

THE Kensington MAGAZINE

November 2013



THE Kensington MAGAZINE

Front Cover:

"Your country needs YOU" poster design by Alfred Leete who lived in Pembroke Square (see page 4)
<http://www.magforum.com/mens/london-opinion.htm>



Lucy Elliott, Editor

Welcome to our Remembrance Edition where we look at the role Kensington played in the Wars. Tim provides background to Kitchener's First World War poster, Jenny explores the Hospital Supply Depot in Kensington Square, and Sarah examines the trenches in Kensington Gardens. In addition we have personal memories of the last War from resident Barbara Ballantyne and other residents who were children at the time. Elizabeth reviews 'The Ghost of Munich' a fascinating book about the meeting of the major four European powers in Munich in September 1938. Lastly (and to balance the age group of this edition) a very impressive poem from Cora (aged 11) describing the image of being a soldier, as seen through the eyes of a poppy.

We hope you enjoy this special and enlarged edition,

Lucy

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GET IN TOUCH

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Alfred Leete, designer of the iconic poster:

“YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU”

By Tim Honnor

This iconic image was created by Alfred Leete who later became a resident of Pembroke Square!

The world-famous poster featuring Lord Kitchener was first published as the front cover of the magazine *London Opinion* on 5 September 1914, one month and one day after the outbreak of the First World War.

Initially, the war effort was relying solely on volunteers. But the original British Expeditionary Force suffered heavy casualties and new volunteers were urgently required. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, Secretary of State for War, was looking for 100,000 men to replace those lost on the battlefields.

The Parliamentary Recruiting Committee obtained permission to reproduce Leete's original drawing from *London Opinion*, changed the wording slightly and transformed it into a recruiting poster which, in one month alone, attracted 500,000 men. It was followed by some 130 similar official designs before conscription was introduced in the United Kingdom - the last country in Europe to do so - in May 1916. It was copied in 1917 in USA with Kitchener's image replaced by Uncle Sam. It is perhaps the best-known poster from the First World War and has been adapted by many countries over the years to promote hundreds of products and services. But was it all a myth?

A book published in August this year claims that the celebrated 'Your Country Needs You' poster "never existed." James Taylor, a former curator of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich says that the original artwork was mistakenly catalogued as part of its poster collection by the Imperial War Museum when it was acquired in 1917. The result, he says "has been a massive collective misinformation."

Happily, there is no disputing the authenticity of Leete's 'My Goodness' drawing from 1930 portraying a plucked duck who had swallowed his glass of Guinness which foreshadowed a range

of 'My Goodness My Guinness' posters right up to the 1950's. Or his witty series of posters designed for the Underground Electric Railways Company, which later merged with similar companies to form London Underground, also while he was living in Pembroke Square. In a career as a commercial artist starting in 1897, other clients included Bovril, Ronuk, brewers William Younger and the character for Rowntree's Chocolate who starred in the first British animated film commercial with sound.



The famous First World War poster
<http://www.magforum.com/mens/london-opinion.htm>

Alfred Ambrose Chew Leete was born in Thorpe Achurch, Northamptonshire on 28 August 1882. He lived at 34 Pembroke Square with his wife Edith Jane from the summer of 1926 and died there, at home of a cerebral haemorrhage, at the tragically early age of 51, on 17 June 1933.

His widow lived in Pembroke Square for another year.



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A Factory on Kensington Square

If you think Kensington Square isn't a natural home for a massive manufacturing facility, then you weren't here during WWI. Local resident Jenny Davis-Peccoud peeks behind the genteel facades to the factory within



Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot by Catherine Oules (www.artnet.com)

The doors opened on January 14, 1915. Inspired by the first war hospital supply depot set up in Ipswich in 1914, four friends (two men beyond the age of military service and two women excluded by gender from serving) decided to 'do their bit' and bring the concept to London. The Kensington College for Women lent them their premises at 11 and 12 Kensington Square. A mere 8 months later, the enterprise had taken over 13 and 18a Kensington Square, 20 Kensington Court and 170 Cromwell Road, eventually occupying 8 buildings in all.

Described in a newspaper article of the time as "one of the busiest hives of voluntary war activity in the kingdom", the Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot was divided into 21 departments, with about 1,000 workers showing up for work every day, out of a total volunteer register of up to 6,000. The WHSD was typically staffed from early morning til about 6pm on weekdays, but during emergencies people would work all night, Saturdays and even Sundays to make what was needed.

An article in *The Spectator* of 1915 described the "typical week's output: 9,250 surgical bandages; 7,500 surgical swabs; 1,000 handkerchiefs; 100 dressing-gowns; 350 ward-room slippers; 1,000 various items, including 800 splints, hospital furniture, garments, and bed-linen." Over 50,000 articles per week were dispatched to over

1,300 hospitals at home and abroad. France and Belgium were the prime destinations, but some goods made it all the way to Serbia and British East Africa, while others fed British hospitals treating the wounded back, and broken, from the front.

The Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot relied mainly on volunteers and donations. The volunteer workers paid the depot's administrative expenses, so that 100% of public funds could be used for raw materials. Appeals were placed in London newspapers, and fundraisers were held. Katharine Goodson, a well-known British pianist, claimed to become the first woman to give a solo recital at the Albert Hall with her 1918 performance of Chopin on behalf of the depot.

Even though the original idea developed elsewhere, Kensington is credited with catalysing the movement across the UK. People came from all over the country to study their methods, and large sample boxes of various materials were sent to help other branches get started. Eventually over 2,700 hospital supply efforts were started, with Kensington remaining the biggest and best known of all. If you needed a "humerus abduction splint with arm piece in vulcanised fibre", a "walking book for drop foot" in either papier mache or mild steel, a "hand split in plastic moulding" or numerous other items, you knew where to come.

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Trenches in Kensington Gardens

By Sarah Goldsmith



During each World War, trenches were dug in Kensington Gardens, but each time they served a different purpose. During World War I, “exhibition trenches” were dug to provide comfort and edification for those at home. As the demonstration trenches were warm and comfortable, they may have also been used to convince young men that to be sent to ones in Europe was not such a horrible experience. However, accounts from Europe would contradict that. According to writer Paul Fussell, the exhibition trenches were “clean, dry, and well furnished, with straight sides and sandbags neatly aligned,” a significant departure from the real ones in Europe which were usually seeping in mud, “wet, cold, smelly and thoroughly squalid.” Wilfred Owen described the Kensington Gardens trenches as “the laughing stock of the army”

Also during the first World War, the Royal Engineers closed off a corner of Kensington Gardens to the public and turned it into a replica of Flanders. Trenches, decoys, foxholes, and fake trees were erected to experiment with different forms of camouflage. This time, trenches were used in order to further the war effort.

