

*the*court

July/August 2018



HOLIDAYS

Things To Do and Places To Go

NOTABLE NEIGHBOURS

Whose on a blue plaque near you?

IN THE MIX

New Fusion Cooking at The Gojk



Keeping
Life Local

Murder, Kidnap & Burglary...

just another evening in Barkston Gardens

Thieves, villains, undertakers, pickpockets, unlikely coincidences, and some glorious showtunes; for four glorious midsummer nights the Earls Courtiers brought *Oliver!* to life beneath the giant beech trees of Barkston gardens. The huge cast, drawn from around the area with a hoard of urchins from local schools, gave their all to belt out the classic songs, dancing and weaving and dodging artfully as dusk fell. From the crew to the lead characters, all volunteers, everyone pulled together to make this mammoth production seamless, demonstrating spellbinding enthusiasm and some exceptional talent.

Not least was Skandar Pavlsen playing the role of Oliver himself, confidently channeling that same wide-eyed innocence and clear-but-fragile voice that Mark Lester achieved in Carol Reed's famous film of the musical. Celia Badrichani, as his friend the Artful Dodger, showed strength in voice and a mischievous twinkle in her eye. Nancy, played by Abigail Jones, ably held the emotional centre of the story and kept the audience enchanted with a graceful voice that carried all the way to the Earls Court Road. With his tall hat and kholed eyes, Ken Thomson playing Bill



Sikes, brilliantly milked the hisses of the crowd with the wicked glare of a classic Victorian melodrama villain. Even he, though, was no match for Barkston Gardens' "No Dogs" rule and entered without his faithful Bulls-Eye. Mr Bumble, the head of the workhouse, was played with a delightful vivacity by Malcolm Connell who supplied a fantastically sonorous "MORE?".

The many children of the cast showed fearless stage craft, hitting their marks, singing at the tops of their voices and generally seeming to enjoy every minute. The set, a hard stone wall to remind us how urban and enclosed all the characters are, was



a stark contrast to the green of the garden and at times there was even some Victorian dry ice fog. Organising costumes and props, Inge Marks did an epic job along with Musical Director Sharon Nassauer.

It's a tribute to Director, Producer and Fagin, Toby Brown that not only could he dance and sing his way through a magnetic performance as the miserly gang leader but that he inspired so many to give their time, skills, voices and dance steps to an unforgettable, all too brief, show.

As Oliver put it, "Please Sir, can I have some more."

Doctors Surgery Set To Close

The Redcliffe Surgery is preparing to move away from the Earls Court area. One of the largest GP practices in the borough, with approximately 17,000 registered patients, it is set to move one and a half miles away to the Violet Melchett Health Centre in Chelsea. The practice has been looking after the residents of Earls Court, Redcliffe and Courtfield wards for decades and many patients are concerned about losing such a valuable local service.

The principle partners of the Redcliffe Surgery issued a statement saying "there are significant benefits for our patients in moving to Violet Melchett. These include giving our patients access to a wider range of healthcare services, not all of which we currently provide on-site, including physiotherapy, dieticians,



cardiology and respiratory tests, specialist nurses, social workers, dementia services/memory clinic, and mental health support."

Patients however have voiced concerns that, after the move, access to their GPs will require travelling a long distance making it harder for the elderly or infirm to see

their doctors. Others have pointed out that, under current plans, all these things will still be on offer at the Violet Melchett Clinic without the Practice moving there.

Earls Court Councillor Linda Wade has begun an online petition asking RBKC "to work with NHS England and the principle partners of the Redcliffe Surgery to develop a strategic plan to continue to deliver high quality health services in the Earls Court area."

One of the primary reasons for the move, according to the partners, is that "the property at Redcliffe Street is subject to a commercial lease arrangement that has lapsed and long-term renewal is not an option." However, according to the land registry, two of the current partners are the "Registered Owners." of

the freehold property, along with a former partner.

"It would be a real shame," said one patient, "if we had to trek all the way to the Kings Road just to see the doctor. That's twenty minutes walking and a tube ride for me. And that's when I'm feeling healthy. Imagine having to do that when you're feeling rotten?"

Patients concerned about the move are encouraged to talk to the surgery. "We are strongly committed," say the Redcliffe partners, "to talking and listening to patients about our services and plan to engage patients fully so that everyone has the opportunity to let us know how they feel."

Patients can also sign Councillor Wade's online petition at: goo.gl/t9GmDy





Speaking Cuisine

BY SHARON ROBINSON

Nothing goes together quite like French and food. If you want to improve your French, but don't fancy returning to a desk in a dull classroom, if you always fancied adding a bit of *je ne sais quoi* to your culinary skills, then Cook and Speak, a small local business, could be just right for you. Cécile Della Torre welcomes groups of up to six guests to her Earl's Court home where you participate in a themed French conversation lesson and then make a meal together.

Cécile sends you a bit of homework and a vocabulary list to help you prepare. After an hour of guided conversation, everyone moves to the kitchen where all the ingredients are laid out for the group to prepare a delicious meal to eat together all the time speaking French.

Four hours later, you will find you've improved your French immeasurably and without really noticing, prepared and eaten a lovely meal together, and made some new friends.

Caroline, one of Cécile's students, was delighted with her lesson. "It was great fun. I loved working with my group and preparing, cooking and enjoying all the new recipes from the course in Cécile's own

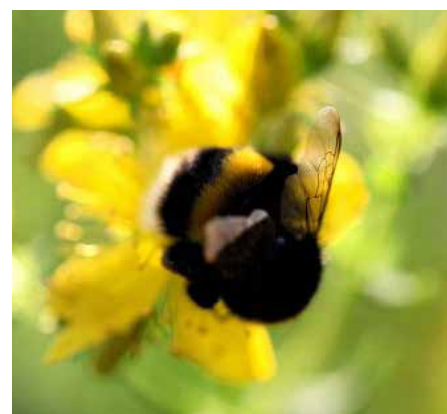


kitchen. She is a wonderful and engaging host and teacher and I absolutely loved participating in all of her very well prepared sessions in French food and culture."

