

the court

November / December 2018

The Festive Issue

IT'S BEGINNING ///

Join us at the switching on of Earl's Court seasonal illuminations

TO FEEL A LOT ///

Discover the passion and drama driving our local theatres

LIKE CHRISTMAS ///

Concerts, markets, and events over the festive period



Keeping
Life Local



Local Enterprises Shine at Awards

Several Earl's Court businesses and charities have won recognition for excellence at the *Kensington and Chelsea Business Awards 2018*. Food Alert the leading health & safety consultants providing specialist food safety, based on Cromwell Road, was named *Business of the Year* and *Best Small to Medium Enterprise (SME)*. Solidarity Sports, which provides sports opportunities for underprivileged and vulnerable children, won the *Best Charity or Social Enterprise Award* while

many local hospitality businesses won several prizes. Hotel indigo in Barkston Gardens won Highly Commended in the Best Hotel category, the London Marriott Hotel on Cromwell Road won Best Employer of the Year, the Kensington Holiday Inn was commended and the Copthorne Tara Hotel in Scarsdale Place was Highly Commended. It also was commended in the *Best Hotel* category. City Relay, the AirBnB concierge service in Kenway Road, was also Highly Commended in the *Best*

New Business category while Threads & Co, the Beauty Salon and Coffee Shop on Kensington High Street, was Commended. The Hansom Cab on Earl's Court Road was Commended in the *Best Bar or Restaurant* Category. Natasha Mudhar of Sterling Media in Astwood Mews was Highly Commended as *Entrepreneur of the Year* while estate agents Susan Metcalfe Residential in Hollywood Road won a commendation in the *Best SME* category. Hosted by the Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, in association with Banham Security, the *Kensington & Chelsea Business Awards* were set up to recognise and reward the achievements of the local business community across the borough. The finalists were invited to a gala dinner and awards ceremony at the Millennium Gloucester Kensington Hotel. "These awards demonstrate that Kensington & Chelsea is an exciting place to work," said Elizabeth Campbell, leader of RBKC Council. "Recognition from these awards can make a difference when securing new customers and new business. Applications are welcome from all local businesses in the borough.



Prescribed Company

When the drugs don't work, maybe a rumba is the answer. Loneliness is, increasingly, being recognised as a treatable cause of mental health problems and, in response, the government is authorising GPs to broaden their prescribing range by including "social" activities, such as dance classes, for their patients. Along with "social prescriptions", Theresa May, also announced a pilot scheme for postal delivery workers to check in on isolated people during their rounds. Something that, without this incentive, many do already. The government says about 200,000 older people have not had a conversation with a friend or relative in over a month and currently, GPs see between one and five people a day suffering with loneliness.

Come Celebrate the Earl's Court Christmas Lights

Don't miss a chance to enjoy free Mulled Wine and a feast of fabulous festive bakes from local baking heroes Brownie Box, all served with a smile by TLC Estate Agents and a bevy of happy community helpers at the Earl's Court Christmas Illuminations on the 29th of November. "At around 6pm, 25 seven-foot Christmas trees will illuminate the Earl's Court Road. It is so lovely to see the area that we live and work in come alive with light. This is an event for all the community to enjoy," says Jamie Coronna, local business owner and event organiser. "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!" The custom-made Christmas trees, with their thousands of mini

lights, will add a special festive twinkle from Cromwell Road to Old Brompton Road, along the full length of the Earl's Court Road. This wonderful kick start to Christmas takes place at the corner of Kenway Road, by the Prince of Teck Public House, and Earl's Court Road, the festive frolics start at 5.45pm and will be officiated by the Worshipful Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi. "Earls Court Partnership Limited are delighted to sponsor the Christmas Lights and Festive Illuminations for the third year running. It's a fantastic way to support local businesses whilst launching the festive season in this special neighbourhood. It's an event we look forward to every year." said Gary Yardley, Managing Director, Capco. The Earls Court Partnership Limited is the joint venture between



Capital & Counties and Transport for London, and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The 4th Earl's Court Christmas Illuminations event is free of charge and all are welcome. Date: November 29 Time: 5.45pm with lights on at 6pm. Finishes at 7.30pm Location: Corner of Kenway Road and Earl's Court Road

Fast Food from the Philippines

This Autumn the Earl's Court Road found itself at the centre of an international phenomenon. The first Jolliebee in the UK opened its doors to long queues of eager Filipinos longing for a taste of home. Customers were lining up right around the block to be one of the first to savour Jolliebee's distinctive fare. Asia's biggest home grown fast food chain, Jolliebee started in 1975 as an ice cream parlour in Manila but is now most famous for its fried chicken with spaghetti. An eye-catching social media campaign was launched featuring Jolliebee's "jolly" red bee brand mascot, aimed at London's estimated 200,000 Filipino ex-pats. Following the opening of a branch in Milan this is only the second Jolliebee restaurant in Europe. Ernesto Tanmantiong, Jolliebee Foods Corporation chief executive, told the *Evening Standard*: "We aim to become one of the top five restaurant companies in the world. Opening our first store in the United Kingdom brings us one step closer to realising this vision." Jolliebee's menu features a distinctive fusion of US and Asian dishes including fried chicken with spaghetti covered in a red sauce loaded with slices of hotdog sausage



and ground beef; fried chicken with a beef patty mushroom gravy and rice; and corned beef, garlic rice and fried egg. Sides include mashed potato and gravy and creamy macaroni soup. Wafting out into Earl's Court Road is the aroma of a souped-up KFC, however their trademark fried chicken, "Chickenjoy", is known to be crunchier and spicier than the usual US southern fried chicken. The late TV chef Anthony Bourdain, described Jolliebee's spaghetti with hotdogs as "deranged but strangely alluring" when he tried the dish while filming in Manila. There are around 1300 Jolliebee restaurants around the world, half in the Philippines and half abroad and, according to the *Evening Standard*, Earls Court was chosen for the first UK site as it has historically been home to London's biggest Filipino community.

