

ENQUIRER PRESENTS

14th September - 10th October 2023

Edition No.16

EYE ON LONDON

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA



***Soak up the year round
sunshine with our exclusive
winter travel pages***

***News, Dining Out, Business,
Art & Antiques,
Classical Music, and Events***



£1.50
where
sold

ISSN 2753-8575

... and much more inside

N News

New licensing scheme to improve housing standards



A new licensing scheme in Kensington and Chelsea has seen 325 applications from landlords hoping to boost housing standards for private tenants living in houses and flatshares.

The council introduced the new scheme on the 1st June to help drive up housing standards and fight against “criminal” landlords operating houses in multiple occupations (HMOs). This refers to a house of multiple occupation, typically houses or flatshares, bedsits, and converted buildings with non-self-contained flats.

“Everyone deserves a safe home and we welcome landlords providing good places to live,” Cllr Cem Kemahli, lead member for planning, place and environment. “This new licensing scheme is already identifying responsible landlords. This is going to make it easier for our officers to identify

the properties where landlords persistently provide poorly managed housing to their tenants and take enforcement action.”

Council research has found that there are around 2,400 privately rented properties with the most serious safety hazards, with many being poorly managed and “associated with anti-social behaviour.”

“I’m grateful to those who have been proactive in getting the new licence so quickly,” Cllr Cem Kemahli. “This is about making housing safer and fairer. Bad landlords should take this as their notice that we won’t tolerate poor quality housing in our borough.”

Under the previous licensing rules, the council could only licence around 18 properties. The new licence offers a new layer of protection for tenants, identifying licensed and responsible landlords.

As the new school year begins, an insurance firm has highlighted nine potential school run motoring offences for parents driving their children to school. These rules include potential fines of up to £1,000 for using a horn “inappropriately” and up to £80 for idling your engine outside the school gate. The car insurance team at Compare the Market has compiled the list of these offences and fines you could incur for breaking them.

One of the risks is using the horn out of frustration (Highway Code rule 112). We’ve all been in that situation but the Highway Code says “never sound your horn aggressively.” According to the rule, drivers should only use the horn while the vehicle is moving and to warn others of their presence. If you don’t, you could end up with a fixed penalty notice of £50 which can rise

to £1,000 if challenged in court. Parents could also end up with up to £160 in fines for taking a shortcut through a bus lane.

The school drop-off can be a “chaotic time” as cars and children arrive at the school gates and nearby roads. It can be a safety risk, particularly for younger children. But there are things all motorists can do to reduce the risk.

“That means avoiding any distractions, such as using your phone while behind the wheel,” Julie Daniels from the car insurance team at Compare the Market. “If you need to contact your child, find somewhere safe to stop and park your vehicle first. Fines can be costly, and penalty points can add to the expense by potentially increasing the cost of your car insurance. To avoid paying the price, motorists should make sure to keep up to date with the rules of the road and drive safely at all times.”

Parents warned of driving fines during school run



Winter ice rink approved

Councillors have greenlit a seasonal ice rink at Kensington Palace Gardens, just a stone’s throw from Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate. “The committee was supportive of the application for an ice rink at Kensington Palace Gardens with conditions added to ensure the safety and security of members of the Royal family and Diplomats living nearby,” said Cllr James Husband, chairman of the planning committee.

The structure will include retail as well as food and drink outlets. The application was approved under the condition that the fence between Kensington Palace to the

south and the Embassy premises to the west will be three metres high.

“It’s brilliant to have another amazing space in our borough with this new winter ice rink back for everyone to enjoy,” Cllr Josh Rendall, lead member for local economy and employment, said. “My hope is that this will be a real boon for local business in the lead up to Christmas and the festive season. So get your skates on and visit some of our world class shops, bars and restaurants in Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate.”

The ice rink will be open to the public from the 30th November 2023 until the 7th January 2024.



EYEONLONDON
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

Published on behalf of
Stratford Place Publishing Company LTD.

Contact: Emma Trehane,
St Katherine’s Dock Marina, 50 St Katharine’s
Way, London. E1W 1LA.

Directors - Philip Ashby Rudd and Emma Trehane
07715 910 665

Editor - Emma Trehane
editor@eyeonlondon.online

Advertising - Emma Trehane
sales@eyeonlondon.online,

News - Fahad Redha
fahad@eyeonlondon.online

Art Director - Steve Muscroft
steve@eyeonlondon.online

EyeOnLondon 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



Housing crisis puts strain on public sector workers in London

London’s housing crisis has placed significant strain on public sector workers, as cautioned by the Mayor. City Hall’s analysis has unveiled the dire consequences of stagnant public sector wages and escalating housing expenses on recruitment and retention within the public sector.

The report delves into the potential impact on typical public sector professionals in London, such as frontline nurses, teachers, firefighters, social workers, and police constables. It exposes glaring disparities in the portion of their income allocated to housing expenses, including mortgage or rent, in comparison to other regions in the country.

Furthermore, the analysis highlights a noticeable disparity in the growth rate of public sector recruitment in London compared to the national average. Between 2018 and 2022, London fell behind most of the

UK in expanding its public sector workforce. Both the Police Federation and NHS London have voiced their concerns about recruitment challenges in their respective sectors. Data from NHS Digital last year painted a grim picture of the worst NHS staffing crisis in England, with London witnessing significantly higher vacancies for nurses and general staff than any other region.

The data also underscores that since 2016, median annual public sector pay in London has exhibited slower growth (14.9 percent) compared to the rest of the UK (15.5 percent) and London’s private sector (17.4 percent). These trends not only indicate the capital’s struggle to attract much-needed talent into the public sector but also illustrate the burden on public sector workers in London, who must contend with rising living costs and stagnant wages, receiving less for their efforts.

London’s largest scrappage scheme expanding

As part of the Mayor’s ambitious plans to clean up London’s air with the ULEZ, all Londoners can apply for grants to scrap older and more polluting cars or motorcycles. Air pollution in London is “an urgent health crisis,” and is associated with as many as 4,000 premature deaths in the capita every year, according to a press release from TfL which adds that it is “leading children to grow up with stunted lungs and adults to develop a whole host of illnesses” including asthma, heart disease, cancer, and dementia.

Nine in ten cars around outer London are already compliant so drivers would not have to pay the daily ULEZ charge. That said, the Mayor has promised to provide an

additional £50 million in funding to help more Londoners scrap their non-compliant vehicles and increase the amount that those eligible for a grant can receive. This will take the funding for London’s biggest scrappage scheme to £160 million on top of the more than £60 million provided for the central and inner London ULEZ.

In January, the Mayor and TfL opened the scheme, giving priority to those most in need including low-income, disabled Londoners, sole traders, micro-businesses, and charities. At the end of July, it opened up to families receiving child benefits and small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

With the additional funding, the Mayor has opened it up to all Londoners with a non-compliant car or motorcycle.



New Rail Link Could Transform Travel to Heathrow

A proposal, known as the Southern Rail Link, could connect Heathrow Airport with southwest London, Surrey, Berkshire, and Hampshire. The project could be “transformative” in allowing more people to get to the country’s biggest and busiest airport.

The proposal would mean a new track laid from Terminal 5 station towards the current South Western Railway network, joining it at Staines. Trains would then travel through Twickenham and Richmond

or via Hounslow and Brentford before reaching Clapham Junction and Waterloo.

A second brand has also been proposed to run from the airport to Virginia Water. This would allow services further out towards Surrey, Berkshire, and Hampshire. It would mean that services from those counties could make use of the Elizabeth line infrastructure and travel beyond Heathrow and on to Paddington, with a stop at the HS2 station of Old Oak Common.



London Home Football Traffic Watch

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

Women’s	
September 30, Crystal Palace v Sheffield United, 14:00	October 1, Chelsea v Tottenham, 17:30
October 1, Arsenal v Liverpool, 14:00	October 1, Fulham v Millwall, 14:30

Men’s	
September 16, Fulham v Luton, 15:00	September 24, Chelsea Aston Villa, 14:00
September 16, Tottenham v Sheffield United, 15:00	September 27, Chelsea v Brighton, 19:45
September 20, Arsenal v PSV, 20:00	September 27, Fulham v Norwich City, 19:45
September 23, Crystal Palace v Fulham, 15:00	September 30, Tottenham v Liverpool, 17:30
September 24, Arsenal v Tottenham, 14:00	October 2, Fulham v Chelsea, 20:00

N

News

Women are being asked to take part in a “landmark survey” to ask how they feel about a range of sexual and reproductive health issues. Respondents will be questioned about their experiences and opinions on various subjects. These include menstrual health, contraception, fertility, pregnancy and menopause. They will also be asked about other topics including painful periods, how they would prefer access to contraceptive services, and how satisfied they are with any support from menopausal symptoms. The information from the poll will “will help shape future policy on women’s health, enhance care, and improve wellbeing” according to ministers. The Women’s Reproductive Health Survey is part of the government’s efforts to “ensure the health and care system prioritises women’s voices.”

It is open to all women in England aged 16 to 55 and one of its aims is to end the “postcode lottery” impacting some aspects of women’s healthcare. “Women have previously described difficulties accessing reproductive health services, for example, to get contraceptive supplies, to access fertility treatment or to obtain an appointment with a gynaecologist,” Dr Rebecca French, Associate Professor of Sexual and Reproductive Health Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said. “Often health services are not joined up, leading to multiple visits and appointment delays. We know that poor reproductive health not only has a negative effect on health in general but can also impact women’s mental health, relationships and finances.”



Women sought for

healthcare survey

Visitors donated over £2.5 million to the National Trust through buying second-hand books in 2022. This “record-breaking” income for the Trust could be “reflective of the growing awareness amongst society of the need to reduce and reuse in a bid to cut consumption.” This has been especially strong among those with small children, with books aimed at them making up a higher proportion of the donations. The rapid growth of the “pre-loved economy” was reported by the Centre for Economics and Business Research last October and it is believed that the cost-of-living crisis could be a factor. The Centre also reported that the country’s second-hand market grew to around £6.5 billion in 2022 and is expected to double to £12.6 billion over the next five years. Books and stationery were among the most popular items bought last year. The Trust has seen an increasing number of rare and high value books appearing among the donations. In 2022, staff and volunteers at Dapdune Wharf in Surrey found first editions by Ian Fleming and J.R.R Tolkien. A volunteer in Dyffryn Gardens in Wales found a first edition of Orwell’s Animal Farm which was auctioned for £2,800.

Record in donations to National Trust

from second-hand books



RSPCA calls for an end

to animal experiments



Following a Home Office report that revealed the lowest number of scientific procedures on animals since 2002, the RSPCA has highlighted the millions of animals still used in experiments that cause pain and suffering as well as lasting harm. Despite the fall, the charity says, figures highlight the sheer number of “sentient” animals still used in scientific procedures. Experts from the RSPCA say the fact that millions of procedures still involve animals underlines a need for clear commitment and strategy from the government to phase out animal experiments and invest in humane alternatives.

The RSPCA is calling for a clear statement and commitment from the government that phasing out animal experiments is “a legitimate and desirable goal” and is asking for more investment in the development, validation, and use of Non-Animal Technologies. “As one of the world’s largest lab animal users,” Dr Penny Hawkins, head of the animals in science team at the RSPCA, said, “the UK has a responsibility to lead the agenda on phasing out animal use - but we are currently in danger of being left behind by the scientific ambition and leadership of other countries.”



The Future of Space Exploration:

What Does a New Era of Discovery Mean?

In late August, India touched down on the moon with a robotic probe, becoming the first country to land near the moon's south pole. Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander carrying a rover in its belly, touched down on the lunar surface following a 20-minute "nail-biting" finale watched by millions of people worldwide.

In the following hours, the Pragyaan rover, named for the Sanskrit word for wisdom' to 'named after the Sanskrit term for wisdom, exited its lander and began taking its first steps on the moon. India's space agency has been providing regular updates on the rover's findings including the distance it has covered, and how it navigates past obstacles in its path.

This marks the most recent chapter in a contemporary space race, which differs significantly from the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1960s. Today, competition persists not only between the US and Russia but also includes China.

"The next 50 years of space exploration will change the face of global politics," says Royal Museums Greenwich. "Soon, what happens in space will shape human history

as much as mountains, rivers and seas have on Earth."

In the Cold War era, the focus was on reaching the moon, but today, an increasing number of nations are embarking on lunar missions. This is expected to foster both heightened competition and greater collaboration in space exploration.

"Space has already changed much in our everyday lives," says Tim Marshall, author of *The Future of Geography: How Power and Politics in Space Will Change Our World*. "It is central to communication, economics and military strategy, and increasingly important to international relations. That will inevitably mean 'spheres of influence' and even claims on territory as the rivalries, alliances and conflicts on Earth spill out into space." A set of universally agreed-upon rules to regulate this competition is needed, he added, to prevent "disagreements on an astronomical level."

The cost of space travel has significantly decreased, thanks in part to innovations like Elon Musk's SpaceX and their reusable rockets, as well as advancements in satellite miniaturisation. As a result, it is now more cost-effective than ever to place objects into

orbit.

