

ENQUIRER

Kensington & Chelsea

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N News

Council home residents to receive discounted energy bills



Council home residents using gas powered communal heating systems are set to receive discounted energy bills after negotiations between RBKC Council and energy providers. The negotiations with the energy providers come after discussions with residents and residents' associations after the increase to heating and hot water charges were announced in the council's charge notification back in March.

The reduction in commercial gas prices paid to energy providers will be passed directly to residents, the council said. An average reduction of five percent against the charges is expected and the council will write to residents to confirm the details.

Based on residents' feedback, the council will introduce two new grants. The warm home grant will offer up to £300 per household for tenants in homes with an energy performance certificate (EPC) rated D or below. Residents can discuss their eligibility by contacting their income officer or

housing officer. The tenancy sustainment grant will offer up to £300 per household for residents at risk of new or worsening debt and residents are advised to speak to their income officer to find out if they can apply.

The council has applied for the energy bills discount scheme, a government scheme that gives discounts to bills for people on communal heating systems. If approved, it could mean up to £500 per household for residents on communal heating systems. It would be applied to accounts in autumn 2023.

Finally, the council is also investing in its housing stock to improve its energy performance. "This will have long term benefits, both environmentally, and on residents' bills as it will lower the need for intense heating of homes," the council says. However, it adds that it means that the council will not be able to cap or subsidise energy prices below what can be negotiated with suppliers.

Around 348 illegal vapes have been seized by Kensington and Chelsea Trading standards officers on Portobello Road following intelligence by vigilante city wardens. During the raid, the team found the vapes with 2ml tank sizes and 3,500 puffs, far beyond the legal limit. Legal vapes would usually give 600 to 800 puffs with the 2ml tank size.

After further investigation, the officers discovered that the retail shop was selling them for £12 each, making a profit of around £2,700 with a total retail value of close to £4,000 "ripping off honest customers." Trading standards officers are now working with the business to ensure that the products are not sold.

This year around 1,100 illegal vapes have been seized, taking the figure up to around 4,000 since 2021, and the team is continuing to educate retailers and spread awareness.

You can report any suspected illegal products by sending an email to tradingstandards@rbkc.gov.uk.

There are various reasons that a vape may not be legal. If it is not approved by the medicine and healthcare products regulator MHR, has a tank above the 2ml legal limit and provides more than 600-800 puffs, too high nicotine strength (the legal limit is 2 percent) or if the nicotine contains additives or ingredients such as caffeine or taurine, and finally, if it has the wrong health warning.

Illegal vapes seized in Portobello Road



Football stars celebrate Chelsea and Westminster Hospital's 30th birthday

Some of the star players at Chelsea FC went to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital as it celebrates its 30th birthday. Staff and patients were surprised and delighted to see Mason Mount, Thiago Silva and Marc Cucurella as the England, Brazil, and Spain internationals handed out gifts including footballs, cushions, water bottles, and pens. The trio also presented the hospital with a Chelsea shirt signed by the whole first team squad and with the number 30 on the back to celebrate the milestone.

Four patients from the hospital joined the players and the rest of the squad for an exclusive visit to the training ground to see the footballers in action.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital began its celebration on the 25th May, holding a charity abseil down the side of the hospital with staff members to kickstart a fundraising campaign towards its goal to raise 30 million for the hospital charity CW+.

Hospital supporters Amanda Holden, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Richard Arnold, Abbie Quinnen and local club Fulham FC all sent video messages to mark the occasion.



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Enquirer founded in 2022 on the following principles.

- Committed to providing thought-provoking news & features.
- Delivering quality content
- Being a platform for nurturing trust and transparency within the media
- Cultivating the written and investigative talents of young journalist and interns.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The editorial team at EyeOnLondon strives to ensure all information printed is true and correct at the time of publication. If you notice a story has been printed with an error or omission, please contact us through our website and we will be happy to amend as appropriate.

N News

ULEZ scrappage scheme to be expanded



More Londoners can receive financial support ahead of the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) expansion in August. This comes after calls from parties including the Liberal Democrats who proposed that the scheme be doubled from £110 million to £220 million.

Now Mayor of London Sadiq Khan shared that the scrappage scheme will be increased to help a larger number of people. The expansion of ULEZ will see that all families on child benefits will be offered support along with small businesses with less than 50 employees.

The expansion will begin at the end of

July, meaning that over 870,000 families in the capital and over half a million in outer London will be able to access the scrappage scheme. The Mayor's office has said that the ULEZ scrappage scheme is "under ongoing review." The Mayor faces calls to reconsider the ULEZ scrappage scheme.

The expansion comes after calls to reconsider with some suggesting that the scrappage scheme could be doubled and reach a wider proportion. The Liberal Democrats proposed an amendment to the budget in February to do so by drawing money from City Hall's reserves.

Poor wage growth sees Londoners £50k worse off



Workers in London are a staggering £50,000 worse off since 2010 due to a "scandalous" poor wage growth according to an analysis from the Mayor of London.

Economists from the Greater London Authority (GLA) have for the first time analysed trends in pay in London and the UK from 2010 to 2022 and compared them to inflation rates over the same period. They found that an average London worker was losing out on thousands of pounds every year.

In April 2022, the annual salary for employees in London after accounting for inflation was £36,700. However, GLA findings reveal that if annual wage growth after 2010 had followed the same trend from the decade before, the pay would be £47,600, over £10,000 more or 20 percent above 2010 levels. This amounts to a loss of £50,000 since 2010.

As the country grapples with the cost of living crisis, the Mayor has called on the government to tackle poor wage growth.

Dear Enquirer subscribers,

We have exciting news to share about the future of our publication. Last month, we informed you about the launch of our new digital platform, EyeOnLondon. We are thrilled to announce that starting from August, Enquirer will be rebranding to become EyeOnLondon in print as well!

EyeOnLondon is a ground-breaking hyperlocal news hub that will revolutionise the way you stay informed about your neighbourhoods. Our goal is to provide you with the most comprehensive coverage of Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Wandsworth, and Richmond upon Thames & Merton, ensuring that you have access to the latest news and stories that matter most to you.

Having five distinct hyperlocal titles under the umbrella of EyeOnLondon means that you'll have even more focused and in-depth coverage of your area. From local news and events to recruitment, property listings, and modern classifieds, EyeOnLondon will cater to the specific needs of each neighbourhood, keeping you up-to-date with the latest information that matters to you.

Moreover, our dedication to supporting local businesses remains unwavering. Through our print & digital platforms, we will introduce new ways for businesses in each area to connect with their audience. EyeOnLondon will also form partnerships with larger businesses to foster community projects and strengthen local relationships, ensuring the growth and vibrancy of each neighbourhood.

We are immensely grateful for your support as part of our Enquirer community, and we invite you to embark on this exciting journey with us as we transition to EyeOnLondon. Please note that our website has now migrated to www.eyeonlondon.online, so be sure to bookmark it for easy access to all the hyperlocal news you need.

Thank you for being a part of our community. We look forward to continuing to bring you the best hyperlocal news about London on our new and improved EyeOnLondon platform.

Best regards,
The EyeOnLondon Team

Work needed to make London roads safer

Casualty statistics have been published revealing that, while progress has been made, the capital also has seen a return to near pre-pandemic levels of road deaths and serious injuries. "The devastating consequences for the families, friends and communities impacted by these deaths and life-changing injuries is immense and collective action is needed to achieve the Mayor's Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from London's streets by 2041," TfL says.

Transport for London (TfL) is working closely with London's boroughs, the police and other partners to carry out the work needed to achieve this goal.

Last year saw the lowest year on record for road fatalities, with 101 people killed on London roads, excluding 2020 and 2021 which were heavily affected by the

pandemic and lockdown. The overall number of people killed or seriously injured has reduced by 38 percent since 2005-09, with the number of children dropping to 63 percent lower than that period. "This is very positive and welcome progress, with London consistently outperforming the national average in this area," TfL adds.

Cyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists continue to be most at risk, making up to 80 percent of all people killed or seriously injured in 2022. While the number of cyclists killed has fallen by 58 percent, the number seriously injured has increased by 42 percent against the 2005-09 baseline. Over this time period, cycling journeys increased by 88 percent, suggesting that it has become safer overall, but there is a need for safer infrastructure, lower speeds, and initiatives such as Direct Vision Standards (DVS).



image©Fahad Redha

N News

PM blames Covid and Ukraine for lack of trade deal with US

The Prime Minister has blamed the pandemic as well as the war in Ukraine for creating a “changing situation” and preventing the government from striking a trade deal with the USA. During a visit to America, Rishi Sunak was asked if it was “a matter of fact” that the Conservatives have not met their 2019 manifesto ambition to strike a trade deal with Washington within the first three years of government.

“I think you have to look at the macro-economic situation,” he said. “It’s evolved since then and it’s important the economic partnerships evolved to deal with the opportunities and threats of today. If

you look at what’s happening now, we face more threats to our economic security. So it’s important that actually the UK and the US are talking about how we strengthen our resilience, working together, and improving the strength of our supply chains.”

The PM was pressed if this is still a “broken promise,” to which he replied that we have since “had a pandemic. We’ve had a war in Ukraine and that has changed the macroeconomic situation.”

He also pointed out that the UK has increased trade with America by 20% last year, pointing to the £14 billion investment into British jobs from the US.



England’s first super national reserve

Three years after the ‘knitting together’ of 3,400 hectares of priority habitat to make the country’s first ever ‘super’ National Nature Reserve (NNR) on the Purbeck Heaths in Dorset, the National Trust is working with reserve partners on an ambitious project to create 1,370 hectares of open ‘savannah’ for free ranging and grazing wildlife, as it would have been thousands of years ago.

The Purbeck Heaths super reserve is among the most biodiverse places in the UK and is home to thousands of species of wildlife including six native reptiles. The

National Trust, along with RSPB, Natural England and Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty all have ambitious plans to make it even more nature-rich, creating an open grazing site across half of the NNR where ponies, pigs, and cattle will roam freely to graze alongside deer, and help shape the landscape.

“Here they can browse and turn over the soil in ways that are already benefiting wildlife from birds such as nightjars to tiny plants such as yellow centaury, while the fence removal has made the area even more accessible to people,” National Trust says.



Record waiting time for patients in England

Waiting times for routine hospital treatments in England have hit record highs, official data has revealed. Figures by NHS England revealed that 7.4 million patients were queuing to begin hospital treatment by the end of April, up from 7.3 million in March, and as many as 2.2 million attended A&E in the last month, the third highest since records began.

Around 40 percent of patients were waiting for over 18 weeks to begin treatment against a target of 8 percent, while 371,111 patients were waiting for a year, a rise from 359,798 in April. 95,135 were waiting for over 65 weeks, a delay that the health service hopes to eradicate by next April.

Meanwhile, 11,477 patients have been waiting for over a year and a half to start treatment, up from 10,737 the previous month. This is despite the government pledging that nobody would be waiting longer than that by the start of April. In total, 523 patients were waiting for over two years for treatment.

The PM said that his “people’s priority” was cutting waiting lists ahead of the next general election and this data will put additional pressure. Health is believed to be a key battleground in the next election, scheduled in January 2025.



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THE BOTTOM LINE

When I started out on my own in 1991, I worried about everything but most of all sales. The concept of sales for accountants in those days was anathema. One senior partner asked me “what do you mean by this term sales?”

themselves by delivering a quality service.” We all put our hands up and he said, “You’re not really differentiating yourselves are you?”

We thought a quality service was knowing the latest accountancy treatments and

corner. In those days Chiswick Honda was a micro-brand and destination with a Costa coffee franchise in the reception. Anita, the girls and I went along to spec my Honda Blackbird.

I said to the salesman Steve Muff, “I’m a bit particular. I want a Garmin sat nav system fitted, a Scottoiler and Corbin Beetle Bags. And an extended warranty.”

“Has sir ever owned a Honda before? I suggest you give me 50 quid cash, which is my commission on the warranty. If your motorbike ever breaks down I will

won her second term in office.”

A neighbour did a high mileage on his Honda Deauville, after about 60,000 miles he was a bit clumsy and twisted the shock absorber pulling the bike onto the pavement. He said, “Taking it back to Chiswick Honda.” I saw him a few days later and said, “Hi Victor, all sorted at Chiswick Honda?”

“No,” he said, “funny thing. Rang Chiswick Honda, next thing these two blokes came over in plain overalls...”

My colleagues refer to me as an ACA, an accidental chartered accountant. If you’re a client of my firm, I am either managing

“Compensation usually financial for goods and services.” It was hard to keep a note of sarcasm out of my voice although we were to become friendly enough.

The doyen of sales and marketing training is Chris Frederiksen and in the early nineties his course “How to Build a Million Dollar Practice” was seminal and it still is. Two years later I said, “What’s next?” Frederiksen was a bit surprised to be taken so literally and asked if the clients were happy?

“Not even remotely. They’re leaving in droves. We’re not billing the basic gross recurring fees. Never mind the special work. But not to worry, we’re winning more clients than we’re losing.”