"Cécile's friendly smiles," said Fiona, another Cook and Speak graduate, "and great patience with me (a Scottish woman trying to remember schoolgirl French) made for a very, very satisfying few hours. The subjects we discussed were always so interesting and relevant, and the recipes we cooked delicious, I still use most of them at home in my own kitchen!"

You too can have a go at speaking and cooking as only the French know how.

w: cookandspeak.com



Bee Helpful this Summer

If you were lucky enough to see the wonderful photography exhibition, by local photographer Sarah Cheesbrough on bees at the Brompton Cemetery chapel gallery in June, you might have been spurred into action to do something to save this important insect now under threat.

How can we help bees in a concrete city one might ask? The delicious honey produced by local honey producers and available at the Bute Street farmers' market testifies that, given half a chance, bees love the city.

Local Bousfield School is having success with its beehives. Our flowering trees, bushes and plants are the bees' playground where they do their vital work spreading pollen. A walk through the wildflower areas of Brompton Cemetery, our local 'pollinator paradise', is a joy.

Websites such as the London Wildlife Trust and Urban Bees provides lots of ideas about appropriate flowers we can plant and encourage. Blue, purple, violet and white are bees' favourite colours.

This summer, launch your own 'pollinator paradise', in your garden, patio or window boxes and help increase our local bee population.

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Family Holiday Fun Things To Do

Summertime and the feeling's far from easy. What the heck do you do with the kids mooching about for the long holiday stuck in the middle of the city? Fear not The Court has found some fun adventures and things to do which won't break the bank.

BATTERSEA ZOO

Kids Age-o-meter: 0-10 Kids: £7.50 Adults: £9.50 Family Ticket (2+2): £31

Are your kids animal crazy? Do they want to get up close with furry mammals or be hypnotised by deadly reptiles? Smaller, less crowded, more intimate and far cheaper than London Zoo in Regents Park, Battersea Zoo provides a much closer encounter with exotic animals of all sorts. You won't find big cats or giraffes but monkeys, otters, meerkats, snakes and even a "bearded dragon" are all residents just a 30 minute walk from Earls Court. There are feeding times for different animals through the day and special celebration days throughout the summer for particular animals.

24 JUL 2018 - Snake Day
Ssssnake themed fun... a chance to meet one and find out how and why they shed their skin!

26 JUL and 17 AUG - Guinea Pig Days
Find out how to look after guinea pigs and keep them happy and healthy!

31 JUL 2018 - Tortoise and Rabbit Day
Who runs faster?

3 AUG 2018 - Snail Day
Meet a Giant African Land Snail! Are you brave enough to hold one?

7 AUG 2018 - Dumbo Rat Day
They have amazing big ears which is why they are named after Dumbo the Elephant!

9 AUG 2018 - Bug Day
Find out why bugs are so important and take a close look at some!

14 AUG 2018 - Butterfly Day
Discover why butterflies are so important.



15 & 18 AUG - Cotton Top Tamarin Days

Two days devoted to raising funds and awareness of these endangered little monkeys.

21 AUG - Wildcat and Mouse Day!
Plenty of Cat + Mouse themed fun with a serious message about our Scottish Wildcats and Harvest Mice.

w: batterseaparkzoo.co.uk/
a: Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ
t: 0207 924 5826

GEOCACHE IN EARLS COURT

Kids Age-o-meter: 6-18 Costs: FREE

Geocaching is an exciting outdoor adventure for the whole family. It's a treasure hunt for the digital generation, where you can enjoy the freedom of being outside and discovering new places. All you need is a phone and a sense of fun. What you're looking for are small waterproof treasure boxes hidden outdoors all over the world. Geocachers seek out these hidden goodies guided by a GPS enabled device which uses coordinates, or 'waypoints' downloaded from geocaching.com or you can download a free geocaching app for Android or iPhone. The treasureboxes are filled with little toys that other geocachers leave behind, swapping them for ones they brought. So before you start remember to pocket some small old toys you no longer want. There are a number of geocaches in Holland Park which have relatively big boxes of goodies, but Earls Court has



it's very own geocache. Unfortunately it is a "microcache" which means it is only a small canister with a piece of paper to sign your name. The challenge of finding it is the reward in itself. The puzzle search starts at the police box outside Earls Court Tube (search for "Who was not here!" on geocaching.com). From reading the plaque on the box and checking the directions on the webpage, you can piece together the correct GPS coordinates where the cache can be found. Enter the coordinates into google maps (or the geocaching app), head to the location and see if you can find it. (It took me several goes) Hiders will give clues to be deciphered as to where to look. Good Luck!

w: geocaching.com



Santander Bike Chaining

Kids Age-o-meter: 10-18 Cost: £2 per bike

It costs just £2 to rent any Santander Bicycle and as long as you return it to any stand within thirty minutes there is no extra charge. You are then free to take them out again for 30 minutes and so on all day and won't be charged any more. Using the bicycle app you can design your own chain and ride right around London from Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Green Park, St

James Park and then there are cycle paths and bus lanes all the way to Regents Park and then back again. Take a picnic and see some of London's greatest public spectacles, maybe even take in the National Gallery or the Changing of the Guard, colourful, musical marching pomp, 11am every day.