However, space exploration isn't just limited to launching materials into space. There exist valuable resources on the moon, in asteroids, and across the solar system that could have substantial benefits here on Earth. Angel Abbud-Madrid, the Director of the Center for Space Resources at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, reflected on the past, saying, "A decade ago, there was a surge of excitement, with some even predicting that the world's first trillionaire would emerge from space ventures within a few years. Their ambitious plans, however, fell short and didn't materialise." Abbud-Madrid shared these insights with Space.com.

Yet, the landscape has evolved considerably since then. Space mining has matured, and today, numerous startup companies are actively exploring opportunities in space and asteroid mining.

"The USA, China and Russia are the clear front-runners," Marshall says, "but the race is very different this time. More than 80 countries now have a presence in space. Some people might be surprised to learn that the United Arab Emirates has sent a probe to

Mars, and that Israel has (crash) landed on the Moon." The rest of the world, he added, knows that they cannot compete with "the big three" but will "want to have a say in what goes up and what comes down." To that end, they are pondering their options and aligning into 'space blocs.'

What about the prospect of establishing long-term human habitation in space? In November 2022, Howard Hu, who heads NASA's Orion lunar spacecraft program, shared with the BBC that humans could potentially spend extended periods on the moon by the end of this decade. But what lies beyond that? The concept of humans 'terraforming' a planet or making it suitable for sustained human living is a recurring theme in science fiction.

However, even without such grand endeavours, the advantages of space exploration are undeniable. Many of the conveniences we now take for granted, such as GPS navigation, computers, and numerous medical technologies, owe their existence to the Cold War-era space race. The potential benefits of this new era in space exploration are boundless, even for those who may never venture beyond Earth's surface.

D

DIGITAL ASSETS

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE PLANS TO USE BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

In a move that aligns with a broader strategy to be the first major exchange offering comprehensive trading of traditional financial assets on blockchain technology, the London Stock Exchange (LSE) is reportedly planning a digital markets enterprise. The LSE is one of the world's oldest stock exchanges, tracing its history back over three centuries. It is "definitely not building anything around cryptoassets." The focus is on using blockchain technology to improve the efficiency of trading and holding assets.

Head of capital markets at LSE Group, Murray Roos, says that the company has dedicated around a year to investigating the potential of a blockchain-powered trading venue. It has since reached an "inflection point" as it opts to move ahead with these plans. Speaking with the Financial Times, Roos highlighted that LSE has no intention to develop anything related to crypto, aiming instead for technology that serves as a foundation for bitcoin and other assets. The hope is also to enhance the efficiency of 'traditional asset transactions' including trading.

"The idea is to use digital technology to make a process that is slicker, smoother,

cheaper and more transparent and to have it regulated," he explained. If these plans materialised, it would make LSE the first global stock exchange to offer an end-to-end blockchain-powered 'ecosystem' to its investors.

"The ultimate goal is a global platform that allows participants in all jurisdictions to be able to interact with people in other jurisdictions completely abiding by rules, laws, and regulations, potentially multiple jurisdictions simultaneously, which is something that hasn't been possible in an analogue world."

This decision aligns with the trend among financial institutions. They have been increasingly highlighting the blockchain's potential to simplify the issuing and trading of financial assets. Much of the idea centres on Tokenisation, the creation of digital versions of stocks or bonds, and even gold. This allows for ownership tracking through the blockchain.

Tokenisation of real-world assets (RWA) has gained traction, bringing both users as well as large institutional players. A report from Binance Research suggested that the tokenised treasury market is worth over \$600 million.



The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) is hiring two positions for the role of blockchain investigator under the Complex Financial Crime Team (CFCT). This is part of the law enforcement agency's efforts to combat crimes related to cryptocurrency.

NCA announced at the beginning of the year that it will be strengthening efforts to combat crimes in the cryptocurrency space by creating a special unit dubbed the National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) Crypto Cell. This announcement came after the introduction of the Economic Crime and

FCA TO INTRODUCE 24-HOUR COOLING-OFF PERIOD FOR CRYPTO INVESTORS

The responsibilities for the two advertised managerial positions include overseeing the investigations into any crimes related to cryptocurrency. This is to ensure that those investigations are done in accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act, legislation aimed at tackling money laundering and the confiscation of assets obtained through criminal activity.

Candidates with experience in blockchain analysis and with in-depth knowledge of laws related to digital assets in the UK and worldwide are the ideal candidates for the roles. The agency is also looking for someone who is a member of the police force and is an accredited financial investigator.

This is part of the UK's efforts to regulate the rising cases of illegal activities in digital assets spaces. The CFCT will conduct investigations into financial crimes and work in partnership with the City of London Police. In addition, the

Corporate Transparency Bill in Parliament, which gives law enforcement agencies more power to combat illegal crypto related activity.

These include unlicensed operations of crypto ATMs. Finance Magnates reported that the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) had shut down over two dozen illegal crypto ATMs since the start of the year. The FCA had cautioned that unlicensed cryptocurrency ATMs contributed to illegal activities including money laundering.

The UK is among many nations strengthening its law enforcement agencies to combat illegal crypto activities. South Korea has launched a special investigations unit to take on the rising cases of crypto-related crimes in the country. Its Supreme Prosecutor's Office reports that losses from these crimes increased by 120% for the five-year period ending in 2022. Its unit hopes to protect investors in the country.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



POSITIVE SIGNS FOR ECONOMY AS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE GROWS

Consumer confidence has continued to grow, signalling positive signs for the nation's economy, a survey has found. Yet, the overall picture remains negative according to a closely watched index of shopper sentiment.

The figures from research group GfK suggests that consumer demand has been 'resilient' to the shocks of rising prices and more expensive borrowing. The consumer confidence index had dropped in July as retail sales fell due to very heavy rainfall in July. It was the first fall since January. Before that, consumer confidence had reached its strongest level in 17 months. What's more, it had been growing for five months in a row.

Future signs are looking bright despite inflation and high food price rises pressuring budgets. Over a dozen consecutive interest rate hikes have made borrowing more expensive. Changes to personal finances were seen in a more positive light as the index that tracks those changes over the last year is up 10 points compared with August 2022.

GfK's forecast for personal finances over the past 12 months grew by 28 points over the August 2022 figure and four points up from July to -3. Expectations for the general economic situation over the year have risen by three points to -30 between July and August. This is still 30 points better than the previous year.

There is some potential good news for retailers as there was an eight-point rise in major purchase intentions. The savings index is up a point to +27, nine more than the same month in 2022, as rising interest rates give a greater return to savers.

As the cost of living crisis continues, wages are also climbing. And for the first time in nearly two years, private sector wage growth has overtaken inflation. The overall index score rose by five points but remains in the negative at -25 in August.

"While the financial pulse of the nation is still weak, these signs of optimism are welcome during this challenging time for consumers across the UK," Joe Staton, the client strategy director at GfK, said.

ENERGY BILLS TO DROP SLIGHTLY IN OCTOBER, BUT BILLS STILL HIGH

An annual energy bill for a typical household will drop to £1,923 in October thanks to regulator Ofgem's new price cap. The maximum price of each unit of gas and electricity for 29 million households in England, Scotland, and Wales will be affected by this decision. This means that bills will be £151 lower than the current rates and £577 less than last winter. However reduced support from the government and higher fixed costs could mean that many will not see much differences in how much they are paying.

"We know people are struggling with the wider cost of living challenges and I can't offer any certainty that things will ease this winter," Ofgem chief executive Jonathan Brearley said. Prices paid by suppliers would be "volatile for some time to come," he added, offering not much in the way of long-term certainty for customers.

Ofgem's price cap is set every three months now. This is partially to reflect changes in wholesale prices that are paid by energy suppliers. The regulator sets the maximum that suppliers can charge for every unit of energy but not the total bill. Anyone who uses more will pay more.

For a home using a typical amount of gas and electricity and paying by direct debit, their annual bill is currently £2,074. This will drop to £1,923 for the final three months of the year. The price of gas will go

down from 7.5p per kilowatt hour (kWh) to 6.89p from October. The cost of electricity will drop from 30.1p to 27.35p per kWh.

The typical bill is calculated based on an estimate that the average household will use 2,900 kWh of electricity and 12,000 kWh of gas. Households using prepayment metres will see their typical bill fall from £1,949 to £2,077. Those paying every three months using standard credit will pay £129 more a year than those paying with direct debit. Domestic energy bills will be lower than the £2,500 a year paid last winter and spring when the government stepped in as prices rose following the war in Ukraine.

Last winter's £400 discount to every household, paid in six instalments between October and March, has finished and there are no plans to repeat it. Bills will still be higher than the typical level of £1,277 a year paid in the winter of 2021. Standing charges, which covers the cost of supply among other levies, have been rising. This is not expected to change. These vary by region, like the overall cap. Some areas, such as North Wales and Merseyside pay more.

"Typical households are still facing sky-high energy costs, now that support schemes have come to an end," said Gillian Cooper, from Citizens Advice. "Government must step in quickly with more targeted support for the households who need it most."

John Parnham's

KIDS WORLD

FREE ENTRY!

CHILDREN'S FAIRS

EELBROOK COMMON **FULHAM SW6 4SQ** **DINO! INVASION!**

THURSDAY 7 SEPT TO SUNDAY 24 SEPT **WEEKDAYS: 2.00pm WEEKENDS: 11.00am**

PARSONS GREEN **NEW KINGS ROAD** **FULHAM SW6 4UH** **THURSDAY 28 SEPT TO SUNDAY 8 OCT** **1.00-006pm**

1 TOKEN £1.20 10 TOKENS £10 **TOKENS ON SALE AT BOOTH**

Like us on Facebook **@KIDZPARNHAM** **@PARNHAMFUNFAIRS**

WWW.PARNHAMFUNFAIRS.CO.UK **TELEPHONE HOTLINE 07956 245531**

THE BOTTOM LINE

NAVIGATING THE STORM: UK BUSINESS INSOLVENCIES ON THE HORIZON



In a year already marked by economic uncertainty, the latest forecast from the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) sends another ripple of concern through UK business. The prediction that business insolvencies are set to rise significantly in 2023, coupled with the anticipated recession and high interest rates, paints a challenging picture for companies of all sizes. It's imperative to address these issues head-on and explore the strategies that professionals can employ to support their clients during these trying times.

According to the Cebr, approximately 7,000 UK businesses are expected to shut down every quarter in 2023. This sobering projection reflects the struggles many businesses are facing due to a confluence of factors including economic instability, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and changes in consumer behaviour. The potential repercussions of such widespread insolvencies are far-reaching, affecting not only business owners and employees but also the broader economy.

One key contributing factor to this gloomy outlook is the rise in interest rates as the UK economy enters a recession. High interest rates can increase the cost of borrowing for businesses, making it more challenging for them to access the capital needed to sustain operations or invest in growth. The dual impact of a recession and high interest rates can create a perfect storm that pushes many businesses to the brink.

A particularly alarming statistic is the prediction that half of those small businesses in the UK who took up the Bounce Back Loans will be unable to repay it. These loans were introduced as part of the government's support measures during the pandemic, providing a lifeline to countless businesses struggling to stay afloat. However, the optimism surrounding these loans has been replaced by the stark reality that many businesses are now facing the daunting task of repaying them in a harsh economic climate.

As businesses grapple with financial challenges, regulatory bodies like the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) are taking a firm stance. Tough measures are being implemented to scrutinise and, in some cases, penalise companies that are unable to repay this debt. While it is important to maintain accountability and prevent fraudulent activities, it is equally crucial for professionals to advocate for their clients and ensure that legitimate businesses aren't unfairly penalised.

In this complex environment, professionals play a critical role in guiding businesses through the storm. The trusted financial advisor's responsibility goes beyond merely complying with regulations; we must actively

challenge decisions that could further exacerbate the obstacles faced by businesses. It's essential to serve as a bridge between businesses and regulatory bodies, advocating policies that strike a balance between accountability and empathy.

The analogy that "putting loans in front of a loss-making business is like putting smack in front of a heroin addict" underscores a significant aspect of the crisis. The government's decision to offer loans to struggling businesses, while well-intentioned, has had unintended consequences. It's not the businesses that should shoulder the blame for availing these loans; instead, the focus should be on the larger systemic issues that created the need for such support mechanisms in the first place.