For £1,500, a bargain, he came in and stopped us selling. Chris taught us how to focus on delivering a quality service. That was the subliminal message. Marketing rule number one: “have a world class product.” And Frederiksen practised what he preached.

On the day of the course Frederiksen said to the thirty or so people in the room, “Hands up those who differentiate

a couple of fancy tax schemes.

Frederiksen’s survey said that most clients thought quality meant work done on time, within budget by the same person as last year (so we weren’t asking clients to train new staff at the client’s expense).

About ten years later, I earned the right to a new motorbike, and my wife Anita recommended Chiswick Honda. When I say my wife, she would describe me as her ex. You get the dynamic. Anita recommended Chiswick Honda because they made good coffee and she worked round

the

travel to wherever you are in the world and fix it. You’ll save 350 quid on the extended warranty and we’ll all be happy. What will actually happen is that two blokes will come out from Tokyo in

unbranded overalls, and having replaced whatever’s broken they’ll take the offending part away. They’ll say they’ll send you a bill and an explanation. Of course, you’ll never hear from them again. The last time a

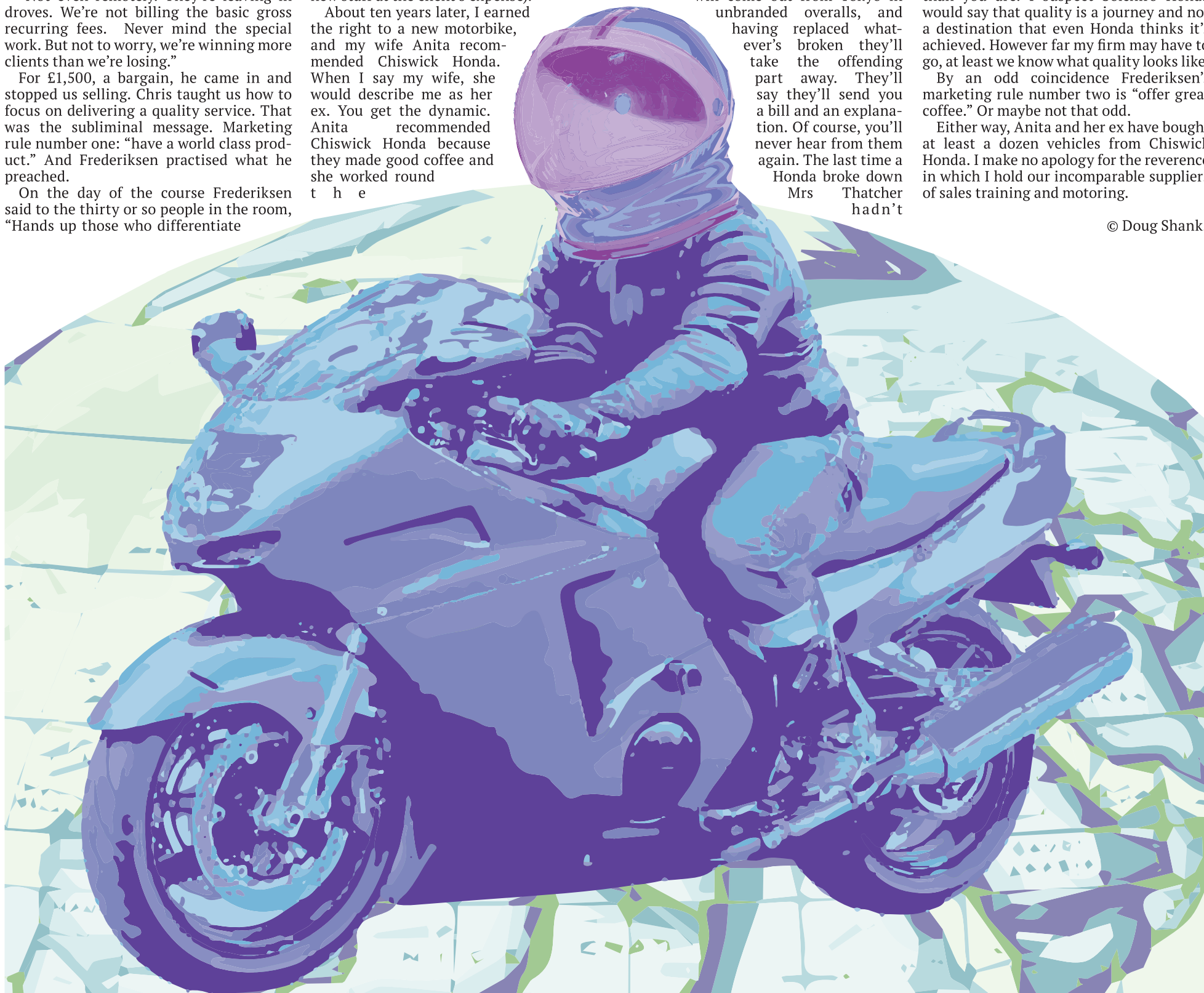
Honda broke down Mrs Thatcher hadn’t

the relationship on behalf of the experts within the organisation, or you’re facing a jail sentence. If I am leading on your case we are probably more worried about you than you are. I suspect Soichiro Honda would say that quality is a journey and not a destination that even Honda thinks it’s achieved. However far my firm may have to go, at least we know what quality looks like.

By an odd coincidence Frederiksen’s marketing rule number two is “offer great coffee.” Or maybe not that odd.

Either way, Anita and her ex have bought at least a dozen vehicles from Chiswick Honda. I make no apology for the reverence in which I hold our incomparable suppliers of sales training and motoring.

© Doug Shanks



Arts & Culture Supplement

London Arts Week Takes the Capital by Storm: Enquirer's Arts and Culture Supplement Presents an Extravaganza of Creativity and Expression. As the city's vibrant pulse quickens with anticipation, art aficionados, culture enthusiasts, and curious minds alike brace themselves for the immersive feast that is London Arts Week.

Partner Content

Early JMW Turner watercolour comes to market for first time with hopes of £50,000

Descendants of patron who commissioned it consign 1793-4 view of house in Finchley to Ewbank's

An early watercolour by JMW Turner RA (British, 1775-1851), consigned by the descendants of the patron for whom it was painted, comes to auction at Ewbank's in Surrey on June 22 estimated at £30,000-50,000.

Charles Monro's House at Finchley (1793-4), is a 22 x 29cm, signed, mounted and framed corner view of an imposing mansion set among trees. It depicts the home of the brother of Turner's patron Dr Thomas Monro (1759-1833), a serious collector who also supported Peter De Wint, Thomas Girtin and John Sell Cotman, among others, and established an academy and

what became known as The Monro Circle of artists.

Dr Monro rose to prominence, not just as a patron and art collector, but also as one-time consulting physician to King George III.

An amateur artist himself, three of his sons became artists.

The painting, whose subject was the home of his elder brother Charles, passed to Charles's son and namesake, before descending through the family to the current day. It was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1887, and in the Monro Academy Exhibition at the Victoria &

Albert Museum, 1976.

The house is identified by a signed inscription to the reverse of the artwork by his son, the younger Charles, reading: "Original drawing of my father's House Nether Street Finchley made for him about the year 1793 or 4. Charles Monro."

The reverse of the frame bears an inscription by Robert W. Monro, nephew of the younger Charles Monro and the son of Thomas Monro, dated 23rd July 1874 and alluding to the main inscription by Charles Monro to the reverse.

Partner Andrew Ewbank said: "This is a delightful painting packed with detail and



character, as well as demonstrating considerable draughtsmanship. Turner would have been about 18 when he painted it, and his assured hand in its composition makes this an important historical document in the story of the artist, as its inclusion in distinguished public exhibitions has shown."



Art Deco delicately carved gemstone Iris brooch
£2,500-£3,500



Joseph Mallord William Turner RA signed watercolour
£30,000-£50,000



19th century South German linden or lime wood chess set
£3,000-£5,000



Rackham, Arthur, 'The Peter Pan Folio', by J. M. Barrie
£2,000-£3,000



Cartier Tank Francaise ladies 18 ct white gold wristwatch
£5,000-£7,000



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£30,000-£50,000



Art Deco delicately carved gemstone Iris brooch
£2,500-£3,500



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Antiques & Art



The French artist, Marcel Duchamp appears to have been correct when he said: "Art is a habit-forming drug." The recently published Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report 2023 reveals that, despite the economy's volatility, the art market expanded last year. UK sales of art and antiques totalled an impressive £9.6 billion, that is up 5% on 2021.

Are you a devotee of art and antiques? If so, from 30th June to 7th July you *must* be in London. This is when **London Art Week (LAW)** takes place – a moment when real synergy takes place in the capital's art world. LAW was launched in 2013 as a platform to unite three already established events – *Master Drawings London*, *Master Drawings and Sculpture Week* and *Master Paintings Week*, and with the recent demise of several primary art and antique fairs, the 2023 event has taken on even more significance.

Offering paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture and objects from Antiquity to the 21st century, the event is staged primarily around St. James's, Mayfair, Pimlico, Kensington and Chelsea. It is such an impressive platform of the finest works the market has to offer, that I can do little more than beam the spotlight on a few highlights. Full details can be found at www.londonartweek.co.uk, where you can download a map created by the talented, London-based artist, Adam Dant (b. 1967).

An inspiring and appropriate starting point is **4 Cromwell Place**, South Kensington, SW7 2JE, for this was the former studio and palatial home of the prominent British society painter Sir John Lavery (1856-1941). It was here that Lavery and his second wife, the dazzling American-born, Hazel Martyn (1880-1935), entertained the likes of King George and Queen Mary. Today, behind its elegant façade, are 14 gallery spaces, across five, Grade II listed townhouses, resulting in an exciting art hub where all art devotees can collaborate and flourish. Among those showing here is **Finch & Co**, who normally

trade by appointment at their office in Old Brompton Road, but for LAW they take space at Cromwell Place to showcase items from their latest scholarly catalogue, together with ornithological watercolours by Sarah Stone (1760-1844), who is deemed the first English woman painter of animals to achieve professional recognition.

The ornithological theme continues at **Amir Mohtashemi**, 69 Kensington Church Street, W8 4BG, a leading dealer in Indian and Islamic art. He brings together a stunning collection of fine detailed watercolours of birds commissioned by Europeans in India, China and the Malay Peninsula. Produced during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, these highly decorative works are salient examples of Asian ornithological painting.

Many of the LAW events are, of course, taking place in the heart of prestigious St. James's, an area founded by permission of King Charles II and the home of St. James's Palace, which, dating to the 1530s, is still the 'Senior' royal palace. On Pall Mall, the fashionable portrait painter, Thomas Gainsborough, resided in a wing of Schomberg House from 1774 until his death in 1788 and at number 100 Pall Mall lived John Julius Angerstein (1735-1823), whose legendary collection of paintings later formed the kernel of the National Gallery's collection.

So, let's start with some light refreshment at The Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon, on the Fourth Floor of **Fortum & Mason**, 181 Piccadilly, W1A 1ER. Now we can begin our artistic adventure. Nearby is **The Weiss Gallery**, 59 Jermyn Street, SW1Y 6LX who,



Study of a Peacock, watercolour by Sarah Stone (1760-1844), Finch & Co

in their purpose-built gallery adorn their walls with an unequalled selection of historical portraits, including examples from the brush of Robert Peake (1551-1619), who, in 1607, was appointed court painter to King James I.

Next door is the equally impressive **Sladmore Gallery**, 57 Jermyn Street, SW1Y

6LX, who present *Forged, Carved and Cast – from earth to the artist's eye*. This illuminating display reveals how the material used informs the sculptural form. Although there are contemporary works by the likes of Nic Fiddian-Green (b. 1963), renowned for his beautiful replicas of horse's heads, and Mario Dilitz (b. 1973), celebrated for



Striding Mars, bronze by Giambologna (1529-1608), Stuart Lochhead Sculpture



Arts & Culture Supplement

his phenomenal wood carving of the human form, many will be intrigued by a plaster foundry model of *Portrait of Augustus Rodin* by the Russian Prince Paul Troubetzkoy (1866-1938). Created around 1906, it has always been a mystery as to why the bronze cast, which Troubetzkoy gave to Rodin, wasn't part of the Musée Rodin's collection. Research now reveals Rodin gifted the bronze to Paris-based American art advisor, Sara Tyson Hallowell.

Stuart Lochhead Sculpture, First Floor, 35 Bury Street, SW1Y 6AU, has works from antiquity to the 20th century and only acquires sculptures that possess three essential values: rarity, integrity and beauty. For LAW, Lochhead presents *The Alchemist's Laboratory: Giambologna's Forge in Florence*, featuring five bronze models by Giambologna (1529-1608), who is celebrated for his sophisticated modelling and differentiated surface finish. All are from an important private American collection and include the rare 'Hercules and the Centaur'.

Another sculptor is the focus at **Philip Mould & Company**, 18-19 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5LU. Despite having work in the National Portrait Gallery and the Tate Gallery, I sus-

9-foot female nude, cast in lead, made for the Hon. Bryan Guinness' garden at Biddesden House, Hampshire.