w: tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles



Brompton Cemetery Open Day - Sunday 22nd July

Kids Age-o-meter: 0-18 Costs: FREE

The Open Day provides a rare opportunity to visit the cemetery's historic catacombs. Guided tours of the catacombs take place every half-hour from 11.30am until 4.30pm (£5.00). A variety of guided tours of the cemetery take place every hour from 11.00am to 5.00 pm and a number of events will take place in the Chapel. Specialist exhibitions include an Apiary, Birds of Prey, a Vintage Edwardian Hearse, as well as an exhibition by Heatherley's School of Fine Art. Many community organisations will be represented, along with a variety of stalls selling among other things, glassware, natural cosmetics, gothic handmade clothing, handicrafts, and gothic artefacts. Family activities include a sketch and a drumming session as well as storytelling and this year they shall also have police horses and fire engines.

a: Old Brompton Road, SW5 9JE
w: brompton-cemetery.org.uk
t: 020 7351 1689

Also - at Brompton Cemetery

14th July - Garden Cemeteries; the Landscape of the 19th and 20th century Cemetery

In the early nineteenth century, when commercial cemeteries began to be created with no precedents for the type of landscape they should present. Join Dr Brent Elliott will explore the history of this unique landscape.

15th July - The Courtesan's Gaze Concert

The Courtesan's Gaze takes its name from the duet 'Bello'occhi' and is inspired by the famous and controversial portrait of Barbara Strozzi holding the viewer's gaze.

25th July - Creativity and Wellbeing Day

A day's exploration of well-being through artwork with SMART. There will be music and visual art workshops in the morning, followed by performance over lunchtime including light refreshments.

11th August - American Connections at Brompton Cemetery

Join us to explore the connections between Brompton Cemetery and our neighbour across the pond.



The Great British Food Festival - 10th - 12th August

Kids Age-o-meter: 6-18 Children: £5 Adults: £10

West London's most perfectly preserved Palladian villa and gardens, Chiswick House, plays host to a food festival of epic proportions. Artisan cooks, fabulous food and drink, brilliant

bars (around 50 stalls in total), chef demos, GBBO and Master-Chef stars, Men v Food, Cheese-offs, Gin Workshops, Gin-Offs, Cake Off, Blind taste challenges, live music. The day-time sessions will include plenty of entertainment for the children including Diddy Cooks, Circus skills, Giant Bubbles, face-painting and much more! Book early for **a: Chiswick House and Gardens, Burlington Lane, W4 2RP w: greatbritishfoodfestival.com t: 01925 479 140.**

My First Classical Adventure - 4 July 10 to 10.30am

Kids Age-o-meter 0-5 Costs: FREE
At Kensington Central Library, Kids Classics invites you to explore the exciting world of classical music with babies and toddlers. Join them on a magical musical adventure as they introduce you to specially picked child-friendly pieces of music that are accompanied with exciting graphics and animated characters. Pick up a percussion instrument on your way in and get ready to relax and have fun (and of course, learn!) - listening to stories, marching, dancing, conducting, singing and playing along to the music. Marion Musry (Director of Kids Classics) and Hayley Weisz (Founder of 'Mum & Me') have come together to produce 'My First Classical Adventure' to bring classical music to children in the modern age.

a: Kensington Central Library, 12 Phillimore Walk, W8 7RX w: rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/special-events-children-and-young-people t: 020 7361 3010

Brompton Library Toddler Events

Kids Age-o-meter 0-5 Costs: FREE
Brompton Library holds Baby Rhyme Time toddler group on Mondays and Tuesdays at 2.15 a half hour storytime on Wednesdays at 10am and a 40 minute Saturday Storyland at 10am. **a: 210 Old Brompton Road. London SW5 0BS w: rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/libraries-children/toddler-mornings t: 020 7361 3010**

Holland Park Ecology centre Talks and Walks

Kids Age-o-meter 0-14 Costs: FREE
Summer Tree Walk: The Basics - Thursday 5 July
This walk, led by a member of the Ecology Service, gives a basic introduction to native tree species in Holland Park. You will learn how to hone your identification skills of trees in leaf using examples found in the park. Meet: 6.30 to 8pm, Holland Park Ecology Centre

Wild Plants of Holland Park - Thursday 19 July

Join botanist, Dr Mark Spencer, to explore Holland Park's wild plants and flowers. Discover how to identify different plants on this evening walk

around the park and learn some fascinating botanical facts. Meet: 6.30 to 8pm, Holland Park Ecology Centre.



Damselflies and Dragonflies Walk - Saturday 28 July

Richard Woolley, an expert in the study of dragonflies and damselflies, will lead a walk around Holland Park looking for these aerial acrobats. Learn how to identify different species and find out more about their fascinating lifecycle. Meet: 2 to 4pm, Holland Park Ecology Centre **a: Holland Park Ecology Centre, Ilchester Place, W8 6LU w: rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/wildlife/events.aspx t: 020 7938 8186**

These are just some of ideas to keep the family learning and interested and, hopefully, off their phones. Other summer fun things to do include checking out the butterfly house at Syon House and Park, go crazy golfing at Putt in the Park or climb high into the trees at Go Ape - both in Battersea Park. Good luck, don't go crazy, go out, and roll on the next school term!