Courting Drama

You might think that amateur dramatics are the preserve of village halls and moody teenagers but in the very urban Court area it is thriving in the shape of The Earl's Courtiers. Few parts of inner London can boast an Am-Dram society but the Courtiers have been going from strength to strength every year providing opportunities for locals to perform and tread the boards. The company started with a production of *A Midsummers Nights' Dream* in Earl's Court Square in 2012; they had no sets and the cast members played multiple characters. This year, their latest production of *Oliver!*, starred a full cast with over 50 pickpockets and other urchin parts with a huge set built by two mothers of children involved. The production in Barkston Gardens this summer was a sell out and the troupe are continuing the Dickensian theme this December with *A Christmas Carol*. The actor Tony Richardson, who stars as Scrooge, launched his professional thespian career after working with The Courtiers. It was when Tony was appearing as Malvolio in the Courtiers' production of *Twelfth Night* that he met Caroline Tod, best known as Director of the Earl's Court Film Festival. Unlike the doomed infatuation of his character, love was reciprocated and the two are now married. The confidence to perform,



partly instilled playing with the Courtiers, led Tony to get an agent and he is now a much sought after actor. Not forgetting his roots, he is back to play Dickens's miser. The brainchild of singing Estate Agent, TLC boss Toby Brown, The Earl's Courtiers moved from bringing Shakespeare to the garden squares of SW5 to large cast, epic family musicals. When their production of *Alice in Wonderland* called for children a call out was made to local primary schools and the response was overwhelming. *Oliver!* attracted over a hundred applications to be street urchins, n'er-do-wells and other Dickensian characters. "It's difficult to say no," says Brown, "we were looking for maybe 15 children but ended up with 50." The Courtier's next summer project is still in the air. "There's been talk of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*," says Brown, "or maybe *Peter Pan*." Whatever it turns out to be, it's bound to be a toe-tapping spectacular, exuberant, musical, providing a life-affirming experience for both actors and audience. Book Your Tickets To A Christmas Carol By Visiting www.thecourt.london/Christmas





WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

— Refettorio Felix at St Cuthbert's

THERE IS A MOMENT, every Christmas, when the last cracker has been pulled and you're stuffed because you just had to try some of Christmas pudding, cake and log... oh and what other time of year could you indulge a bit of brandy butter? There is a moment when you look at the table and it's still heaving with bits of food and it's clear that you have, or your host has, over-bought; and you have a pang of guilt about the lonely the homeless and the hungry... because you're human.

And here's food for thought: 4.2 million Christmas dinners are wasted across the country according to Unilever. That's the equivalent of 263,000 turkeys; 7.5 million mince pies; 740,000 slices of Christmas pudding; 17.2 million Brussels sprouts; 11.9 million carrots and 11.3 million roast potatoes. Every host spends, on average, £112 on food alone; which means £64 million is spent every Christmas on food that is never eaten.

And though you might try to ameliorate with a lot of turkey sandwiches and Bubble and Squeak, all year round, on average, 30.8% of the food we buy, we chuck. Most food waste is from excess food buying but by changing our shopping habits we can actually do something about it. Far harder to change is the other half of the food waste conundrum; food that never even makes it into a shopping bag. You'd think there is something rotten in the supply chain of our food but the trouble is, there isn't. Every day tonnes of food which is still edible is dumped by supermarkets because it has passed its "best before" date or is aesthetically unwanted. At least 2.2 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK grocery supply chain and directly from supermarkets every year.

In a quiet street in Earls Court a collection of charities are changing all that with a compelling idea to battle food wastage, food poverty and social isolation all at the same time. And they're doing it in style

Refettorio Felix, based in the St Cuthbert's Centre, Philbeach Gardens, is no soup kitchen. Every day it provides restaurant style three course meals for the homeless, the lonely, the old and people with mental health conditions. They prepare gourmet meals entirely using food from supermarkets that was



destined for the compost heap. The project involves 115 volunteers in the kitchen and dining room every month serving 1072 zero waste meals to our most vulnerable.

The six to seven tonnes of food that the Felix project saves per year may seem a mere morsel in comparison to the overall nationwide problem, but Earl's Court can be proud to be hosting this trend-setting project. It is paving the way for others, showing that a viable infrastructure can be created to both tackle food waste and food poverty; a paradoxical outrage that such things can even coexist.

The project is a carefully coordinated collaboration of charitable and non-profit organisations: the St Cuthbert's Centre, world-renowned Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura's 'Food For Soul' and the Felix Project; a charity set up by Chairman of the Independent, Justin Byam Shaw, who named it after his son who died tragically young. Broadly, Felix Project drivers collect waste food from supermarkets, 'Food For Soul' turns the food into meals whilst the St Cuthbert's Centre provides a beautiful, warm, venue, a mental health worker always on hand as well as bathing facilities for those in need. Bottura has opened similar community kitchens in Italy, Rio de Janeiro and, most recently, Paris. Each project shares the common themes of: using surplus food, working with designers to renovate underused spaces and create engaging community spaces whilst serving high quality and nutritious dishes to vulnerable people.