The French painter, Edgar Degas, said "No woman painter knows what style is." Wow, how erroneous is that! One of the greatest artistic injustices is that women artists have always been deemed inferior to their male counterparts. The evidence is overwhelming. For example, *The Story of Art* by E. H. Gombrich, published in 1950 is widely regarded as a seminal work but not a single female artist is mentioned and even in the 16th edition published in 2022, Gombrich only mentions one! However, recently there has been a significant focus on recontextualizing the work of female artists and bringing their contribution to the forefront. A dealership embracing this philosophy is **Stephen Ongpin Fine Art**, 82 Park Street, W1K 6NH, who from 30th June to 28th July presents *Beauty in Individualism: A Selection of Works by Women Artists of the 20th and 21st Centuries*. The eclectic display features drawings and watercolours by pioneering artists such as Gluck (1895-1978), who, as a gender-nonconformer, rejected any forename or prefix such as "Miss" or "Mr",



A Trid of Strength, oil on canvas, by Harold Harvey (1874-1941), David Messum Fine Art

"Art is a habit-forming drug"

pect very few have heard of the Hon. Stephen Tomlin (1901-1937), and yet he was the Bloomsbury's group's primary sculptor. With his disarming good looks and inexhaustible magnetism, the promiscuous Tomlin captivated his contemporaries and as a sculptor he immortalised the faces of Bloomsbury's best-known characters, including Duncan Grant, Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey, whose niece, Julia, Tomlin married in 1927. Although he exhibited at the 1931 National Society Exhibition, the London Artists' Association in 1934 and the London Group in 1924, 1926 and 1935, his work was never shown at the RA. However, he received a number of impressive commissions, including designing a wall bracket for flowers for the state cabins of the Queen Mary and a

Gillian Ayres, RA (1930-2018), Scottish illustrator Jessie Marion King (1875-1949), American abstract expressionist painter Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011) and Gwen John (1876-1939), who is, until 8th October, the focus of an exhibition at the Pallant House Gallery, Chichester. Complementing these are compositions by lesser-known figures and emerging contemporaries such as Anne Connell (b. 1959) and Úrsula Romero, who, based in Spain, is best-known for her stunning botanical studies.

Set in an 18th century townhouse the gallery of **Patrick Bourne & Co**, 6 St. James's Place, SW1A 1NP celebrate the talent of another female – Winifred Nicholson (1893-1981). Born Rosa Winifred Roberts, she married the artist Ben Nicholson in 1920, and each had some influence on each other's work, in fact, Ben even admitted he learnt a great deal about colour from his wife. The works offered by the gallery come from a private collection.

A short distance away it is festivity time at **David Messum Fine Art**, 12 Bury Street, SW1Y 6AB. This year the firm's founder and Chairman, David Messum, celebrates his sixtieth year in business and mounts an impressive Summer Exhibition. On view until 28th July, it epitomises Messum's passion for and promotion of figurative art, with an emphasis on the artists of the Cornish colonies of Newlyn, St. Ives and Lamorna. Prices range from £385 for *Emma and her Baby*, *Chelsea Embankment*, an endearing etching by Theodore Casimir Roussel (1847-1926) to £350,000 for Frank Bramley's (1857-1915) stunning and important oil painting *Weaving a Chain of Grief*. Among my favourites are the vigorously painted study for *Against Regatta Day* (£65,000) by Stanhope Forbes (1857-1947) and Walter Langley's beautifully painted *Jilted: The Fraud of Men was Ever So, Since Summer First was Leafy....* (£38,500). An excellent catalogue illustrating over 100 works is available at £20.

Finally, although not part of the Official London Art Week, there are two other worthy happenings to mention. Founded in 1886 by a group of former Academicians as

a reaction against the restrictive and parochial attitude of the Royal Academy, the **New English Art Club**, present their annual exhibition at the **Mall Galleries**, The Mall, SW1. Taking place between 23rd June to 1st July, this is one of my favourite events and I have the daunting undertaking of selecting one work from nearly 400 to receive *The Anthony J. Lester Art Critic Award*. Prices range from £195 to £30,000.

For those who admire high detail, the annual exhibition of the **Royal Miniature Society (RMS)**, is always an endearing occasion. Taking place from 28th June to 8th July at the **Bankside Gallery** (next to Tate Modern), Thames Riverside, 48 Hopton Street, SE1 9JH, it is the world's foremost showcase for contemporary miniature art. With a maximum size of 6 x 4 inches (15.24

Marcel Duchamp

x 10.16 cm), the painting of miniatures demands self-discipline, for where large pictures give some latitude in composition, miniatures are unforgiving of the least mistake; a tolerance of even a millimetre is hardly permitted. Apart from their quality and beauty, they have much appeal because of their size and, with stunning works available from a few hundred pounds, affordability is an enticement too.

Anthony J. Lester, FRSA
lesterartcritic@eyeonlondon.online



Untitled, watercolour by Lynne Mapp Drexler (1928-1999), Stephen Ongpin Fine Art



Male Figure, ceramic, conceived by Stephen Tomlin, Phyllis Keyes and Duncan Grant, Philip Mould & Co

You can always rely on

Ewbank's

I bought my first painting at an auction when I was just eleven years old and 67 years on it hangs on my wall and still gives me pleasure. Perhaps that is why I remain an auction enthusiast. Like everything, you must be selective with your auctions. Some are significantly better than others.

For their overall professionalism, I have always found Ewbank's, Burnt Common Auction Rooms, London Road, Send, Woking, Surrey, GU23 7LN, excellent for

both selling and buying. Founded some 33 years ago, they are members of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers (SOFAA) and always adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The company has become internationally

recognized as trailblazers in the more specialist collecting areas of entertainment, cinema and sporting memorabilia. For example, the demand for film posters has grown significantly in recent years, with

Ewbank's having sold more than £1.5 million worth over the past five years. In February the auction room sold a poster for the first James Bond film (1962) for an impressive £16,250. The iconic poster was created by the American artist Mitchell Hooks (1923-2013) for Dr. No, starring Sean Connery and Ursula Andress. In the same sale was a Bond poster for Thunderball (1965), which features four panels, the intention being that it would be cut into four pieces. Uncut examples are extremely rare, resulting in it selling for £18,125.

However, Ewbank's are equally adept at achieving high prices for fine art and their auction on 22nd June of pictures and silver includes a work by one of England's most renowned painters. Lot 2143 is a particularly interesting watercolour by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851). It depicts the house of Charles Monro (1757-1822), in Nether Street, Finchley. Charles was the brother of Dr. Thomas Monro (1759-1833), the celebrated doctor who specialised in insanity at Bethlem Hospital. Thomas was also a patron of the arts and Turner became a frequent visitor to his home and the homes of other members of the Monro family. This particular watercolour was made on a visit to Charles's splendid residence around 1793 and is a classic example of Turner's early style, in which he embraces topographic and picturesque traditions.

Between February and May, 1976 the Victoria & Albert Museum, London mounted an exhibition entitled Dr. Thomas Monro (1759-1833) and the Monro Academy. Many of the exhibits were loaned by the Monro family, including this watercolour (catalogue number 68). Measuring 22 by 29 cm and signed 'Turner', lower right, this important work carries an estimate of £30,000 to £50,000.

Anthony J. Lester, FRSA
lesterartcritic@eyeonlondon.online



Thunderball Quad

James Bond Thunderball (1965) Advance British Quad film poster, the design featuring two panels of poster illustration on the left by Frank McCarthy and two on the right by Robert McGinnis. The poster was designed with the intention that it would be cut into four pieces. Very few examples (complete or otherwise) have survived, folded, 30 x 40in. In excellent/near mint condition, this is the best condition of this poster Ewbank's have ever seen. In a private collection since the mid 1970s. Estimate £8,000-12,000.

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Events Supplement

June - July '23

DANCE & OPERA



Flamenco Festival Sadler's Wells

Feet stamp. Hands clap. Castanets snap. Guitars flourish with heart-racing rhythms. This summer, embrace the sounds and the soul of flamenco in a festival that will be a treat for the eyes and the ears. Queen of flamenco, Sara Baras, presents a treasure trove for the senses. This is a sumptuous movement that overflows with passion. Hot off the roaring success of ¡VIVA!, Manuel Liñán returns as part of Gala Flamenca alongside El Yiyo and Alfonso Losa with special guest Carrete de Málaga. Bringing together the hottest talents from the flamenco world in a fortnight-long fiesta, right in the heart of London. **Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4TN**
sadlerswells.com
July 5-15

DANCE & OPERA

Cinderella In-The-Round

Royal Albert Hall

The classic fairy tale becomes a truly spectacular ballet at the Royal Albert Hall with over 90 dancers, a live orchestra and magnificent sets and projections. Enter an enchanting kingdom where forest creatures live alongside princes, a growing tree appears to dance in the wind, and Cinderella's wit and generosity get her to the ball – with the help of a little bit of magic. Christopher Wheeldon's glittering choreography sees the arena floor flooded with exquisite dancers, while Prokofiev's sublime score is performed by the English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AP
ballet.org.uk
June 15-25

Recitals at Lunch

Royal Opera House

Experience an exciting programme of music in the opulent setting of the historic Royal Opera House Crush Room. Experience an exciting programme of music in the opulent setting of the historic Royal Opera House Crush Room. These regular lunch-time performances feature artists from The Royal Opera, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Jette Parker Artists and a range of guest artists in performances inspired by the heritage of the Royal Opera House, its operas and music.

Bow Street, London, WC2E 9DD
roh.org.uk
Until June 26

INTOTO Dance Company 2023

The Place

INTOTO Dance Company returned in 2023 with an excitingly physical cast of 12 dynamic dancers. Produced by London Studio Centre, one of the UK's foremost conservatoires for the Performing Arts, INTOTO 2023 present a striking programme of three newly commissioned

works that will engage dance enthusiasts and newcomers alike. The innately human and intimate choreography of Amy Morvell (Morvell Dance) is joined by the virtuosic, mesmeric style of Jack Philp (Jack Philp Dance) and the compellingly athletic style of former INTOTO dancer Faye Stoeser.

17 Duke's Road, London, WC1H 9PY
theplace.org.uk
June 20-21

EXHIBITIONS

Lee Ufan and Claude Viallat

Pace Gallery

Pace Gallery is honoured to present Lee Ufan and Claude Viallat: Encounter, a two-person exhibition organised by the preeminent French curator, Alfred Pacquement. Spanning more than five decades, this exhibition will survey both artists' enduring commitment to abstraction as a means of engaging philosophical ideas of time, space, and matter. At the centre of this dialogue, is an exploration of materiality from both a formal and metaphysical perspective. An illustrated exhibition catalogue featuring new texts by the artists and curator will be released by Pace Publishing later in the year.

5 Hanover Square, London, W1S 1HQ
pacegallery.com
Until June 29

Saint Francis of Assisi

National Gallery

Come face-to-face with one of history's most inspirational and revered figures in the first major UK art exhibition to explore Saint Francis of Assisi's life and legacy. Presenting the art and imagery of Saint Francis (1182–1226) from the 13th century to today, this exhibition looks at why this saint is a figure of enormous relevance to

our time due to his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions. From some of the earliest mediaeval panels, relics and manuscripts to modern-day films and a Marvel comic, the exhibition shines a light on how Saint Francis has captured the imagination of artists through the centuries, and how his appeal has transcended generations, continents and different religious traditions.

Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DN
nationalgallery.org.uk

Until July 30

Field Notes

Victoria & Albert

What can the forest teach us? That is one of the key questions that runs through this display of contemporary design projects. For the second iteration of Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures, the V&A has collaborated with environmental charity Sylva Foundation to create the Field Notes summer school. Twelve practitioners within art, design and architecture were selected to participate through an open call-out. Through seminars, forest walks, and hands-on making the participants explored ways of caring for woodlands and utilising locally sourced wood. Field Notes considered the importance of diverse thinking when envisioning sustainable futures, it also discussed issues of land use and ownership; and questions of access and inclusion. This display is part of Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures, a ten-year project supported by John Makepeace OBE.

Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL
vam.ac.uk

Until August 31

EXHIBITIONS



Luxury and power: Persia to Greece

British Museum

Drawing on dazzling objects from Afghanistan to Greece, this exhibition moves beyond the ancient Greek spin to explore a more complex story about luxury as a political tool in the Middle East and southeast Europe from 550–30 BC. It explores how the royal Achaemenid court of Persia used precious objects as markers of authority, defining a style of luxury that resonated across the empire from Egypt to India. It considers how eastern luxuries were received in early democratic Athens, self-styled as Persia's arch-enemy, and how they were adapted in innovative ways to make them socially and politically acceptable. Finally, it explores how Alexander the Great swept aside the Persian empire to usher in a new Hellenistic age in which eastern and western styles of luxury were fused as part of an increasingly interconnected world.

Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org

Until August 13



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Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org
Until August 13

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Business Travel Show Europe

Excel
Join key decision-makers from across Europe on 28 - 29 June as you come together to develop your travel programmes and meet the ever-evolving needs of your business and travellers. In just two days, you can discover what's new in the industry, uncover the latest technological innovations, meet the widest range of industry suppliers, reconnect with colleagues, and participate in our inspiring conference programme, delivered by the experts at The BTN Group. The hosted buyer programme is designed for busy travel buyers, offering an enhanced attendance method and unrivalled sourcing, learning, and networking opportunities to ensure you get the most out of your time out of the office.
Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London, E16 1XL
June 28-29

TALKS, TOURS, & WALKS

Agatha Christie & Dorothy L. Sayers Virtual Tour

This virtual tour follows the trail of Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple, Tommy and Tuppence, Lord Peter Wimsey, Harriet Vane and the ever-reliable Bunter. Start at Piccadilly Circus where Poirot emerged from an uncomfortable tube journey, where Lord Peter bought a newspaper at the start of a most baffling case, and where Tommy Beresford observed that everyone was bound to turn up eventually. Visit: the street where two murderers lived (one caught by Poirot, one unmasked by Wimsey); the theatre which provided a vital clue for Miss Marple; the square where Bobby Jones disguised himself to swap cars in 'Why Didn't They Ask Evans?'
walks.com
July 9



FAIRS & FESTIVALS



The Great Exhibition Road Festival

Exhibition Road
Since 2019, the Great Exhibition Road Festival has celebrated science and the arts. At this year's festival multiple venues will be exploring the power of awe and wonder to inspire us, motivate change and spark innovation. The Natural History Museum is working together with the V&A, the Science Museum, and Imperial College London to explore the extraordinary, from scientific innovations to the future of food. Join us on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June for a weekend jam packed with fun, free events and activities for all ages.
Exhibition Road
June 17&18

West London Live

Trafalgar Square
Enjoy performances from London's most celebrated West End musicals and discover exciting new shows with West End LIVE, live and free in Trafalgar Square this summer. Theatre's biggest stars will perform some of London's leading musicals and must-see new shows. This event is free and hugely popular. There are no tickets

and you don't need to book, just turn up on the day and join in. Entry to all areas of the event is on a first come, first served basis and you will need to queue.
westendlive.co.uk

June 17-18

Step Up Expo

Step Up Expo is the leading event in teen choices for education and careers. Students aged 14-18 years old and parents will be guided through the minefield of education choices and career pathways from an array of industry experts. Uncover GCSE/BTEC options, 16+ school and college choices, employment and training, gap years, 18+ education, apprenticeships and career options. Open doors and discuss endless opportunities with potential future employers, apprenticeship providers, and universities, and learn how the choices made now can impact 18+ education and career options. A variety of companies will also be on hand to talk through their valuable work experience options, part-time jobs, and mentorship programmes.
Hammersmith Road, London, W14 8UX
olympia.london
June 30 - July 1

FAMILY & CHILDREN

Mary Poppins

Prince Edward Theatre
The magical story of the world's favourite Nanny is triumphantly and spectacularly brought to the stage with dazzling choreography, incredible effects and unforgettable songs. The stage production of MARY POPPINS is brilliantly adapted from the wonderful stories by PL Travers and the original film. It is co-created by Cameron Mackintosh and has a book by Oscar-

winning screenwriter and Downton Abbey creator, Julian Fellowes. With a timeless score by Richard M Sherman and Robert B Sherman including the classic songs; Jolly Holiday, Step in Time, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Feed the Birds with new songs and additional music and lyrics, including Practically Perfect, by the Olivier award-winning British team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.
Old Compton Street, London, W1D 4HS
marypoppinsonstage.co.uk
Ongoing

Come From Away

Phoenix Theatre
Experience the joy, heartache and soaring music as the spirited locals and global passengers overcome their fears and a world of cultural differences to come together and

TALKS, TOURS, & WALKS



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Where? - July '23

forge friendships that will stay with them forever. The first female American Airlines captain, the quick-thinking town mayor, the mother of a New York firefighter and the eager local news reporter are among the many real characters caught at the start of the moment that changed the course of history, and whose stories became a true celebration of hope, humanity and unity. Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0JB
comefromawaylondon.co.uk

Ongoing

The Everywhere Bear

Polka Theatre

The Everywhere Bear has a wonderful time with the children in Class One, but one day he gets more than he bargained for when he falls unnoticed from a backpack and embarks on his own big adventure! He's washed down a drain and whooshed out to sea, rescued by a fishing boat, loaded onto a lorry, carried off by a seagull... how will he ever make it back to Class One? This captivating and beautiful story, from best-selling author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Rebecca Cobb, springs to life with rhyme, original music and delightfully expressive puppets in Polka's fun and exciting stage adaptation. 240 The Broadway, London, SW19 1SB
polkatheatre.com

Until August 13

Storytelling and Music Sessions for 0-4 Year Olds

Royal Albert Hall

Seasoned storytellers Paul Rubinstein, and Becky Dixon deliver a series of sessions for

babies and toddlers, aiming to engage and encourage interaction between parents/carers and their little ones using musical instruments, singing, movement and stories. Developing coordination, self-confidence and awareness using songs, sounds, rhythms and rhymes, we explore the Hall's story of diverse musical history.

Kensington Gore, South Kensington,

London, SW7 2AP

royalalberthall.com

Until August 30

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Paul McCartney Photographs: 1963-64 Eyes of the Storm

National Portrait Gallery

In this show, the focus is on portraits captured by McCartney, using his own camera, between December 1963 and February 1964 – a time when The Beatles were catapulted from a British sensation to a global phenomenon. These never-before-seen images offer a uniquely personal perspective on what it was like to be a 'Beatle' at the start of 'Beatlemania' – and adjusting from playing gigs on Liverpool stages, to performing to 73 million Americans on The Ed Sullivan Show. At a time when so many camera lenses were on the band, it is Paul McCartney's which tells the truest story of a band creating cultural history – in one of its most exciting chapters.

St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE

npg.org.uk

Opens June 28

Spies & Spymasters of London Virtual Tour

Take a look at the origins of the Secret Service Bureau in 1909, the clubs that were at the heart of the intelligence recruiting and networking, the buildings, both vanished and surviving, which gave birth to some of the most remarkable operations ever devised, and which housed both dedicated officers and remarkable traitors. The place where Anthony Blunt had a narrow escape from exposure as a Soviet agent. The square where Donald Maclean found his 'shadows' a little too close for comfort. The fine old office which housed wartime departments of the British Secret Intelligence Service alongside their US counterparts the Office of Strategic Services. The hotel where SOE heroine Nancy Wake enjoyed 'a bloody good drink'. Ian Fleming's wartime haunts and the club where James Bond played a nerve-wracking game of bridge at M's request.

walks.com

June 18

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Natural History Museum

Discover the natural world in all its wonder and diversity at the newly redesigned Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, where remarkable photographs illustrate the precious beauty of our planet. The redesigned exhibition space positions the photographs among short videos, quotes from jury members and photographers as well as insights from Museum scientists which invite you to explore how human actions continue to shape the natural world.

Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 5BD

nhm.ac.uk

Until July 2

Tim Walker: Wonderful Things

Michael Hoppen Gallery

Tim Walker's photographs are nostalgic for an era of innocence and exuberance; youthful imagination and a uniquely British aesthetic. At once modern yet familiar, his world is reminiscent of a childhood spent dressing up in ancient couture, dragging family heirlooms down to the bottom of the garden to furnish tree-lined ballrooms. These memories are retold with a sublimely reminiscent matured eye for drama and intrigue. Walker painstakingly stages each picture in camera, which reinforces the home-spun magic and texture shown in each image.

128 Barby Road, London, W10 6BL

michaelhoppengallery.com

Until August 20

Avedon: Glamorous

Hamiltons Gallery

This exhibition is in celebration of the centenary of Richard Avedon's birth. In recognition of the gallery's long-standing association with the artist, and to mark this momentous occasion, the exhibition will present iconic and rarely seen photographs that focus on glamour, a central pillar to his oeuvre. Through his unique ability to invoke an exciting quality within his subjects, Avedon could make even the most mundane appealing, bringing a sophisticated glamour to both some of the 20th century's most notable figures and luminaries. Richard Avedon, widely acknowledged as one of the pioneers of modern photography, but also one of its most influential proponents was born in New York City in 1923.

13 Carlos Place, London, W1K 2EU

hamiltonsgallery.com

Until August 11

MUSIC

Hans Zimmer Live

O2 Arena

Hans Zimmer Live will be returning to The O2 in 2023 with two headline shows at the venue on Wednesday 14 June and Thursday 15 June. In a ground-breaking audio and visual show, the multiple Academy Award® and Grammy winning Zimmer, his band and the Odessa Opera Orchestra & Friends will perform the composer's worldwide successes. The newly arranged concert suites include music from Gladiator, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Dark Knight, Inter-



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stellar, The Lion King, The Last Samurai and Dune, for which Zimmer received his second Academy Award during his previous tour stop in Amsterdam.

Peninsula Square, London, SE10 0DX
theo2.co.uk

June 14-15

Mostly Vivaldi and Bach by Candlelight

St Martin-in-the-Fields
London Octave is formed from players who are or have been part of the finest London chamber orchestras like the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the English Chamber Orchestra. They approach the baroque and classical repertoire in a fresh and vital manner, principally for the players' own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the audience. Samuel Coles is principal flautist of the Philharmonia Orchestra of London. He has performed concertos with them but also with other leading orchestras including the Orchestre de Paris. He has recorded the complete Mozart flute concertos with the English Chamber orchestra conducted by Yehudi Menuhin.

Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JJ
stmartin-in-the-fields.org

June 22

London Gay Men's Chorus

Cadogan Hall
This original concert features a vibrant and eclectic soundtrack that celebrates the power of the human journey as it battles against adversity. Religion, addiction and sexuality are all examined through the power of song. With an array of newly commissioned arrangements, the London Gay Men's Chorus showcases artists as varied as Radiohead and Madonna, Coldplay and Sia while also featuring songs from highly acclaimed Broadway shows Dear Evan Hansen and The Boy From Oz. An uplifting and joyous concert celebrates the courage of personal resilience using the power of the human voice. Enjoy the massed voices of the London Gay Men's Chorus as they make you feel proud!

5 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ
cadoganhall.com

June 23-24

Gregory Porter

Royal Albert Hall

Over the past decade, Gregory Porter has taken the world by storm by bringing contemporary jazz to the masses. Not only has the singer collected GRAMMY Awards for albums Liquid Spirit and Take Me To The Alley, he made chart history with all five albums breaking into the Top 10 of the mainstream charts. Now, bringing his magic back to one of the most magical venues in the world, as he takes to the stage Gregory Porter will no doubt manage to cut through the noise of genres and the mess of life, with his rich, soulful voice and exuberant personality lifting everyone and everything.

Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AP
royalalberthall.com

June 29 - July 1

TALKS, TOURS, & WALKS

Hidden Stories of Hyde Park

Explore the history of Hyde Park through the decades, including the notorious criminals that met their untimely end at the Tyburn Tree, the inception of Speakers' Corner and the park's instrumental role during WW1. Experience the magic of Hyde Park as you visit the Serpentine, where Peter Pan had his first adventure in JM Barrie's novel "Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens". Finally, finish with an exclusive visit to our Victorian Pet Cemetery, the first public Pet Cemetery in Britain, where over 1,000 pets have been buried.

royalparks.org.uk

June 16

What Britain Gets Wrong About Race With Tomiwa Owolade And Inaya Folarin Iman

Intelligence Squared

While acknowledging that the murder of George Floyd in 2020 led to a necessary racial reckoning worldwide, Tomiwa Owolade, a rising star of literary and cultural criticism in the UK, will argue that Britain has been too ready to follow the lead of America. He will urge us instead to understand that there

are crucial differences between Britain and America, and that our communities and cultures are distinguished by language, history, class, religion and national origin. Arguing that both the reactionary right and the progressive left get race in Britain wrong, he will set out a bold new framework for understanding race in Britain today.

Online Event

intelligencesquared.com

August 1

THEATRE

The Shape of Things

Park Theatre

How far would you go for love? What would you be willing to change? When college student Adam falls hard for Evelyn, an ambitious art major, the meaning of both art and friendship are pushed to their limits. Neil LaBute's Olivier Award nominated dark comedy received its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre in 2001 with Rachel Weisz and Paul Rudd. This first major Off West End revival is presented by the producers of last year's Park Theatre hit Clybourne Park. Starring Luke Newton (Bridgerton, The Book of Mormon), Amber Anderson (Peaky Blinders, Black Mirror), Carla Harrison-Hodge (Cyrano De Bergerac, Amadeus) and Majid Mehdizadeh-Valoujerdy (War Horse, Hollyoaks).