Giffords Circus

- Until 9th July Chiswick House and Gardens

Kids Age-o-meter: 6-18 Children: £18 Adults: £28

If you have gilded memories of how circuses used to be, pitched in green fields rather than the car park of Brent Cross. Old fashioned vans and carriages, traditional circus folk? Then Giffords Circus is a step back to a more innocent time. Gypsy violinists, tap dancers, tight-rope walkers, trapeze artistes, stunt riders, opera singers, magicians, illusionists and gymnasts. It is the fairy light festooned romantic dream of owner Nell Gifford who says, "Our costumes are handmade. Our animals are trained by us. Our sets are painted in the barns on our farm. We burn the midnight oil to conjure new visions for the show. It's all we do. Circus is our job, our life, our love." there's even an opportunity to dine al fresco with Nell and all the stars after the show. This is a magical evening.

a: Chiswick House and Gardens, Burlington Lane, W4 2RP w: giffordscircus.com t: 01242 691 181



The Court's Blue Plaques – A Tour – Part I

For a neighbourhood that isn't a tax haven, The Court area has attracted more than its fair share of famous people, blue plaques celebrating their lives are to be found all around. The Blue Plaque scheme, started in 1866, is now run by English Heritage. It memorialises the properties of thousands of legendary luminaries all recognised for their contributions to the arts, science, politics and society. And remarkably, not a single one of them ever appeared on "I'm a Celebrity..." This issue we begin a tour of some of the Court Area's most interesting blue plaque recipients.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948)

– 20 Baron's Court Road W14 9DT

The man who would liberate India from British Colonialism lived as a law student in this house backing on to the train tracks just a stone's throw from West Kensington tube station. He inspired non-violent activists, not just in India, but around the world including the civil rights movement in America. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



Marcus Garvey (1887–1940)

– 53 Talgarth Road Barons Court W14 9DD

Almost directly opposite Gandhi's house, on the other side of the tracks, between the trains and the ever expanding Talgarth Road, Marcus Garvey the leader of the Pan-Africanist movement lived and died. Garvey was one of the first post-US civil war proponents of black empowerment and inspired the civil rights movement. Thanks to him, many Black Americans emigrated to Africa to try and build the continent out of third world poverty. Unfortunately it seems little has changed since the 1920s when he said, "every white man is a Klansman, as far as the Negro in competition with whites socially, economically and politically is concerned."



Sir Geoffrey De Havilland (1882–1965)

– 32 Baron's Court Road W14 9DT

In a time when flight was still experimental, De Havilland considered how to make it useful. He only lived in this house for one year but it was here he began his career as an aircraft designer. He created the Mosquito which was described as the most versatile aircraft of WWI. In every conflict since then, control of the skies has become the priority strategy in dominating battlegrounds. In 1949, De Havilland's Comet became the first commercial jet airliner. Its design has served as a prototype for all commercial passenger aeroplanes ever since.



Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

– 173 Cromwell Road, SW5 0TU

The composer, conductor and pianist lived here whilst attending the Royal College of Music in South Kensington. He went on to become a central figure in 20th-century British classical music, writing opera, vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. His best-known works include the opera Peter Grimes (1945), the War Requiem (1962) and the orchestral showpiece The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (1945). Britten enjoyed the closest thing to an openly homosexual relationship with the singer Peter Pears despite homosexuality being illegal for most of his lifetime. He was so feted by the establishment almost any behaviour, including an interest in teenage boys, seemed to go unchecked. "It is cruel," he said, "you know, that music should be so beautiful. It has the beauty of loneliness of pain: of strength and freedom. The beauty of disappointment and never-satisfied love."



Crowdfunding: Films about a Local Icon

The friends of Father Bill Kirkpatrick, of St Cuthbert's in Philbeach Gardens, are in the process of creating two films about him – a short documentary and a drama set in the 1980s.

The group is working with professional film-makers and some of the charities Father Bill inspired. He helped and inspired many local people. He tirelessly worked in Earl's Court and beyond. His life had an impact on so many and changed their lives for good.



Now they want to tell his story. The films are looking for support from the community and help, both

financially and practically.

The documentary will be screened at the Earl's Court Film Festival in November. The short drama will be previewed at a gala event early in 2019.

To tell Father Bill's remarkable story, £7,000 of a budget of £15,000 has already been raised. Now they are looking to raise further funds from neighbours and those who knew Father Bill.

There are special offers open for donors. Donations of £150 will be

given a champagne reception, a credit on the film, VIP ticket to the gala event and the Earl's Court Film Festival, meet the film-makers and a special programme. Donors who give £100 get VIP tickets to the gala event, and the Earl's Court Film Festival, meet the film-makers and a special programme. Donations of £50 receive two complimentary tickets to the Gala Event and the Earl's Court Film Festival.

Please contact Fr Paul Bagott – frpaul@saintcuthbert.org or Caroline Tod-Richardson – Executive Producer on 07798 727324

Notable Buildings

The Court area is blessed with many extraordinary buildings and houses. In a new series we take a deeper look at some of our more interesting architectural treasures. **Bousfield Primary School**

BY JULIETTE HIBOU AND STINA BARCHAN

Bousfield Primary School's groundbreaking modernist architecture is particularly distinctive in contrast to the grand Victorian neo-palladian villas of the Boltons that surround it. It was one of the first buildings to be designed by architects "Chamberlin, Powell and Bon". These young men lived and worked locally and went on to build two of the largest, most daring, and iconic modernist structures of 20th century London: the Golden Lane Estate and The Barbican.

Bousfield was built on the site of Bladon Lodge and a row of six houses lining Old Brompton Road, that were destroyed by a bomb during the Blitz. One of the houses had been Beatrix Potter's home until she was 47 and a blue plaque on Bousfield's wall commemorates the site.

Works on the new school started in 1954 and it opened just two years later, moving from its original location on Clareville Street (today Our Lady of Victories RC Primary School). Its swift construction was down to the use of prefabricated elements assembled into a grid system. The architects also decided it would be easier to work from a



standardised modular basis of 40in, so everything would fit together like Meccano. Almost all elements in the building are multiples of this measure.