"One of the hardest things we're trying to tackle is social isolation, said Alistair Kingsley, CEO of St

Cuthbert's, "when people come and are served a proper three course meal you see them come out of their shells and start talking and really connect with each other."

"When I lost my job," said one diner, "I was so embarrassed to come here, you wouldn't believe. When you are on your uppers, and someone comes and serves you food, it's good for the soul. Having napkins, having proper knives and forks, it makes you feel like you're somebody. It gives you hope for the future."

Now Refettorio Felix is adding a new dimension to their work: teaching a number of their guests to be chefs. The culinary training course is specifically aimed at those out of work, having experienced long-term unemployment, homelessness or at risk of homelessness, with the aim of giving them confidence, skills and a much increased chance at employability.

The seven-week course is taught by Chef Gregg Brown (Apprenticeship coordinator at University of West London) and Chef Simon Boyle, founder of Beyond Food and Brigade. Each week, the apprentices learn how to prepare one or two dishes from scratch, using surplus ingredients to create an entire menu. They also hit the books learning life skills, interview technique and CV writing.

The inaugural course saw 13 apprentices graduate, having both completed the course, and gained an accreditation in Health and Hygiene Level 2. The next course begins in January 2019.

So, come the Queen's Speech on Christmas day, and you're on the sofa feeling a bit bloated but warm and satiated, spare a thought, a moment and some money to help this incredible local charity tackling food waste, food poverty, homelessness and loneliness. You can donate online via a link on their website www.refettoriofelix.com or text RFSC17 £10 to 70070.

St Cuthbert's beautifully renovated hall and kitchen are also available to rent in evenings and at weekends, great for everything from parties and work functions to dinners and talks. All rental charges go back into funding the charity. Find out more by emailing events@stcuthbertscentre.org.uk.

The Earls Court Project, an innovative joint venture between Capital & Counties Properties PLC ('Capco') and Transport for London (TfL), is proud to provide on-going funding to the St Cuthbert's Centre to help support the work of the dedicated team so they can continue to make an important impact in the local community.

WHAT'S ON DOWN THE MARKET?



NORTH END ROAD MARKET

On Saturday 15th December, from 9am to 5pm, North End Road will host a bumper market of festive fun and seasonal food, drink and gifts at their annual winter extravaganza.

It's a great day out shopping for Christmas gifts at the traffic-free market in North End Road with more than 150 stalls including arts and crafts, clothing, fashion accessories and much more.

The market is also hosting hilarious street entertainment that will keep all the family laughing with, the Christmas Cats Choir, Rubella, Salmonella and Buttons bringing the panto feel; Bridie the Tea-Lady demonstrating a tall order with her stilt-walking and, of course, a visit from Santa.

The North End Road Christmas



market forms part of the popular series of traffic-free seasonal street markets which take place every year on this 131-year-old high street. For more details, or if you're interested in taking a stall, check out www.lbhf.gov.uk/business/markets/north-end-road-market North End Road Market - Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 6pm, between Fulham Broadway and Lillie Road SW6



FARMERS' MARKETS

November sees tasting sessions at our local farmers' markets on the weekend of 17th/18th November. Turn up to sample, see what pleases your palate, and find out how to order.

At Earl's Court on 18th November, Picks Organic have organic turkey, goose, cockerel and duck, as well as gammon and sausage meat to try; Midgham Farm have whole gammons and fore ribs of beef to order while Astons Bakery and Popina are offering delicious Christmas goodies, including mince pies and Christmas cake. Wild Country will have plenty of seasonal veg and for cheese lovers, Quicks Cheddar will have their usual delicious selection.

The markets will run up to the last weekend before Christmas and then most producers will be back manning



the stalls on the first weekend in 2019.

The last 2018 market at Earl's Court will be: Sunday 23rd December (10-2), and we will be back on Sunday 6th January 2019. The last 2018 dates for South Kensington, Pimlico and Notting Hill, are Saturday 22nd December 2018, returning on Saturday 5th January 2019

For more details on all the markets as Christmas approaches, keep an eye on the market blackboards, or check www.lfm.org.uk, where you will get more of an idea of which seasonal products (cheeses, wreaths, trimmings for the festive meal, quince cheese, mistletoe, and more) will be on offer and where and when.

Earl's Court Farmers' Market, Sundays 10-2 at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias Primary School, SW5 9UE

The Festive Season at West Brompton Crossing

AS THE WEATHER turns chilly and with Christmas just around the corner, there's plenty happening at West Brompton Crossing on Saturday 8th December to get you in the festive mood.

The Earls Court project team will be opening their doors at the Project Rooms (located at 16-18 Empress Place SW6 1TT) between 11am and 3pm for the annual Christmas open day event.

Guests will be able to enjoy a range of festive arts & crafts workshops; from designing your own yuletide flower wreaths, to making your own Christmas stockings and decorative baubles. Visitors will also be able to enjoy mince pies, live festive carols and there will be face painting throughout the event for younger guests. Everyone is welcome to come down and join in with the festivities. Best of all, workshops and admission are free and require no pre-booking. There will also be plenty more

festive good-will at West Brompton Crossing's pop up high street, which has partnered with the Earls Court project team to offer special seasonal treats for the day, including:

THE HOARDER

Pop in to The Hoarder for a discount on a festive hot chocolate.