13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3JP

parktheatre.co.uk

Until July 1

Glory Ride

Charing Cross Theatre

Gino Bartali, Tour de France winner and one of the most beloved Italian athletes of all time, had a secret life. With his cycling career as a cover, Bartali cycled thousands of miles between cities across Italy. Hidden in the frame of his bike were falsified identity cards and other secret documents to help victims of the Second World War cross borders to safety from Mussolini's fascist regime. His efforts saved hundreds of persecuted Jews and other refugees, many of whom were children. Bartali was a local hero as well

as a national figurehead, renowned in his community for his unwavering commitment to helping others. His story has a powerful message for audiences today about bravery, loyalty and doing the right thing regardless of the consequences.

The Arches, Villiers Street, London, WC2N 6NL
charingcrosstheatre.co.uk

Until July 29

SHEWOLVES

Southwark Playhouse

Armed with a backpack full of Pop-tarts and a hunger to tackle climate change, Priya and Lou embark on a covert expedition into the wild. However, when the wilderness closes in around them, can they overcome their differences to make their voices heard? Somewhere between Booksmart, Little Miss Sunshine and Thelma & Louise, SHEWOLVES is an uplifting, funny and empowering play about forging friendships when you're a bit weird, the power of hope and the underestimated smartness of teens.

77-85 Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BD

southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

June 21 - July 8

The Swell

Orange Tree Theatre

Annie is happy at last – she's engaged to Bel, the love of her life, and counting down the days to their wedding. But then old friend, free spirit, and troublemaker Flo turns up unexpectedly, and announces she'll be staying with them until the big day. Their surprise reunion turns into a complicated love triangle with dangerous consequences that threaten to destroy Annie's Happily Ever After. Featuring a live vocal score, the world premiere of this thrilling romantic drama is a gripping story spanning decades of love, sacrifice and betrayal. Shortlisted for The Women's Prize for Playwriting 2020.

1 Clarence Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SA

orangetreetheatre.co.uk

June 24 - July 29

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

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The Literary Review

King Arthur is our bedrock national myth, the king, war leader and centre of a chivalric order whose members adhere rigorously to Christian precepts, except perhaps for a spot of adultery. However, the problem is that he doesn't fit anywhere in recorded history.

He is a folk hero, not a hereditary sovereign, a humble younger son who rises to his greatness through innate nobility, fate's intervention and a little magic. We use Thomas Malory's poem of the late 15th century, *Le Morte d'Arthur*, written not in French or Latin but in the Middle English of ordinary people (his publisher William Caxton changed the title from "The Hoole Book of Kyng Arthur and of His Noble Knytes of the Rounde Table" for reasons of space) as our basis.

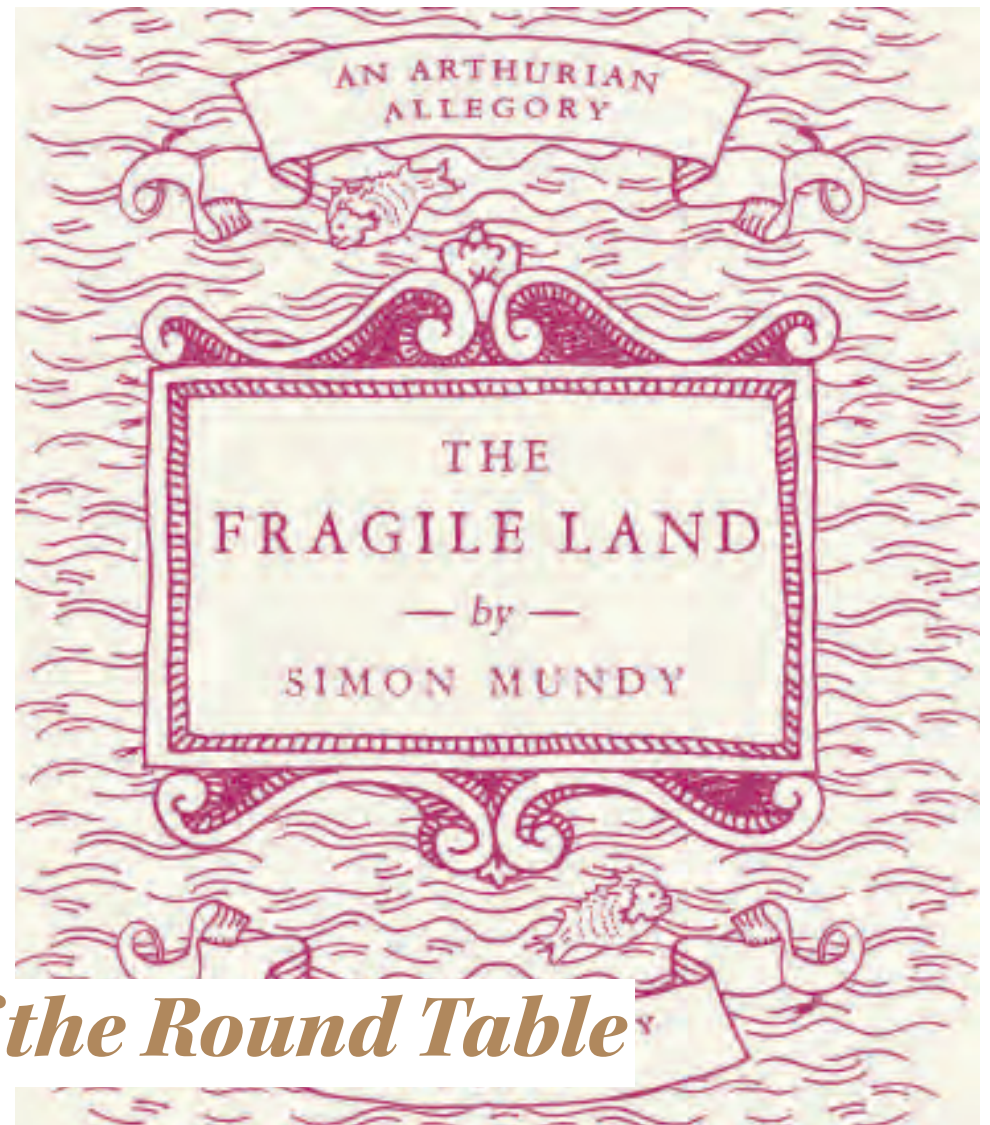
Whether or not Arthur ever existed has been a debate scholars have long since tired of in the absence of any credible written proof, preferring to assume that he didn't and move on. However, he won't go away, and in his latest novel Simon Mundy not only concocts a credible back story for the Arthurian legend, he sees its politics reverberating down to our own time, examining a politician, diplomat, loyal friend, accomplished warrior and successful lover who has his off days and even goes to the toilet. Its sub-title is "An Arthurian Allegory".

appears as a primitive warlord. The 12th century cleric Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote about Arthur in his *History of the Kings of Britain* in the 1130s, though he admits that he doesn't know anything about Arthur but feels his deeds "deserve to be praised for all time". Another of the monarchs Geoffrey gives the treatment to is King Lear.

The Arthurian story has been consigned to what used to be called the Dark Ages, the 5-600 years between the Romans leaving Britain to the Normans arriving when the written word carried little currency beyond the new-come religion, Christianity, in the cultures of these islands. Mundy puts his Arthur firmly in the late 400s.

Ambrosius Aurelianus, a Roman left-over (the Romans went at the start of the 5th century), possibly of imperial stock, who rallied the Britons against the Saxon invaders, was almost certainly a real figure, though details are sketchy. Mundy has him a gifted administrator alongside a general, a grandson of Constantine III (declared Emperor in Britain in 407), Uther Pendraeg.

Mundy has sifted through all the sources, taken the elements that bear close inspection and built a pragmatic narrative for the life of a legend. However, pragmatic doesn't necessarily mean prosaic, and this romance has all the ingredients of blood and sex, to give the story pace.



Overlord Arthur and the Delegates of the Round Table

Mundy's Arthur is not Malory's. Despite the 12th century historian Gerald of Wales, identifying Arthur's grave at Glastonbury, this Arthur's story probably began in the oral traditions of the Welsh valleys where his legend may have started. The Arthurian story we know comes from a number of sources, including the 6th century monk Gildas who documented the Britons as they confronted Saxon invaders and the crucial Battle of Badon of about 500, a victory credited to Arthur.

Lancelot and the quest for the Holy Grail are borrowed from the 12th century French poet Chrétien de Troyes. At around the same time a series of prose stories called the Mabinogion was being written, taken from those oral Celtic tales in which Arthur

He tracks back to the immediate post-Roman Britain, translated as Britannia, a land divided into multiple kingdoms, and delves into Latin and Welsh to find authentic names. Merlin becomes Myrddin, Morgan le Fey is Morganwy, Arthur's chief escort is not Guinevere but Gwenan, an illegitimate slave girl, the language they speak is Brythonic, Colchester is Camulodunum, Pendragon (chief leader or overlord) becomes Pendraeg. Excalibur, the sword Arthur pulls from a stone thanks to a secret switch Myrddin tips him off about, becomes Caledfwlch.

The result is not a king, he's bigger than that, or an emperor, a discredited title after the fall of Rome, so he's the Overlord, Tygern Fawr, chosen by the 23 kingdoms of Britannica south of Hadrian's Wall. Arthur presides over a troublesome council of the 23 kings and creates an inner cabinet, a Round Table of 11, to make an adaptable barrier to the threatening foreign barbarians.

His mentor is, of course, Merlin, Myrddin, no mere magician but almost a monarch in his own right, a cross between Machiavelli,

Rasputin and Gandalf. "I have to teach you to trust your eyes more than your mind and your mind more than your heart – and when to do the opposite –" he tells the putative young hero.

Arthur travels the country in his mission to unite the country against invaders, always in touch with nature and stumbling over Roman ruins. It was time, says Myrddin, to rescue the country from the appetites of its rulers.

The Round Table is not a fabulous array of bombastic chivalry but an inner council representing kingdoms, 11 advisers to Arthur and informants to their kings as well as military commanders of the national contributions to the Britannian army, which is finally tested at the Battle of Badon.

Simon Mundy is a long time adherent to the concept of European unity having co-founded the European Forum for Arts and Heritage, and knows about high level diplomacy and negotiation of the kind he makes Arthur a master of, rather than a bellicose warrior king. He is also a passionate Welshman whose Arthur is raised among the hills of Snowdonia and goes on to mend a fragile land. He does it by cementing common interest and resolve among the pre-Saxon tribes of the country through diplomacy, political nous and social media, which would have been called gossip. A good blueprint for the once and future Britannia, perhaps, giving, as Myrddin suggests, "the strength of a new order to replace the chaos".

Simon Tait

The Fragile Land by Simon Mundy is published by Hay Press



Classical Music

Arts & Culture Supplement



Image: Tom Lovatt

LSO St Luke's Lunchtime concerts Tetzlaff & Friends: Three's Company

I've never been to a lunchtime concert that I've not enjoyed, which is often as much down to having a break from the day as it is to the content of the concert itself. LSO St Luke's must be one of the best places to hold such a concert, being an oasis of calm not two minutes' walk from the thrum (and eternal building site) of Old Street roundabout. It's a real dip-in, dip-out kind of place, with kids playing on the grass outside the church, very little in the way of formalities on the door, no encore. In short, it's a place for exactly the kind of thing you want at 1pm on a weekday: an hour or so's respite.

The two programmed piano trios were well chosen by German violinist Christian Tetzlaff for the space and occasion: Beethoven's Piano Trio No.3 and Dvořák's Piano Trio No.2. But what had been planned was not what we got. First, a change of personnel: Tanja Tetzlaff, cellist and brother of Christian, had to drop out at the eleventh hour. Then, presumably as a result, a change of programme: Dvořák's Piano Trio No.2 became Schubert's Piano Trio No.1, while Tanja herself became Steffan Morris, who had apparently stepped in a mere couple of hours before the concert was due to begin.

The show must go on, and so it did, with Beethoven. We learnt from the programme notes that the first performance of this work was given to the composer's former teacher Haydn - himself a master of the piano trio form, writing around 45 over the course of his life. Apparently, Haydn was disturbed by his student's piece, thinking it too dramatic and difficult, and advised Beethoven that it needed more work. It is indeed a decidedly dramatic piece, offering a prototype for the stormy, aggravated spirit that would characterise much of Beethoven's output. Its key - C minor - later became a go-to for the composer's more emotionally intense work (think the Pathétique sonata, or the Fifth Symphony).

But - and this was true for the whole

programme - the players took it in their stride, whether the sturm-und-drang of the first and fourth movements, or the dignified chorale-like theme of the second, or indeed the playful minuetto third movement, whose descending piano runs called to mind the flourish of a magician's cape. A particularly emphatic sforzando delivered by pianist Kiveli Dörken prompted a collective jolt in the audience, followed by a chuckle. I was struck by the prominence of the piano in the texture of the writing - at some points it seemed the others were playing second fiddle (and cello) to its virtuosity, though I'm sure that this imbalance was more Beethoven's scoring than the playing itself.