The school is organised around two courtyards, each one providing light to the corridors that serve the surrounding classrooms. The communal elements are grouped in the middle: two assembly halls with double height ceiling; a gallery for both serving and dining above the kitchens at the back of the school; and the staff rooms grouped on another gallery overlooking the assembly halls and the entrance forecourt.

As far as possible, pre existing features, such as trees, were kept or exploited in the plan. For example, the former basements that served as wartime emergency water tanks after the destruction of the houses on Old Brompton Road, were transformed into an amphitheatre. To the South, the garden of Bladon Lodge, and its centenary trees, were also preserved and are still used as a garden by the school.

The facade of the school is based on a linear, horizontal rhythm. A white strip of glazed



bricks forms the first band, followed by a band of transparent glass windows, with a band of coloured glass panels over that. A 1956 article in the *Architectural Review*, noted how "the arrangement of the coloured glass panels imitate the natural mixing of blue and yellow". Indeed, where blue meets yellow, a panel of green is inserted; providing pupils with an unconscious lesson in colour theory.

One of the boldest architectural statements in Bousfield is its water tank. A huge bright yellow, lollipop-like, sphere in the playground which has become an icon for the school.

In 1993, the school was listed by National Heritage. This low cost, prefabricated, example of public modernist architecture was recognised as being of unique interest and worth protecting. It's a badge of honour for Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, who, with a very restricted post-war budget, managed to create an inspiring and unusual building where generations of children have learnt not just to read, write and count, but to appreciate the ingenuity of modern British architecture.

Add Some Drama to your Life

Would you like a little help organising your social life? Do you enjoy the theatre?

If you are over 50 and live in the SW5 area, the "SW5 Theatre Going Group" might be just the ticket for you.

Once a month, group members enjoy plays at local fringe theatres, meeting up for a drink and chat afterwards.

Organised by two Earl's Court residents, the group has been going for six years and now has 80 members with about 15 attending a play each month. The organisers choose a play, email members and buy their tickets (from £15-£20) for reimbursement on the night of the performance. With five local theatres to choose from, each offering its own type of theatre – from vintage at the Finborough Theatre to new writing at The Bush - there is always something interesting on offer.

Member feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. "I have met so many nice neighbours in the group"; "The plays are always engaging, and easy to hear in the intimate environment"; "I had never heard of the Finborough Theatre until joining." If you are over 50, enjoy the theatre and would like to do it in good company, send the group an email and join in.

e: SW5theatregroup@gmail.com



Earls Court Project Open Day

Join the Earls Court Project Team at their next open day on Saturday 8 September between 11am and 3pm.

Visitors can take part in a variety of activities including a biscuit decoration workshop and an arts & crafts session which will include designing your own back-to-school pencil case.

There will also be a face-painting artist on hand and an acoustic musician playing live music throughout the day.

The Open Day will also give visitors the opportunity to explore plans for Earls Court through architectural models and video installations.

Everyone is welcome to come along, all admission, workshops and food is free!

You can find the Project Rooms at 16-18 Empress Place, London, SW1 1TT

Neil Simpson

21 November 1951 to 30 May 2018

Chairman of Philbeach Residents' Association, founder member of the Earl's Court Society, and a much-loved teacher of Physics.

Remembered by Councillor Malcolm Spalding

Neil taught at four schools; St Mark's at the Bishops Palace; Streatham Girls' High School; the Marylebone School; and latterly the Hellenic College in Pont Street. Here he taught Physics, ran assemblies, wielded the starting pistol at sports days and compered the charity evenings and galas.

After his retirement, Neil volunteered with AGE UK. His favourite client was Betty, who had been an actress, and was convinced that Neil was her fiancée, a young actor with a glittering career on the stage. So naturally Neil obliged with tales of his stupendously successful first nights.

Few know of his abilities other than his degree in Physics from Oxford, and his passion and skill in teaching a difficult subject with a caring human touch. He had been a gymnast at school, and an athlete. Even when he first became ill with his brain tumour, he was still swimming 50 lengths of the pool three times a week. He was an accomplished gardener, a talented interior designer, an energetic dancer, and a fluent Russian and French speaker.



For 27 years he was chairman of the residents association, and served on the Government Earl's Court Regeneration Partnership with Baroness Hanham of Kensington, and the Earl's Court Society, the Police Ward panel, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee committee and the K&C Chamber of Commerce team. He was a keen member of the Oxford and Cambridge Club, the Royal Overseas League and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Neil was an avid traveller and loved to meet people from around the world and delve into different cultures and lifestyles.

He was a gentleman scholar of music, painting, literature, theatre, opera, design, and artistic creativity in all its forms. At home he painted, read widely and deeply, wrote TV scripts, and developed his skills in interior design. However,

he was a hopeless cook, but a magnificent host always ready with exactly the right drink for you and exactly the right remark to cheer you and make you feel valued and happy. He was an expert and charming conversationalist – a skill he honed to a fine art.

He played a small role in Derek Jarman's film "Nighthawks" and had actually been a celebrated and glamorous young barman at the Coleherne.

Neil was a lovely man combining great compassion for the vulnerable; great empathy and a quick, sharp, highly intelligent, and often biting, wit. He will be remembered for his warmth and zest for life, beauty, music, poetry, literature, drama, learning, and especially dancing. He was beloved by the Greek muses. The world is a lesser place and a duller place for his passing.