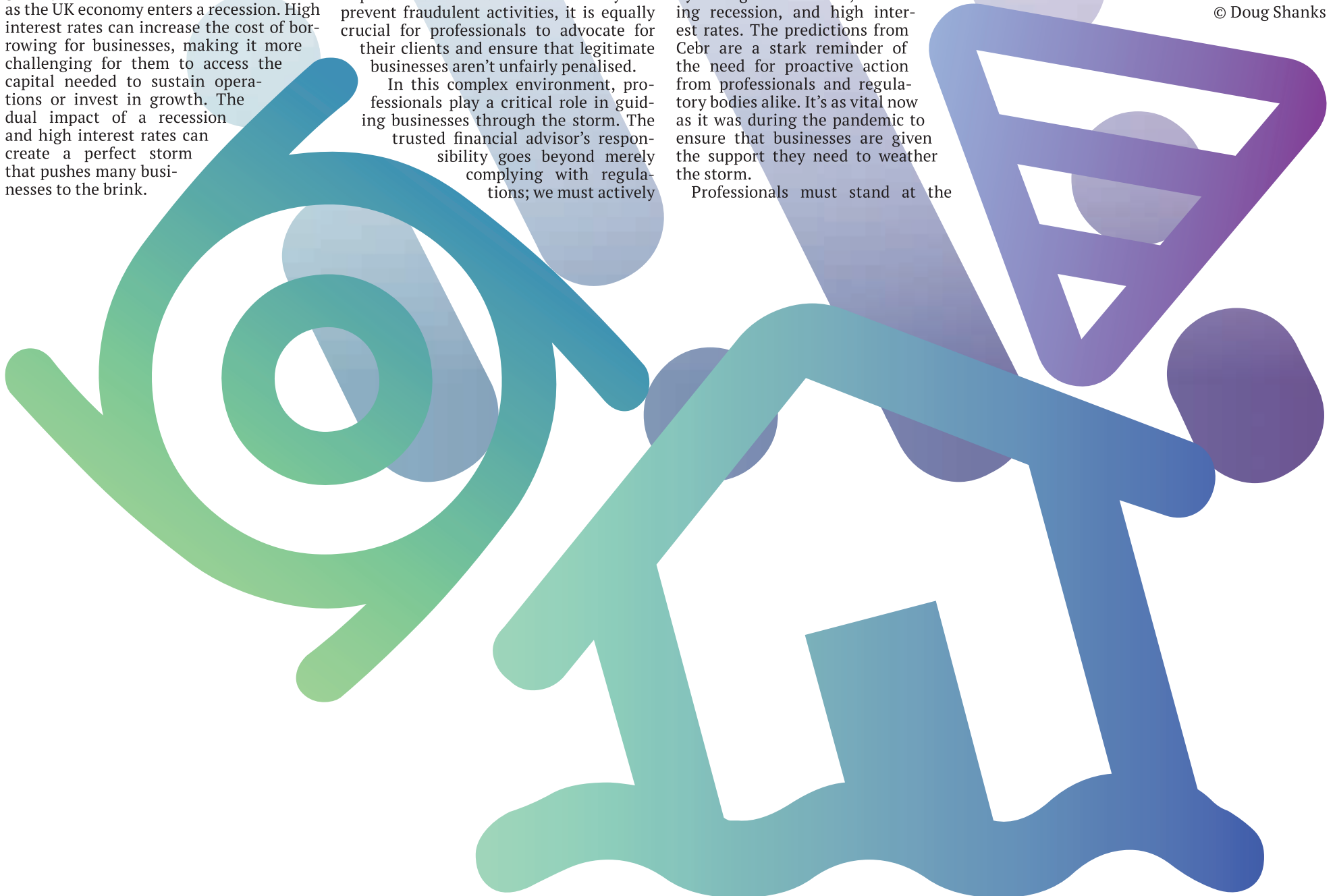
In conclusion, the UK business landscape is facing a challenging period marked by rising insolvencies, a looming recession, and high interest rates. The predictions from Cebr are a stark reminder of the need for proactive action from professionals and regulatory bodies alike. It's as vital now as it was during the pandemic to ensure that businesses are given the support they need to weather the storm.

Professionals must stand at the

forefront of advocating for our clients' interests. By engaging in constructive dialogues with regulatory bodies and leveraging our expertise, we can contribute to a more balanced and empathetic approach to addressing the issues at hand. Ultimately, the success of businesses navigating these turbulent times will depend on their resilience, adaptability, and the guidance they receive from knowledgeable professionals dedicated to their success.

Too many politicians, regulators and other leaders have little practical understanding of the pressures faced by small and medium enterprises. Are civil servants actively encouraged to hang their personal morality on a hook with their coat and leave them at the door? Perhaps that's why it's so important to reward their amorality with honours.

© Doug Shanks



AR used to alleviate stress ahead of surgery

Surgery can be a scary time for patients. The lead up to the procedure can cause anxiety and stress, and a global meta-analysis revealed that while preoperative surgery varied depending on age, previous experiences, and interactions with staff, an average of half of all patients experienced significant fear ahead of their operation.

Researchers from the University of Miami looked into the use of augmented reality (AR) in preoperative care and how it can alleviate surgery stress. The team studied 95 patients with a mean age of 38 who were booked in for an elective orthopaedic operation with a control group who received the standard surgical instructions package and a cohort receiving both that material and a three-minute AR experience narrated by the head surgeon. The study was published in the journal JAMA Network Open.

The experience involved the patients wearing a headset that combined their reality with added features specific to the hospital and their surgery. It aimed to take the "fear of the unknown" out of the surgery in a more interactive and personal way than the traditional materials typically used.

AR, unlike virtual reality (VR), embellishes reality. The user is always in control

of the experience. In VR, the entire view is simulated and the surroundings are in control. It can be used through a phone screen with a number of apps including the game Pokémon GO which has around 150 million active users every month. The technology is also being developed in cars which can display warnings and navigational instructions that appear to be on the road.

The groups were surveyed for their anxiety levels four times during their surgery, twice before and twice after. The AR group across the board showed that their stress had decreased ahead of the procedure. Moreover, following the first survey in which it greatly decreased, the second set of data showed that the drop in anxiety was maintained. This showed the long-lasting effects of this approach to preoperative preparation. Both groups however showed a similar level of anxiety after the procedure.

This AR experience was developed specifically for patients undergoing the same procedure with the same surgeon and in the same hospital. Further research would be needed to analyse whether and how this technology would have to be adapted for individual situations or whether a general approach could have the desired outcome.



Device Offers More Accurate Way to Assess Concussion Recovery



After an athlete has suffered a concussion, it is vital that they wait until the injury has fully healed before they can return to the game. A new headset has been created, designed to let them know when it is safe to do so. It does this by monitoring their "headpulse."

The current most commonly used method to gauge recovery from concussion involves monitoring "obvious physical symptoms." These include headaches and dizziness. Scientists from the University of California however believe that some brain damage can still persist even after these symptoms have alleviated. If the athlete continues to play before that damage has healed, they can risk further and more serious brain injuries.

The researchers, led by doctors Cathra Halabi and Wade S. Smith, looked into a phenomenon known as a "headpulse" as a more accurate indicator. This refers to the subtle force exerted on the inside of the skull every time the heart contracts and pumps blood out to the brain. They created a headset that can measure it using accelerometers that can detect the micro movements of the head with every pulse. It does so during a daily 90-second training session and was trialled on a group of teenagers playing Australian Rules Football. 43 of them had recently suffered a concussion while 59 did not.

Following the month-long testing period, it was found the concussed players had a distinctive headpulse pattern while the uninjured players did not. However, that pattern consisted for an average of 12 days after other symptoms had abated.

"We found a mismatch between symptoms and changes in biometrics recorded by the device," said Halabi. "This raises concern about relying on symptoms for return-to-play decisions. Delays could be recommended for those symptom-free athletes if headpulse abnormalities persist."

The device will be commercialised by medical technology firm MindRhythm. A paper on the research was published in the journal JAMA Network Open.

Education

Arts

Designing textiles online

City Lit

Create patterns and designs for textiles. This online course is ideal for beginners in Photoshop who are textile artists or designers, or for anyone interested in exploring digital textile design. You will need your own access to the Adobe Creative Suite on your Mac or PC before class. This introductory course is designed for students, teachers, designers and textile artists who would like to investigate the creative potential of Photoshop for textile design. This is a creative course that covers the basic technical Photoshop knowledge required to create textile designs, alongside exploring the design process, colour, texture and pattern.

citylit.ac.uk

Starts October 3

Business

Masterclass in Private Equity

London Business School

Enhance and grow your private equity investment by learning from a unique combination of senior and experienced global peers, leading sector experts, and faculty who have written the industry rule book. Learn from Professors Eli Talmor and Florin Vasvari, the leading global thinkers in this field.

Cut through the jargon to make sense of the global equity industry – explore valuation, structuring, value creation, harvesting and more. Join a carefully selected class to build a network of contacts that is international, relevant to your business and highly diverse. Make confident private equity investments. Investigate key market practices, techniques and investment instruments.

london.edu

October 10-13

Enquiring Minds

Adult Education Courses

Culinary

Spirit & Wine Courses in London

Le Cordon Bleu

Le Cordon Bleu's spirits & wines school in London offers some of the most innovative and professional spirit and wine courses in the country. Unlike traditional sommelier courses which focus predominantly on service, the specialist range of courses manage to combine the theory of wine knowledge with practical learning. From an aspiring wine professional looking for a beginner wine course, to an enthusiast, there is something for everyone to fulfil their passion. Learning from some of the very best wine professionals, a Wine Diploma can turn a hobby into a career, developing your sensory evaluation technique, learning how to turn a concept into a business venture and gaining an industry insight that will give you an operational and strategic approach to the food and drinks business. The wine diploma can be studied consecutively with a 3-month internship.

cordonbleu.edu

See website for dates

Language

German

Goethe Institute

Understand and use familiar, everyday expressions and very simple sentences, which relate to the satisfying of concrete needs. Introduce yourself and others as well as ask others about themselves – e.g. where they live, who they know and what they own – and respond to questions of this nature. Communicate in a simple manner if the person you are speaking to speaks slowly and clearly and is willing to help.

goethe.de

See website for dates

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Maths

Fossil Dig

Horniman Museum

Learn all about fossils, how they form and get up close with some real fossilised creatures in this hands-on session. Explore some fantastic fossils. Get hands on and discover how a fossil is formed, what becomes fossilised and why, have a go at working out some mystery fossils and touch a cast of one of the most important fossils ever discovered – the archaopteryx!

horniman.ac.uk

See website for dates

Sport & Fitness

Adult Swimming Lessons

London Aquatic Centre

Swim Doctor is Better's adult swimming programme designed for all your swimming needs. Whether you want to learn to swim, improve your technique, fitness or train for an event, the 'Swim Doctors' will help you make the most of your time in the pool in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Swimming is right up there as being one of the most enjoyable life skills worth learning. It's a great form of exercise for your physical and mental wellbeing and think of all the new water sports you could take part in also. With this new skill, it could save your life, it could also unlock new career opportunities from swimming teacher to flight attendant - or it could simply mean some more quality time with your family in the pool!

londonaquaticcentre.org

See website for dates

The FISHMONGERS' Company



Grade II* Listed building with a unique history and rich architectural heritage
Premium riverside location, exceptional cuisine and first-rate service



Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge EC4R 9EL
Contact: events@fishmongers.org.uk 020 7626 3531





DANCE & OPERA

Peter Grimes

London Coliseum

Featuring some of the most powerful and evocative opera music ever written, Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes paints a vivid picture of a small community's transformation into a hateful mob in the face of a local tragedy. Peter Grimes' apprentice goes missing in mysterious circumstances. The townspeople's mistrust of the fisherman then turns into something far darker. Gossip becomes suspicion. Suspicion descends into accusation. The villagers come together with devastating consequences to confront the outsider Grimes.

London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4ES

eno.org

September 21 – October 11

Sing at the Royal Opera House

All ages and abilities are welcome to join in and sing, in an opera chorus. Bring your friends, family and colleagues and explore some of the world's biggest tunes, in a fun and lively atmosphere at the home of The Royal Opera. Seating is unreserved. This is a participatory event: you will be singing! Bow Street, London, WC2E 9DD

roh.org.uk

September 22 – October 27

Kyiv City Ballet: A Tribute To Peace

Peacock Theatre

In February last year, the celebrated Kyiv City Ballet left Ukraine's capital for a much-anticipated tour of France. Just a day later Russia invaded, leaving the company stranded and unable to return home. Over a year on, the war still rages and these exceptional dancers remain in exile. However with extraordinary resilience, the company has gone from strength to strength, training daily, devising new programmes, reprising classic works and thrilling those able to see them. This incredible group of artists comes to the Peacock Theatre for their first ever London performances.

183 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4TJ

sadlerswells.com

September 26-30

Zinzi Minott: Black on Black

Lilian Baylis Studio

Black on Black is set within a multi-screen audio-visual installation of archive footage and material from Minott's personal and collaborative image collection. The work is accompanied by a specially commissioned score by Gaika. The work explores dance as a form of labour and tests the limits of the body through repetition, across duration, to exhaustion. The movement phrases within the solo have been donated to Minott by an extended network of Black dancers and artists. "If you could imagine a physical archive of dance", asked Minott, "what nugget or phrase would you donate?"

183 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4TJ

sadlerswells.com

September 29-30

EXHIBITIONS

China's Hidden Century

British Museum

Between 1796 and 1912 Qing China endured numerous civil uprisings and foreign wars, with revolution ultimately bringing an end to some 2,000 years of dynastic rule and

What, When, September -

giving way to a modern Chinese republic. This period of violence and turmoil was also one of extraordinary creativity, driven by political, cultural and technological change. In the shadow of these events lie stories of remarkable individuals – at court, in armies, in booming cosmopolitan cities and on the global stage. The exhibition is underpinned by a four-year research project supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and led by the British Museum and London University, in collaboration with over 100 scholars from 14 countries.

Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG

britishmuseum.org

Until October 8

Brushstrokes to Brands

Museum of Brands

A new display, featuring artwork from 'en plein air' and studio painter Steven Smith. The temporary exhibit depicts heritage brands, found in the Museum's collection, through still-life oil paintings. With a focus on confectionery wrappers, nostalgia and heritage brands, Brushstrokes to Brands offers an opportunity to connect with the collection through a new medium and a contemporary artistic lens. Enjoy a nostalgic journey through 200 years of social change, culture and lifestyle by visiting the main collection, the Time Tunnel before exploring Brushstrokes to Brands. Children can stay entertained with the activity worksheet, which will develop their understanding of design, colour and use of logos in brands and packaging.

111-117 Lancaster Road, London, W11 1QT

museumofbrands.com

Until November 25

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Disney100: The Exhibition

Excel

Dive into the world of The Walt Disney Company and experience 100 years of magic like never before! Disney100: The Exhibition is a once-in-a-lifetime event celebrating the iconic characters and stories that have captured the hearts of audiences around the globe. Disney has curated special behind-the-scenes glimpses into the creation of the most popular characters, films, shows, and attractions, from Disneyland to Walt Disney World and beyond. The ten magnificent and imaginatively themed galleries, with moving stories, unique interactive installations, and exciting background information, will take visitors on a journey through 100 years of The Walt Disney Company, celebrating the classics, as well as the latest members of the Disney family.

Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London, E16 1XL

excel.london

See website for dates

The Knitting & Stitching Show

Alexandra Palace

Thousands of visitors attend the show each year ranging from complete beginners through to seasoned crafters to see the hundreds of exhibitors selling essential supplies including yarn, fabric, buttons, fat quarters, sewing machines and more. You'll also find inspiring textile displays within the Galleries from leading textile artists and groups. Want to learn something new? Take part in one of the hundreds of workshop available, or visit The Creative Living Theatre with FREE demonstrations from some of the country's best leading craft presenters.

Alexandra Palace Way, London, N22 7AY

alexandrapalace.com

October 5-8

FAMILY & CHILDREN

Cook Like a Tudor

Hampton Court Palace

Join the history cooks each weekend this year and discover what life working in the royal kitchens was like in the 16th century. Built to feed over 450 people twice a day, the kitchens at Hampton Court were staffed by 200 people, toiling away to cook two meals each day that the Court was in the building. Come and find out what it took to create

Tudor dishes from robust roasts and stews, to delicate confectionery sweets; and see how the cooks created recipes fit for the royal court. Each weekend you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at roasting, Tudor style, and see if you have what it took to work as a tournebroche in Henry VIII's kitchens, turning the meat in front of the roaring fires. Hampton Court Way, Molesey, East Molesey, KT8 9AU

hrp.org.uk

Ongoing

Egg & Spoon

Polka Theatre

Egg and Spoon is an interactive romp through the seasons where you come in and out of a magic circle and get to open all the gifts of nature. Percy and April get you settled on comfortable cushions and introduce you to Birdy, still hiding in his glowing egg. You have to wait till Spring if you want to see him so it's time to begin your hands-on journey through the year. Run through the rain and the falling leaves and sleep under the snow till the sun wakes you up for the butterfly party. Egg and Spoon is a perfect gentle introduction to the magic of theatre.

240 The Broadway, London, SW19 1SB

polkatheatre.com

September 27 – October 1

EXHIBITIONS



Microsculpture by Levon Biss

British Library

Levon Biss' photographs reveal the unexpected and often breathtaking beauty of insects and the many intricate evolutionary adaptations to their form – what entomologists call microsculpture. Using optical microscopes and camera lenses, Biss captures the ridges, pits and engraved meshes that make up the unique shapes

and colours of insects. After selecting specimens from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History's vast collection of over five million insects, Biss carefully mounts and photographs the insects at high magnification, capturing some of the most vibrant and intense colours in nature.

96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

Until November 27

Do you have an upcoming event to publicise?

Where? October '23

EXHIBITIONS



The Rossettis Tate Britain

This exhibition follows the romance and radicalism of the Rossetti generation, through and beyond the Pre-Raphaelite years: Dante Gabriel, Christina and Elizabeth (née Siddal). Visitors will get to experience world-renowned works from their boundary-pushing careers. The Rossettis' approach to art, love and lifestyles are considered revolutionary, and this will be thoroughly explored in an immersive show, using spoken poetry, drawings, paintings, photography, design and more. This is the first retrospective of Dante Gabriel Rossetti at Tate and the largest exhibition of his iconic pictures in two decades. It will also be the most comprehensive exhibition of Elizabeth Siddal's work for 30 years, featuring rare surviving watercolours and important drawings. Millbank, London, SW1P 4RG tate.org.uk
Until September 24

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Evelyn Hofer

Photographers' Gallery
Opening Friday: Evelyn Hofer at The Photographers' Gallery will be the first UK solo exhibition of the German-American photographer Evelyn Hofer (1922-2009). On display will be Hofer's characteristically considered, large-format portraits, landscapes, cityscapes, still lifes and domestic interiors, many of which demonstrate her preference for the complex colour dye transfer process. New York Times art critic Hilton Kramer described Hofer as 'the most famous unknown photographer in America'. A description that still rings true today. From black and white portraits in London and Wales to the vibrant colour of street and park life in New York and Washington, Hofer shot in colour and black and white throughout her career, depending on which she thought was right for her subjects. 16-18 Ramillies Street, London, W1F 7LW thephotographersgallery.org.uk
Until September 24

Moonbase

Royal Observatory
From the moment humans first set foot on the Moon we have dreamed of making a base there. Moonbase by Moonraker VFX is the story of creating a foothold on the

Moon, somewhere we can extract water and minerals, grow food, and live on a more permanent basis. Travelling the 250,000 miles and surviving the hostile and alien conditions of reduced gravity, extreme temperatures and toxic lunar dust, learn about the science and technology required for this brave mission to happen. Preceding this, you will hear from Royal Observatory Greenwich astronomers about past and present lunar exploration. Blackheath Avenue, London, SE10 8XJ rmg.co.uk

Until September 30

The Wild One

National Portrait Gallery
The Wild One is the original outlaw biker film starring Marlon Brando. The film depicts gang violence between two rival motorcycle gangs, The Black Rebels Motorcycle Club and The Beatles, as they terrorise a small town. Though never definitively agreed, the rival gang's name may have influenced the band in choosing to be called The Beatles. Marlon Brando's rebellious style in the film was influential in the 1950s with his long sideburns, motorcycle jacket and haircut. Released in America in 1953, the film was banned in the UK for fourteen years. St. Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE

September 14

MUSIC

Irish Music Session

Harrison Bar
The session is organised by a highly accomplished and friendly group of players who know how to bring a taste of Ireland to the heart of Kings Cross. This event complements the Brazilian free music session that happens on the last Sunday of every month. Sunday Roasts are served from 12:00 – 9:30 pm. Free to listen or play 28 Harrison Street, London, WC1H 8JF harrisonbar.co.uk
See website for dates

Santtu Conducts Verdi's Requiem

Royal Festival Hall
There is violence in the 'Dies Irae' movement, and grandeur in the 'Tuba Mirum', heralded by eight trumpets. Joyful praise resounds in the 'Sanctus', and the 'Agnus Dei' opens with a spine-tingling unaccompanied duet for the soprano and mezzo soloists. Principal Conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali takes the helm to open the Philharmonia's season with this landmark of 19th-century music. Among the soloists is Welsh-Ukrainian soprano Natalya Romaniw, who played the title role in a 'sumptuously sung' (The Guardian) production of Tosca at the Royal Opera House last year. Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX southbankcentre.co.uk
September 21

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers in concert

Royal Albert Hall
Experience The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers in concert in 2023 as part of the Royal Albert Hall's Films in Concert series. In the saga's second chapter, The Two Towers, the world has darkened, cloaked beneath the advancing shadow of Mordor and the threat of the evil One Ring. This screening will see the music of Middle-earth come to life, with Academy Award-winning composer Howard Shore's epic score performed live by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Philharmonia Chorus and soloist Kaitlyn Lusk. Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AP royalalberthall.com
September 22-24

TALKS, TOURS, & WALKS

In & Around Smithfield Market

A walk through an area packed with history. Join this stroll through Smithfield, passing famous landmarks including the Charterhouse, St Bartholomew the Great and the famous meat market. Delve into the lives of Londoners' past, exploring the dissolution of the monasteries, the plague and public executions and hear stories of William Wallace, Henry VIII and even Sherlock Holmes. See website for location museumoflondon.org.uk
Until September 20

Spotlight: the Round Reading Room

British Museum
Visit the Round Reading Room and learn more about this historic space at the heart of the British Museum, in the magnificent Great Court. Join this volunteer-led tour and discover the fascinating history of the British Museum's Round Reading Room.

Including a brief behind-the-scenes visit to the Round Reading Room itself, the tour will cover the history of the Room, how it has evolved since it opened in 1857, and the many fascinating people who studied there. Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG britishmuseum.org
Until September 26

Shaparak Khorsandi in Conversation with Isy Suttie

Foyles
Comedian Shaparak Khorsandi looks back on her life through the lens of ADHD in a conversation with Isy Suttie about Shaparak's intimate and very funny new book, ScatterBrain. Undiagnosed Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder made Khorsandi's life a frustrating, maddening rollercoaster. With very little focus except when hyper-focusing (on the wrong things), making the same mistakes repeatedly and regularly burning out until she was sobbing. When finally diagnosed with ADHD in her 40s it felt like the lights had been turned on after a lifetime in the dark. ScatterBrain is Khorsandi's hilarious and heart-breaking journey of self-discovery. 107 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0DT foyles.co.uk
September 27

THEATRE

Macbeth

Shakespeare's Globe
One couple's ruthless quest for power turns nature upside down as Shakespeare's bloody tragedy Macbeth consumes the Globe Theatre in a 'powerful... striking' (The Guardian) production. On his return from war, three strange men offer Macbeth the prospect of ultimate control. Desperate for a new future, he and his wife set out to make it a reality with devastating costs. Following 2022's 'mesmerising' (WhatsOnStage) The Merchant of Venice in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Director Abigail Graham debuts in the Globe Theatre with Shakespeare's epic tale, exploring the impact and exploitation of unexpressed grief. 21 New Globe Walk, London, SE1 9DT shakespearesglobe.com
Until October 30

Clyde's

Donmar Warehouse
In the bustling kitchen of a run-down Pennsylvania truck stop, the formerly incarcerated staff have been given a second chance. Under the tyrannical eye of their boss Clyde, this unlikely team strives to create the perfect sandwich, as they dream of leaving their past mistakes behind for a better life. Double Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Lynn Nottage (Ruined, Sweat, The Secret Life of Bees) and director Lynette Linton (Critics' Circle Best Director for Blues for an Alabama Sky) reunite for the European premiere of the hilarious and hopeful CLYDE'S, the follow up to their Donmar five-star production of SWEAT which transferred to the West End. 41 Earlham Street, London, WC2H 9LX donmarwarehouse.com
From October 13

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

You bring the party. We raise the bar!




Rudds of Blackfriars

148 Queen Victoria Street EC4V 4BY

info@ruddblackfriars.co.uk

Tel: 020 7329 9940

Closest Tube: Blackfriars Station



Antiques & Art

Despite 2022 being described as a year of “permacrises”, global art sales were estimated to total \$67.8 billion, that’s an increase of 3% year-on-year. UK’s sales increased by 5% to \$11.9 billion; however, that is below the 2019 pre-pandemic sum of \$12.2 billion. But what will art sales generate this year? A geographi-

cally diverse survey of galleries carried out at the end of last year by Swiss-based Art Basel and UBS revealed a certain sanguinity for 2023 – 45% of dealers expected sales to improve, including 10% predicting a significant increase; 39% anticipated transactions would remain unchanged and just 16% predicted a decline.

Last year was

The start of 2023 brought with it the revelation that the premier antiques fair, *Masterpiece*, due to take place in late June/early July, was cancelled due to “escalating costs and a decline in the number of international exhibitors.” However, on a more upbeat note, there remain several salient fairs. Taking centre stage between 27th September and 1st October (preview on the 26th) is the **LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair**, Berkeley Square. The glamorous Mayfair location is perfect for this high-quality event and, with over 100 exhibitors, the Fair covers nearly every discipline across the art, antiques and design spectrum. With primary galleries such as **David Messum Fine Art** (stand A30), **Alan Wheatley Art** (stand B41), **Macconnal-Mason Galleries** (stand B3) and **The Parker Gallery** (stand B37), art lovers can be indulgent. Fine 18th century furniture is the forte of **Lennox Cato Antiques** (stand B26), while the **Crosta Smith Gallery** (stand B47) proffer a more contemporary look with 20th century French furniture. And for something more atypical, **Carol Tresor** (stand A2) presents a selection of stunning mineralogical specimens, including an extremely rare, dazzling Cretaceous period (lasted from about 145 to 66 million years) amethyst epimorph after calcite priced at £75,000.