Trenches were also dug in Kensington Gardens at the onslaught of the Munich crisis in the fall of 1938 but for a very different reason. These trenches, however, were built to shield the

populace from the onslaught of potential German bombs. The Blitz did not begin until two years later, but based on the 270 tons of bombs and 1,414 people killed in London during the first World War in German Zeppelin attacks and bombing raids, London began preparations in case the crisis did not resolve itself. The trenches were 5 feet wide and 7 feet deep with wooden floors and corrugated iron roofs. Those roofs were then covered with earth and entered by a pathway that led to gas-tight doors.

In 1938, men worked day and night to complete these World War II trenches, but after the War itself was underway, it seems that they were not heavily used.

In his book *V-Bombs and Weathermaps: Reminiscences of World War II*, Brock McElheran describes a night at the Proms at Royal Albert Hall interrupted by an air raid siren. The conductor stopped and an announcer said that those who wished to could take shelter in the trenches in Kensington Gardens. Apparently though, after years of neglect, these trenches “had shallow bottoms...covered with water, mud, dead leaves, garbage and the odd used condom.”

Digging in the Trenches, Evening News dated 27 September 1938 (By kind courtesy of the Local Studies Department, RBKC)



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MY WAR

by Barbara Ballantyne (91)



Barbara (third from left) and her colleagues in the WRNS
(Image provided by Barbara)

Nobody wanted war, and we all hoped it wouldn't happen, but preparations were already being made in the early 1939 for the air-raids which would be inevitable. I played a part in those early years preparations. As a 17-year-old, I was enrolled in the A.R.P. in Bristol to assist a Mr Drummond in organising the rescue services. As it turned out I had to be rescued myself before too long, having been trapped in the vaults of a bombed-out bank for several hours. To have witnessed the horrors of an all out war at first hand is an experience you can never forget - even 70 years later. The incendiary bombings, the blackened corpses, and the poor epileptic trapped with me in the bank vault. I had never seen an epileptic fit before but, fortunately, had had some training in first-aid.

The attacks on Bristol were fewer by 1941 and, thinking I might be of more use elsewhere, I joined the W.R.N.S. as a telegraphist. I was stationed in the Citadel in Whitehall - working for the High-Command under the direction of Winston Churchill. We had more than our share of bombings in London, but the walls of the Citadel were 16 feet thick.

In 1942, I volunteered for service abroad, and after initial training, joined a group of 12 Wrens on board a ship called the "Ulster Monarch". We had no idea where we were going, but were a part of a convoy. The "Ulster Monarch" had been a fast passenger ferry between Liverpool and Belfast before the war and could easily outpace the rest of the convoy. This allowed us to zig-zag back and forth whilst the other ships stayed in line. We wondered if it was because the father of one of our group was an Admiral, but later I found out the real reason. The previous group of 45 Wrens had been killed in a torpedo attack so the navy decided to keep future groups of Wrens small and send them on faster ships that could follow a more erratic course, making them a much more difficult target.

After the war, I discovered that my brother Ronnie had been in the same convoy on board the H.M.S. Teazer - en route to the Far East. It took us 10 days to get to Gibraltar, where I was to spend the rest of the war. By this time, Gibraltar was occupied almost exclusively by military personnel. Apart from a few essential workers the population had been evacuated to England.

There were only a few of us Wrens on the Rock – or rather in it, since we worked in a labyrinth of tunnels which sappers had been burrowing out since hostilities began. Some of the tunnels were much older, dating back to the eighteenth century, but these were mostly for cannon emplacements, quite narrow and running close to the surface of the cliffs. The new tunnels were bored right through the centre of the Rock, and were much larger; they had to be wide enough for a lorry, and with wider sections for passing-places. The chambers, which housed our working accommodation, the hospital and the Naafi as well as the the armouries, fuel stores, food stores etc, were even bigger. Each one had to be big enough to house a standard Nissen-hut with room enough to walk around the outside. Fresh water was rationed, and we had to bathe in salt-water with a special soap. It was very humid down there but we got used to that - although two of the girls contracted tuberculosis as a result. They both recovered and one of them, Tym Wetherspoon, is still going strong at 99!

Buona Vista, the “Wrenery” where we lived, was outside the tunnels and segregated from the men, and we had the privilege of being able to walk to our own beach, Sandy Bay. If any of the men wanted to meet girls there, they had to walk half way around the Rock to do so. Needless to say, we were in great demand, but our C.O. kept a close eye on us. If we wanted to go on a date or to a dance at the Rock Hotel, we had to get written permission. Heaven help us if we were caught without one. All the same, we found we could sneak in and out via the chicken-run – much to the consternation of the chickens.

In Gibraltar, there was always the threat of invasion, but Spain remained neutral. Fortunately, Hitler and Franco couldn't come to an agreement to allow German forces to attack across the peninsula. An attack by sea and air would have proved more or less impossible as we were well defended and could have held out for more than a year under siege. However, Hitler had a battle-plan ready and sent in his spies, posing as Spanish day-labourers. Some of them were caught to our delight, but many more got away with it. We were also under constant observation from the balconies of the Reina Cristina hotel in Algeciras across the bay and from villas on “Spy Row”, the road between

Algeciras and La Linea. We were watching them as well, of course. But we were attacked by two-manned Italian submarines – read Commander Crabbe! (Another story).

Gibraltar was of enormous strategic importance, not only as a port controlling the passage into the Mediterranean and as a base for big shore-based guns, but also thanks to the sappers and the rock mined out when they bored out the tunnels. It had a substantial airfield the runway built partly over what had been a racecourse before the war and partly projected out into the bay. The Rock was also a commando training ground, and before my time there, had been the base from which the North African campaign had been conducted. Hitler's ambitions would have proved much more difficult to check without our presence there but thanks to Franco's reluctance to get involved, his invasion plan, “Operation Felix”, never got off the ground. Nevertheless, the Italians were finally able to sink ships in the harbour using midget submarines. Had they not malfunctioned on earlier missions they would have accounted for more than the 14 ships they sank or disabled in five separate attacks. I was there for all but the first of these, working under Lt. Frank Goldsworthy, a naval Intelligence Officer. Neutralising this threat was his first priority.