Next, the Schubert: another meaty, four-movement affair. We were invited to think of the piece as a foil to the composer's famous, and gloomy, song cycle Winterreise, written the same year. Schubert himself said that he meant the trio to invite 'the troubles of human existence to disappear': given he finished the piece the same year he died, and when he was likely feeling the effects of the illness that would eventually kill him, he was probably more in need of some emotional uplift than most. Here, the composer's more even-handed approach to scoring meant that the strings had more of a main part, and the rich, honeyed tone that Tetzlaff and Morris reached together was a total joy. The tempo occasionally felt a little languid, though perhaps this was just cautiousness, born of the sudden changes to the line-up, coming through.

It would have been nice to have a little more of the contrast that would have been provided by the Dvořák, but this was ultimately a deeply thoughtful performance, with moments of delightful exuberance and abandon.

Lucy Thraves

St. Luke's. London EC1V 9BD

lso.co.uk/whats-on/?location=lso-st-lukes



The Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Chamber of Commerce launch the first Business Awards across both boroughs.

The Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Chamber of Commerce, that promotes and supports locally based businesses and organisations has launched its first Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Business Awards.

In 2018, the inaugural Kensington and Chelsea Business Awards was attended by 240 local businesses and prizes awarded across 12 categories. Jason Window, Chairman of the Chamber said 'We are so thrilled to be relaunching this incredible event and now inviting businesses from across Westminster to also enter and take recognition. The Chamber provides genuine networking & genuine connections, and the Business Awards are dedicated to celebrating the achievements and successes of our vibrant business community. It's the perfect chance to spotlight your business and get recognition for your work. The benefits that come alongside entering an award are invaluable, including a powerful tool to raise your profile, grow your network, and improve staff morale.'

The Awards, supported by both the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea & City of Westminster, celebrate the best business talent with a variety of accolades that will include Best Social Enterprise, Customer Excellence Award, and Best business to demonstrate diversity & inclusion.

All businesses, both members & non-members, within the two boroughs can enter the awards for free and may enter more than one category. There will also be an overall Business of the Year Award.

The awards are open until Friday 30th June, with the shortlist announced mid-July. The Awards dinner will be held at the prestigious One Great George Street on 12th October 2023.

For more details on the awards, memberships, and sponsorship opportunities, please do get in touch at alicia@KCWchamber.org.

www.KCWchamber.org



Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture Supplement



I Drink a Crisp, Cold Beer in a pool in Los Angeles while Gary Lineker looks on in disgust by Joe Lycett



Poem in the dark about sadness by Richard Malone

How do you review the Summer Exhibition? It's enormous with this year precisely 1,614 works of art taking up the whole of the Royal Academy's Main Galleries, and with a quality range so wide you don't know where to look first for your inspiration. Do you go for the accomplished amateurs who have made it through the arcane and tortuous selection process, or the magisterial RAs themselves? This year's co-ordinator is David Remfry RA whose theme is "Only Connect" (a quote from E M Forster's *Howards End*), so is that the starting point?

Hovering over the whole extravaganza in the Central Hall is Richard Malone's majestic *poem in the dark about sadness* to give its shorter title, a royal blue swathe of fabric, which splurges gracefully from floor to ceiling, reminiscent of a kind of abstract cockerel. However, it gives no clue as to where to go next. Perhaps incomprehensible titles is the theme.

The RA's annual summer show has been going since 1769 and was inaugurated to raise funds for the RA Schools students (who still pay no fees, the only such three-year post-grad art college in Europe). Now it's billed as the world's largest open submission exhibition, and it's the showcase for our best artists, the Royal Academicians, as well as the field of dreams for capable amateurs. They submit their creations in the early spring and a committee of half a dozen RAs, the Hanging Committee, presided over by the President, Rebecca Salter, have them paraded before them as they nurse early morning beef tea, in total ignorance of the identities of the submitting artists. This time there were 16,500 of them, the hopeful artist paying £38 per submission; the panel

votes on each and the manual attendant chalks either N for No or D for Doubtful, on the back. That's as positive as they get. From those 16,500, 1,135 got a D and were picked. The 80-odd RAs get to submit up to eight works for free.

If you think the RAs themselves don't take it very seriously, not infrequently, back in the old days of the Summer Exhibition when the RA was at Somerset House on The Strand, they've come to blows over their work being hung in a preferential spot. Back then, the paintings were ranged up to the ceiling, and there was an imaginary line about six feet from the floor, which was reckoned to be the perfect level to see a picture. Turner and Constable were passionate rivals for the discerning eye. Varnishing Day, happened just before the show opened and gave the artists the opportunity to put the final touches to their submissions as they hung in their final positions. One year the two giants of early 19th century English painting were hung next to each other, and Constable hurried in early on Varnishing Day to check the hang. "I see that Mr Turner was up betimes" Constable said with a wry smile, observing that his adversary had already been and gone, having had time to add a small boat painted in bright vermilion to his harbour scene that would distract the viewer's eye from the picture next to it, Constable's.

So how can you possibly "only connect" with 1,614 works of painting, sculpture, etching, installation, architecture, drawing and photography? Well, you can't, but most years there's some salient feature in the coordinator's concept. Frustratingly, it isn't happening this year.

First of all, it's good to see old masters and master-esses here again. The last president,

Christopher Le Brun, launched himself off in a new direction of abstractism a couple of years ago, and one of the first things you see is his enormous *Solent*, eight canvases stuck together, divisions between them ignored by the vertical striations of red, yellow, green, orange and sometimes blue gleaming from beneath the black ones threatening to overwhelm. Next to Le Brun is another old favourite, Jock MacFadyen, with an utterly more tranquil but troubling image of ruinous telephone lines leading towards derelict buildings in *Somewhere in Valencia*.

Rose Wylie is here again, aged 89 now, and Philip Sutton who is nearly blind but at 94 is still painting, he has four in this show, and his friend Anthony Eyton, who was 100 last month, is nearby. The sculptor Bryan Kneale will celebrate his 93rd birthday during the course of the exhibition, and he has some abstract drawings demonstrating the intricacy of the sculptures he is known for, plus a single sculpture of a simple standing bronze ellipsoid, *Coral*. The best old artists don't die, they just re-invent themselves.

However, they are not a theme. There seem to be a lot of chairs, from a flouncy armchair, a sculpture, to drawings of humble armless dining chairs, and there's even a work by the great designer of chairs, Ron Arad, with his non-chair crystalline resin creations. That's not it.

Drawing, a theme of a summer show a few years ago, is definitely back here, from Gillian Wearing's moving self-portrait *Lockdown Portrait 4* showing the strain of the Covid interregnum. There's the haunting *Went To See A Gypsy* by Jenny Eisele that has a narrative you can contribute to yourself; and Hoi Yee Chau's moving *Study of a Grieving Daughter*.

Or maybe it's the grotesque, of which there seems to be plenty this year. Two eminent RAs died last year, Paula Rego in June and Brian Catling in September, but they're represented here. Rego's installation *Oratorio* is a harrowing cabinet filled with the figures of agonised ghostly women, and suffering or even dead children. On the other side of the same room is Catling's *Cuddy*, a macabre wooden hand and forearm nailed to a beam. Or there's Ryan Gander's installation with the confused and confusing title that seems to have multiple obscure references to other artists, *Rest In Pieces, or The Squatters (Charlie Meet Hammons' Title Untitled (Night Train) (1989)*, which is actually a multi-medium and very realistic representation of a dead cat. In another room Gander has a tiny bronze figure of a female urchin, leaning forlornly against a wall, called just as obscurely as the cat, *Irretrievably Broken From The Past, Or Low-Hanging Fruit*, and there's Carlos Zapata's *Bog Man*, a representation in mixed textiles of a rotting corpse, which is just horrible.

The Summer Exhibition is a mixture of both glorious and inglorious art, featuring works selected blindly from general submissions, including pieces by celebrities like the King, who goes by the name Charles Windsor. However, why the hangers felt they needed to add number 1274 into the list of works, I'll never know. It is an acrylic gouache painting called 'I Drink A Crisp, Cold Beer In A Pool In Los Angeles While Gary Lineker Looks On In Disgust' with cack-handed references to Hockney. It's by the comedian and LGBTQ+ campaigner Joe Lycett and the list price for it is £1,354,999. It's awful!

Simon Tait

Godland is Icelandic director Hlynur Palmason's third feature film. It was selected for The Cannes film festival in May 2022. Currently gauged by online reviews aggregator *Rotten Tomatoes* with an 89% approval rating, based on 45 positive reviews. This visually stunning film was also especially chosen for a BFI Imax opening on 2nd April, 2023.

Godland is acted by its cast in two languages, namely Icelandic and Danish. The film is a period piece set in the late 19th century. It features Lucas, a Danish curate who is chosen by a Danish priest as a missionary who will journey to his first priesthood. He takes a boat to Iceland (then a Danish colony) before undergoing his own gruelling Pilgrim's Progress across this climatically inclement island. The journey involves crossing fast flowing rivers, treacherous marshland, and volcanic terrain with weighty backpacks and horses. Add to this Lucas's inability to speak Icelandic to his guide, Ragnar, who claims that he can only speak Icelandic, not Danish, and we begin witnessing the undercurrent of Ragnar's hostility towards this colonial 'Lutheran' Dane. Initially it's all very Ingmar Bergman. One could even imagine Max Von Sydow playing Lucas. *Godland*, however, has a nearer cousin in Werner Herzog's *Aguirre Wrath of God* set in a cold climate.

The film is cleverly shot in a square screen format with rounded corners. A movie version of magic lantern show. This is set-up upon a 'fake premise' of the director's via an opening fictionalised caption, claiming that the film was based on, "A box that was found in Iceland with seven wet-plate photographs taken by a Danish priest. These images are the first photographs of the southeast coast. This film is inspired by these photographs."

Lucas's cumbersome photographic hobby becomes his beast of burden. He obsessively captures this journey to Iceland's South East coast on smeared silver oxide wet-plates. All done en-route to his eventual destination where he is tasked with setting-up a church to civilise the locals.

Lucas's Icelandic translator drowns crossing a river. This triggers the beginning of his ongoing disorientation. His confusion



is captured by beautifully observed scenes of happy dogs waking him in his tent from a deep sleep. The dogs run around him, licking his face into consciousness. In another waking shot, flies are seen in close-up crawling all over Lucas's eyelashes. He opens his eyes with a fly stuck to an eyelid. Beyond these scenes are some quite disturbing shots of horses literally stumbling over mountainous terrain. All to the disdain of animal welfare groups. It's all too real.

Collapsing and losing consciousness before arriving at his destination, Lucas awakens to find himself amid immaculate village people with pristine wooden homes. They are wise but wary of Lucas's religious moral certainty. All due to his colonial stance. The villagers build a wooden church for Lucas, nonetheless, before he upsets them by not performing a wedding ceremony. Carl, who puts-up Lucas in his home, says dryly, "Why did you make this journey overland? Why didn't you just sail around the island instead?" At first, he is unable to answer. Mainly because the man is speaking in Icelandic, not Danish. Lucas then suggests it was in order to photograph

Iceland's indigenous people. Of course, the only 'people' present were his guides. At this juncture the film takes some incredible twists and turns. Perspectives change. The ending is both jaw-dropping and stunning. The final scenes combining beauty and tragedy.

I would normally venture praise lightly, but with this film you have a masterpiece.

TOP MAN IN HIS FIELD. NICK BROOMFIELD GETS THE BROOM OUT

The Stones and Brian Jones is a new documentary shown recently by BBC TV's *Arena* strand. A Unicorn series that seldom airs. This long-awaited film comes from 'Direct Cinema' filmmaker Nick Broomfield who has always operated in the investigative tradition of American documentary directors such as Fred Wiseman, The Maysles, and his former associate Joan Churchill. Here he has made a traditional archive-based BBC documentary, focusing-in on the life of the Rolling Stones founder, their former lead guitarist, who died in 1969 aged 27. Broomfield has chalked-up key films on recording artists with *Kurt & Courtney* (1998), *Biggie & Tupac* (2002), *Whitney: Can I Be Me?* (2017), and *Marianne & Leonard Cohen's Words of Love* (2019), among others. *The Stones and Brian Jones* commenced in 2020, but was delayed by four years due to the pandemic.

Broomfield's film came hot on the heels of Danny Garcia's 2019 documentary *Rolling Stone: Life & Death of Brian Jones*, which ploughed a similar furrow, owing a lot to the uncredited research undertaken by Terry Rawlings in his book *Brian Jones: Who Killed Christopher Robin? The Truth Behind the Murder of a Rolling Stone* (2004). Rawlings' book rekindled the public's interest in Jones ahead of the rest. Garcia delved even deeper, finding information on Police cover-ups via another associated death. Here, however, Bill Wyman is quick to dismiss circumstantial criminal claims. Wyman believes that Jones died in his own swimming pool after taking a mixture of 'downers and alcohol', before falling asleep and drowning.

This leaves Broomfield's documentary fully open to concentrate on just who Brian Jones really was.