THE PRINCE PUB

Try a delicious free winter warmer mock-tail crafted by the bar staff at The Prince.

THE CROSSING

Super cool stationary brand Afu Rok, the latest tenant at The Crossing, will be offering a free West Brompton Crossing tote bag with every purchase. A complimentary loyalty card for West Brompton Crossing is available for local residents, offering discounts and seasonal promotions. If you are interested in receiving a loyalty card, please email info@myearls court.com



The Earls Court Project is being brought forward through an innovative joint venture between Capital & Counties Properties PLC ('Capco') and Transport for London (TfL). The Open Day will also give visitors the opportunity to explore plans for Earls Court through architectural models and video installations.



Notable Buildings – Gilbert’s House

BY THADDEUS BELL

ONE OF THE MOST extraordinary houses in Earl’s Court is 39 Harrington Gardens, a 19 tiered, flemish style, red bricked house designed by Ernest George and Harold Peto for W.S.Gilbert, better known as the librettist half of “Gilbert and Sullivan”. With Arthur Sullivan, Gilbert wrote fourteen eternally popular “operettas”; forerunners of the modern musical. The comic intent, use of spoken voice and jaunty music, meant that they never qualified as real opera for the sophisticates of the time. Their most famous works include *H.M.S.*



Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and, according to Wikipedia, one of the most frequently performed works in the history of musical theatre, *The Mikado*; which was written in this house, commissioned from the profits of another well-known Gilbert and Sullivan production, *Patience*.

George and Peto designed all the distinctive red brick properties on Harrington Gardens and Collingham Gardens as part of a huge speculative building fad that swept through Kensington following the Great Exhibition of 1851, the building of the Albertopolis museums and colleges around Exhibition Road and the creation, in 1865, of the Metropolitan District Line. Most of the new streets followed the classic, stuccoed, terraced pattern but George and Peto had different designs on the area.

The pair travelled each summer to the continent and their resulting sketchbooks proved a rich source for inspiration. Many of their buildings drew on their impressions of the redbrick, 17th century, gabled houses of Ghent in Belgium. They designed their properties to the highest standards of craftsmanship for families who wanted ‘beautiful’ and ‘artistic’ homes. Unlike the conventional London terraced house, with a long passage and stairs leading up to a first floor drawing-room, these houses had square halls with the dining-room, library,



and drawing-room overlooking communal gardens, on the ground floor.

Number 39 was built in 1883 to mirror the flamboyant character of the occupier. The Flemish style echoed Gilbert’s own taste for the historic, the exotic and the primacy of aesthetics which was all the rage due to the Aesthetic Movement. Gilbert filled the interior with exotic oriental objects and *The Mikado* was apparently inspired by the clattering fall of a Japanese sword that hung above his study door.

Beatrix Potter, who lived around the corner, noted in her diary, “The Dutch houses are mostly finished..... Mr Gilbert’s is a very handsome house with its marble court. But I doubt the comfort of the little lattice windows.....” She also somewhat overestimated that the house contained, “twenty-six bedrooms with a bath-room to each (fancy twenty-six burst water pipes)” But there certainly are five stately stories of mullioned windows and carved stone topped with an enormous stepped gable. At the very top is a stone galleon, not HMS *Pinafore* but a reference to Gilbert’s alleged ancestor, the heroic Elizabethan sailor Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

The external details reflect Gilbert’s own delight in storytelling. Two caryatids flank the doorway. One, with a long split tongue, is literally a tongue twister. Gilbert was already famed for mouth mashing verses like “I am the very model of a modern Major-General, I’ve information vegetable, animal, and mineral, I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical, From Marathon to

Waterloo, in order categorical.” The opposite caryatid depicts a pig tailed woman resting cymbals on her stomach, possibly this is another pun, it was “cymbolic” of Gilbert’s words hushing the musical side of his co-productions.

Above the door the Gilbert coat of arms features a squirrel with a nut and is flanked by two children, one feeding a bird, the other fighting one. Gilbert’s hospitable yet often prickly personality was summed up in these baroque curlicues.

Inside, an oak-panelled hall included a floor-to-ceiling chimneypiece in carved stone fronting a blue-tiled inglenook in which Gilbert hung his hams. The drawing-room at the back had rosewood panelling, an ornate strapwork ceiling, a hooded alabaster chimneypiece and the fireplace itself was richly sculpted in a C16th style.

But for all the historic flourishes, Gilbert was also a believer in modern technology. The area was predominantly lit by gas but from the first, Gilbert installed electric lighting with power coming from an eight-horsepower Crossley gas engine mediated through a Crompton-Burgin dynamo. He is also known to have installed a telephone line directly to the Savoy theatre to keep close contact with all his productions there, before London had a city wide exchange.

Gilbert’s creative output included over 75 plays and libretti as well as numerous short stories, poems and lyrics, both comic and serious. His house reflected his personality and a visit to wonder at all the details will reward any enthusiast of his work as well as the architects George and Peto.