I feel a great affection for Gibraltar, not least because I met my darling husband there. He was a doctor working at the Bastion Hospital. We were engaged in early 1945 and lucky enough to be shipped back to England in time to enjoy the V.E.Day celebrations at Piccadilly Circus. We were married in September that year at the Essex Unitarian Church in Notting Hill Gate by his father, who was the minister. Kensington has been my home ever since. My husband was to become a top ear, nose and throat specialist and, an accomplished pianist himself; he founded the Kensington and Chelsea Music Society in the 1960s, which still stages performances at Leighton House.

Editor's Note: We would like to thank Barbara for sending in her article last November when she was inspired by reading Jeannie Carr Gomm's account of her life in the War.

Celebrating the 100th year Anniversary of Beatrix Potter marrying William Heelis in St Mary Abbots Church: A Family Festival By Maria Perry

Everyone knows Beatrix Potter wrote Peter Rabbit and many people know that Mrs Tiggy Winkle was 'an excellent clear starcher'. What is less well-known is that a Beatrix Potter Society, which holds regular meetings in the U.K. and North America was founded in 1980. It runs International Study Conferences, here distinguished speakers give learned talks, which are published in book form and it sends out a quarterly magazine free to members. What seems not to have been well known is that a hundred years ago on 15th October Miss Beatrix Potter married Mr William Heelis in St Mary Abbots Church.

I had decided to attend the Beatrix Potter Festival as soon as the lovely posters went up outside the church, but I had not anticipated a day of such enchantment. Arriving at about 11 o'clock, I was greeted by the Vicar in full Edwardian canonicals and looking very handsome in the high collar and long, black coat. At the West End a Wendy House sheltered two live rabbits. By the door a life-size model of a sheep looked so realistic I expected it to Baa.

Miss Potter was a sheep-farmer, among other accomplishments. She was also a fine water-colourist, a passionate conservationist and she bequeathed her lands in the Lake District to the National Trust.

As I walked about the church, the strains of Bach, Chopin and Scott Joplin rose joyously from the piano. Chi-Hoi Cheung, a student from the Royal College of Music, who worships here, was playing. The Ladies of St Mary Abbots had excelled themselves with a tea-and-cake stall where scrumptious chocolate cakes competed with a sponge, iced with vivid orange carrots. The raffle prizes included Alison Steel's chocolate and strawberry cake with an edible version of Mr MacGreggor's garden on top.



An illustration by Chloe Wainwright designed specially for the 'Family Festival'
(With thanks to Chloe, who with her family, is also a regular member of St Mary Abbots Church)

But the best surprise was when the under-fives encircled a person disguised as Peter Rabbit and without rehearsal performed a beautiful dance, lightly choreographed by Viviana Durante of the Royal Ballet, who appeared by magic, as did a bunch of pink roses, which the fairy dancers distributed to their Mummies. Peter Rabbit wished to remain anonymous and I was recruited by some over-fives to demonstrate bunny hops in the side aisles.

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KENSINGTON NEWS I

BUSINESS NEWS

Kensington Close Health Club and Spa based at The Kensington Close Hotel has recently undergone refurbishment, providing one of the largest pools in Kensington at 18m. There is no joining fee and membership (for a limited period) is £80.00 pm. Facilities include spa and whirlpool, steam room & saunas, fully equipped gym, personal training, over 25 classes per week and beauty treatments by Elemis. To find out more call 020 7368 4005.

Sarah Perry is a locally based British Designer. She specialises in Trompe Loeil, Fresco and Mural painting. Sarah has designed decorative artworks for clients including internationally renowned museums and exclusive brands as well as private clients from Rock to Royalty. See page 5 2013 marks the launch of her online presence at www.sarahperrylondon.com.

Bill's Restaurant has just opened on Kensington High Street at the entrance to the tube. This huge space, with upstairs seating, is decorated with homely furniture, booths and wide tables. With a menu ranging from breakfasts, salads, burgers, afternoon tea and specials like their duck pie, all within a very reasonable price range – Bill's is a great place for a business or family lunch. Check their website for further details about their Christmas menu www.bills-website.co.uk

The Oyster Bar on the ground floor of Bibendum has reopened following a redesign by founding partner Sir Terence Conran and Richard Doone of Paramount Architects, formerly of Conran & Partners. The relaunch will usher in a new all-day menu from Head Chef Matthew Harris and co-owner Simon Hopkinson, as well as the introduction of the Oyster Bar's first-ever breakfast menu.

The newly opened **Double Tree** by Hilton London - Hyde Park celebrated with an official launch party, following its £10 million refurbishment. The hotel is ideally located opposite Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens and offers a relaxed city retreat with a focus on style and contemporary comfort.

Recently re-launched **Knightsbridge Golf School** - based in converted badminton courts below a row of townhouses next to Harvey Nichols - helps more than 400 aspiring students a year and is now offering with a new membership scheme for £750 a year. www.knightsbridgегolfschool.com

Sima Fe', a beauty health clinic has opened at 101B Kensington Church St. and offers Pressure Therapy, Caci facial/body, waxing and eye care with options for treatment of six month courses. 020 7792 8730

GENERAL NEWS

Kensington Palace and The Kensington Magazine co-hosted an 'Historic' Meet your Neighbour event, which gave 50 residents a unique opportunity to mix and mingle, chat over wine and canapes and have the quickest, most informative history lesson ever given (credit must go to guides David and Gemma who between them could apply for Mastermind in their specialist subject - Speed History).

Given access to various rooms and chambers including The King's Gallery we learnt the histories and personal lives of all the inhabitants of the Palace, peppered with anecdotes. For example did you appreciate the difficulty Queen Victoire's parents had in naming her? Do you have any idea what the prestigious role of 'Gentleman of the Stool' was? (Think Horrible Histories). There was something rather magical about looking out onto Kensington Gardens, past Queen Victoria's statue to the Round Pond on a beautiful Autumnal night. The whole evening as a wonderful experience. (For a fuller account please see www.blog.thekensingtonmagazine.com)

Recently, a group of volunteers from **National Grid's flagship London Power Tunnels project** took time out from their busy schedule to help tidy up Brompton Cemetery. They pulled up weeds and cut back hedges at the cemetery under the direction of members of the Friends of Brompton Cemetery. The cemetery is thought to contain over 205,000 graves and has some 35,000 monuments.