Interviews with Jones's many ex-girlfriends are superseded by a key interview with Linda Lawrence with whom he had

a child called Julian. Lawrence is only heard in a voice-over throughout the film. Her voice is accompanied by a trove of home movie memories of a teenage Jones, plus early riotous Stones concerts. All licensed from family, friends, and TV Archives. Marianne Faithfull's biographer, David Dalton, has made available his 1994 tape-recorded interviews with Faithfull. There are also audio recordings of the late Anita Pallenberg, made by Paul Trynka, for his 2014 book *Sympathy for the Devil: The Birth of the Rolling Stones & The Death of Brian Jones*. Amid this, filmmaker Volker Schlöndorff, sheds new light upon Pallenberg and Faithfull's three-way relationships with Jagger, Richards, and Jones.

Jones' former girlfriends bring into sharp focus his relationship with his middle-class parents from Cheltenham. All during a period when the 'generation gap' with parents and teenagers became more marked than before. Here we're bridging the aftermath of Harold Macmillan's, "You've never had it so good" ethos, but during a 1964 to 1970 Labour administration, when Britain thrived in the wake of Harold Wilson's 'White Heat of Technology'. Teenagers had disposable income. Rock Music boomed. This political background should have been in evidence here. It's a moot point. Otherwise the storytelling is exemplary.

The penultimate line of dialogue comes from an earlier *BBC Arena* directed by the late Nigel Finch, called *25 By 5* (1989). It's Charlie Watts' salient quote about The Stones firing Jones in 1968. Watts says, "He'd got much nicer just before died, in the last (two) years of his life. I felt sorry for him. For what we did to him then. We took this one thing away from him, which was being in a band".

A recently discovered letter by Linda Lawrence from Jones's father is terribly sad. Not only does it say so much about the Jones family and Brian, but that of a whole generation's relationship with their parents, during the post war years. Broomfield neatly ends this threaded storyline with considerable weight. The words will echo for anyone who grew up in the 1960's. Especially for those who had unresolved differences with their parents. It's a very powerful ending.

Henry Scott-Irvine

The Stones and Brian Jones is currently screening on BBC iPlayer.





New magnetically controlled capsule endoscopy allows doctors to remotely view patients' stomachs

Indigestible video capsule endoscopes have been around for many years now but their limitation has always been the fact that they could not be controlled by doctors. They simply move passively in the body, being driven only by gravity and the natural movements of the body. However, according to the first-of-its-kind research study from George Washington University, medical professionals can remotely drive a miniature video capsule to every region of the stomach, allowing them to visualise as well as photograph potentially problematic areas.

The new technology relies on an external magnet and hand-held video game style joystick to move the capsule in three-dimensions in the stomach. This brings the capsule closer to the capabilities of a traditional tube-based endoscopy.

"A traditional endoscopy is an invasive procedure for patients, not to mention it is costly due to the need for anaesthesia and time off work," Andrew Meltzer, a professor of Emergency Medicine at the GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences, said. "If larger studies can prove this method is sufficiently sensitive to detect high-risk lesions, magnetically controlled capsules could be used as a quick and easy way to screen for health problems in the upper GI tract such as ulcers or stomach cancer."

Millions of traditional endoscopies of the stomach and upper parts of the intestine are performed each year, allowing doctors to investigate and treat stomach pain, nausea, bleeding, and other

symptoms of diseases including cancer. Despite the benefits of traditional endoscopies, studies suggest that many patients are having trouble with accessing the procedure.

The team was interested in the magnetically controlled capsule endoscopy after seeing patients in the emergency room with stomach pain or suspected upper GI bleeding. The patients face barriers to getting traditional endoscopies as outpatients.

The NaviCam, created by AnX Robotica Corp, gives a 160-degree field of view and a continuous video resolution of 640x480 pixels per inch at a frame rate of between 0.5 and 6 frames per second through the camera. The video can be transmitted off-site for review if there is not a specialist on hand. Patients also underwent a traditional endoscopy to compare the results. The researchers found that the new method did not miss any high-risk lesions and 80 percent of patients preferred it to the traditional method.

As doctors were trained on how to use the joystick, researchers are developing AI software to self-drive the capsule to parts of the stomach to record any abnormalities. The goal is to use the NaviCam on a larger group to ensure its diagnostic accuracy. There are some limitations, including an inability to take a biopsy of a troublesome lesion, something that a traditional endoscopy can do. But the researchers hope that it would be the first-line method for diagnosing gastric problems, with biopsies only being used when required.



Adaptations for cold helped social evolution

For the first time ever, scientists have found evidence that long-term adaptation to living in very cold climates has helped with the evolution of social behaviour. This includes extended care from mothers, increased infant survival, and the ability to live in complex multi-level societies.

The study was published in the journal Science and was led by researchers from Northwest University in China as well as the UK's University of Bristol, and the University of Western Australia. It examined how langurs and 'odd-nosed monkeys' that live in both tropical rainforests and snow-covered mountains, adapted over time.

These species were chosen by the researchers because they exhibit four distinct types of social organisation, providing a good model for examining the many mechanisms that drive social evolution from a common ancestral state to the diverse systems we see today.

Through the integration of geological, fossil, behavioural, and genomic analyses, the researchers found that monkeys that live in colder climates tend to form larger and more complex groups. Specific glacial periods over the past six million years are believed to have promoted the selection of genes involved with cold-related energy metabolism as well as neuro-hormonal regulation.

Monkeys living in extreme cold had developed more efficient hormonal pathways that may have lengthened maternal care, leading to longer periods of breast feeding and an increase in infant survival. These changes seem to have strengthened the relationships between individuals, creating better tolerances between males, and enabling the evolution from independent one-male, multi-female groups, to larger and more complex communities.

"Our study identified, for the first time, a genetically regulated adaptation linked to the evolution of social systems in primates," Dr Kit Opie, one of the study's authors from the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Bristol said. "This finding offers new insights into the mechanisms that underpin behavioural evolution in primates and could be used to address social evolutionary changes across a wide range of species including humans. In addition we would like to examine how changes in social and mating behaviour in many primate species may be the result of genetic changes due to past environments as well as other social and environmental factors."

As climate change becomes an ever pressing issue, researchers hope that the study will raise awareness of the need to tackle it.

The iconic Walkie Talkie building, known as such in the City of London, commands the skyline, alongside the Cheese Grater and its adjacent building, the Gherkin. These towering symbols of London's financial might, cast giant shadows on the streets below, as city workers go about their daily routine. What distinguishes the Walkie Talkie from other London skyscrapers is its Sky Garden bars. A botanical tour de force, that rests atop the offices, in a magnificent three-story atrium. However, two floors above, and accessible via a separate lift or paths winding through a tropical Eden, lies the 37th floor and the Fenchurch.

Head Chef, Kerth Gumbs, whom I immediately warmed to for the simple fact that he sports a Bowler Hat, has created a foodie experience in London that harks back to his Caribbean and Anguillian roots. Together with Berni, the award-winning sommelier, the Fenchurch has become a premier destination. When you make a reservation, there is no need to book separate access to the Sky Garden bars. This grants you a sense of occasion as you gracefully bypass the queues at the ground floor entrance, receiving first-class treatment as you ascend to the roof, much to the envy of those waiting below. This exclusive experience alone justifies the price of admission. Once inside the Sky Garden, after passing through rigorous airport-style security checks and navigating bustling bars, a private lift transports you to the roof, offering an unparalleled view of the city.

For the ultimate sunset experience, request a window table on the west side. It is an awe-inspiring and humbling sight as conversations fade into silence, allowing diners to commune with one of humanity's oldest rituals: witnessing a sunset.

Our lively and effervescent waitress, Tonicia, escorts us to our table for the Fenchurch Tasting Menu, priced at £95 per person, with the option of wine pairing, which I highly recommend at £75 per person, or cocktail pairing at £65 per person. The cocktails served here are exceptional.

We embark on our culinary journey with 'The Snacks' featuring, Jerk Beef Tartare accompanied by Sweet Potato Oregano and Mac and Cheese, reminiscent of delightful canapés. The Seeded Sourdough, served with curried Haddock and Tomato butter, is a flawless combination. The Caribbean influence gracefully transitions into a homegrown menu with The Johnny Cake, consisting of delectable picked crab with a subtle hint of Scotch Bonnet. Berni

Fenchurch Restaurant

Sky Garden, City of London

astounds us with an extraordinary blind taste-winning English Sparkling wine, the Hambledon Classic Cuvee of Hampshire. The Fungi and Salt Fish, complemented by Octopus, Gungo peas, Okra, Avocado, and Cornmeal, is a delightful dish that embodies lightness and freshness. However, the true spectacle lies in how it is skilfully prepared and presented at the table, involving dry ice and captivating showmanship. Berni once again impresses us with the selection of a Whispering Angel Rosé, Château d'Esclans Provence, 2021. We pause briefly as the sun's radiant power blazes across the western horizon, preparing for its breath-taking exit. Then, the moment arrives we've all been waiting for—the arrival of the Roast Scallop. As a personal favourite, the scallops are cooked to perfection, accompanied by delicate cauliflower textures and a delectable Chicken butter sauce. This exquisite dish is further enhanced by pairing it with the Chateau St Michelle Chardonnay, 2018, from the United States, which proves to be an exceptional choice. The flavours of the Caribbean subtly permeate the meal, with hints of chili and delicate cumin accents in the pastry. The grand finale comes in the form of the aged Duck Tamarind, accompanied by Turnip and Sorrel, presenting a harmonious blend of flavours that leaves a lasting impression.

As the sun gracefully sets behind the distant Post Office tower, illuminating the skyline in unison with the majestic Shard, the London cityscape comes alive in the fading light. Chef Kerth Gumbs has reserved some culinary fireworks for the dessert course. A palate cleanser of Pre-Dessert Soursop, Pink Peppercorns and Whisky Gummy Bears, reminiscent of a sophisticated ice lolly, prepares our taste buds for the pièce de résistance—Kerth Gumbs' Conkie Dumpling inspired Dessert, La Ducana Cake. This masterpiece combines Sweet Potato, caramelized White Chocolate, Coconut, and salted milk Ice Cream, delivering a harmonious blend of flavours. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, Berni surprises us once again with a superb choice of wine—Coteaux du Saumur, Les Beaugerands, Langlois-Chateau from the Loire Valley.

With the sun having set and the evening drawing to a close we pause at the reception to retrieve my Bowler Hat, taking a moment to glance through the large plate window into the immaculate kitchen. Catching Chef Gumbs' eye, we exchange

knowing smiles, engaging in enthusiastic discourse about our shared passion for culinary excellence. I can hardly remember a more enjoyable evening.

Philip Rudd



dining out and events venues

Nestled in the heart of The City of London, just a stone's throw away from Liverpool Street Station, you'll find the luxurious five-star hotel, The Pan Pacific London. On its first floor, you'll discover Straits, the hotel's signature restaurant. Inspired by the ancient trade routes through the Strait of Malacca, Straits brings the vibrant and diverse flavours of Asian cuisine to cosmopolitan London.

Straits Kitchen

Pan Pacific, City of London

Led by Head Chef Jun Yung Ng, Straits offers a unique dining experience in the bustling financial district. Located on the first-floor corner of the hotel at 88 Houndsditch, the restaurant provides a light and airy ambiance with stunning views of the surrounding skyscrapers. As we entered, we were warmly greeted and seated by the enthusiastic and knowledgeable waiter, George.

Our culinary journey began with a tantalising array of appetisers. The Straits Kitchen Platter showcased a delightful assortment of small plates, including Morel Golden Cups, Chilli Prawns, Aromatic Duck Rolls, and Asam Tamarind Crispy Black Cod (£28). Each item on the platter burst with flavour, offering a rich taste of Straits' culinary heritage. The Straits Aromatic Duck Rolls were particularly outstanding, filled with tender duck, spring onions, cucumber, and hoisin sauce, providing a refreshing and savoury twist.

Moving on to the main courses, the Ruby Brandy XO Sarawak Lada Hitam Crab (£68) caught our attention. This fiery dish expertly combined perfectly cooked crab with spices and flaming Chinese brandy, resulting in bold and intense flavours. Accompanied by fried Pandan Mantous, it provided a truly indulgent feast for the

senses. Another noteworthy dish was the Char Kway Teow (£25), featuring stir-fried flat rice noodles with Chinese vegetables, prawns, Chinese pork sausage, beansprouts, scallions, and a soy reduction. The smoky and savoury flavours created a tantalising blend, leaving us satisfied and craving more.

For those seeking a premium dining experience, the Kam Heong Welsh Wagyu Ribeye (£65) was a true indulgence. Sautéed

with sundried tomato paste and served with tenderstem broccoli and root tomato skins, the succulent Welsh Wagyu ribeye melted in our mouths. The addition of the Kam Heong sauce provided a delightful hint of spice, elevating the dish to a luxurious level.

To complement our main courses, we chose side dishes that enhanced the overall dining experience. The Pak Choi stir-fried with goji berries (£8) offered a nutritious and visually appealing addition, with tender yet crisp pak choi complemented by the sweetness of the goji berries. The Scallop, Egg, and XO Sauce Fried Rice (£17) proved to be a flavorful delight, with succulent scallops, scrambled eggs, and a spicy XO sauce enhancing the rich and satisfying taste of the dish.