The LAPADA event takes place in an elegant tent and, conscious of build costs, between 10th-15th October the same edifice is used for **PAD London**, the only UK fair exclusively dedicated to 20th century and contemporary design. This year incorporates an impressive roster of international galleries, including leading promoters of contemporary Korean ceramics **Gallery LVS & Craft** from Seoul and Paris-based jewellery designer **Elie Top**, with his stunning, whimsical and kinetic pieces.

When it comes to top-grade Modern British and contemporary art, then the ‘must go event’ is the **British Art Fair**. Taking place between 28th September and 1st October in the elegant, museum-style interior of the **Saatchi Gallery**, Duke of York HQ, King’s Road, SW3 4RY, it showcases the stock of over 70 dealers. When reading John Ruskin’s *Academy Notes* of 1875, I was dismayed that he penned: “I have always said no woman could paint.” So, back in the early 1980s I wrote an article for a magazine challenging this misogynistic statement and highlighting the massive price discrepancy between the work of male and female artists. At last, one area of the art market that has recently improved in leaps and bounds is the revaluation of female artists. For example, on 28th June Christie’s sold a wooden sculpture by Barbara Hepworth for £4.8 million (£5.79 million with premium), an auction record for the artist. A day later, Sotheby’s sold a smaller Hepworth beechwood sculpture for £2.1 million, which, having been sold in 2008 for £520,000, generated a healthy return. In 2022 prices for female artists grew 29% faster than their male counterparts; however, there remains a significant gap – in a list of last year’s top 100 art auction prices, only four were by women. So, my advice is explore the British Art Fair and see if you can find works by less well-known, but gifted female artists. A few names to muse over perhaps are, surrealist painter, Marion Adnams (1898-1995), Margaret Green (1925-2003), Tirzah Garwood (1908-1951), whose woodcuts are demanding ever higher prices, Ruth Doggett (1881-1974), whose work is already into five figures and the well-travelled Marjorie Mary



Portrait of a Young Boy, oil on canvas (£3,200), style of Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725-1805), Darnley Fine Art, The Decorative Fair



La Petite Negresse, pencil and gouache, by Gwen John (1876-1939), (Christopher Kingzett Fine Art), British Art Fair

Although the UK's economy is suffering a major hangover, this summer has witnessed some hefty auction prices for British art, although occasionally, it can be the name rather than artistic aptitude that results in a high value. In June at a Derbyshire auction a pair of naïve coloured drawings produced by a little boy sold for an unanticipated £59,800. The images were inscribed 'Mummy and Papa' and depicted

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The artist was, of course, King Charles III.

Traditionally the month of August is a period of rest for those involved in the art and antiques market. However, batteries recharged, September heralds a burgeoning period for this business sector. All eyes will be focused on several high-profile fairs, commencing with the LAPADA FAIR.

year of "permacrises"

Sankey (1887-1970), a remarkably skilled draughtsperson.

Founded in 1985, **The Decorative Fair**, Evolution London, Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ, is the UK's largest, longest-running premier vetted fair. Staged between 3rd and 8th October, this inspiring event is a mecca for design and interiors lovers. Picture enthusiasts are well catered for via dealers such as **Henry Miller Fine Art** (stand A27), who focuses on compositions of the male form; **Darnley Fine Art** (stand F9), whose extensive stock includes 19th century Orientalist paintings of the Middle East and prints by David Roberts (1796-1864); **Cal Smith Gallery** (stand C13), with arresting relief sculptures by Ron Hitchens (1926-2019) and **Panter & Hall Decorative** (stand D19), who offer an eclectic mix of affordable 20th century paintings, such as a still life by Swedish painter and designer, Hans Larsson (1910-1973), priced at £875. If you are looking for a Chanel Vintage 2.55 black leather shoulder bag, circa 1986 (£6,200) or a Hermès Cuivrieres Equestrian silk scarf (£310), then seek out stand E24 where **Chelsea Vintage Couture** offer rare luxury vintage French designer brands. If antique boxes or Rene Lalique glass car mascots are your desire, then you will be impressed with the stock of Northampton-based **Mark Goodger** (stand E22).

This year's Decorative Fair has the bonus of embracing **Tribal Art London** (TAL), the UK's largest event in the field of ethnographic culture. Offering an exciting fusion of works, priced from low hundreds to over £50,000, the 15 specialists' exhibitors, include David Malik, with masks from Central and Western Africa, Lisa Tao, displays Oceanic pieces and early photographic images, Dorset-based Tom Hurst focuses on African and Oceanic weaponry and Frans Faber from the Netherlands will have Indonesian art.

Away from the above feverish happenings, take a little repose at **Putney Pies**, 2 Putney High Street, SW15 1SL, a casual, Thames-side eatery and bar who, claim, to serve the "finest pies in the land." Until 10th October there is another reason to make a visit – a small display of paintings by the gifted Ilsa Brittain, who describes her work as "representational and abstract, illusionary and conceptual." Entitled *Time Folds*, she explores the possibilities of compositions depicting cloth in such a way as to "convey notions of what it is to be alive, sensory, aware and connected, in abstract terms." Also featured are her oil and acrylic canvases that come from combining drawings of faces with fragments of paint and other elements.

Anthony J. Lester, FRSA
lesterartcritic@eyeonlondon.online



Painted wood mask, Ogoni, Nigeria, Tribal Art London (David Malik)



Set of Carle Fabergé (1846-1920) enamelled objects, Spicer-Warner Jewellery, LAPADA Fair

THE DECORATIVE FAIR

BATTERSEA PARK
LONDON

AUTUMN
3-8 OCTOBER 2023

ANTIQUES, DESIGN & ART
FOR INTERIOR DECORATION

FREE ENTRY FROM 4PM DAILY
DECORATIVEFAIR.COM

Arts & Culture



Images: V&A Museum of Childhood

Young V&A opened on July 1st as a £13m regeneration of the old Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, and as I write, it has already welcomed nearly 150,000 visitors, a 174% increase on a comparable period in 2019/20, pre-pandemic. It's popular.

It's not just a refurb or a recast, it's a complete rethink of what a museum for children should be, the newest manifestation of the new museological ethos in which the principal concern is no longer the objects in the collection but the visitor experience of those that come to see it.

It is, as its name suggests, a branch of the V&A, the national museum of fine and decorative art, but there's little on show to betray its parentage. This is not so much a museum as a grand and sophisticated playground, a 180-degree turn from its founding mission (which was to present a historical perception of childhood and introduce the benighted young people of the East End to art). Its main galleries are now designated as Play, Imagine and Design, and they are "packed full of serious fun and playful learning at every turn" as the press release says. It has been closed for three years.

It's all set in a 160-year-old Grade II* listed building that was the original home of the V&A's predecessor, the South Kensington Museum. It is a prefabricated iron and glass structure designed by a Royal Engineers captain, planted more or less where the V&A stands now and known without much affection as the "Brompton Boilers" because it looks like a factory.

In 1872 it had been superseded and transported to Cambridge Heath Road to house a representative selection of beautiful things that might inspire the culture-starved East Enders. During the First World

War the V&A, as it now was, was anxious about keeping kids at a loose end occupied, so assembled a room full of dolls' houses, dolls, toys and games from the collections for them to look at. When Arthur Sabin was sent to Bethnal Green - BGM - as its head in 1922 he mounted a children's exhibition: "In a district like this," he said, "children have no background in their homes which will help to create a love of beauty in their minds". The exhibition became permanent and Sabin began to collect more items, winning the support of Queen Mary, no less. However, after he retired in 1940 the notion of a children's museum died, and BGM was changed again to house the V&A's collection of 19th century Continental art, including several Rodin bronze casts.

One of Roy Strong's first acts when he became V&A director in 1974 was to revive the Sabin vision and renamed BGM the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, and it was refurbished just in time to be threatened with closure by the Thatcher cuts. There was an outcry and a Parliamentary Select Committee advised that not only should it be kept open, it should be better financed. It wasn't, but it was saved, refurbished again under the leadership of the historian Anthony Burton and made more child friendly. "The nation's toy cupboard has been completely overhauled," he said. "A later generation could easily take it all away and start again," he added prophetically, "but it is, I hope, more than local interest".

Burton was succeeded in 2002 by Diane Lees, who went on to be director-general of the Imperial War Museum. At BGM she immediately launched into another £5m refurb, which added a box to the front the Brompton Boilers as a new entrance. However, it was still a serious business,

museum-going.

Now, under the new director Helen Charman (who is also the V&A's director of learning), it has become fun. The main ground floor space - on which the Victorian mosaic floor has been restored - is a large café area, with natural light flooding in from uncovered original windows, and a dramatic spiral staircase added to the far end. The museum has plugged into the local youth and their worlds, stoically ignoring any preferences for VR entertainment but homing in on Minecraft, building things, inventing, making and colour, with no imprecations to keep the noise level down. It's hands-on in every conceivable way, the displays aimed at 0- to 14-year-olds. Children tumble harmlessly, they push, pull and bang things so that several; are inevitably already out of order, all activities directed at activating their creative imagination in a way that schools cannot. "Ideas are sparked when we get curious and think 'what if...?' We can imagine anything" says one piece of didactic. There's a theatre space in which to dress up and allow fantasy to roll.

This is the first museum to be designed around children, but there is a route to its arrival, from the Exploratory installed in the 80s at Temple Meads Station by the psychologist Richard Gregory, who devised "plores" to allow children to explore science and technology through simple games, and inspired the Science Museum's Launch Pad basement space. Then Vivien Clore took up Gregory's train of thought when she saw work he'd done in San Francisco, and funded a Museum for Children to be the opposite of BGM, and put it in Halifax with a new name, Eureka!, at a cost of £9m, where it still thrives.

Young V&A feels like what Sabin,

Burton, Gregory and Duffield were working towards, though some of them would be dismayed at the thought. Learning is at the centre of a very carefully calculated programme of features, which has nothing of the forbidding nature of a classroom, or of a museum gallery for that matter.

There are wrinkles. An area devoted to board games and how to make them is much too cramped; there is a certain amount of speech in some of the installations, which is largely inaudible because of the ambient excited noise; there's a 19th century marble head whose didactic tells of how smooth human craftsmanship can make a hard stone, but you can't touch it. And some of the didactic needs an adult accomplice to explain what, for instance, "Resource Management" means in the context of creating board games.

However, in the area for older children there are cleverly succinct descriptions of creative processes - veneering, enamelling, marquetry, glazing, etc. Some of the dolls' houses of old are back, now arranged in a kind of street, some of it interactive; selfies and how we think of portraying ourselves, with children's own attempts among those by the likes of David Hockney, Bridget Riley and Shirley Hughes, seems one of the most popular corners.

There will be sadness among those who remember the old place, but this is not a time for nostalgia and the role of museums has changed since Dr Charman's predecessors put their fingerprints on Captain Fowke's Brompton Boilers. BGM is now more, but how long until Young V&A becomes a museum of the past?

Simon Tait

Classical Music

Partner Content

Alessandro Crudele019 © Marco Borggreve



Milan harbours a particular sort of conductor: suave, stylish and businesslike - just as the city sees itself. In opera one thinks of La Scala's favourite sons, from Toscanini, through Giulini, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti to

Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*, Respighi's third suite of *Ancient Airs and Dances*, and Britten's very early *Sinfonietta*. He also opens the London Philharmonic's Eastbourne season in September, on 24th, conducting Tchaikovsky's *Fourth Symphony*

music, not just the showmanship.

Crudele's father (like Giulini and Muti) came from Puglia, the region that forms the heel of Italy and is renowned for its Primitivo red wine and its strange conical stone houses, but is also seen by many northerners as a backwater. Although his main base is now in Berlin, he has a house in the South too - in Ostuni, one of those white hillside towns close to the Adriatic.

their clear and disturbing depiction of the Suffolk coast, are some of the most atmospheric pieces of the twentieth century and 'iconic' of English music. The main work on the recording, though, is Elgar's *Violin Concerto*. It is unusual, he feels, for a non-British conductor and soloist to tackle it - not because it is unknown but because, 'it is so long and difficult to play physically. The last movement cadenza is one of the hardest for the soloist but also for the conductor to accompany. One has to concentrate very carefully.' The quest for colour summarises these first two recordings, so different in other ways, even if written within 35 years of each other.

Alessandro Crudele's collaborator in the Elgar is Michael Barenboim whose father, the great pianist and conductor Daniel, reinvigorated the tradition of playing Elgar in Germany. Crudele says record companies often start in the studio and then push artists to tour the works afterwards, ironically meaning that the recorded performance is made before the music has completely bedded into the musicians' repertoire. 'But we did it the old way. Michael and I made sure we performed it in concerts several times first, before we recorded it, and I think you can feel that.'