KENSINGTON NEWS II

The new **Ecology Centre** in Holland Park is now open. It is home to animals such as Theo the royal python, two leopard geckos and a number of tiger hissing cockroaches, and will help children and adults learn more about their environment. www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology

The English Touring Opera began its season of baroque Venetian opera at the Britten Theatre with an amazing Coronation of Poppea by composer Monteverdi. Within a convincing Industrial Russia set made of moving wood panels and a metal balcony, the cast gave a powerful performance of the 15th century drama. Notably, the spectacular stage presence of tyrannical Nero played by Helen Sherman. Watch out for more performances in February.

The latest exhibition at the **V&A** entitled **“Tomorrow”** engages with the audiences imagination and intrigue. Contemporary artists Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset have created a major site-specific installation in the former Textile Galleries depicting the apartment of a fictional architect. The exhibition includes a booklet with a hypothetical printed script to go along with the cinematographic scenery.

“Where is My Mask of an Honest Man?” by author Laura Del-Rivo was released at Book & Kitchen. A powerful collection of short stories set in and around Notting Hill ranging from tales about an untrustworthy and fervent descendant of a tribe of lying prophets and psychotic visionaries, to 78-year-old writer, who develops a severe crush on her 38-year-old landlord, a somewhat devious trader.

“Petal Performance: The Art and Economics of Floral Design” by award-winning, floral designer Elizabeth Marsh includes stunning photography and case studies from top-end hotels, restaurants and businesses. It offers fascinating insights into professional floral design and explores the effects that flowers have on our health and wellbeing. Recommended for any coffee table.



An example of an exhibit at the **‘Today we reboot the planet’** exhibition
(Image: Lucy Elliott)

The Serpentine Sackler Gallery opened last month. This modern building designed by Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate Zaha Hadid, gives new life to The Magazine, a former 1805 gunpowder store, located five minute walk from the Serpentine Gallery. The gallery contains a restaurant and bar called The Magazine, as well as a gift shop and social space all ranging across 900 metres, surrounded by Kensington Gardens greenery. The current exhibition **‘Today we reboot the planet’** by Adrian Villar Rojas explores a world of post-apocalyptic ruins and future fossils. Well worth visiting but the exhibition finishes on 10th November - it has to, since the exhibits will have literally crumbled away!

At the home of Sir Vernon and Lady Ellis, **Introducing Music**, a series of courses on the development of Western Classical music from the 12th century to today has launched successfully. In the second course, Karl Luttmayer provided a morning filled with engaging rhetoric and vivid musical examples of Baroque inventions, while exploring the historical and social context of this musical period. To demonstrate, Joo Yeon Sir brought to life the music of J.S. Bach with her rich tone and thoughtful interpretations in her violin performance. Profits raised from these courses go to the Royal College of Music Scholarship Fund and the Vernon Ellis Foundation to support young musicians. (Review by Corinne Larzul)

KENSINGTON NEWS III

Congratulations to **Blanche Girouard** who has just published a wonderful social anthropological account of well known faces in Portobello Road. '**Portobello Voices**' is an important book for the history of our area. To purchase see www.thehistorypress.co.uk

Renowned Knightsbridge seafood restaurant **Outlaw's** at the Capital has received its first Michelin Star upon its one year anniversary and is one of only two seafood restaurants to have received this prestigious award. The chef, Nathan Outlaw, had previously received two Michelin Stars at Restaurant Nathan Outlaw in Cornwall and was the mastermind behind the London opening.

The National Army Museum is currently showing a special exhibition on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) until the 31st of March (free entry). The display focuses on the impact of these homemade bombs, and more specifically on the British Army's experience with them in Afghanistan. This immersive exhibition tells the stories of the men and women who search for, destroy and live with the threat of IEDs. Through personal interviews, images and mementoes, 'Unseen Enemy' captures the courage and camaraderie of the service personnel who come into daily contact with these deadly devices. Visit www.nam.ac.uk/microsites/unseen-enemy for soldiers' stories, a history of the weapon, a promotional video and more information.

On behalf of the **Whitely Fund for Nature** held at the Royal Geographical Society in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, **Alastair Fothergill** (Wildlife Film Producer) and **David Attenborough** engaged in light hearted banter about their experiences of working together over some 30 years on some of the greatest natural history programmes ever shown, including Planet Earth and Frozen Planet.

Although lasting only an hour 'in conversation', it was filled with anecdotes and film clips, whilst the 700 strong audience audibly held their breath. Scenes of destruction: chimpanzees (showing distinctly humanistic tendencies to team work) hunting down monkeys to feast upon; weeds

choking their host for energy and food to dominate foliage; and fish with scarily enormous teeth – all filmed so cinematically and with such dramatic accompanying music one realised where Dr Who producers had taken their inspiration. Children and adults alike sat transfixed.



Alastair Fothergill and Sir David Attenborough
'in conversation' at the
Royal Geographical Society
(Image by kind courtesy Whitely Fund
for Nature)

The event was held to raise funds and awareness for the Whitely Fund for Nature, a small NGO which supports local experts in the conservation of wildlife across the globe. Many recipients of past awards have now become experts in their respective fields. Lady Catherine Faulkes, a Trustee, spoke of one finalist who several years ago was awarded funding for the rarely seen Snow Leopard. He is now the world's expert on this subject, despite having only seen a Snow Leopard three times in his life (and to boot, the same one!) This was an excellently presented, engaging and natural 'conversation', which in years to come will no doubt inspire a new generation of Attenboroughs, Fothergill's or even Dr Who producers. A real treat.

And lastly, if you are looking for an original **Christmas Gift** this year, why not help a small business or your favorite charity by purchasing them an advert in this magazine? Readership is 34,500 so it's guaranteed to be seen by many of our local residents - and it will surely be the most original present they receive! Call 0203 667 8762 or email info@thekensingtonmagazine.com



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'Here I Lie'

A Remembrance Poem

By Cora Browne-Clayton (Aged 11)

Here I lie,
Floating in a bright red uniform,
With my green uniform and tie.

In my black beady eyes,
You may see my past,
All the horror despite the blue skies.

Young as they are,
They walk in the trenches,
They keep watch on Jerry as Jerry watches over us.

When the word is shouted they jump up,
Climb the fences,
And hurtle forward into a wall of bullets.

Gas filters down,
Placing my mask on, I watched, paralysed as a green sea enveloped him he began to drown,
I stared on at this helpless man, suffocating.