Finally, we concluded our meal with two exquisite desserts. The Mango Panna Cotta with Coconut Sago Pearl soup, Fortune Cookies (£14) and Apple Compote, Caramel Sponge and cinnamon Crumble (£16) offered unique twists on some old favourites.

Overall, Straits at The Pan Pacific London showcases the rich and diverse flavours of Southeast Asia in every dish. We highly recommend it.

Philip Rudd



grandvenues

Partner Content

Fishmongers' Hall

City of London



Fishmongers' Hall has an outstanding reputation, not just among its City neighbours, but much further afield for offering superb surroundings, delicious cuisine and first-rate service. With an unrivalled riverside location, the hall is a Grade II*-listed building with a unique history, rich architectural heritage, and is home to a valuable and diverse collection of artefacts and paintings. The focal point of the company's charitable and fraternal activities, this elegant Greek Revival building dates from 1834 and was designed by architect Henry Roberts.

Offering unparalleled views over London Bridge and the Thames, the first floor rooms offer sumptuous surroundings for any events, with the crown jewel of Roberts' singular architectural vision being the main Banqueting Hall. Refurbished in 2018 and shortlisted in the 'Highly Decorative' category for the Painting Decorating Association Premier Trophy Awards 2019, this magnificent room can entertain 186 in a seated horseshoe, 220 in a top table with sprigs, and up to 350 for a reception. This room can be used for all types of events, from fine dining to concerts and opera; from formal lectures and conferences to cocktail parties.

Despite its classical appearance, the hall is equipped with state-of-the-art AV to ensure that requirements can always be catered for,

as well boasting personalised Wi-Fi network capability.

The Court Drawing and Court Dining Rooms share the same level of historical splendour and offer commanding views of the Thames. Despite large-scale restorative works to the ceilings and river frontage following damage sustained during The Blitz, these rooms drip with ambience when illuminated by candle light and offer the perfect setting for everything from pre-dinner drinks to a wide array of smaller functions. The Fishmongers' Company has an extensive art collection and the Court Drawing Room houses arguably the most famous portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, painted by Pietro Annigoni in 1954. The Court Room on the ground floor has a magnificent terrace overlooking the River Thames which is perfectly suited to receptions in fine weather.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1272 with the original purpose of overseeing the selling of fish in the City of London, the Fishmonger's Company now strives to make a difference in today's society, especially in the field of fish and fisheries and philanthropy and grants. The current hall is located in the heart of the City and is easily accessible by a wide variety of transport links, with Monument, Cannon Street, London Bridge and Bank stations all within easy walking distance.

Fishmongers.org.uk





CHESS

By Barry Martin

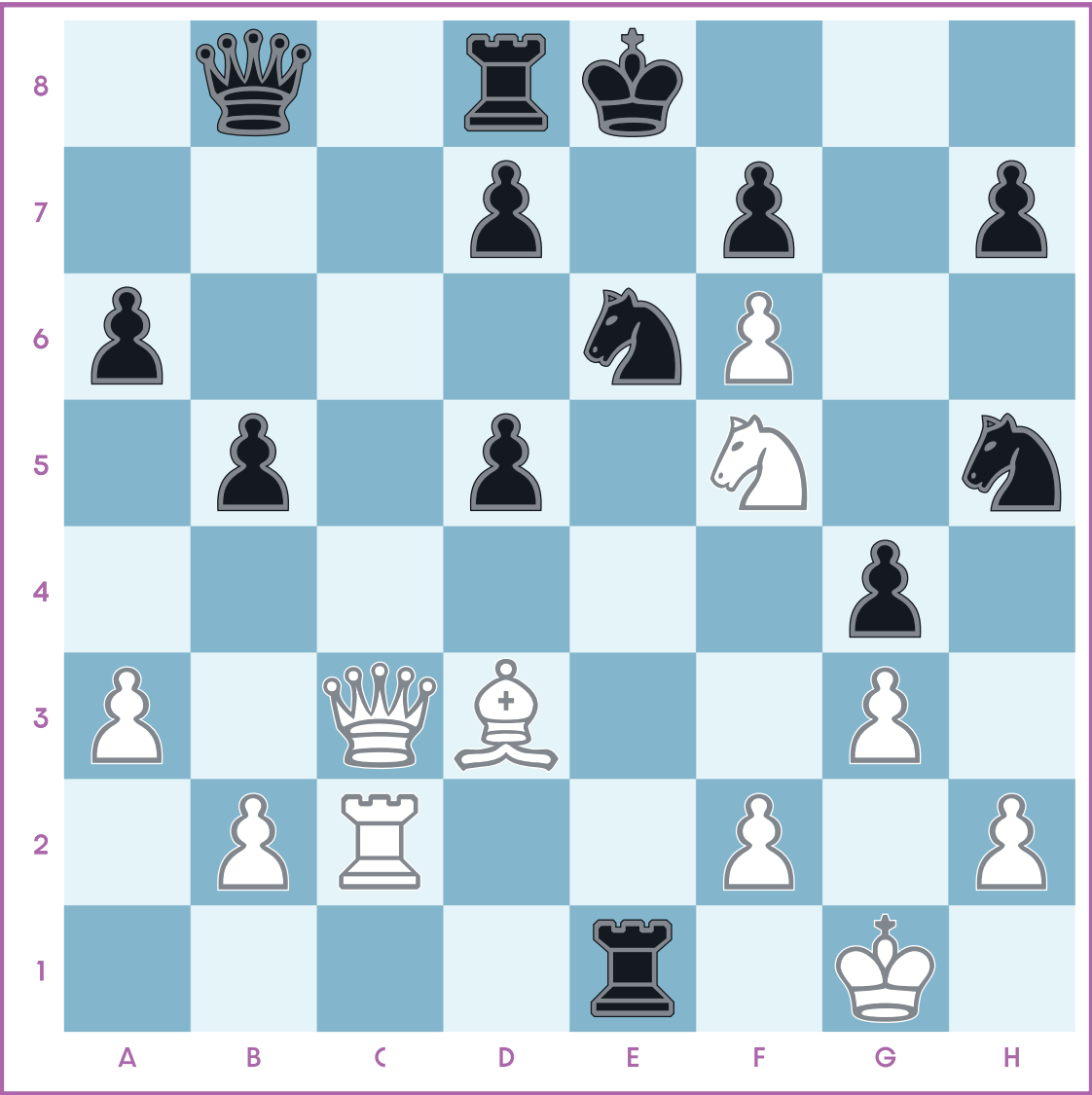
Recent Scalp Hunting and

Aiming for the 100 Club

With the Chess Grand Tour and Superbet clashes following the World Chess Championship, the top ten chess players were eager to take down the new WCC, Ding Liren, the runner-up Ian Nepo, and the past WCC Magnus Carlsen. It seemed like a fair game, and indeed, Carlsen was beaten twice on the first day of his Grand Tour entrance in Poland. Nepo and Liren finished 8th and 9th, respectively, among the top 10 world players.

I had the honour of being invited to a November dinner this year to celebrate the 100th birthday of David Jones, a chess-playing member of the Oxford and Cambridge Chess Club. He was the captain of the strong team in The Hamilton and Russell Cup league for London Clubs. Unfortunately, David fell ill and passed away just a few months shy of his 100th birthday celebration. Despite this, David's memory and chess successes are highly regarded, and many members of the London chess fraternity have expressed their warmest affections and glowing comments about him.

The Superbet Chess Classic took place at the Grand Hotel in Bucharest, Romania, from May 5th to 15th. It featured the new World Chess Champion, Ding Liren, and Ian Nepomniachtchi, the runner-up, vying for the money prizes ranging from \$100,000 for 1st place to \$10,500 for 10th position. Fabiano Caruana emerged victorious in this first leg of the Grand Tour, while Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi finished 8th (\$16,000) and 9th (\$13,000), respectively, among the 10 players. Bogdan-Daniel Deac earned \$10,500 in last place. It was a day for the scalp hunters indeed. However, any further humiliation was postponed as Liren decided to step down temporarily from further Superbet competitions, citing fatigue from the World Chess Championship. Nepo's future engagements have not been revealed yet, but it is likely that he, too, needs some rest following the tremendous effort both players put into their quest to become the World Champion. Despite their lacklustre performance this time, some derogatory comments emerged on social



the Oxford and Cambridge Club chess team, David won a crucial game in The Hamilton Russell Cup match against N. Greenwood of Roehampton, where both players were short on time. Peter Webster of Oxford and Cambridge writes, "David's win was key in securing another victory for the O&C team in a very close match!" Colleagues, club members, his daughter, and participants in The Hamilton Russell Cup league have all sent messages expressing their fondness for David. Having known him for the past 30 years, I can attest that he was a gentleman, kind to everyone he met.

I quote several others in his fraternity. "He will be sorely missed," Henry Mutkin, RAC.

"He enjoyed chess and following the fortunes of the O&C club in The Hamilton Russell Cup to the end," Katherine Rees, daughter.

"David was the face of O&C Chess when I joined the Club in 1993 and well remember the warmth and energy with which he welcomed me and incorporated me in his team," Stuart White O&C.

"Very sad news indeed, he really did contribute on so many levels," Stephen Meyler, RAC.

"David was my team captain for many years at the O&C Club, always encouraging and supportive of my chess," Terry Chapman.

Looking at the match results for the period from 2010 to 2014, David placed 6th in the 16-strong team of Oxford and Cambridge, with 11 wins, 5 draws, and just 2 losses in the Hamilton Russell Cup. Terry Chapman ranked just ahead of him, playing 23 games with 9 wins, 11 draws, and 3 losses. In the final year's ratings, David achieved third place, playing 6 games with 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. Overall, the Oxford and Cambridge team performed well in The Hamilton Russell Cup, winning 7 out of 8 games in the 2010-11 season, with the sole loss against the RAC Club. David's presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and we hope his chess adventures continue on the grand chessboard in the skies above

Barry Martin

The Challenge

The following puzzle is the conclusion of the game from Carlsen's debacle in Poland as mentioned above. Radoslaw Wojtaszek v Magnus Carlsen, Warsaw, Poland. Black has just played 31... Rxe1+ ?!

This was a blunder. What move could Black play instead that would have given Carlsen some further opportunities to engage his opponent?

The answer is opposite.

media, questioning their chess strengths in real competitions. It is unfortunate that some people seize any opportunity to denigrate others, even when those subjects have proven their greatness on multiple occasions. Sometimes it's better to let go of anger and resentment rather than spreading it indiscriminately.

Fans eagerly anticipated Magnus Carlsen's performance in the second leg of the Grand Chess Tour, the Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland event, held at The Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. In 2022, local hero Duda had amazed the world elite chess field at the same venue, and this year, local supporters hoped for a similar outcome. They were not disappointed.

Carlsen was selected as one of the five wild cards for the event, along with Wojtaszek, Bogdan-Daniel Deac, Krill Shevchenko, and Aronian. All of them were likely hoping to defeat the new World Chess Champion and the runner-up. However, both Liren and Nepomniachtchi withdrew from further play, leaving Carlsen as the player to beat.

Wojtaszek didn't disappoint the home crowd and achieved a thrilling victory over Carlsen in the first round. Carlsen, perhaps ironically or cheekily, chose to play the Polish defence as Black against the local hero and suffered a crushing defeat. The Polish opening is extensively

studied in Polish chess training, and Carlsen's resourcefulness couldn't save him. The noise in the hall after Wojtaszek's win was akin to a national anthem, with even the official broadcast remarking, "Magnus played the Polish opening against a Polish opponent in Poland." Carlsen's defeat weighed him down, and he struggled to regain his momentum in the Rapid section of the Superbet Rapid and Blitz in Warsaw. Although he managed to defeat the two Romanians, Kirill Shevchenko and Bogdan-Daniel Deac, all his other games ended in draws. Duda emerged as the victor on his home soil, much to the delight of the passionate locals, scoring 6.5/9. Levon Aronian secured second place with 6/9, setting the stage for the double-round Blitz section. The game between Wojtaszek and Carlsen during this event is the subject of the puzzle game in this issue.

Following the Champions' Chess Tour, which concluded on 26th May with the Chess Kid Cup, the top standings are as follows: Nakamura in 1st place with 270 points and \$57,000, Caruana in 2nd place with 250 points and \$50,000, and Carlsen making a significant comeback in the last tournament and securing 3rd place with 225 points and \$45,000.

David Jones, 1923-2023, is remembered for his contributions to chess. In a game played on 2nd May, 2011, representing

The Solution

We join the game on move 31... Rxe1+?! (31...d4! Is the only move to give hope to 32...Qd4... (32...Nxd4? Loses to 32...Nxd4), 32...Rxe1+. 33...Qxe1,Nxf6. 33...Qb4! Black's hope has gone! 33...d6. 34...Qc3,Nd7. 35...Qh8+,Nd8. 36...Qf6,Ng6. 37...Re2,Qc7. 38...Ng7+. 1-0! A powerful display by Wojtaszek against the former World Chess Champion!

wbs

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