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In The Mix – The Gojk

The first time. Brand shiny new. There is something exciting about novelty. There is certain glee to discovering something new in the world. Maybe it's a throwback to childhood when fears were unbuilt and curiosity abundant. You eat at a new restaurant, it's a new menu, a new sensation for the palette, a new take on our old habit of eating, it's bound to elicit a touch of excitement. So a visit to The Gojk, (pronounced Go-ick) a brand shiny new restaurant on Old Brompton Road, would seem, at least, to promise a touch of exhilaration.

But The Gojk is not only new to diners, everyone working and running The Gojk seems brimful of that exhilaration in starting something fresh. Everyone is an enthusiast: the chefs, the sommelier, the cocktail "mixologist" and it shows in the dining experience. The décor is simple, homely, discreet, the tree canopied garden is minimalist but far away from the noise and exhaust of the world outside and downstairs is a hip lounge with cool lighting and a well-stocked cocktail bar perfect for private events. Pop-classical artwork on the walls is supplied by local artist Charles Andre.

The owner and cocktail specialist Simeon Gojkovic describes himself as a mixologist, a title that not only covers his drink creations but applies equally well to The Gojk's

philosophy of food. After a long development period, he, and all the staff, find themselves with that chance to offer the world their vision and they're going at it with gusto; their glee is infectious.

"It's European fusion with a Peruvian Twist," says chef Adrian Pardavila describing his dishes. A proud Basque gastropoiesis, he takes his extensive knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese recipes, ingredients, and wines, to infuse his creations with robust and surprising flavour concoctions.

Nothing at The Gojk is made without a well-considered synthesis of different tastes to test your entire

palette. I start with Croquetas (£7.50) that have a rich broccoli and stilton filling but Pardavila cannot help but add a tangy hint of cranberry. Claire, my wife, opted for the Salmon Gravlax (£15) but even this is infused with lapsang souchong tea, gin and tonic and served with a horseradish mascarpone and rye bread.

It is the ingenuity of the mixtures, along with the (locally sourced) quality of the structural dish bases, that provides a constant thrill of the new. And all done with subtlety. My Duck Breast main course (£19.75) is beautifully pink and remains the dominant essence despite the rose and clove sauce, mashed cassava and the caramelized red cabbage with green apple and pine nuts. Every bite provides a subtly different experience, a gloriously nuanced novelty flavour. Claire's Icelandic Salted Cod is no less melanged with a port and grape sauce, roast cauliflower and crispy purple potatoes (£17.50). The accompanying house red, a Portuguese Montado (£5.75 a glass) afforded a fruity tongue loosener between bites.

The helpings are not only Instagram-ready, they're generous and, had dessert not been so tempting, we would have happily gone home satiated by the two courses alone. However, I had to try their Tonka Bean Chocolate Cream (£6.75), curious how this legendary

toxic bean, banned in the US since 1954, might suffuse a dark Guanaja chocolate sauce. The Tonka bean, the seed of a giant tree from deep in the Amazonian rainforest, produces an extraordinary potpourri flavour which morphs in the mouth between vanilla, liquorice, caramel and clove, with the aroma of freshly cut grass and a hint of magnolia. If you just want one new sensation in your life, that you have never tasted before, this simple dessert would be all you would need.

New things can get old fast, but it's clear that the energy and sheer gastronomic enthusiasm that everyone at The Gojk has in abundance will keep them experimenting, finding new infusions and trying novel medleys and taste sensations for a very long time.

"We're not looking to be a destination restaurant just yet," says Pardavila, "we want to be a local restaurant for local people." With a two-course lunch menu at just £15 (three courses for £20) The Gojk is offering world class cuisine at an affordable, local, price point. But be quick. Caught in that quiet stretch between the Earls Court Road and Brompton Cemetery, if The Gojk is to prosper as it deserves to, it will be because customers are travelling to experience it, rather than being able to rely on those who pop in curiously as they pass or because it's "just around the corner".

The Gojk

a - 275 old Brompton Road SW5 9JA
t - 020 7373 1384
w - www.thegojk.co.uk

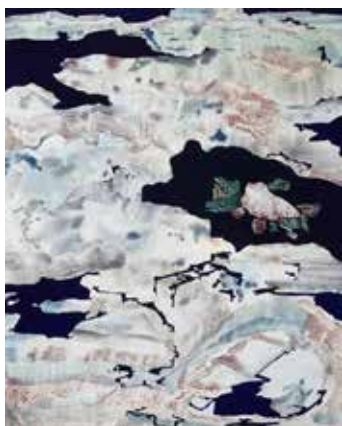


thecourt

CALENDAR

July-August 2018

For further listings details, please check www.thecourt.london and with the venue or organiser to confirm dates and times. All listings correct at time of going to press. If you'd like to see your event below, please send listings in the same format to listings@thecourt.london.



ART & DESIGN

ARTHILL GALLERY

Trembling state of affairs
Until 27 July

Artist: Martin Brausewetter. New works by Martin Brausewetter. Curatorship: Ana Magalhães, Museum of Contemporary Art of the University of São Pau.

A Ground Floor, Lourdes Apartments, North End Road, London W14 9NU
W arthillgallery.com



THE DESIGN MUSEUM

Azzedine Alaïa: The Couturier
Until 7 November

Celebrate 'couture's rebellious outsider' (The Guardian) in the first UK solo exhibition of his work. Conceived and co-curated with Monsieur Alaïa before his death in November 2017, the exhibition charts his incredible journey from sculptor to couturier, his nonconformist nature and his infectious energy for fashion, friendship and the female body. Tickets: £16, concessions available. The Design Museum is open every day (excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day) from 10.00 to 18.00 – last entry 17.00.