Now I lie in no man's land,
Motionless,
For I am a poppy, I lie here now, but before this,
I used to stand proud.





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Local residents share their childhood wartime memories



We would like to thank Alan Jones of the Rainbow Poetry Group for allowing us to visit and meet local residents to hear their stories. This gives a rare perspective of what it was like through the eyes of children at the time of the Second World War.

“As a child, I was too young to remember or understand that much. I missed chocolate the most as it was on ration. My grandfather used to give me his ration. One day I got into the most fearsome trouble as I placed my chocolate on top of my gas mask, which was on the radiator. When we had practice and I went out to get my gas mask, it had melted chocolate all over it, so it wouldn't work. One evening I answered the telephone to be told that Uncle Arthur's parachute had not opened. I was too young to realise the ghastly significance when I relayed this news about their only son to my grandparents. We lived in Hertfordshire and when we had some evacuees to stay, I couldn't believe they were unable to tell the difference between a cow and a horse. They couldn't believe that I had never been to the cinema, or didn't know what an escalator was”.

Aisle Corbell, W8

“One early evening, I was about 15 and at home with my mother and brother. We heard the sirens and my mother told my brother to run to the vestry, where my father was head choir master. She told him to divide the children into two groups and leave the church as quickly as

possible. Her father, brother and the children just left the church in time, before it was bombed.”

Betty Griffiths, W8

“When I was about 10 years old, I was evacuated to a boarding school on the Isle of Man from 1943 to 1947. Then I joined the Army on National Service. I remember the bombing at school. It was a bit embarrassing really, as my father didn't like the gas masks, he thought that we should have tin hats instead”

David Jones, SW5

“I was only 8 years old and too young to know anything about it, but I do remember welcoming the air sirens as once we got to the shelters we were read stories, or we sang. I lived in Bournemouth at the time. It left very little impression and little knowledge of what was going on. I feel terrible to have lived through a war and yet have known so little about it. This is why now I want to know as much as I can.”

Gabrielle Joyce, W5

We had air raid shelters in our back garden and we had to train for air raids at school. We were told to get under the desk and put our fingers in our ears. I was eight at the time and I lived in Adelaide in Australia during the War. There was a big German community in Rosa Valley. People had to change their names from Schmidt to Smith and Müller to Miller.”

Mary Leonard, W11

We would like to thank Raphaella Thomas for her illustration



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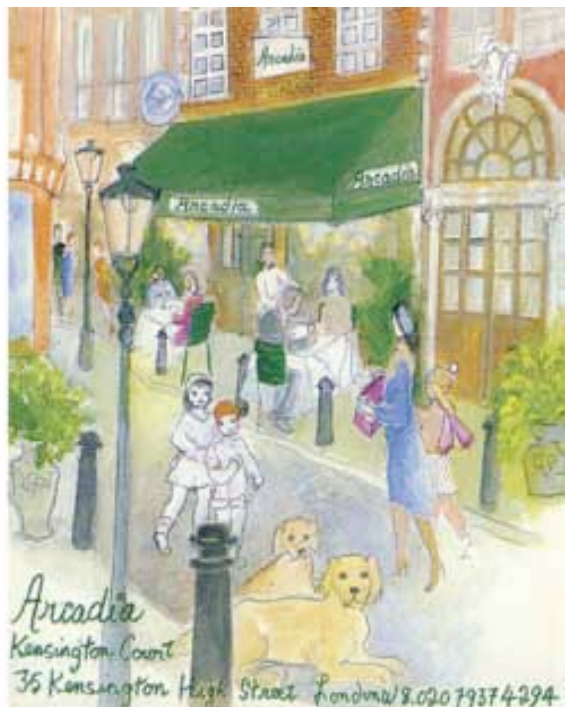
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LANDSCAPE AND HORTICULTURE by Benedict Bull

Amaryllis

I was recently asked for planting advice on Amaryllis, and as we are now in the middle of the traditional Amaryllis planting period, which runs from now until the end of April, here it is.

Their flowering period is December until the end of June, and their average duration is reckoned at 7-10 weeks or 8 weeks after planting. The colour of these flowers is second to none. Here are the stages to follow for producing good results.

Preparation for Planting:

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature around 4 degrees Celsius.

Planting:

Plant bulbs in a nutritious potting compost. Plant each bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.

Plant the bulb, or place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 21 degrees Celsius. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop only after the stem has reached full growth.

Flowering Period:

Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting schedule between October and April with this in mind. To achieve continuous bloom, one can plant in sets at intervals of 2 weeks for a stunning display of colour.



Amaryllis
(Image: Lucy Elliott)

After-Bloom Care:

After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development:

Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the autumn, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage:

Clean the bulb and place it in a cool, dark place such as the fridge for a minimum of 6 weeks. Caution: Do not store amaryllis bulbs in a fridge that contains apples, this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Planting:

After 6 weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom.

GET WELL SPOON



November

Feeling run down

This sweet, filling, unctuous soup will booster the spirits after a blustery walk around the Serpentine. Sweet or Spanish chestnuts can be found in Kensington Gardens as the Autumn turns. They are not conkers, but the nuts are surrounded by a very spiky shell. Cook them either by roasting, (prick shells first), or boiling. Store them in the fridge. Use quickly as they don't last long.

Chestnut & Chorizo Soup

125g sliced chorizo
1 chopped onion
4 garlic cloves
1 stick of chopped celery
1 peeled and chopped carrot
3 peeled and chopped parsnips
1 peeled and chopped sweet potato
Quarter teaspoon dried chilli
1 teaspoon ground cumin
200g chopped chestnuts
1 litre stock (meat or vegetable)
Salt and Pepper to season
Fresh parsley (optional)

Slowly, on a low heat, sweat off the sliced chorizo in a pan, letting the oils ooze out. When crispy, remove the chorizo from the pan, leaving as much oil as possible. Add all the vegetables to the pan and slowly cook until soft and yielding. Add the spices, chestnuts and stock and cook for 30 minutes. Then transfer to a blender, whiz until smooth.

Serve with the sliced chorizo on top and a smattering of fresh parsley if you wish. Delicious with a chunk of bread.



Illustration: Aletta Ritchie Text: Victoria Kell

A nutritional powerhouse, chestnuts are relatively low in calories, but are packed with minerals: Iron, Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium, Manganese, Phosphorus and Zinc. Potassium helps to lower heart rate and blood pressure, Iron helps to prevent tiredness, while Magnesium and Phosphorus are important for bone health.

