abingdons two houses had very different residents.



**Michael Flanders (1922-1975)
and Donald Swann (1923-1994)**

*"Writers and performers of comic songs." 1A
Scarsdale Villas W8 6PT*

In 1953 this famous musical comedy duo both lived and composed in the studio at the back of this house. Swann played piano while Flanders, who had contracted polio in WWII and performed in a wheelchair, sang their comic verse. The studio was ideal, Swann said, "because it was enormous, all on one floor, and devoid of furniture which meant he could whizz around on his wheelchair". The two men met at Westminster School performing together there and later when they went to Oxford. After writing for West End revue shows, they hired a theatre in Notting Hill to perform their own *At the Drop of a Hat*. This was such a success it spawned a

sequel and, between the two, ran for over a decade. Later, Flanders and his wife became campaigners to improve disabled access while Swann composed accompaniments to numerous poetry and spoken word productions. The Hippopotamus, "Mud! Mud! Glorious mud!" made Flanders and Swann household names while their gentle approach to satire inspired a generation of comic musicians. Their *A Song of Patriotic Prejudice* skewered the English delusion of 'effortless superiority'. "And all the world over, each nation's the same; They've simply no notion of 'playing the game'. They argue with umpires - they cheer when they've won. And they practice beforehand, which ruins the fun. The English are moral, the English are good. And clever, and modest, and misunderstood!"

Clementine Hozier

(1885 -1977) 51 Abingdon Villas, W8 6XA

If you ever thought that simply being a wife to a bull headed alpha male deserved a blue plaque in itself, this is it. Clementine Hozier would always be better known as Mrs Churchill. She lived here for five years before she married Winston. He proposed whilst they were taking shelter from a rainstorm in a folly at Blenheim Palace. He was 29, she was



just 19. Unlike her American counterpart, Eleanor Roosevelt, Clementine didn't head independent causes or political campaigns but worked hard to provide a stable home for her gung-ho erratic husband. From the start she knew politics came first for Winston. "He commenced talking politics in the vestry and was quite oblivious of the fact that he had to take out the bride," said Lloyd George describing their wedding. She could be as hard headed as her husband and in 1918 when finances became so desperate she almost struck a deal to have one of her children adopted. She didn't always see eye to eye with Winston, objecting to his support for Edward VIII, believing it was better for him to abdicate. But even when Winston was fighting in WWI she understood the importance of his public face, urging him to stay in the trenches because it would "reflect well" on him. Only after Winston's death in 1965, at the age of 80, did she officially enter politics as a cross-bencher in the House of Lords. Only after her death was it discovered that she had destroyed Graham Sutherland's famous portrait of her husband, commissioned by MPs and Lords, because Winston never liked it.

A Community Space Where Creativity Flourishes

A great place to work, 1A Nevern Place is located in the centre of Earl's Court. A creative hub with a big community heart, we welcome local freelancers, small businesses owners, charities and people working from home who just need to escape for a little bit.

www.thecourt.london/1anevernplace

A WORKSPACE FOR ALL

Call Elsa on 07939 202522

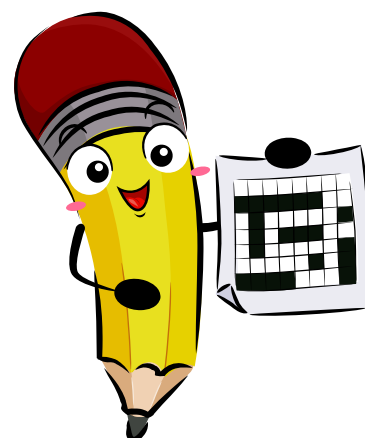
for booking details.

**1a Nevern Place is fully managed by
Earls' Court Community Trust
Registered Charity number 112602**



THE COURT CROSSWORD NUMBER 8

Fancy a festive coffee? This time The Court Crossword features ten cafés on Earl's Court Road, Old Brompton Road and Lillie Road. They are clued here and marked in blue. Please send a photo of your solution to editor@thecourt.london – the first out of a hat will be announced in the next edition and win a bottle of wine from TLC Estate Agents.