Blue Plaques – A Tour – Part 3

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

Sir Norman Lockyer (1836–1920)

16 Penywern Road
SW5 9ST

If you’ve ever talked like a chipmunk after inhaling a helium balloon, it’s Sir Norman you can thank. In 1868 a prominent yellow line was observed in a spectrum taken near the edge of the Sun. Lockyer suggested it was caused by an unknown solar element he called Helium after the Greek word for “Sun”. Unfortunately, French scientist Pierre Janssen also lodged the same observation on the same day in France so the two men are credited jointly. This dismaying coincidence may have inspired Lockyer to found the journal *Nature*, still the pre-eminent publication in general science, as a way for scientists to understand what others are working on. Lockyer was so didactic that mathematician James Whitbread Lee Glaisher once complained he “sometimes forgets he is only the editor and not the author of *Nature*.”



Hattie Jacques (1924-1980)

67 Eardley Crescent,
London SW5 9JT

This Comic Heritage Blue Plaque commemorates the comedienne who exploited her plus size for comic effect and lived here for 35 years until her death. Famous for playing bossy, no-nonsense, characters like Matron in the *Carry On...* films she was also, for many years, a perfect comic foil for both Tony Hancock during his *Half Hour* and Eric Sykes. Jacques was married for fourteen years to the *Dad’s Army* actor John Le Mesurier who, in 1962, was forced to move into a different bedroom when Jacques installed a new lover in the family home. Jacques’ weight was bittersweet for her. Talking about her long-term role on the radio series *It’s That Man Again* she said “It was planned that I should play a character named ‘Ella Phant’. Ted thought the laughs would come on the size gags but, being radio, and coupled with the fact my voice didn’t have the timbre of a ‘heavy’, that didn’t really work out ... A large lady with a little voice hit the spot, so ‘Sophie Tuckshop’ was born—the terrible child who never stopped eating”.



Howard Carter (1874–1939)

19 Collingham Gardens
SW5 0HL

Carter was the original Tomb Raider, the archetypal mummy hunting Indiana Jones who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, the richest, most intact and beautiful Egyptian tomb ever uncovered by Egyptologists. In 1922, Carter had been excavating in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings for several years, sponsored by the Earl of Carnarvon but had found very little. Frustrated by the lack of progress, Carnarvon had given Carter one last season and Carter shifted his attention to some huts he had used in a previous season. Whilst demolishing them, on 4th November, their young water boy stumbled on a stone that turned out to be the top of a flight of steps cut into the bedrock. Dug out, the steps led to the greatest archaeological find of the 20th Century. According to many, including Arthur Conan Doyle, they also released the “Curse of King Tut”. Within a few months Carnarvon died, and then his half-brother Aubrey Herbert, then Carter’s friend Bruce Ingham whom Carter had gifted a mummified hand to with, allegedly, a bracelet inscribed “cursed be he who moves my body.” In all nine people associated with the find died within a few years of entering the tomb. Carter himself lived to a not overly ripe 64. The idea of a curse unleashed by a disturbed tomb became the basis for countless Hollywood movies.



West End? *The Best End is Right Here*

THEATRE IS ONE of those essential proving grounds of culture, where writing, music, visual craft and performance, meet, not with the huge budgets and mass consumption of screen dramas, but mostly with simple physical, visceral passion. Nowhere is this more evident than in fringe theatre. And the Court area is lucky to have at least three of the best Off-West End Theatres in London, theatres that are accessible, not just geographically but financially. If you want to experience moving drama, it won't be the ticket prices that will make you cry. Not only does the intimacy of the venues bring a compelling edge to productions, they all share premises with pubs so a post-drama stiffener is always on hand.



Richard Leigh in his Magic Cavern, beneath Barons Court Theatre

THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE

This 50-seat theatre has always punched above its weight consistently bringing challenging, funny and thought provoking works to an intimate audience. Founded in 1980, this multi-award-winning theatre, led by Artistic Director Neil McPherson, presents plays and music theatre, concentrating on new writing, or rediscovering genuinely neglected works from the 19th and 20th centuries. Rivalling bigger and better funded theatres, the Finborough runs both an internship programme and a Resident Assistant Director Programme. The Finborough Theatre was also the inaugural holder of both the Leverhulme Bursary for Emerging Directors in



partnership with the National Theatre Studio, and the Cameron Mackintosh Resident Composer scheme. This tiny theatre regularly transfers productions to the West End and Off-Broadway. If you want to see it first, see it here.

This festive season the Finborough is reviving Aimée Stuart's pre-second world war play *Jeannie*. A 1930s version of the Cinderella story, this charming light romantic comedy, ideal for the Christmas season, was last performed in London in 1940. Set in 1936 in a "wee one-eyed" town in Scotland it tells the story of Jeannie, a drudge for her mean controlling father, who dreams of a different life. When she receives a large inheritance, she seizes the opportunity to finally escape to the glamour and sophistication of European travel.

During her stay in Vienna, Jeannie encounters both Stanley, a washing machine inventor from Yorkshire, and a real Viennese Count. But Jeannie

is no pushover. She knows her own mind, she is a stickler for the truth, and she hates scroungers...

Jeannie – 27 November – 22 December 2018
a. Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, SW10 9ED
w. finboroughtheatre.co.uk

BARONS COURT THEATRE

This theatre has been running for nearly 16 years and unlike many pub theatres that are located upstairs or in the back room, the Barons Court Theatre is located in the vaults below the Curtains Up Pub. This descent favours a certain darkness and may be why it has been the home of London's longest running theatrical magic show, The Magic Cavern. Ron Phillips, the theatre's artistic director produces about 70% classics and 30% new works. His focus in selecting productions is plays that will entertain rather than focusing on a particular genre.