They are rich in Vitamin C to fight off the chills and B vitamins that are important for brain health and energy. They also contain the healthier mono-unsaturated fats, (thought to lower bad cholesterol and enhance good cholesterol), phytonutrients and high quality proteins.

Restaurant Review by Ffiona

Cambio de Tercio

I first visited Cambio de Tercio in 1995, not long after it had opened in Earl's Court. Since then, one restaurant has grown into a group of five. If you feel like tapas or paella, there is Tendido Cuatro or Tendido Cero, to sample hams and sherries try Capote y Torros or for a crisp G&T go to C.Tonic. If, however, you want a full-on dining experience then the group's restaurant, Cambio de Tercio, is the answer.

This is a busy, elegant restaurant offering traditional dishes from a variety of Spain's regions together with a number of more modern ideas to intrigue its customers.

On entering, a formal note is struck by the rich reds and oranges of the décor which immediately bring to mind flamenco dancers and the plentiful orange groves of Seville. It makes a clear statement that this is a cut above a regular tapas bar, this is for serious dining. This statement of intent is reflected in choice of menus available: à la carte, tasting, vegetarian tasting, desserts and sweet wines, set menus and party menus of varying prices. I always opt for the à la carte for one very good reason, namely that it has listed on it the most heavenly dish in town, suckling pig, to which I will return later.

There are three main sections to consider: traditional tapas, the chef's signature tapas and the main courses. Of the tapas, my recommendations include the grilled lamb cutlets with thyme and garlic piquillo peppers or the flame grilled Galician octopus with paprika oil and potato parmentier. Both dishes are well executed and full of flavour. From the chef's specials, the dish that stands out is the ox tail caramelised in red wine, with apple and lemon-thyme air. The tartness of the apples is a good foil to the rich meat and the lemon thyme adds a novel element to the dish.

For the main course Cambio offers a mixture of Spanish and British sourced choices.. There is Cornish wild turbot and Scottish red grouse



Interior of Cambio de Tercio
(www.cambiodetercio.co.uk)

alongside Rabo de toro, pluma Iberica and roasted suckling pig from Salamanca. This latter dish is the one for me. It is roasted to perfect crispyness leaving the meat inside tender and infused with fat; served with pumpkin and purple potatoes and the wonderful juices from the meat, it is a triumph.

For dessert there is a creamy manchego cheesecake or a refreshing selection of "cocktail" ice creams (mojito, cosmopolitan and G&T). The white chocolate ganache with passion fruit, pistachio and ginger ice cream is as good as it sounds.

This was a welcome addition to London's Spanish restaurants in 1995 and has maintained the standards it set almost 20 years ago.

Cambio de Tercio
163 Old Brompton Road, SW5 0LJ
www.cambiodetercio.co.uk
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Editor's Note: We would like to congratulate Ffiona and her team who celebrated the restaurant's 20th Anniversary in Kensington last month.
www.ffionas.com

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BOOK REVIEW by Elizabeth Reid

The Ghost of Munich

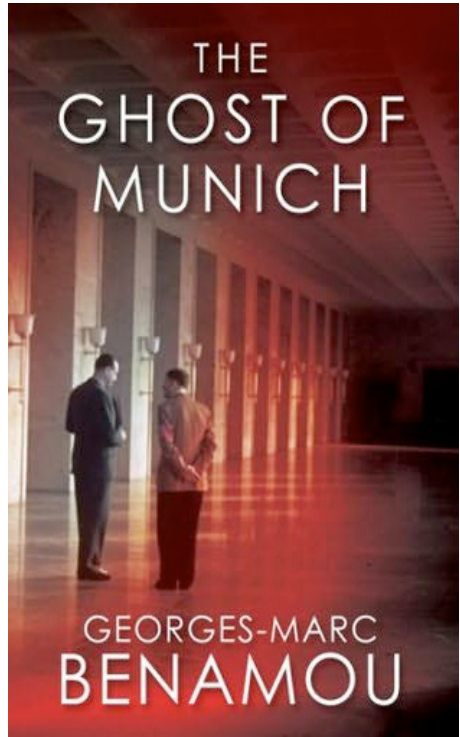
By Georges-Marc Benamou (Quercus Fiction £7.99)

Sometimes it is necessary to go back to basics to understand events of the past. The history of WWII is no exception. The temptation is to think of it as Hitler's war: it was his fault, he started it and the rest of Europe had to react. Of course, it was France and Britain that declared war on Germany. However, was there ever a moment when this conflict might have been averted by diplomatic means? This is the thought that the author explores in this novel, which deals with the events before and during the Munich Conference of 1938. Benamou takes as his narrator the French Premier, Edouard Deladier, the "Ghost" referred to in the title.

Hitler was determined to reverse the terminal decline that the conditions of the Versailles Settlement of 1919, imposed on Germany. He began his policy of reversal and aggrandisement gently. In 1936 he re-occupied the Rhineland and then in 1938 he annexed Austria; the new Reich was growing bigger and stronger. Next Hitler trained his sights on Czechoslovakia. It was at this point that the outside world became more than nervous as the scale of Hitler's ambitions became apparent.

Czechoslovakia was the flashpoint. It might just be possible to rationalize the occupations of the Rhineland and of Austria, but Hitler had to struggle to find a plausible reason for his latest excursion. The pretext he used of "repatriating" the large German minority living in the Sudetenland, was a flimsy one, but the outside world knew that he would not hesitate to fulfil further land-grabs if left unchecked. The Munich Conference, convened in September 1938, was an attempt to prevent the outbreak of another global conflict to halt these ambitions.

Of the four parties attending the Conference (Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Deladier) it was the French Premier, Edouard Deladier, who bore the heaviest burden. France had been an active supporter of the young Czech state offering political and military help in its formative years. Now, it was being asked to sanction a transfer of



sovereignty to Germany of the Sudetenland in the hopes that this would assuage Hitler's thirst for power.

The French people, like the British, had no stomach for a new conflict and Deladier knew that he was expected to take back to France the promise of peace. On the other hand, as Hitler had not invited any representatives from Czechoslovakia, Deladier was also aware that his ally was expecting him to protect their rights as well. Benamou examines with infinite care the internal battle fought by Deladier in his attempts to square the circle. Although the outcome of the Conference is part of history, the joy of this book is that it suspends the reader's belief whilst the negotiations take place. An original and engaging look at our recent history.