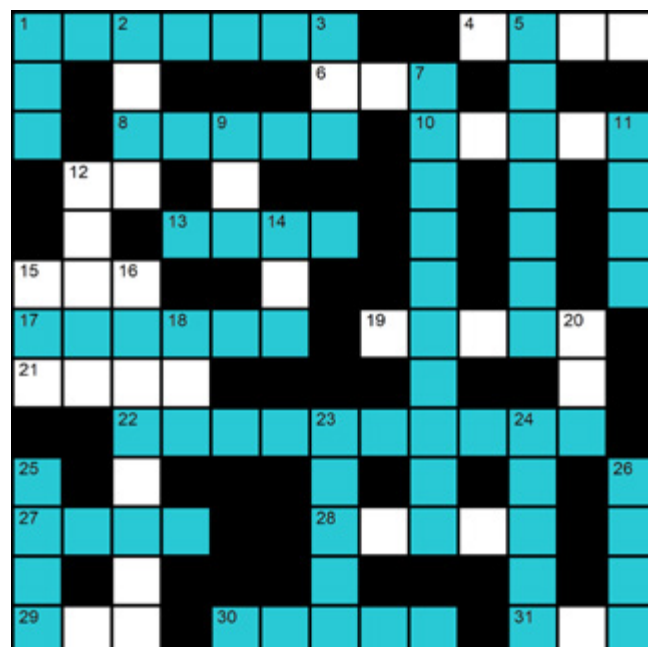


ACROSS

- 1/1D Old Brompton Road cafe has cake container for fairy protection. (7,3)
 4 Symbol of foreboding puts me in open extremities. (4)
 6 One gets confused after a long time. (3)
 8/13 Lillie Road cafe turned baked clap into reverse foot lever. (5,4)
 10 Shrek and friends are crazy goers. (5)
 12 Short manuscript summarises multiple sclerosis. (2)
 13 See 8
 15 Many in as promotions. (3)
 17 Old Brompton Road cafe opposite cemetery has always been ad free. (6)
 19 Beginning letter in Greek? (5)
 21 Desperate chap with ring gets booked by Hawaii Five-O. (4)
 22 Our dour bat flies about an ancient singer in an Old Brompton Road cafe. (10)
 27/24 Hogarth Road cafe is both above and below. (4,5)
 28 Give way around right belief. (5)
 29 Egg that louse until he can return. (3)
 30 Old Brompton Road and Earl's Court cafes might cost a lot. (5)
 31 City with brio, but not on the 7th of September. (3)

Down

- 1 See 1 Across
 2 Love ring as an afterthought sounds like a mistake. (4)
 3 River snake jellied and shaken, but lacking lid on the first of July. (3)
 5 Earl's Court restaurant and cafe serves mash either side of our melange. (7)
 7 Old Brompton Road cafe heads up to the gatehouse. (5,5)
 9 It's genetic material and abnormal. (3)
 11/23 Old Brompton Road cafe serves Moby Dick character on Sunday, with celestial body, for dollars. (4,5)
 12 Greek kid killer was a mother encapsulating the heart of pedeo. (5)
 14 Taxi takes 100 and a sailor. (3)
 15 Advertises containing 500+ (3)
 16 Emitted, that is, not without love but thoughtful. (8)
 18 Shortly, Ronald will get up, or not? (3)
 20 Breathable gases and incredibly rational initially. (3)
 23 See 11
 24 See 27 Across
 25 Earl's Court Road cafe charges some money when prisoner caught mid-air. (4)
 26 Earl's Court Road café serves one confused with roman emperor. (4)



The Court crossword is
generously sponsored by

the court

CALENDAR

November/December 2019

Christmas is coming and we have found some great things for you to enjoy this festive season. From Theatre to Hot Toddlies - we have it all. Highlights include Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, by The Earls Courtiers, and a truly impressive lineup of music and festive community events at St. Cuthbert's Church.

VISIT WWW.THECOURT.LONDON FOR OUR FULL LISTINGS

THEATRE

BLITHE SPIRIT

The Earls Courtiers present, a seasonal sensation. Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. This romp of a comedy introduces us to socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant, Madame Arcati, to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. Thursday 5th December. St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Friday 6th December. The Chapel, Brompton Cemetery Saturday 7th December. Fox Primary School Theatre

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Book your tickets at www.thecourt.london/blithespirit

DRAYTON ARMS THEATRE

153 Old Brompton Rd, Kensington, London SW5 0LJ

This Winter, Drayton Arms Theatre hosts a number of festive productions including opera *Hansel & Gretel* and an adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic tale, *A Little Princess* - both of which are suitable for the whole family. *A Little Princess* is brought to us by Rebel Productions, featuring a new adaptation by Rachael Bellis. *Hansel & Gretel*, presented by Opera in the Meantime, features colourful sets, costumes and puppetry to transport the audience into a fairytale.