With 60 seats that surround the stage on three sides, the playing area is an intimate square surrounded by archways. Sometimes plays also use the audience space, as in a production of *Antigone*, in which the chorus sat in the front row.

The theatre is featuring a number of productions over the festive period but try to catch KDC Theatre's production of *Flare Path* by Terrence Rattigan, a tale set in a pub next to an airfield during WWII. When the airmen are called off on a raid, their wives and girlfriends are left to wait anxiously, but



the appearance of an ex-lover, and bombing by the Luftwaffe, calls for heart-wrenching choices to be made.

Closer to Christmas, Magician Richard Leigh presents an evocative Fun Fair at The Magic Cavern, an intimate underground mystical playground – a realm of magic, illusion and intrigue that will transport you to the odd-ball fairgrounds of yesteryear. All is not what it seems though. Everything has a magical twist or surprise. For an incredible show from this era, enter the attraction called 'The Fastest Mathematician' that has got to be seen to be believed.

Flare Path - 27th November - 01 December 2018
The Fun Fair at The Magic Cavern - 19th December - 130 December 2018
a. Barons Court Theatre, Curtains Up pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR
w. offwestend.com/index.php/theatres/shows/42



DRAYTON ARMS

The Drayton Arms Theatre has been making waves in the theatrical world by hosting outstanding productions. Programme Director Audrey Thayer and Executive Director Gene David Kirk actively scour Fringe Festivals up and down the country looking for innovative powerful dramas. They also try to cater for the French community based nearby around the Lycée in South Kensington. Originally a function room, the first theatrical use of the space was just after the war as a rehearsal room for many of the actors from the newly formed BBC TV who lived locally.

In the 80s it was hired as a rehearsal studio by Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art, nearby in Clareville Grove. They subsequently fitted the room out as a theatre to give the students their own performance space. The Drayton Studio – as it was then – continued for the next 20 years, with 12 public performances every year. Eventually Webber Douglas moved to bigger premises and in 2011 the Drayton Arms Theatre was opened as a professional fringe venue.

For great fun this Festive season the Drayton Arms is hosting a joyful farce retelling of Arthur Conan Doyle's classic Sherlock Holmes mystery *The Hound Of The Baskervilles*. Holmes and his incomparable sidekick Dr Jane Watson travel from the streets of London to the Devonshire Moors as they attempt to solve the mystery of a huge hellish dog terrorising the locals. This inventive and hilarious comedy mystery is a fast-paced farce featuring just two fearless actors playing every role.



The Hound of the Baskervilles - 11th December 2018 - 12th January 2019
a. Drayton Arms Theatre, 153 Old Brompton Road, SW5 0LJ
w. thedraytonarmstheatre.co.uk



THE BOLTON

'Blending the hip and the wholesome – a vibrant British pub offering the warmest of welcomes'

Combining the best in British pub hospitality with individuality, character and quirky charm, The Bolton is located on the corner of Earl's Court Road and Brompton Road. The perfect setting for a laid-back yet distinctly memorable drinking and dining experience. The Bolton's interior boasts a double-height ceiling, private function room and a snug fireplace for those chillier months. Upstairs discover the distinct flavour of Holland at Proeflokaal Rembrandt (the Rembrandt sampling room) with 126 different Dutch beers on offer together with great Dutch snacks and meals.

Every Monday: London Life Drawing classes, walk in basis from 7pm - 9.30pm, Fri - Sunday: open for walk in drinks, food and fun Dutch style.



1A

Nevern Place

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 Earl's Court Community Trust – Registered Charity

Sponsored by Capital & Counties

Pricing
Monthly Membership: £50/month
Main Room: £10/hour
Office Meeting Room: £10/hour

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

A WORKSPACE FOR ALL
Visit www.lanevernplace.com for bookings or contact us on bookings@lanevernplace.com for further information

thecourt

CALENDAR

November / December 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.

MUSIC

Fulham Opera presents *Don Carlo*

Location: St John's Church, Fulham
Date: 6 to 18 of November
Tickets: £27 plus booking fee – book online www.wegotickets.com/fulhamopera

A new production of Verdi's remarkable opera *Don Carlo*. Directed by Lewis Reynolds. Musically Directed and with a new score for 11-piece orchestra by Ben Woodward.

A: North End Road, Fulham, London, SW6 1PB

W: www.fulhamopera.co.uk

The Fureys

Location: Nell's Jazz and Blues
Date: Tuesday 27 November – 7.30pm to 11pm
Tickets: £22.50 – visit website for bookings or email info@nellsjazzandblues.com

Legends of Irish music & song The FUREYS, renowned for their hit songs 'I will love you', 'When you were sweet 16', 'The Green fields of France', 'The old man', 'Red rose café', 'From Clare to here', 'Her father didn't like me anyway', 'Leaving Nancy', 'Steal away' etc return to Nells Jazz and Blues on 27 November 2018 in this their 40th Anniversary year.

A: Nell's Jazz and Blues, 3 North End Road, West Kensington, London W14 8TG

W: nellsjazzandblues.com

Les Bougies Baroques present *Handel and Porpora: A Georgian Court Rivalry*

Location: St. Outhbert's Church
Date: Thursday 29 November – 7.30pm
Tickets: £18.50, which can be booked in advance at Eventbrite
Join period instrument ensemble 'Les Bougies Baroques' and mezzo-soprano Maria Ostroukhova on an 18th-century journey shedding light

on a rivalry between two composers, Handel and Porpora.