Simon Mundy

Alessandro Crudele, A Conductor in a Grand Tradition

Riccardo Chailly and Daniele Gatti, and I'm leaving out plenty more. In the concert hall, they have presence on the podium; they handle the baton with elegance and the occasional flourish. Their music making is full of character.

A prospective addition to this line is Alessandro Crudele, who was born there and has conducted at La Scala many times. In London, he has recently started making recordings with the Philharmonia Orchestra and marks the release of the second, for the Linn label (Scotland's finest), with a concert on 12th October in the Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music, down the steps from the Royal Albert Hall. The concert, which is free, thanks to the Italian Cultural Institute in London, will have the same composers as Crudele's records but different pieces:

after accompanying Chloë Hanslip in Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*.

'Milan is a city with the most opportunities in Italy,' he says, 'and it has been the place where the Italian style of conducting has developed. I definitely see myself in that tradition.' Whereas outsiders probably think of that tradition as being about style, Crudele sees its defining feature as being attentive to the score. 'I had a strict teacher. He insisted that first you study and digest the score. Only then you can bring your talent, your intuition, but never your own ego.' He thinks of the seriousness Giulini and Abbado brought to their work, always looking for the overall shape of the

He finds the sense of homecoming, but also the stark brilliance of the landscape, inspirational. That quality pervaded his first recording for Linn too: an album with the London Philharmonic of Respighi's *Pines of Rome* and *Brazilian Impressions*. 'That is very close to my style. I'm symphonic by nature and I love working on those big orchestral colours.'

For his second recording, released this month, Crudele has teamed up with the Philharmonia Orchestra for a programme that also explores the full musical palette, seen from Britain, not Italy. For him Benjamin Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*, which open the disc, with



Reality

Reality is a dramatised documentary-thriller based upon an actual audio recording that was secretly captured by FBI agents who showed-up to question a 25 year-old woman called Reality Winner. All just moments after she'd packed her shopping into her car. About to drive out of a supermarket's car park, Winner is stopped by the FBI agents (actors pictured) who lean into her car window. An intimidating scenario is kick-started by one request, "Could you step out of the car?" All on a sunny afternoon in Augusta, Georgia, on June 23rd, 2017.

The two agents proceed to interrogate NSA translator Winner (played by Sydney Sweeney) at her suburban home. The agents traded small talk with Winner about her pet dogs and cats. All set out in a cleverly premeditated game of verbal entrapment.



All photos and posters appear courtesy of their respective studio / publisher

NEW DOCUMENTARY FILMS FOR 2023

The dramatised-documentary style is pure thriller fusion. It is made all the more real, because every word uttered was transcribed from the said agent's actual recordings of the day's unfolding events. The film's dramatic tension becomes nail biting..Sweeney's performance is spellbinding. Winner's inner tension is there for all to see. Captivated? You'll continue to wonder what will happen next...

Director, Tina Satter, "I was so drawn to the way she's evading their questions. The thing that I found fascinating was how Reality was coming off, and I thought, 'This is my kind of thriller, a girl in Jean shorts, going head to head with these dudes'..."

All in the wake of Winner supposedly leaking an FBI report about Russia's aims to hack the US Voter Registry. This was confidentially flagged-up by the FBI and the CIA to the US Services, where Winner worked in situ. This very real possibility was, in fact, already well underway by Russian hackers. The news media 'leak' led to Winner's arrest, trial, and - eventually - a shortened jail sentence of some four years. Winner was found guilty for mailing American state secrets to an investigative journalist in American newsprint media.

The stage version of the film called "This is not a Room" was created as a forerunner to

the movie by the film's director, Tina Satter. Reality is Satter's masterful, and critically acclaimed, directorial debut. A political feature film for our times. Currently overlooked by most non-American audiences, Reality is a benchmark in modern American movie making. It has reinvigorated the dramatised documentary genre. Let's have more films like this please.

Praying for Armageddon: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ? A 21st Century Holy War?

Praying for Armageddon is described as, 'A political docu-thriller with chilling ramifications'. This is the crux of the matter. Opening scenes show propaganda-fed cranks being enlisted inside Texan halls. We hear of their aims for a Holy War. Framed as being for, and-on-behalf of, America and Israel. Pitched to all as 'A 21st Century Biker's Crusade'. Set-up in anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

These gun toting Bikers operate in tandem with billion dollar, donor-funded, Evangelical factions. They insinuate themselves into a wider context through global TV streamed shows and are broadcast to

195 countries via John Hagee's 'Christians United For Israel'. His CUFI was originally set-up in 1975. They have since propagated their message to countless millions. Wikipedia describes the CUFI's Wiki page as having 'a promotional tone' with 'multiple issues'. These folks certainly do have many 'issues', according to the filmmaker here.

This illuminating documentary focuses-in on the fusion of Christian Biker, Militias, within the wider context of the CUFI's American Evangelical Community..

Revving-Up To Jerusalem For Jesus

Incredible shots show over 100 American motorbikes being flown to Israel to spread the word of Christ. The bearded Bikers of the Apocalypse are filmed cruising down Israeli motorways to arrive as heroes. All sat astride their 1000cc Chariots of Fire revving-up into Jerusalem for Jesus.

Back in the USA Director-Reporter Tonja Hessen Schei reports from the inside, investigating the dalliance between Evangelical Christianity and Politics. The Bikers ultimate goal is for Armageddon, which, in their view, will lead to their own salvation through the second coming of Christ. "Hallelujah! Praise The Lord!", they chant in unison.

Schei embeds himself with an old evangelistic Texan Biker. 'Grey Beard' predicts that, "Jesus will return on a motorbike, carrying a gun". The Lord Jesus will then lead his clan of Bikers into the next Holy War. This will culminate with the son of God cruising-off into a post apocalyptic sunset with "200 feet high rivers of blood, flowing behind him", adds 'Grey Beard'.

Putting the Word 'Mental' Into 'Fundamentalist'

The reality of this fantasy is terrifying. This lot are far from being a fringe collective. CUFI has harnessed the Evangelical vote via a billion dollar lobby. Hagee's minions are secure.

Footage reveals that they even became 'consultants' to Trump's administration. The CUFI remains embedded within powerful American institutions. They have Republican representatives in Congress. Schei meets these politicians. We hear their 'Second Coming of Christ' spin. We gauge that 200,000 American Troopers have been indoctrinated into this new form of apocalyptic 'Baptist' thinking. A Holy War ethos has fuelled the US Military who remain on standby. Meanwhile, Washington D.C's Politicians contemplate America's next move. Amen

Bella Ciao

Bella Ciao is a life affirming Italian music documentary. The story behind a political song born of hope, inspiring those who would seek to celebrate democracy and justice. This song's lyrics were written during the 1930's when the Partisans were fighting Mussolini. Historical evidence, however, traces Bella Ciao's melodic roots back through several centuries, and variant culture.

As an anti-fascist song, Bella Ciao helped to provide inspiration for millions. A song for the oppressed people of the world. Sung in every continent, it cheered those enduring famine, war, and dictatorships. Not least in Italy, Iraq, and Turkey, where the film's central focus resides. This is a story born of personal struggle against authoritarianism, illustrating the importance of memory via personal testament. A reflective documentary of true quality, Bella Ciao is the best music documentary of 2023, to date, while Bella Ciao remains as a song for all time.

Henry Scott-Irvine



grandappetites

Tucked away, just off Berkeley Square, Mayfair, Bocconcino, lures you in with its fantastic floral display right at the entrance. Step inside, and you'll find a classier version of your typical Italian trattoria, complete with fancy marble touches, impressive lights, and high ceilings. The vibe is cosy, and the staff are friendly and helpful. Once we got comfy at our table, the evening started with and a tantalising non-alcoholic cocktail, Passion Fizz, made with passion fruit, lime juice, vanilla syrup and soda water (£12) and the zesty Ricci Cocktail, a fun nod to the iconic Italian Aperol (£19). This tasty mix included Patrón Silver Tequila, Aperol, Blood Orange Juice, Lime Juice & Egg White, and got us into the mood for the enjoyable experiences ahead.

Bocconcino

Mayfair

The five-course tasting menu was more than just a delicious meal; it was a window into the world of our host, Chef Marco Corsica. He gave us a glimpse into his history, sharing how he learned the ropes in Posillipo, Napoli, under the guidance of his grandparents. Then, he brought his talents to London, where he refined his skills and had the opportunity to work alongside the renowned three-Michelin-star chef, Marco Pierre White.

To start, we were served the Tarte di ricciola con avocado, arancia e soya. The yellowtail was sweet and buttery, and when paired with the Taittinger Brut Reserve, NV, it was like a perfect harmony of flavours and bubbles. It was just the beginning, but it already had us eagerly anticipating the

meal that lay ahead.

Next up was the Capesante con purea di topinambur e funghi chiodini, which basically translates to scallops with Jerusalem artichoke puree and fragrant shimeji mushrooms. The Cardonnay "Sermin" from Ca' del Baio, Piedmont, 2021, accompanied this dish, and perfectly matched.

Moving along, we savoured the Tagliolini con granchio e datterino giallo, a plate of pasta that came alive with crab and yellow cherry tomatoes. It was complemented by the Sauvignon Blanc "Sanct Valent" from St. Michael-Eppan, Trentino Alto Adige, 2021.

The Filetto di tonno con vegetallarrosto e salmoriglio was the star of the show, featuring a herb-crusted tuna fillet, roasted veggies, and a zesty salmoriglio sauce. It was a true masterpiece, and the Gavi di Gavi

"Black Label" from La Scolca, Piedmont, 2022, was an excellent choice to go with it.

To wrap things up on a sweet note, we indulged in Gelato soffice alla vaniglia, which is just a fancy way of saying soft vanilla ice cream. It was a simple delight, made even better with the Cannonau Passito "Antonio Argiolas 100" from Argiolas, Sardinia, 2010.

The entire tasting menu experience came to £150 per person, which might sound a bit steep, but considering the artistry and innovation that went into each dish, it was worth every penny. Overall, Bocconcino delivered a memorable experience that left us impressed.

Emma Trehane

Theo Randall

Park Lane



When we received an invitation to experience Theo Randall's menu at the InterContinental, we were genuinely excited, especially knowing that we would be indulging in a regional tasting menu inspired by the delectable flavours of Campania, Italy. Theo Randall is a familiar name among celebrity chefs, having spent an impressive fifteen years at the renowned River Café, including ten years as the head chef, where he earned a prestigious Michelin star. Randall's contributions at the River Café are often described as instrumental, as he not only created some of their most iconic dishes but also played a significant role in reshaping how Britons perceive dining out. Given this impressive background, we anticipated a remarkable night of good food and fine wine.

Our journey began with the Insalata, a delightful dish featuring Buffalo mozzarella from La Perla in Campania, complemented by merinda and datterini tomatoes, fragrant basil, and a satisfying crunch of Pangrattato. Antonio Caggiano's 2021 Greco di Tufo DOPG paired seamlessly with this dish; full bodied with just the right amount of acidity.

The Primo course introduced us to the Pasta allo Scoglio, a bountiful serving of fresh tagliatelle adorned with an abundant medley of vongole, mussels, prawns, and tender squid, all lovingly simmered in a delicate white wine reduction infused with garlic and parsley. In the Pasta allo Scoglio we were savouring Randall's deep understanding of Campania's coastal character and its rich seafood traditions shone through. The wine pairing, Vadiaperti's 2021 Irpinia Coda di Volpe DOC, stood as a perfect companion

— dry, refreshingly crisp, and beautifully balanced.

For the main course or 'Secondo', the Controfiletto di Manzo con Salsa took centre stage. This succulent sirloin steak was accompanied by a sauce infused with the flavours of oregano, red chilli, and Taggiasche olives. Grilled marinated violet aubergines, yellow peppers, and courgette added a delightful Mediterranean touch to the plate. It was bold and flavourful, with Vesevo Beneventano Aglianico 2021, a dark smoky red wine with aromas of chocolate and cherries, which complemented the steak.

The most memorable part of the evening occurred at the conclusion of the meal. As we savoured the dessert, Torta Caprese, a chocolate and almond torta, with coffee gelato, we had the opportunity to meet Theo Randall in his own kitchen. Meeting the chef in the place where he works his magic, was a moment of warmth and hospitality. It became clear that Randall's passion for Italian flavours and dedication to creating memorable dining experiences extended well beyond the plate. With his well-deserved reputation as an authority figure on Italian cuisine, the encounter was a privilege.

What's even more impressive is that this tasting menu with wine pairings comes at a very reasonable £75 per person. Considering you're being treated to a meal crafted by the man himself, who personally selects the ingredients and designs the menu, it's an exceptional value. We wholeheartedly recommend visiting as soon as you can!