Address: 153 Old Brompton Rd, Kensington, London SW5 0LJ
Telephone 020 7835 2301
Visit thedraytonarmssw5.co.uk for details.

THE SNOWMAN AND PETER AND THE WOLF

Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ

Enjoy a magical Christmas treat for all the family on 21 December at Cadogan Hall. Christmas would not be Christmas without The Snowman. Enjoy Prokofiev's tale of bravery narrated by special guest Diggory Seacome, and Raymond Briggs's timeless classic *The Snowman* shown on the big screen with live accompaniment provided by the Mozart Symphony Orchestra. Tickets range from £15-£32. Book yours early to avoid disappointment. Visit www.cadoganhall.com for details

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN

ICE SKATING NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Experience the thrill of skating surrounded by fairy lights nestled in frost-covered trees, with the smell of mulled wine in the air. Whether you can dance on ice like Torvill and Dean, or you skate more like Bambi, a visit to the Museum's Ice Rink is a must this festive season. Adults from £12.65, children from £8.80 and families from £39.60 during off-peak sessions. Visit www.nhm.ac.uk/events to book. Is your little one looking to perfect their skating skills? The Penguin Skate Club will be running lessons for children aged four to eight. The Club is held on Saturday mornings from November to January. Cost is £16.50 per child, per lesson. Places must be booked online in advance. Closed: Christmas Day Only

Address: The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

AMAZING MUSIC AND FESTIVE EVENTS AT ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH THIS DECEMBER

50 Philbeach Gardens,
Kensington, London SW5
9EB
www.saintcuthbert.org



Endelienta Baroque: Advent and Christmas, Sunday 1 December, 4.30 - 5.15pm
Following the popularity of their Advent Cantatas last year, Endelienta return to St Cuthbert's with a short programme of baroque highlights in anticipation of the festive season. Free entry with retiring collection. Wine and soft drinks will be served.

Blithe Spirit, Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm
The Earls Courtiers present their winter production of Noel Coward's classic comedy about the absurdity of playing with the occult. Tickets £10, bookable via thecourt.london/blithespirit. All proceeds to local charities.

Opera Diaspora Opera Gala, Saturday 7th December at 7pm
Opera Diaspora celebrates diversity and inclusivity with an opera gala featuring arias, songs and ensembles. Free entry.

Community Carol Service, Sunday 8th December at 4pm
With the St Matthias Singers and other local music groups.

Imperial College Chamber Choir, Thursday 12th December at 7.30pm
IOCC, under their director Jack Apperley, presents their annual Christmas Concert. Tickets £10 / £5 on the door.

West Kensington Music Team Christmas Concert, Saturday 14th December at 6.30pm
WKMT presents their Christmas Concert with piano and violin music by Mozart and Haydn. Tickets online or on the door.

Parish Carol Service, Wednesday 18th December at 7pm
Sung by the choir of St Cuthbert's Church. A service of favourite carols and readings.

St Endellion Carol Service, Friday 20th December at 7pm
Soloists: Mark Padmore, Sophie Bevan. Conductor: Aidan Oliver.

FATHER CHRISTMAS ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Father Christmas returns to his 'top-secret London headquarters' at the Royal Albert Hall for Christmas 2019. Kids age 3+ are invited to wander around his HQ, meeting various North Pole characters, and enjoying puppetry and live music before meeting the man himself, and taking home a stuffed toy. Book online at <https://www.royalalberthall.com/>. £39.24 per child. 5-22 December 2019.

Address: The Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AP, Box Office 020 7589 8212



The Earls Courtiers present their winter production of

Noel Coward's classic comedy

Blithe Spirit

Thurs 5th Dec

St Cuthbert's Church,
Philbeach Gardens

7:30pm

£10

Fri 6th Dec

The Chapel at
Brompton Cemetery

7pm

£10

Sat 7th Dec

Fox Primary
School Theatre

7:30pm

£20 to include food



**To
book**

Contact Toby Brown
on **020 7370 4000** or **toby.brown@tlclondon.com**.

Alternatively, book online at **www.thecourt.london/blithespirit**.

**All
proceeds**

will be donated
to charity