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SCIENCE BITES: A “Nobel’ Transport System

By Dr Alex Anderson

Have you ever wondered how vital processes like the release of hormones or chemical signaling in the brain, are controlled?

This year the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to three scientists for work in this area. James Rothman (Yale University), Randy Schekman (University of California, Berkeley) and Thomas Südhof (Stanford University) were awarded the prize jointly “for their discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in our cells”.

In more simple terms, this work has helped us understand how molecules in cells are directed to the right place at the right moment. Our bodies are made of many types of cells, which like factories make products that need to be packaged, shipped and delivered.

These products, such as the hormone insulin, are packaged into vesicles, which are membrane enclosed bubble-like structures, before being shipped to their destination inside or outside the cell. Randy Schekman used yeast as a simple system to try to understand this process and identified several types of genes involved. James Rothman found specific combinations of proteins on the vesicle and its destination site act together like a zipper to make sure that delivery occurs at the right place.

Thomas Südhof’s work looked at how nerve cells release the chemical messengers of the brain (neurotransmitters) at exactly the right time. The importance of this precisely controlled transport system is shown by the problems that occur when its goes wrong, including diabetes, and disorders of the nervous system.

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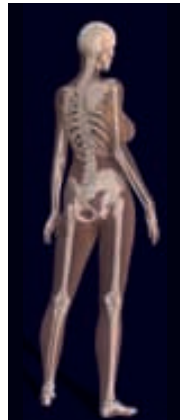
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

3.6 million year wait to find the right shoes!

Mary Leakey's Lucky discovery of fossilized footprints in Tanzania highlighted a time when early man had just started to walk. The discovery paints a poignant picture of a family walking through volcanic ash away from a dangerous eruption. Our evolution shows that our ability to walk certainly doesn't help with the mental anguish of trying to find boots to fit my bunion encrusted Neanderthal feet.

My own lucky discovery was finding Altimus (the outdoor shop on Kensington High Street). My impending Duke Of Edinburgh expedition encouraged me to visit Altimus because they give expedition discount. However after being served by Nicky (their in house podiatrist), I had not only saved money on my kit, but had a free bio mechanical assessment on my lower limbs. Nicky determined underlying cause of my planter fasciitis and knee pain and consequently recommend shoes that would help my condition. Although the recommended shoes are encouraging me to walk straighter with less pain, I

wouldn't wear them to the theatre, so until Altimus start selling sexy shoes with killer heels. I think there will still be a space in my wardrobe for my Christian Louboutin's.



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www.vam.ac.uk Victoria & Albert Museum

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'THE GREAT ESCAPE' – A BORROWERS TALE

Until 3rd November, 3.00pm, 7.00pm, £12, £9 concessions

Calling all explorers aged 6-11 for a top-secret mission! Leading children on a fully supervised adventure in a quest to find Bob the Borrower. They will discover tiny clues and escape the evil clutches of the KBD movement (Keep Borrower's Down) along the way. Battersea Arts Centre.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD AT THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE

3rd – 22nd November, 7.30pm.

Matinees on Tuesdays at 12.30pm, £15,

£10 concessions Commemorating the 50th

anniversary of the assassination of JFK,

Lee Harvey Oswald - 'A Far Mean Streak of

Independence Brought on by Neglect' by

Michael Hastings is a play recounting his

troubled life through the eyes of his wife and

mother and extracts of the police file. Limited

season only. www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

PEOPLE'S QUESTION TIME

5th November, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Question the Mayor and London Assembly about their current plans, priorities and policies. This special event happens just twice a year. Topics include: Growing London's economy, housing, transport, policing and community safety. Kit Malthouse will chair the event.

Tickets <http://www.london.gov.uk/get-involved/events/people-s-question-time-kensington-and-chelsea> Venue: Imperial College

ETHEL WALKER EXHIBITION

5th – 22nd November

A solo show of new work by the famous Ethel Walker – bringing the amazing Scottish sea and sky scapes to London. 020 7937 5883 www.thackeraygallery.com Thackeray Gallery

WONDERLAND DINNER AT THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

6th November

The evening will feature a three course dinner designed by Giorgio Locatelli; cocktails designed by Tony Conigliaro; a special surprise by Jelly Mengers, Bompas and Parr, and live music. In collaboration with Borne, our goal is to prevent disability and death in childbirth and create lifelong health for mothers and babies.
www.borne.org.uk 020 8704 4141.

14TH ANNUAL EATON SQUARE CONCERT

7th November, 7:30pm.

The concert, sponsored by Duncan Lawrie

Private Bank, will feature the Trusler Carroll

Wass Trio. 0203 642 3148 St Peter's Church SW1

RAINBOW POETRY RECITAL 7 Nov 15.30 FREE

The topic is Helaire Belloc of Cautionary Verses fame. Venue: St Mary Abbots.

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND KENSINGTON

JONATHAN AITKEN TALKS AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE

7th November, 7pm-8pm, £30 including a copy of Margaret Thatcher: Power And Personality or £12 without the book. Jonathan Aitken, friend and confidant of Margaret Thatcher for forty years, discusses his new biography of the Iron Lady. A fascinating evening exploring the crucial impact Margaret Thatcher had on the lives of the British people. Faraday Theatre, The Royal Institution.

PIANO RECITAL AND REFRESHMENTS

8th November, 12 noon - 1pm, FREE
Piano recital featuring Lenart Speer, a young musician who has studied at the Musikhochschule Muenchen, Munich and also with Peter Feuchtwanger. The programme includes pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. 0121 838 1920 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 64-68 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road.

HANDMADE IN BRITAIN 13: THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS & DESIGN FAIR

8th – 10th November, £5 online/£7 on the door
Featuring over 100 designer-makers, the show is a very special opportunity to purchase or commission bespoke, handmade pieces of exceptional quality directly from the maker – just in time for Christmas.
0207 286 5110 www.handmadebritain.co.uk/chelsea-13 Chelsea Old Town Hall

CHRISTMAS AT DUKE OF YORK SQUARE 2013

9th November – 24th December, FREE
Chelsea is opening Santa's Grotto from 6pm, 9th November, until Christmas Eve. Book online from 1st October. Their Christmas lights will be switched on by one lucky child at 5.15pm, 9th November. Please visit the website for more details. www.dukeofyorksquare.com

VICTORIA MAKIN LUXURY FASHION ACCESSORIES POP UP SHOP AT THE MILESTONE HOTEL

Saturday 9th November and Sunday 10th November 10-6pm Meet the designer herself and see her beautiful handbags and purses.
1 Kensington Court Victoria@victoriamakim.com or www.victoriamakim.com

REMEMBRANCE DAY - ST MARY ABBOTS

11th November, 10.55am
The Service will start at the memorial at 10.55 followed by the Two Minute Silence at 11.00 a.m. while wreaths will be laid. When the Act of Remembrance concludes, the Mayor and civic leaders, with representatives of the armed forces, old comrades associations and other local organisations will move into St Mary Abbots Church for a Service of Remembrance.