Emma Trehane





Austin, TX: Hannah Paymayesh



Oman



Brazil: Joao Gilberto

Embark with EyeOnLondon on a journey to exceptional destinations that offer an endless summer and new adventures all year round. In this special travel round-up, we invite you to step off the beaten path and discover some of the world's most extraordinary winter destinations. From the vibrant shores of Brazil to the cultural treasures of South Africa, and the hidden gems of Morocco and Agadir, these are the places that promise unforgettable experiences amidst the winter sun. So, join us on this globe-trotting journey as we unveil the allure of these captivating and less-trodden locales, perfect for those in search of sun, warmth, and adventure in the heart of winter.

beaches, with standout favorites like Horseshoe Bay Beach, Elbow Beach, and Jobson's Cove Beach drawing countless visitors. The Royal Naval Dockyard, once the largest British naval base in the Atlantic Ocean, is now a thriving hub for tourists, replete with vibrant shops, restaurants, and attractions. Furthermore, Bermuda is a sanctuary for a flourishing population of dolphins, and numerous companies offer captivating dolphin-watching tours, enabling you to intimately observe these magnificent creatures in their natural environment.

Hotels: Grotto Bay Beach Resort, around £390 per night; Coco Reef Resort, around £370 per night

Warmth & Wonder A Guide to

Morocco, flight time: around 4 hours, average temperature 25°C

Morocco attracts its fair share of tourists, with many opting for the well-trodden paths of cities like Marrakesh and Casablanca. However, the somewhat lesser-known Agadir offers a distinctive charm worth exploring. This coastal gem is renowned for its exquisite beaches, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking some sun-soaked relaxation. Furthermore, Agadir serves as an excellent hub for surfing enthusiasts, offering waves suitable for both beginners and seasoned surfers. For a taste of Moroccan culture, consider enrolling in a cooking class during your Agadir stay. Explore the delightful and diverse world of Moroccan cuisine as you master the art of preparing iconic dishes like couscous and tagines.

Hotels: Allegro Agadir, around £85 per night; Mabrouk, around £90 per night

Oman, flight time: around 7 hours, average temperature 30°C

Oman beckons as an ideal winter destination, boasting mild and sun-soaked weather during the season. Muscat, the capital, basks in an average temperature of 25°C in December, while the mountainous regions offer even cooler climes. This opportune season opens doors to explore Oman's diverse array of attractions, including ancient forts, exquisite mosques, and breathtaking natural landscapes. Don't miss the chance to marvel at the grandeur of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, one of the world's largest and a quintessential stop for any Oman-bound traveller. Immerse yourself in the vibrant ambiance of the Muttrah Souq, a traditional Arabian market brimming with spices, souvenirs, and traditional Omani attire. For nature enthusiasts, a hike in the Jebel Akhdar mountains promises awe-inspiring panoramas of the surrounding countryside, making it an exceptional locale for hiking and camping adventures.

Hotels: Shangri-La Al Husn Muscat, around £250 per night; Ali Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, around £340 per night

Bermuda, flight time: around 7 hours, average temperature 27°C
Bermuda boasts its renowned pink-sand

India, flight time: around 9 hours, average temperature 28°C

Where to begin but with the Taj Mahal, an unequivocal marvel and one of the world's most renowned wonders—a vital stop for anyone embarking on an Indian adventure. Yet, India's allure extends beyond its architectural wonders. Ranthambore National Park, a sanctuary for wildlife, including tigers, leopards, and elephants, beckons for a thrilling safari amidst their natural habitat. Alternatively, immerse yourself in the serene backwaters of Kerala, a region celebrated for its picturesque waterways, offering a perfect setting to unwind and savour the state's natural splendour. You can opt for a scenic boat excursion through these tranquil waters or indulge in the unique experience of staying aboard a traditional houseboat. Finally, make time to explore India's diverse culture and delicious food, to make this an unforgettable journey!

Hotels: Kumarakom Lake Resort, around £310 per night; Taj Bekal Resort & Spa, around £270 per night

Southern USA, flight time: around 9 hours, average temperature 28°C

In the United States, the southern regions can present a formidable challenge during the summer months, particularly in states like Florida and Louisiana, where intense heat and humidity prevail. However, consider visiting these locales during the winter, and you'll revel in delightful temperatures. Embark on a captivating hike through the Everglades, where you can spot the local wildlife and behold the unspoiled natural beauty of the region. During this season, not only are the temperatures much more pleasant, but you'll also find relief from the bothersome insects that often complicate travel in the area.

Venture to Louisiana and explore the historic city of New Orleans, renowned for offering some of the finest music and cuisine that America has to offer. Alternatively, embark on a journey through the southern expanse, spanning from Tennessee to Texas, celebrated for

its delectable barbecue and warm-hearted hospitality.

Hotels: Grand Bohemian Orlando, around £270 per night; The Royal Sonesta New Orleans, around £220 per night

South Africa, flight time: around 10 hours, average temperature 22°C South Africa's natural landscapes are equally captivating. Notably, Table Mountain, a prominent feature near Cape Town, attracts numerous visitors who ascend to its summit via cable car for breathtaking views. Another compelling excursion is a boat trip to Robben Island, named after the Dutch term for seals, and renowned as the site of Nelson Mandela's incarceration during his journey to the presidency.

For a rich historical and cultural experience, head over to Soweto near Johannesburg. This area brims with history and heritage and played a pivotal

missed. However, Brazil's allure extends far beyond the realm of sports. The country boasts some of the world's most exquisite beaches, and the current season offers an ideal time to explore them. With warm, sun-kissed weather and fewer crowds than during the summer, it's a perfect moment for beach enthusiasts.

Beyond the coastline, the Amazon rainforest unfolds, standing as the planet's largest rainforest and a haven for an astounding diversity of flora and fauna. Here, you can embark on exhilarating jungle hikes, take tranquil boat excursions down the mighty Amazon River, or engage with local communities. To truly immerse yourself in the Brazilian spirit, delve into the world of samba, the nation's quintessential dance. Many schools cater to tourists, offering classes to help you embrace the vibrant culture of the country.

Hotels: Ipanema Inn, around £135 per night; Vila Galé Paulista, around £100 per night

Australia, flight time: around a day, average temperature 23°C The Sydney Opera House stands as an



Sydney



Taj Mahal: Adithya0376

role in the anti-apartheid struggle. It was both Nelson Mandela's former residence and the starting point of Mahatma Gandhi's legal career. If you're up for a wildlife adventure, Kruger National Park lies not far from this region, promising an unforgettable safari experience.

Hotels: Vivari Hotel & Spa, around £145 per night; The Table Bay, around £285 per night

Maldives, flight time: around 12 hours, average temperature 28°C

The Maldives stands as a treasure trove of world-class snorkelling and diving destinations, where you'll encounter an abundance of vibrant fish, intricate coral reefs, and even the awe-inspiring presence of sharks and rays. If you prefer to bask in the sun's warmth then the beautiful beaches are there for you to relax and have a good time.

For those seeking aquatic adventures, numerous boat excursions beckon, ranging from enchanting sunset cruises to thrilling fishing trips. Alternatively, you can embark on a day trip to one of the many enchanting islands within this vast archipelago, each harbouring a unique culture waiting to be discovered.

As day turns to night, the Maldives offers a celestial spectacle as it's renowned as one of the world's premier stargazing destinations, blessed with minimal light pollution. You can opt for a boat trip to a secluded vantage point or simply recline on the beach and gaze up at the mesmerising night sky.

Hotels: Ayada Maldives, around £850 per night; Varu by Atmosphere, around £740 per night

Brazil, flight time: around 12 hours, average temperature 24°C

Mentioning Brazil inevitably brings up the topic of football, a passion that knows no equal. If the opportunity arises to witness a match, it's an experience not to be

missed. However, Brazil's allure extends far beyond the realm of sports. The country boasts some of the world's most exquisite beaches, and the current season offers an ideal time to explore them. With warm, sun-kissed weather and fewer crowds than during the summer, it's a perfect moment for beach enthusiasts.

Beyond the coastline, the Amazon rainforest unfolds, standing as the planet's largest rainforest and a haven for an astounding diversity of flora and fauna. Here, you can embark on exhilarating jungle hikes, take tranquil boat excursions down the mighty Amazon River, or engage with local communities. To truly immerse yourself in the Brazilian spirit, delve into the world of samba, the nation's quintessential dance. Many schools cater to tourists, offering classes to help you embrace the vibrant culture of the country.

Hotels: Crystalbrook Albion, around £205 per night, Spicers Point, around £180 per night

Tahiti, flight time: around a day, average temperature 21°C

Tahiti boasts some of the world's most healthiest coral reefs, rendering it an idyllic destination for snorkelling and diving enthusiasts. Here, you'll have the opportunity to encounter a vibrant array of colourful fish, intricate coral formations, and diverse marine life. The island also boasts a number of majestic mountains, ideal for hiking and biking, where you can revel in breathtaking panoramic vistas.

Alternatively, immerse yourself in the local culture by visiting a nearby village, where you can gain insights into Tahitian traditions and their way of life. Or perhaps consider participating in a cooking class, where you'll master the art of preparing the island's most beloved dishes. Tahiti, with its natural wonders and cultural richness, offers a multifaceted adventure for every traveller.

Hotels: Chez Fifi, around £70 per night; Royal Tahitien, around £110 per night



Table Mountain from Blouberg: South African Tourism



CROSS CODE

12	14	16	26	10	20	14	12		18	5	3	25
14		4		14		3		15		3		4
11	14	21	4	7	14	12		4	6	20	14	3
20		26		5		2		7		14		25
	25	10	14	14	16		8	5	3	3	14	10
24				8	19	14	10	14		2		14
1	23	21	13		4	10	14		20	14	17	20
7		4		2	3	26	25	22				14
14	9	1	26	20	14		22	5	21	21	2	
3		12		26		26		20		14		1
5	12	14	26	21		11	14	20	10	26	13	2
21		2		22		21		14		10		14
14	26	20	2		15	14	26	3	5	3	23	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		N	O						R			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

IDEALLY A LONDONER

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. The English fleet was attacked in the Thames in 1667 by warships from which country?

2. On sheet music, what do the symbols known as 'hairpins' represent?

3. What title is held by the senior prelate of the Roman Catholic Church in England?

4. Which English artist published a book entitled The Anatomy of the Horse?

5. Kenneth Branagh played Gilderoy Lockhart in which Harry Potter film?

6. David Beckham played for which US football team?

7. Pythagoras's theorem is associated with which branch of mathematics?

8. Hamilton Park, Kelso and Ffos Las are all what?

9. 'To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance' is a quote from which Oscar Wilde play?

10. What P is the title of a 2014 Ed Sheeran song and an image taken by a camera?

NONAGRAM

WORD PYRAMID

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines: 28 Good; 34 Very Good; 39 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

FIVE ALIVE

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2		3		4		5		6		7
								8			
9							10				
							11				
12											
					13		14				15
16		17		18					19		
							20				
21					22						
				23							
24											
					25						

ACROSS

DOWN

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

		9	6	4				2
		3		1	7			8
		4		3			6	
6			8			3		
1		7		2				4
5	3			7	4			
								5
9		5	8		6	4		
4	8	6		5	1			

1			5	7	6			
		9		1				5
							8	
	7	4	1					
							3	
2			8		9			
	4				5			
		3		6	2	7	4	8
						6		

EQUALISER

3

7

12

4

3

1

4

5

3

9

2

5

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

This puzzle page is supplied by Sirius Media Services Ltd.

To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to www.zygolex.com

© Sirius Media Services Ltd

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 The Netherlands; 2 Crescendo and diminuendo (rising and falling volume); 3 Archbishop of Westminster; 4 George Stubbs; 5 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; 6 Los Angeles Galaxy; 7 Geometry; 8 British racecourses; 9 An Ideal Husband; 10 Photograph.

CRIPIC CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Lama; 9 Out of date; 11 Oafish; 12 Edwina; 13 Palliate; 16 Hysteria; 20 Tracer; 21 Nordic; 23 Clientele; 24 Limp; 25 Polyester. Down – 2 Thundery; 3 Atomic; 4 Endpaper; 5 Unto; 6 Marina; 7 Daphne; 10 Earl; 14 Leatherly; 15 True blue; 16 Handle; 17 Comput; 18 Copter; 19 Sphere; 22 Alto; 24 Port; 25 Pothier; 26 Poser; 29 Scour; 30 Galleon; 31 Lie; 32 Sinus; 33 Miracle; 34 Posing; 35 Apparal; 4 Kitbag; 5 Tying; 6 Risible; 7 Elevate; 12 Rue; 14 Lost; 16 Real; 17 Nemesis; 18 Sirlion; 20 Scrup; 18 Epic; 19 Cactus; 22 Clio.

QUICK CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Cossack; 5 Tense; 8 Icy; 9 Turnpet; 10 Issue; 11 Moot; 12 Moot; 13 Moot; 14 Moot; 15 Moot; 16 Moot; 17 Moot; 18 Moot; 19 Moot; 20 Moot; 21 Moot; 22 Moot; 23 Moot; 24 Moot; 25 Moot; 26 Moot; 27 Moot; 28 Moot. Down – 1 Moot; 2 Moot; 3 Moot; 4 Moot; 5 Moot; 6 Moot; 7 Moot; 8 Moot; 9 Moot; 10 Moot; 11 Moot; 12 Moot; 13 Moot; 14 Moot; 15 Moot; 16 Moot; 17 Moot; 18 Moot; 19 Moot; 20 Moot; 21 Moot; 22 Moot; 23 Moot; 24 Moot; 25 Moot; 26 Moot; 27 Moot; 28 Moot.