A The Design Museum, 224-238 Kensington High Street, London S8 6AG
W designmuseum.org

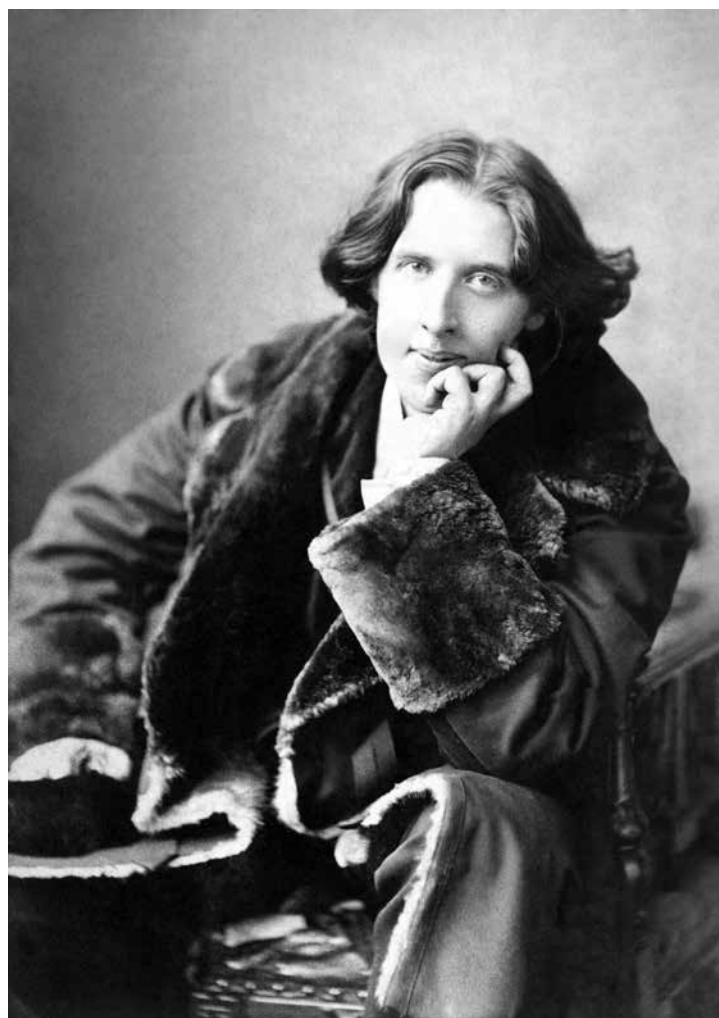


VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Frida Kahlo: Making Her Self Up
Until 4 November

This exhibition presents an extraordinary collection of personal artefacts and clothing belonging to the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Locked away for 50 years after her death, this collection has never before been exhibited outside Mexico.

Tickets: £15 / Concessions available



Printing a New World – Commercial graphics in the 1930s
Until 19 August

Distinctive examples of small commercial graphic design jobs from British, European and American designers reveal the daily lives of ordinary people during a time of rapid change and technological innovation. Ticket Price: Free.

See website for Free tours, talks and family events.

A Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7
T 020 7942 2000
W vam.ac.uk

THEATRE

BARONS COURT THEATRE

The Nightingale and The Rose and Other Tales

Tuesday 17 July – Saturday 21 July
Oscar Wilde's tragic tale of love and ignorance; selflessness and waste. Paired with *The Birthday of the Infanta*, Orange Moon presents two of Oscar Wilde's most haunting fairy tales in a new devised musical adaptation. Ticket Price: From £10, concessions available

A Barons Court Theatre, Curtain's Up pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W1 4 9HR
E londontheatre@gmail.com.

THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE

But It Still Goes On
Tuesday, 10 July – Saturday, 4 August 2018

A world premiere from the author of *Goodbye To All That* and *I Claudius*, Robert Graves' "post-catastrophic comedy", *But It Still Goes On*, directed by Fidelis Morgan, plays at the Finborough Theatre as part of the Finborough Theatre's THEGREATWAR100 series commemorating the centenary of the First World War. Ticket Price: From £18, concessions available

Homos, or Everyone in America
European Premiere
Tuesday, 7 August – Saturday, 1 September 2018

Award-winning director Josh Seymour returns to the Finborough Theatre to direct the European premiere of *Homos, or Everyone in America*, a Critics' Pick in the New York Times for its Off-Broadway premiere, named one of New York Magazine's 10 Best Theatre Events of

2016 and The Advocate's Top 10 New York Theater of 2016.

Ticket Price: From £18, concessions available

A 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE

T 020 7244 7439

W finboroughtheatre.co.uk

MUSIC

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING AT ST PHILIP'S CHURCH

BREAKING THE RULES: WORDS AND MUSIC OF THE PARIS AVANT GARDE

From the sometimes amusing and sometimes enchanting music of Erik Satie and François Poulenc to the challenging and diverting work of Dada and Surrealist writers such as Jean Cocteau and Paul Eluard, the 1920's and 30's in Paris produced an astonishing response to the horrors of WWI. This concert pays tribute to these fertile and game-changing years.

Lene Sahlholdt - soprano

Miriam Kramer - violin

Mayda Narvey - cello

Nicholas Durcan - piano

Darris Golinski - reader

Thursday 26 July, 7:30pm

A St Philip's Church, Earl's Court Rd, W8 6QH

W ismenacollective.com

Tickets £12/£10 at the door

THE TROUBADOUR CLUB

THEN JERICO - ACOUSTIC SET

Saturday 21 July, 9pm

Mark Shaw and Ryan Williams bring you an acoustic night of Then Jerico tunes from the past 30 years. Don't miss this chance to see these great 80s artists in an intimate and iconic local venue.