A: St Outhbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB

W: See saintouthbert.org/news-events for all classical and festive events

Prelude and Preparation: Scherzo Residency Concert

Location: St. Outhbert's Church
Date: Sunday 2nd December, 6pm
Tickets: £10 / £15 – Available on the door

Begin Advent with a concert celebrating some of the wonderful music for this season of anticipation. Hold back the beat of the Christmas drum with this reflective recital.

A: St Outhbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB

W: saintouthbert.org/news-events

Trio Manouche

Location: The 606 Club
Date: Monday 3 December – 8.30pm
Tickets: or call 020 7352 5953 for bookings
World class gypsy jazz ensemble start the week with fun at Club 606

A: 606 Club, 90 Lots Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0QD

W: 606club.co.uk

Then Jerico Acoustic with special guest Lily Lyons

Location: The Troubadour
Date: Saturday 8 December – 8.30pm to 11.45pm
Tickets: £19 – visit troubadourlondon.com for bookings

Head to The Troubadour for a very special and intimate evening as Mark Shaw and Ryan Williams bring you an acoustic night of Then Jerico tunes from the past 30 years. This event is rumoured to be recorded for live release later this year.

A: 263-267 Old Brompton Rd Earl's Court, London SW5 9JA

W: troubadourlondon.com

THE COURT RECOMMENDS

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

Location: St Philips Church and St Outhbert's Church

Dates: 29, 30 November and the 1 December

Tickets: Adult £10, Child £5, Concessions available from www.thecourt.london

The Earl's Courtiers are all set to bring this Dickens' classic to life in Earl's Court this Festive Season. Do not miss THE play of the Festive Season. A mean-spirited, miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting-house on a frigid Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, shivers in the room nearby because Scrooge refuses to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Bah humbug!

A: St Philips Church, 96 Earl's Court Road, London W8 6EG

A: St Outhbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB

W: www.thecourt.london/christmas



Tony Richardson stars as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*

FESTIVE

Earl's Court Christmas Illuminations

Location: Kenway Road, Earl's Court Road Corner

Date: 29 November – 5.45pm to 7.30pm / lights on at 6pm

Tickets: This is a free event
Free food, mulled wine, Carol singers and Christmas Lights. Come along and kick start the festive season. See our special feature for more details.

The Lord Mayor's Christmas Concert

Location: Our Lady of Victories Church

Date: Wednesday 12 December – 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Tickets: £20, plus online booking fee
The Lord Mayor's Carol Concert will have a Steel Band, Portobello Live!

Community Choir, Holland Park Opera and other special guests from the borough. celebrate the diverse range of children supported by local charity, Solidarity Sports, and will include music, poetry and readings by some very special guests. There will be a party afterwards!

A: Our Lady of Victories Church, 235a Kensington High Street, London, W8 6SA

W: Visit eventbrite.co.uk for details

The Earl's Court Christmas Carol Concert

Location: St Outhbert's Church

Date: Saturday 15 December – 4pm

Tickets: Free entry / donations welcome
In aid of Solidarity Sports and the St. Outhbert's Restoration Fund, St Outhbert's, Our Lady of Victories School Choirs, and the newly formed

St Matthias Choir, under the direction of the new musical director for the church, Quintin Beer, will perform Christmas favourites. All are welcome. The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi will be attending this special event.

A: St Outhbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB

W: saintouthbert.org/news-events

THEATRE

Time is Love / Tiempo Es Amor

by Chè Walker
Location: The Finborough Theatre
Date: 1 January to 26 January 2019
Tickets: £16 - £20

"You're holding my sins inside you now. I've told you something no one else knows."

The European premiere. In the last remaining barrios of East LA, Blaz returns from prison, but something ain't right. His lifelong love Havana Cortez is keeping a secret. Serena The Sex Worker is our ethereal guide to this menacing world - but why are there pterodactyls overhead? Love and Betrayal. Tenderness and Rage. Crime and Home. Adventure and Ageing. Los Angeles behind the mask.

A: Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

W: finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Paradise Rocks!

by Simon Indelicate
Location: Barons Court Theatre
Date: 8 December to 9 December 2018

Tickets: £10 - £14
Original sin in the sun drenched

island climes! Succumb to sweet temptation in this new musical that adapts John Milton's 17th century epic account of man's first disobedience into a Hawaiian Elvis movie from 1960. Meet Adam, heir to the Club Eden Holiday Camp empire; Eve, his blushing fiancée, struggling to resist the unruly passions beneath her wholesome exterior; and meet Danny Morningstar, rock'n'roller, rebel and reprobate, whose arrival in Paradise spells trouble for this innocent outpost of the American Dream.

A: Barons Court Theatre, Curtain's Up pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR

W: offwestend.com/index.php/plays/view/18002

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Make Pop Up Buildings

Location: The Design Museum
Tickets: £15 per person
Date: Sunday 25 November 1pm onwards
Create a pop-up paper house book

of your very own design, learning new model making skills with an introduction to architectural design techniques. Your pop-up book will be finished off with tiny flat pack furniture and people to take home with you.

A: 224 - 238 Kensington High Street, London W8 6AG

W: designmuseum.org



Do You Want to Become a Sculptor?