NONAGRAM: Across – Widow; Olive; Gated. Down – Diced; Lunges; Yacht. MAGIC SQUARE: Across – Wrong; Delist; Wield. Down – Wrong; Delist; Wield.

CRIPIC CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Lama; 9 Out of date; 11 Oafish; 12 Edwina; 13 Palliate; 16 Hysteria; 20 Tracer; 21 Nordic; 23 Clientele; 24 Limp; 25 Polyester. Down – 2 Thundery; 3 Atomic; 4 Endpaper; 5 Unto; 6 Marina; 7 Daphne; 10 Earl; 14 Leatherly; 15 True blue; 16 Handle; 17 Comput; 18 Copter; 19 Sphere; 22 Alto; 24 Port; 25 Pothier; 26 Poser; 29 Scour; 30 Galleon; 31 Lie; 32 Sinus; 33 Miracle; 34 Posing; 35 Apparal; 4 Kitbag; 5 Tying; 6 Risible; 7 Elevate; 12 Rue; 14 Lost; 16 Real; 17 Nemesis; 18 Sirlion; 20 Scrup; 18 Epic; 19 Cactus; 22 Clio.

QUICK CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Cossack; 5 Tense; 8 Icy; 9 Turnpet; 10 Issue; 11 Moot; 12 Moot; 13 Moot; 14 Moot; 15 Moot; 16 Moot; 17 Moot; 18 Moot; 19 Moot; 20 Moot; 21 Moot; 22 Moot; 23 Moot; 24 Moot; 25 Moot; 26 Moot; 27 Moot; 28 Moot. Down – 1 Moot; 2 Moot; 3 Moot; 4 Moot; 5 Moot; 6 Moot; 7 Moot; 8 Moot; 9 Moot; 10 Moot; 11 Moot; 12 Moot; 13 Moot; 14 Moot; 15 Moot; 16 Moot; 17 Moot; 18 Moot; 19 Moot; 20 Moot; 21 Moot; 22 Moot; 23 Moot; 24 Moot; 25 Moot; 26 Moot; 27 Moot; 28 Moot.

NONAGRAM: Across – Widow; Olive; Gated. Down – Diced; Lunges; Yacht. MAGIC SQUARE: Across – Wrong; Delist; Wield. Down – Wrong; Delist; Wield.



Chess

By Barry Martin

Chess Cash: £1 Million for Two Years

and the Paradox of Westminster

Many moons ago, in the 1990s, I was invited to assist Raymond Keene OBE, GM, in organising the regular chess matches held at Westminster between members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. One year, the television programme ‘A Week in Politics’ (an ITV series that ran from 1982-1997) was scheduled to film one such match. Everyone involved in the games assembled on time, with combed hair, clean shirts, and shiny shoes, as if on parade! The players – MPs versus Lords – had some strong contenders, upright men and women, some well-known, like Ken Livingstone. Cameras were set up, and appropriate lighting over the boards made the moment feel very special.

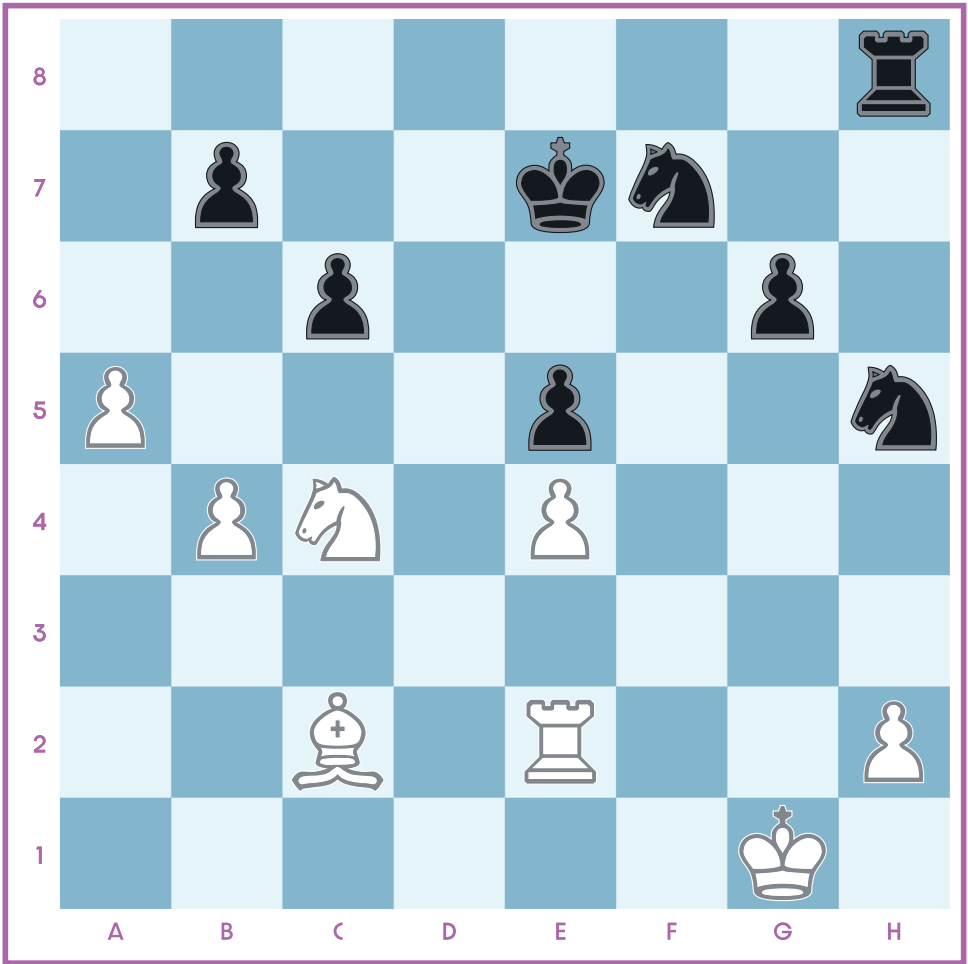
As the players gathered and went to their assigned boards, I noticed a concerned discussion between Keene and two of the in-house Westminster organisers. I sensed a problem. Raymond and the others approached me quickly as I ensured the clocks and sets were correctly placed. “Barry,” Raymond said, “a problem has arisen. One of the Lords’ players has fallen ill (I thought to myself, too many truffles and champagne) and cannot participate today. After discussing with the team captains, they have decided that if you agree, they would like you to replace the missing Lord on board 4 of their 8-player team.” The match was about to begin, and I had little time to think. I nodded and simply said, “Fine.” I played my game as a ‘Lord’, but what was amusing and ironic was the ‘Week in Politics’ program that aired the following Sunday morning. As the cameras panned across the players’ faces, naming each MP and Lord, when my face appeared, the presenter’s voice went quiet until the Lord’s face sitting next to me was shown. I was evidently the dark silent presence!

I mention this because chess was recently the subject of an announcement by our Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. He declared that chess would receive a £1 million grant – £500,000 per year for two years – to further chess in education, teaching, and to erect at least 100 outdoor chess tables in parks and public spaces. The announcement also mentioned the revival of the House of Lords and House of Commons annual chess match, which has been abandoned for many years. The PM’s ‘new move’, set to be unveiled at a ceremony on the back lawn of 10 Downing St., featuring a giant chess set and board, will be warmly welcomed by the chess

The Challenge

The Chess Puzzle is taken from the recent final of the FIDE World Cup Tournament, between Praggnanandhaa.R. V Carlsen, Magnus. Rnd. 8.24th.Aug. 2023. ECO:C50. Carlsen as Black has just played 39.....Nh5! A strong move eyeing up f4 and invading White’s territory. What was White’s next move and how did Black successfully exploit the fact that all of his main pieces are potentially menacing the White King on its Kingside?

The answer is opposite.



community in this country.

For the English Chess Federation, which will be receiving the grant, this marks a successful conclusion to a mission first launched in the 1990s when the then Sports Minister, Tony Banks, was enthusiastic. However, Sport England did not and does not consider chess a sport. Most other countries in the world do consider chess a sport, making it eligible for financial support from their sporting bodies and central government funding. The ECF hailed Sunak’s move as “potentially transformational”.

This financial support for British chess is already stimulating productive thinking about how it can be best utilised, from educating the young to supporting top-level players. For instance, its potential impact on the British Championships was evident when Michael Adams won the national title for the 8th time. At 51 years of age, Adams is listed among the world’s top 100 players with a rating of 2662. He also leads our Olympic team, consisting of Adams, Luke McShane, Gawain Jones, and David Howell, with an average age of 40 years. Leonard Barden, writing in The Guardian, points out that the new funds could hopefully “provide a fresh incentive for players like Harry Grieve, Dan Fernandez, and Matthew Wadsworth, all in their 20s, who tied for 3rd place in Leicester,” and establish a consistent platform for representing the UK in international tournaments around the world.

While the sense of national pride and positivity abounds, and the discussion resonates throughout the country and our capital, on a more practical note, I recently received a letter from Della Finch, a resident of Westminster. She has diligently sought a chess club in the Borough of Westminster that she could join to further her chess skills. She has written numerous inquiries, even to the local MP, Nickie Aiken, expressing her desire for a local chess club, yet without success. The only semblance of a ‘club’ in Westminster seems to be a ‘Sunday chess club in person’ at Paddington library, organised by the local council and taking place from noon to 3 pm. Della has attended this event on several marked days, only to find nobody there. It appears to be an informal gathering for those interested in playing, but if no one else shows up, it becomes a solitary game. In contrast, Hammersmith opened a new and thriving chess club a few years ago. It is paradoxical that within Westminster, the Prime Minister announces a significant injection of funding to support chess on a national level – for education, competitions nationally and internationally (as a sport) – while in the very Borough of Westminster, there isn’t a chess club comparable to those in many other London Boroughs and cities across the country.

It’s high time to establish one swiftly in the Borough of Westminster so that individuals like Della Finch and many others can engage in chess and learn in the time-honoured manner, much like tens of thousands do throughout the country and the world. The infusion of funds for chess, both locally and nationally, is much needed and presents a golden opportunity for the game to thrive. Recent events in international chess have been just as hot as the weather, with several exceptional international tournaments concluding. Among them was the

FIDE World Chess Championship, where the final not only met our expectations for high-calibre chess but also featured the former world champion, Magnus Carlsen, facing off against one of India’s outstanding young players (see last month’s article), Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa.

The latter managed to eliminate the world’s second and third highest-ranked players to challenge Carlsen. In the classical section, Pragg held Carlsen to a draw, followed by a rapid tie-break to determine the winner. Although Pragg held his ground, he eventually lost the tie-breaker 1.5 - 0.5, and Carlsen emerged victorious.

Their final game is the subject of this month’s chess puzzle (see below). Additionally, Bulgarian IM and WGM Nurgul Salimova, aged 20, is celebrating her success in the recent FIDE Women’s World Cup Tournament in Baku. Despite being the lowest-rated and youngest player at 2403 FIDE rating ever to reach the final, she played against Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia. Closer to home, another celebrated women’s chess player, who won the British Women’s Chess Championship three times and represented England in the World Chess Olympiad, has the unique distinction of having faced the three most charismatic World Chess Champions of the latter half of the 20th century: Mikhail Tal, Bobby Fischer, and Garry Kasparov. These three games, along with personal diary entries that offer insight into her life and experiences, “reflecting her distinctive personality, preferences, and prowess,” are captured in Cathy Forbes’ captivating newly published book: “Cathy Warwick’s Notebook: The Lady in the Loony Bin” by Cathy Forbes, also known as Cathy Warwick, a chess player and writer. This insightful work, inspired by Alan Bennett’s masterpiece “The Lady in the Van,” is available on Amazon with the ISBN 9798850111878.

Barry Martin

The Solution

40.Kg1,Nf4! Threatening the Rook on e2. 41.Rd2,Rh3! 42.a6?...(42.Bd1! e2. 41.Rd2,Rh3! 42.a6?...(42.Bd1! (44.Rc2, computer divines is White's only chance left to survive! 44...Ng5! 45.Rc2) 45.Rc2.Ngh3+! (Carlsen is highly aware of the winning combination!) 46.Kf1, Ra3! 47.Nxc6+,Kf6. The White Bishop is lost and its King is caught in a mating net! 0-1. Magnus, in winning this title completes the full set of possible world major titles under one hat! Thanks to Chess.com for computer analysis.

Stay in the *same postcode*

*Introduce the family to
your new pool, library
and restaurant*

**Riverstone is for
the *less retiring***

*Luxury apartments for sale
within a vibrant community
in Kensington, for residents
over 65*



To book a tour, call us on 020 3839 8551
Visit riverstoneliving.com

1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments available. Property prices start from £785,000*

Ts & Cs apply / *Other fees apply. Prices correct at time of publication.