Ticket Price £15

FINLEY QUAYE

Saturday 11 August

Scottish musician, Finley Quaye, won the 1997 Mobo Award for best reggae act, and the 1998 BRIT Award for Best Male Solo Artist. Playing in The Troubadour in August, we can expect to hear hits such as *Sunday Shining* and *Even After All*.

Ticket Price: £15

A 263 Old Brompton Road, SW5

T 020 7370 1434

W troubadourlondon.com - tickets available online.

NELL'S JAZZ AND BLUES

THERAPY? - ACOUSTIC SET

Friday 6 July

In May last year Therapy? did a 20th anniversary tour for the 'Troublegum' album, and it was completely sold out. Don't miss your chance to see this band live.

Ticket Price: £20

CANNED HEAT

Wednesday 18 July

Canned Heat come to our neighbourhood in July. The band attained three worldwide hits, "On The Road Again" in 1968, "Let's Work Together" in 1970 and "Going Up The Country" in 1969 became rock anthems throughout the world with the later being adopted as the unofficial theme song for the film Woodstock and the "Woodstock Generation."

Ticket Price: £35

AL STEWART

Thursday 9 August

Al Stewart came to stardom as part of the legendary British folk revival in the sixties and seventies, and developed his own unique style of combining folk-rock songs with

delicately woven tales of the great characters and events from history.

Ticket Price: £45

A 3, North End Crescent, W14 8TG

T 020 7792 1200

W nellsjazzandblues.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS



LEIGHTON HOUSE SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4 August, 11am to 4pm

A fun-filled day in the magical garden at Leighton House Museum - stalls, treats, entertainment and activities galore. Suitable for all ages. Ticket price: Free

A Leighton House Museum, 12

Holland Park Road, London W12 8L

E museums@rbkc.gov.uk

THE COURT CROSSWORD NUMBER 1

A cryptic crossword with a bit of local knowledge.
Ten clues (in blue) point to local place-names. Good luck!

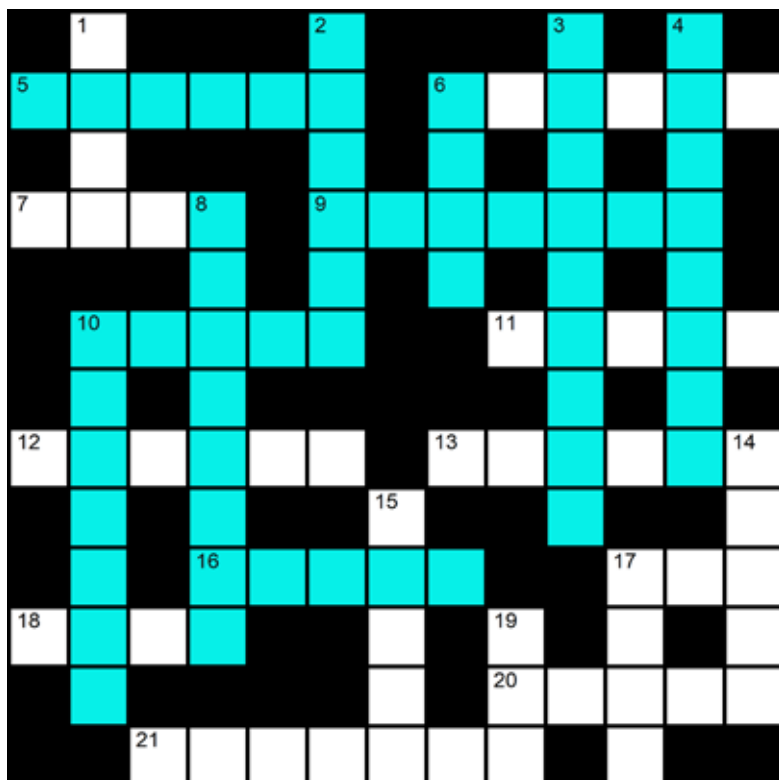
Send a snap of your finished grid to editor@thecourt.london
- first correct answer out of a hat wins a bottle of wine.

ACROSS

- 5 Hear a blossom from Fulham Palace to West Brompton. (6)
- 6 Sound returns on Earls Court gardening tools. (6)
- 7 Basil for example is in her bathroom. (4)
- 9 Local Crescent is strangely layered. (7)
- 10 Aristocrat with one of the Courts has a bar only policy. (5)
- 11 Hot flu symptom always without the Operating Room. (5)
- 12 Emperor salad. (6)
- 13 Not the first unit of time. (6)
- 16 Road between Lillie and Halford in long armies. (5)
- 17 Promise initial voice over work. (3)
- 18 Garden grass becomes law on first November. (4)
- 20 Let ox shake up some praise. (5)
- 21 Agreed peace when against rope. (7)

DOWN

- 1 Fermented grape juice sounds like a complaint. (4)
- 2 Always between the first note and the last din is a local Square. (6)
- 3 Short Philip on the sands and a local garden. (9)
- 4 Between Earls Court and Warwick the wry penne is disturbed. (8)
- 6 Honoric Court owner in pearl of wisdom. (4)
- 8 Tree coatings with heavy weight in local garden. (8)
- 10 Strangely harm MBA for a garden square. (7)
- 14 A holding peg that will do well. (5)
- 15 Girl love is a rope with a noose. (5)
- 17 Ballot Vera on the end initially. (4)
- 19 Revolutionary with religious education and old penny. (3)





A Community Space Where Creativity Can Flourish

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.

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

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Main Room: £10/hour
Office Meeting Room: £10/hour

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- ◆ Special rates for resident association tenants and unemployed local residents.
- ◆ Annual memberships available for groups that require regular meetings.



A WORKSPACE FOR ALL

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contact us on bookings@1anevernplace.com for further information