Location: The Royal Society of Sculptors

Date: Sunday 23 November 1pm onwards

Creative Quarter 2018 is a day of free events in South Kensington offering 13-19 year old students the chance to explore creative industries and creative careers.

A: Royal Society of Sculptors, Dora House, 108 Old Brompton Road,



London SW7 3RA

W: sculptors.org.uk

Nature in Winter Tour

Location: Holland Park, Stable Yard
Date: Saturday 1 December - 9am

Enjoy a one-and-a-half-hour stroll through the park looking at birds, plants, butterflies and park management of current interest. There is no charge and all are welcome without booking.

A: The Stable Yard, Holland Park, Ilchester Place, London W8 6LU

W: thefriendsofhollandpark.org

Life Drawing Gymnasia

by Natasha Jervis

Dates: 1 January to 6 January 2019

Location: Barons Court Theatre

Tickets: £20 or a Week's Pass £50
The Life Drawing Gymnasia is a model run collective of professional artist models seeking to collaborate with artists, changing and challenging the role of the muse in the artistic process. The ethos of the project 'Gymnasia' is inspired by the Ancient Greek principle 'to exercise nude', the body and mind in harmony, incorporating dance, yoga, physical theatre, and classical themes. Inspired by dance, yoga and movement they project visually spectacular, physically demanding interactive compositions. Their unique style of intimate, yet powerful performance modelling is a breath taking spectacle of highly charged drama, an opportunity for artists of all levels to be inspired by the expression of the pure physical form. A life drawing event like no other!

A: Barons Court Theatre, Curtain's Up pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR
W: offwestend.com/index.php/plays/view/18047

THE COURT CROSSWORD NUMBER 3

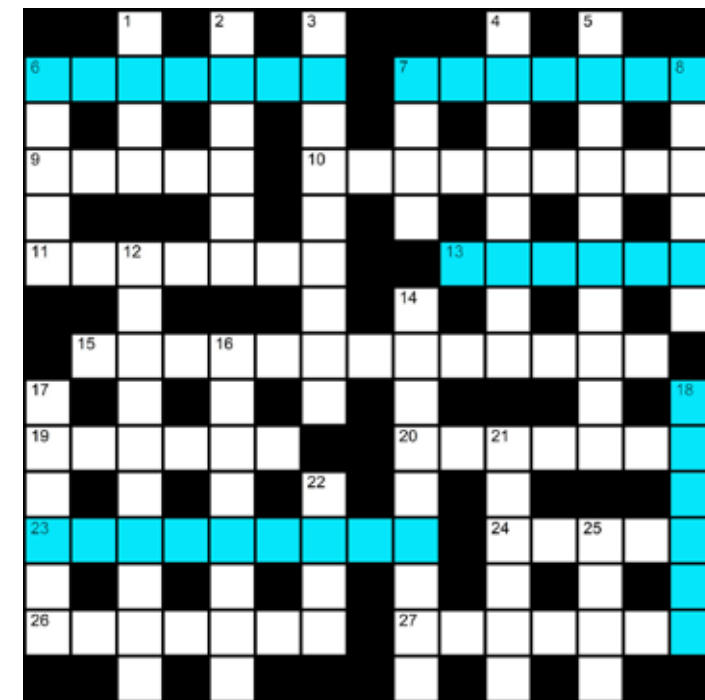
A cryptic crossword with a bit of local knowledge. Five clues (in blue) are the surnames of famous residents of the Court area, four commemorated with Blue Plaques.

ACROSS

- Freddie from Planet One. (7)
- William will hurry weight. (7)
- Nail aloft poster girl. (3-2)
- Most caring will offer wrong set. (9)
- Each end of a boat points in this direction. (7)
- Beatrix likes to amble (6)
- Reassemble, reprocess amid tightened oxygen. (10,3)
- Earning in comedy. (6)
- Bath sin reformed in the spirit of forgetfulness. (7)
- Alfred is chicken after a problem. (9)
- 6 Across's band is taken to the ER. (5)
- Best to dine before rapid eye movement drug. (7)
- Capital biro in a mixup. (7)

DOWN

- Smile right in gin. (4)
- Regal colour for prince's rain. (6)
- Witness to a warped bendy star. (9)
- Space rock takes a steroid (8)
- All roads lead to a rotten gin according to way indicator. (6,4)
- Canadian leaf shows direction to the French. (5)
- Round bell. (4)
- Wild characteristic. (6)
- For sticking whiskey faucet east. (6,4)
- Eastern monarch reformed, gains a kin. (5,4)
- Pamela's acid measure allowed a short book. (8)
- Scheherazade had a thousand and one. (6)
- Mahatma finds help in American soldier. (6)
- Small shiny disc sewn on clothes makes Alfred leave equal to indulge in sin. (6)
- Poem after a hundred is a cypher. (4)
- Piccadilly love statue misplaced rose. (4)



Last issue's Crossword Winner was Thomas Erndt who has already received his bottle of wine.

The Court crossword is generously sponsored by



Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol

Tony Richardson
is Scrooge

29th Nov at 7.30pm

St Philip's Church
(Corner of Earls Court Road
and Stratford Road)

30th Nov &
1st Dec at 7.30pm

St Cuthbert's Church
(50 Philbeach Gardens)

Tickets can be purchased by calling Toby Brown on **020 7370 4000**
or emailing him at **toby.brown@tlclondon.com**

Alternatively you can book online at **www.thecourt.london/christmas/**

All ticket proceeds will be donated to the respective churches