DIVAS & SCHOLARS – OPERA STUDY DAYS

PUCCINI at THE CADOGAN HALL
12th November, 9.30am-4.20pm, £195 (lunch included)
Opera connoisseurship day in association with leading British conservatoire, Royal Northern College of Music. Featuring eminent lecturers, opera singers and a live performance. For tickets lucy.woodruff@mastercompany.co.uk 07880 640 863 www.masterclasscompany.co.uk

WANDSWORTH FRIENDS CHRISTMAS FAIR

13th November, 9.00am – 2.30pm, £5
Head to the Wandsworth Friends Christmas Fair and help support Trinity Hospice. The event is being held at Battersea Arts Centre and is a chance to buy items from 50 stalls selling toys, books, clothes, jewellery, food and more. trinityhospicechristmasfair.org
Battersea Arts Centre

KENSINGTON MUMS SECOND BIRTHDAY DINNER

14th November Kensington Mums invites you to celebrate its second birthday. Join them over dinner and drinks at a surprise location and meet local Mums and Dads in the community. To attend please send an email with subject heading 'Happy Birthday' to be sent more information. info@kidsinchelsea.com www.kidsinchelsea.com

FEROZKOH: TRADITIONAL ARTS FROM A CONTEMPORARY AFGHANISTAN

15th November – 23rd February, 11.00am - 5.30pm (closed Tuesdays), £5 free return entry for 12 months A Museum of Islamic Art exhibition at Leighton House Museum, part of Qatar UK 2013 Year of Culture and the Nour Festival. 020 7602 3316 12 Holland Park Road London W11

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND KENSINGTON

RING IN THE SEASON AT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONDON'S BOUTIQUE DE NOEL CHRISTMAS MARKET at KENSINGTON TOWN HALL

15th November Premier Shopping Evening, £35, including 2 drink tickets, canapés, and re-entry
Saturday 16 November Shopping Day, £5 each, children enter FREE Tickets available at www.jll.org.uk/bdn

LEADING MILLINERS SHOWCASE LATEST COLLECTIONS 18th – 28th November, private view and meet the milliners 21st November, 6.30pm

Unique exhibition, 'Crowns' brings together some extraordinary work and latest designs of leading milliners including Gina Foster. 020 7573 37600 www.kcc.ac.uk Kensington and Chelsea College, Chelsea Centre, Hortensia Road, SW10

THE FIRST WORLD WAR 19th November, 7pm, £5/£3 Sir Max Hastings talks about the origins and early campaigns of the First World War. He will discuss how inevitable, or avoidable, the Great War was. Was our going to war a mistake, or was it one of our finest hours? 020 7361 3010 email libraries@rbkc.gov.uk
Venue: Kensington Central Library

ART FOR YOUTH LONDON 2013 @ RCA
Thursday 21st November 11.00 - 15.00 FREE
18.00 - 21.00 Drinks & Music £15.00 on door
Highly popular exhibition providing quality artwork at affordable prices. Over 1,000 works of art valued from £200 to £5000 from approximately 140 artists; oils, watercolours, ceramics, sculpture, photographs and jewellery.

TRINITY'S MAGNOLIA DINNER & QUIZ
21st November, £1,500 for a table of ten
Join Trinity Hospice for their inaugural Magnolia Dinner & Quiz at the prestigious Mall Galleries. The evening will be hosted by broadcaster Huw Edwards and include a drinks reception, 3 course meal, auction and quiz. Call 020 7787 1022 or visit trinityhospice.org.uk/magnoliadinner

KENSINGTON PHILHARMONIC AUTUMN CONCERT 24th November, 7.30pm, £12, children under 18 £2 Works by Strauss,

Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky. Tickets available at the door or at www.kpo.org.uk
Venue: Chelsea Old Town Hall

PERILOUS QUESTION: THE GREAT REFORM BILL OF 1832

25th November, 7pm, £5/£3
Antonia Fraser discusses the human and political drama of the events surrounding the Reform Bill of 1832. How close did the country come to revolution? 020 7361 3010
libraries@rbkc.gov.uk Kensington Central Library

RELAXED PERFORMANCE OF MAMMA MIA! 26th November, 6pm, Stalls and Dress Circle: Adults £20 Child £10, Grand Circle: Adult £10 Child £5, Balcony: Adult £5 Child £2.50

Relaxed performances are designed to provide an opportunity for people with autism, learning difficulties or other sensory and communication requiring a more relaxed environment. Excellent event for families with children with special needs. For tickets, applicants need to be referred by one of Mousetrap Theatre Projects' Partners Organisations. Venue: Novella Theatre

TALES AT TWILIGHT @ BARKSTONE GARDENS 27th – 30th November, 4.30-8.00pm, £5 children 12 and under, £10 adults

Children will be led through the enchanted Gardens down a lit path, stopping at trees where a famous actor will tell a recorded story. Then they can post their Christmas wishes in a special postbox. Meanwhile adults find mulled wine and hot chocolate at the Indigo Hotel if they do not wish to accompany their children. Tickets must be pre-booked at www.takesattwilight.co.uk

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN CHRISTMAS FAIR 30th November – 1st December, Adults £5. Friends and under 16s FREE

Take this opportunity to visit London's oldest botanic garden in winter and browse and buy exclusively selected products and gifts and enjoy scrumptious festive food and drink. 020 7352 5646 www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk
Venue: Chelsea Physic Garden

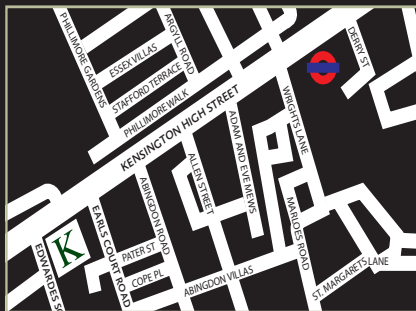
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